

JEWISH STUDIES

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

NEWSLETTER OF THE JEWISH STUDIES PROGRAM,
THE HERBERT D. KATZ CENTER FOR ADVANCED JUDAIC STUDIES,
AND THE JUDAICA COLLECTIONS AT THE PENN LIBRARIES



Tseyn Yor Biro Bidzshan [Ten Year (Anniversary of) Birobidzhan]. Illustration by Joe Raskovitz. One of 12 Yiddish pamphlets bound in one volume about the Jewish Autonomous Republic of Birobidzhan, initiated by the Soviet Politburo in 1928. Acquired at the Kestenbaum and Company Auction, thanks to the support of the Barney and Eleanor Frommer Memorial Fund.

JEWISH STUDIES PROGRAM

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

PENN LIBRARIES

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

HERBERT D. KATZ CENTER FOR ADVANCED JUDAIC STUDIES

This post-doctoral research institute in the heart of historic Philadelphia enables eighteen to thirty selected scholars, at different stages in their careers and working in a variety of disciplines to join in intellectual community, united by an annual theme. The highly competitive selection process attracts gifted applicants from North America, Israel, Europe, and Latin America. The weekly seminars in which Katz Center Fellows present their research are also attended by Penn faculty members and graduate students. By presenting their research within the colloquia and lecture series of various Penn departments, Katz Center Fellows broaden awareness of Jewish culture's integral place in the Liberal Arts curriculum. The 2018-2019 theme is "Jewish Life in Modern Islamic Contexts."

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GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR, JEWISH STUDIES PROGRAM

From my vantage point, at the start of Spring semester 2020, I look back to celebrate some of the highlights of the rich array of some twenty-one events and programs that took place in the Jewish Studies Program last year, in 2018-2019.

Music sounded a theme throughout our offerings. We opened our programming with the 33rd Alexander Colloquium, on “Sister Scholars: Bais Yaakov and the Emergence of Orthodox Girls’ Culture in Interwar Poland,” presented by Naomi Seidman of the University of Toronto, with a performance of rare Yiddish songs by Cantor Basya Schechter.

For the Twenty-third Annual Silvers Visiting Scholar Program, Edwin Seroussi, of The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and a Katz Center Fellow, challenged received wisdom on the musicology and history of the Israeli national anthem in “Hatikvah: Secular Anthem or Religious Song?”

Jeffrey Shandler, of Rutgers University, presented the annual Kristallnacht Commemoration lecture, cosponsored with the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, in which he discussed how the Yiddish language appears in video testimonies by Holocaust survivors in the USC Shoah Foundation’s Visual History Archive. In his talk, “And Now I Have to Read in Jewish Something’: Yiddish Performance by Holocaust Survivors,” these oral histories incorporated Yiddish song, as well.

Collaborating with the Katz Center and a number of departments, Jewish Studies brought distinguished scholars to Penn to speak on a variety of topics, from Iranian Jews in the twentieth century, to Jews and Muslims in the modern world, to an ethnography of American and Israeli Jewish feminism, to Passover food traditions in the Sephardic and Judeo-Arabic worlds, to digital humanities program on urban history, co-sponsored by PennImmersive, the Price Lab for the Digital Humanities, and the Department of Romance Languages.

This year, in cooperation with the Katz Center and the Schoenberg Institute for Manuscript Studies, Jewish Studies co-hosted a workshop on one of the treasures in the Schoenberg collection by Elisabeth Hollender (Goethe University), who spoke about an extraordinary prayer book in “A Mahzor is a Mahzor is a Mahzor? Studying CAJS Rare MS 382.”

From manuscripts to movies, Jewish Studies sponsored or co-sponsored several screenings of new films. Jewish Studies partnered with the Department Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations and with the Cinema and Media Studies Program to screen two recent Israeli films—*Shadows* (Yigal Schwartz, Ben Gurion University) and *Tramway In Jerusalem* (Amos Gitai), each event featuring a discussion with the filmmaker. As in the past, Jewish Studies cosponsored the annual Middle East Film Festival 2019, featuring new films, cosponsored with the Middle East Center and the Cinema and Media Studies Program. In addition, Israeli theater director and actor, Roy Horovitz, spoke to students in the Hebrew language program on theater in Israel. Two poetry readings were organized by COML grad student Julia Dasbach, “From Across the Waters:” “A Reading by Refugees & their Descendants,” and “Poetry of the Soviet Diaspora.”

Jewish Studies cosponsored The 94th Annual Meeting of the Medieval Academy of America: The Global Turn in Medieval Studies, along with the Department of Religious Studies, the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, and the Department of Romance Languages.

Two workshops this year highlighted the teaching of Jewish Studies: “Yiddish Today: A Yiddish Pedagogy Workshop,” with Sheva Zucker (League for Yiddish), Ellen Kellman (Brandeis University), cosponsored with the Penn Language Center, and the Department of Germanic Languages & Literatures, and “China and Ashkenazic Jewry: A Pedagogical Workshop,” cosponsored by Penn’s China Research and Engagement Fund (PennCREF) and the Jewish Studies Program, along with the Glazer Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies, Nanjing University, held at the Penn Wharton China Center in Beijing.

As in each of the past nineteen years, Jewish Studies hosted the annual Manfred R. Lehmann Memorial Master Workshop on the History of the Jewish Book, at which scholars, librarians, and collectors studied “The Forest of Ilanot: Exploring a Forgotten Genre.”

Jewish Studies has been fortunate to collaborate with many departments and programs at Penn to bring such a wealth of scholarship to our students, faculty, and the wider community. Our partners last year included: the Departments of Anthropology, Art History, Germanic Languages and Literatures, History, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Political Science, Religious Studies, Romance Languages, Russian and Eastern European Studies; the Programs of Cinema Studies, Comparative Literature and of Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies; the Center for Italian Studies, the Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, the Middle East Center.

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

With best wishes,



Kathryn Hellerstein

Ruth Meltzer Director, Jewish Studies Program



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GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR, KATZ CENTER



I am pleased to share an update on the current year at the Katz Center.

The core activity of the Katz Center is an international fellowship program that brings to Penn scholars from around the world to pursue research on a given theme within Jewish Studies. This year our theme has been "The Jewish Home: Dwelling on the Domestic, the Familial, and the Lived-In," a topic that has gotten us to the very heart and soul of Jewish life.

The home, by definition, evokes the familiar, the ordinary, and the quotidian, but there is much about what happens inside Jewish homes in different historical periods that we do not yet fully understand—about these places as material spaces, about the intimate relationships that develop there, and about the larger political, legal, social, religious, and cultural forces that shape how Jews live. The goal of this year has been to open the field up to new research into Jewish homes, real and imagined, remembered and lost—and to bring different kinds of scholarship together into a common conversation. The 2019–20 fellows were selected from a large applicant pool and represent a range of interests and disciplines that cover the breadth of Jewish historical experience from distant Israelite antiquity into the present. Among the fields represented are archaeology, architectural history, anthropology, the study of photography, and legal studies, in addition to historical and textual studies. For a complete listing of the fellows and their projects, [click here](#).

There have been many highlights to the year so far—programs on different rooms of the Jewish home, on prominent Jewish architects, on the Jewish salon, among others,—and many more to come in the spring semester, including a program with renowned historian Carlo Ginzburg and a concert combining musical traditions from Eastern European Jewish music and African American spirituals. A good number of our programs are open to the public, so please see the listing of events on the Katz Center website if you are interested in attending.

In addition to its fellowship program, the Katz Center has been undertaking some new initiatives as well. In the fall, we launched our first ever podcast series, based on a special series of guest lectures organized around the question of how religion is shaping the global future. The series was organized by myself and Marie Harf, an advisor to John Kerry when he was Secretary of States, and speakers included scholars and government officials speaking about religion and its impact on international conflict, climate change, human rights, and other topics that affect the future of humanity. A number of the topics inserted directly with Judaism, but put it into conversation with the study of other religious traditions, and their connections to contemporary political events. For access to the podcast series, check out the Katz Center website.

In partnership with the Feinstein Center for American Jewish History, the Katz Center also launched a new initiative to promote research into Jewish philanthropy. Deeper study of Jewish philanthropy is important not just to Jewish philanthropic organizations themselves but to the broader understanding of Jewish life in the United States and around the globe. We have undertaken an initiative to promote deeper and broader research, seeking to encourage the study of Jewish philanthropy as a more robust subfield in both Jewish Studies and Philanthropy Studies. A gathering in September brought scholars and philanthropy professionals together for presentation and exploratory conversation, and another symposium, focused on the relationship between democracy and philanthropy in contemporary Jewish life, is scheduled for October 22, 2020 as part of a fellowship year devoted to American Jewish life.

Among other activities of the Katz Center, one that we are especially looking forward to is our annual summer school for graduate students in Jewish Studies, undertaken in partnership with Professor Elisheva Baumgarten of the Hebrew University and the Mandel Center for Advanced Studies in the Humanities at the Hebrew University, and with generous support from Garry and Kathy Fields Rayant. In 2021, the summer school is bringing together an all-star roster of faculty to teach about "trouble-makers" in Jewish History, Jewish rebels, radicals and rascals. The summer school—in its current incarnation, now in its sixth year—is our way of encouraging a sense of intellectual community among graduate students from around the world, and we are thrilled to be welcoming a new cohort of students in late June.

It is hard to do justice to the many activities of the Katz Center--the outstanding research published by the Jewish Culture and Contexts series from Penn Press and from JQR, including an exciting study of a newly published medieval biblical manuscript recently found in Cairo by Katz Fellow Yoram Meital; the on-going meetings of the LEAP program that brings rabbis to the center to learn about cutting-edge Jewish Studies research, and the excellent series of public programs organized by Anne Albert in her role as director of public programs. None of this would be possible without the Katz Center staff, a special group of highly dedicated and gifted individuals, and the partnership of Professor Kathryn Hellerstein, Chrissy Walsh, and Penn's Jewish Studies Program.

We are also deeply grateful for the involvement of the Center's board of overseers and donors who support the Center's mission through generosity, time and intellectual engagement. In the fall of 2020, we will be launching a new "Friends of the Katz Center" for those who wish to support the work of the Katz Center while expanding their intellectual horizons as well. If you are interested in more information or wish to join, please contact me at wsteve@upenn.edu.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Weitzman". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Steve Weitzman

Ella Darivoff Director of the Katz Center

COURSES

FALL 2019

Jewish Studies 026 Jews & China
 Jewish Studies 031 Beginning Yiddish I
 Jewish Studies 033 Intermediate Yiddish I
 Jewish Studies 041 Israel in Middle East
 Jewish Studies 051 Elementary Modern Hebrew I
 Jewish Studies 052 Elementary Modern Hebrew II
 Jewish Studies 053 Intermediate Modern Hebrew III
 Jewish Studies 054 Intermediate Modern Hebrew IV
 Jewish Studies 059 Advanced Modern Hebrew
 Jewish Studies 100 Jewish Political Thought & Action
 Jewish Studies 122 Religions of the West
 Jewish Studies 131 How to Read the Bible
 Jewish Studies 141 The Israeli Soul: Religion & Psychology in Modern Israel
 Jewish Studies 150 Introduction to the Bible
 Jewish Studies 151 Great Books of Judaism
 Jewish Studies 154 Image of Childhood in Israeli Literature & Film
 Jewish Studies 171 Elementary Biblical Hebrew I
 Jewish Studies 173 Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Prose
 Jewish Studies 230 Reflections on the Study of Jewish History
 Jewish Studies 231 Studies in Ladino
 Jewish Studies 255 Bible in Translation: Kings
 Jewish Studies 259 Introduction to Modern Hebrew Literature
 Jewish Studies 260 Jewish Folklore
 Jewish Studies 262 Representations of the Holocaust
 Jewish Studies 335 Muslims, Christians, Jews
 Jewish Studies 380 Modern Jewish Intellectual & Cultural History
 Jewish Studies 523 Medieval Jewish Cultural: In the Lands of Islam

SPRING 2020

Jewish Studies 032 Beginning Yiddish II
 Jewish Studies 034 Intermediate Yiddish II
 Jewish Studies 051 Elementary Modern Hebrew I
 Jewish Studies 052 Elementary Modern Hebrew II
 Jewish Studies 053 Intermediate Modern Hebrew III
 Jewish Studies 054 Intermediate Modern Hebrew IV
 Jewish Studies 059 Advanced Modern Hebrew
 Jewish Studies 100 Rewriting the Bible
 Jewish Studies 149 Scrimmage over Scripture
 Jewish Studies 154 Holocaust in Israeli Literature and Film
 Jewish Studies 156 Jews and Judaism in Antiquity
 Jewish Studies 171 Elementary Biblical Hebrew I
 Jewish Studies 173 Intermediate Biblical Hebrew I
 Jewish Studies 213 Religious Other
 Jewish Studies 254 Women in the Bible
 Jewish Studies 255 Book of Exodus
 Jewish Studies 263 Jewish Films & Literature
 Jewish Studies 264 Translating Cultures
 Jewish Studies 303 Power & Peril
 Jewish Studies 337 Jewish Magic
 Jewish Studies 359 Israeli Identity 1948-2020
 Jewish Studies 523 Medieval Jewish Culture
 Jewish Studies 581 Italian Jewish Writers from Emancipation to Primo Levi

LANGUAGES

The **Modern Hebrew Language Program** (MHLP) offers four semesters of coursework in Hebrew, stressing oral communication, reading with comprehension, and written expression. A third year serves as a bridge to reading modern Hebrew literature and expository texts. Program faculty, under the supervision of Ronit Engel, have been pioneers in developing web-based instructional materials, which are used for Hebrew language study at a growing number of institutions throughout North America as well as in Latin America, Europe, and even Israel. Engel and her staff continue to enhance the Program's internationally acclaimed curriculum and website, which provides a portal to information and activities about Hebrew and Israeli culture, as well as interactive exercises that increase proficiency in the language. The MHLP also offers students the opportunity to meet with major Israeli writers whose works they have studied in class.

Since 1993, Penn's **Yiddish Language Program**, has offered four semesters of coursework in Yiddish language to develop students' skills in communication, comprehension, reading, and expression, both oral and written. Kathryn Hellerstein and Alexander Botwinik integrate cultural materials, including songs, literature, journalism, film, theater, and digital resources into the curriculum. A fifth semester course, taught in Yiddish, lets students apply and hone their skills by reading, writing, listening, and speaking about Yiddish literature and culture. Yiddish language study is supplemented by courses that include Yiddish literature and culture in translation, such as Jewish American Literature, Women and Jewish Literature, Jewish Films and Literature, and Translating Cultures.

Penn offers a four-semester sequence of **Biblical Hebrew**, taught by Michael Carasik. Elementary Biblical Hebrew 1 and 2 guide students through a textbook that teaches the fundamentals. Intermediate Biblical Hebrew 1 and 2 change the focus to literature; students learn grammatical skills by immersion in biblical prose and poetry.

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



Fidler Af'n Dakh (Fiddler on the Roof) production at the Folksbiene Theater in New York.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

MELTZER INTERNSHIPS IN JEWISH STUDIES

Under the guidance of Director **Kathryn Hellerstein**, Undergraduate Director **Ronit Engel**, and especially graduate student coordinator, **Adam Sax** (Comparative Literature), students initiated and organized the following Bassini Internship events in 2018-2019:

Shoshana Weintraub organized an event with Professor Chaim Saiman (Villanova) on “Halakha: The Rabbinic Idea of Law.”

Dylan Seders Hoffman and **Justin Greenman** hosted Mr. Motl Didner, Associate Artistic Director of the Folksbiene Theater, who gave an inside look into the Folksbiene, the creation of *Fidler Af'n Dakh*, and what it takes to produce Yiddish theatre today.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH

On April 30, 2019, students and faculty attended an event to learn about—and celebrate—original research in Jewish Studies produced by two College seniors. (Two other seniors who wrote on Jewish Studies topics were unable to attend the event.)

Elana Burack (RELS; JWST minor) — faculty director, Justin McDaniel
“Crypto-Esque Judaism: Adaptation & Pride of Contemporary Jewish Communities of Seville”

Eric Eisner (HIST, PHIL, JWST) — faculty director, Kathryn Hellerstein
“The Yale School and Jewish History: Reflections on Harold Bloom, Geoffrey Hartman, and Paul de Man”

PRIZES AND HONORS

The Samuel Esther Goldin Endowment Award:
co-winners: **Eric Eisner** and **Celeste Marcus**
honorable mention: **Jackie Bein** and **Elana Burack**
The Moshe Greenberg Prize for Excellence in Hebrew:
Eric J. Eisner

The Workmen's Circle/Arbeiter Ring Prize in Yiddish Studies:

Dylan Seders Hoffman

The Charlotte Yiddish Institute Book Prizes:
Andrew Mertzynski-Hait, **Noa Nikolsky**, **Justin Greenman**, and **Chaim Fishman**

The Judah Goldin Memorial Prize for Excellence in Advanced Hebrew Studies:

Ariel Sasson



(back row, l to r): Prof. Kathryn Hellerstein, Eric Eisner, C'19, Elana Burack, C'19, and (front center) Prof. Ronit Engel, at Undergraduate Student Research event on April 30, 2019.

STUDENT RESEARCH AWARDS

BRENNER FAMILY FUND

Dylan Hoffmann (Bryn Mawr College, Dance major) for participation in Yiddish New York Festival

Shalva Gozland, C'22, research in Israel on Entrepreneurship in the Jewish State

Ben Notis, a doctoral candidate in Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations, for mini-course at Johns Hopkins University

GOLDFEIN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Maria Kiamesso DaSilva (NELC) archaeological excavation in Israel

Nathaniel Shils, a doctoral candidate in Political Science, for dissertation research in Jerusalem

Shachar Levanon, a doctoral candidate in Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations, for studying Russian Language

LOUIS SCHWARTZ AND ELAINE FRIEDMAN SCHWARTZ MEMORIAL AWARD

Adam Sax, a doctoral candidate in Comparative Language & Literary Theory, for studying Yiddish at YIVO

The Jewish Studies Program encourages undergraduate and graduate research by offering research grants and fellowships through the Philip E. Goldfein Scholarship Fund, supported by the generosity of **Phillip Goldfein, Robert Goldfein, and Doris Goldfein Cohen**; the Raymond and Ruth Brenner Awards in Jewish Studies, supported by the generosity of **Raymond and Ruth Brenner**, their sons, **Adam Brenner, W'01; Gregory Brenner, W'99; and Jason Brenner, W'05**; and the Louis Schwartz and Elaine Friedman Schwartz Memorial Fund, supported by the generosity of **James E. Schwartz, C'78, and Susan L. Cohen**. These funds are available for either travel or research subsidies. Application cycles take place both semesters, usually at the same time as the application for CURF funds and other undergraduate research competitions.

GRADUATE STUDIES

FALK FELLOWSHIP

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

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

Continuing Falk Fellows in the Jewish Studies Program are ninth-year student **Ari M. Gordon** (NELC); eighth-year students **David Zvi Kalman** (NELC), and **Tom Tearney** (Germanic Languages and Literatures); sixth-year students **Jordan Paul** (NELC) and **Ariel Resnikoff** (COML), and second-year students **Itay Blumenzweig** (COML), **Laura Eckstein** (HIST), **Shachar Levanon** (NELC), **Noa Nikolsky** (ENGL), and **Ben Notis** (NELC).

We were pleased to welcome two new Falk Fellows to Penn in Fall 2019:

Hilah Cohen is an incoming doctoral student in Comparative Literature and Literary Theory whose interests center on the interpersonal relationships that shape literary and political translation. She works primarily in Russian with additional research in the Caucasian Jewish language Juhuri and Modern Hebrew.

Jeremy Steinberg is a first-year PhD student in Religious Studies. His research examines the reception of the Hebrew Bible in the Hellenistic and early Roman periods, with a particular focus on readers and interpreters who approached biblical and parabiblical material from a perspective informed by Greek literature, philosophy, and historiography. He is particularly interested in questions of identity formation, authorial agency, and the rhetorical construction of sacred space.



New Fall 2018 Falk Fellows: Hilah Cohen (left) and Jeremy Steinberg (right).

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

Itay Blumenzweig is a PhD candidate in the comparative literature program at the University of Pennsylvania, interested in the introduction of new editing and reading practices of the Bible in the early modern period in France and Spain. My research draws from disciplines such as history of books and translation theory in order to shed new light on the transformations that took place in this period.

Julia Kolchinsky Dasbach served as the 2018-2019 CTL fellow for CompLit and received a Dissertation Completion fellowship for 2019-2020. Her poetry was published in *POETRY*, *TriQuarterly*, and *Nashville Review*, among other journals. Her poetry collection, *The Many Names for Mother*, won the 2018 Wick Poetry Prize, selected by Ellen Bass, and was published by Kent State University Press in September 2019. She presented at AWP on "Holocaust Poetics: Writing the Traumatized Past and Present," gave a talk and reading at Goucher College, "Don't Touch the Bones: Post-Holocaust Poetry of Lyric Witness," and organized "Poets of the Soviet Diaspora Reading" at the Penn Book Center.

Shachar Levanon, second-year doctoral student in NELC, is studying modern Hebrew and Yiddish literature, focusing primarily on modernist poetry in the first half of the twentieth century. He is interested in American Yiddish and Hebrew writers who wrote poetry far from their geographical literary center (Hebrew) and at the heart of it (Yiddish). Levanon has been studying various American coteries that produced Hebrew and Yiddish verse, and looking for common threads and discerning major differences among several of these poets. He is also interested in literary theory, continental philosophy and psychoanalysis as ways of thinking about the varied influences that shaped these writers' creative worlds.

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS (CONTINUED)

Laura Newman Eckstein is a second-year Ph.D. student in History. Her studies focus on Jews in the Atlantic world (17th-19th c.) with specific interests in trade networks, material culture, book history, gender, race and digital humanities methodologies. Prior to her doctoral studies, she worked as the Judaica Digital Humanities Coordinator at the University of Pennsylvania Libraries. She holds a bachelor's degree with the highest honors in religion from Haverford College. Eckstein's senior thesis at Haverford focused on Jewish peddlers, their business networks, and their religious practices along the Lower Mississippi River between 1820-1865. She is the recipient of a 2014 Tri-College, Mellon Foundation Digital Humanities Fellowship where she where she worked with Professor Ryan Cordell in his lab for Viral Maps, Texts and Networks at Northeastern University, mapping the spread and reprinting of 19th-century newspapers and magazines. She is also the recipient of a John B. Hurford Arts and Humanities Center Summer Research Fellowship.

David Zvi Kalman defended his dissertation, entitled, "Unequal Hours: The Jewish Reception of Timekeeping Technology from the Bible to the Twentieth Century," in May 2019. He presented research at conferences for the Association of Jewish Studies, the American Academy of Religion, and the Society for the History of Technology. He also participated in a conference on temporality at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore.

Noa Nikolsky spent the past academic year getting acquainted with the program and establishing and taking coursework from across the departments at SAS. She presented her work at a student-run conference in February, as well as a conference organized by the Medieval and Renaissance Center at NYU in April.



(l to r) graduate students Itay Blumenzweig, Adam Sax, Noa Nikolsky, Shachar Levanon, and Katz Fellow Kerstin Hünefeld (Free University of Berlin), at a welcome reception for Katz Center Fellows on campus.

Ben Notis is a second-year doctoral student in NELC. He hopes to explore topics in medieval Jewish history with a special emphasis on Judeo-Arabic culture. Notis is interested in questions of cultural exchange in the areas of literature and philosophy which characterizes the period. In addition, he hopes to see how Jews in the world of Islam engaged with their surroundings, and how their poetry reflected, adapted to, and interacted with social and philosophical contexts.

Ariel Resnikoff completed his PhD in Comparative Literature and Literary Theory at the University of Pennsylvania in 2019. His first full length poetry collection, *Unnatural Bird Migrator*, which the poet-critic Jake Marmer has described as "Deep Ashkenazi Voodoo," is forthcoming with the Operating System in 2020. A long excerpt of his dissertation, "Home Tongue Earthquake: The Radical Afterlives of Yiddishland," recently came out in German translation in *Schreibheft, Zeitschrift für Literatur*, and another excerpt is forthcoming in Hebrew. He is currently a Posen Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow in Secular Jewish Studies and Pedagogy. He lives on Alameda Island in the San Francisco Bay Area with his wife, the artist and landscape architect, Rivka Weinstock.

Adam Sax is a PhD candidate, working on a dissertation provisionally titled, "A Continuum of Loss: Productive Melancholia and Aporetic Loss in Twentieth-Century Elegy." This comparative project focuses on elegy and the formation of the genre in the 20th century through an archive of German-Jewish, Queer, and Yiddish-American poets. His research interests also include: contemporary English, German, and Yiddish poetry; multi-lingual poetics; queer theory; psychoanalytic theory; translation theory; and genre theory. He is also serving for his third year as the graduate student coordinator of the Meltzer Undergraduate Internship Program in Jewish Studies.

Jillian Stinchcomb spent the year working on her dissertation on the reception history of the Queen of Sheba in the first millennium in Jewish, Islamic, and Christian literature while also teaching Religions of the West in Fall '18 and the Introduction to the New Testament in Spring '19. She presented at the Florida State University's Graduate Student Conference, the Regional Seminar for Ancient Judaism at Yale, and on "Ethiopia and the Qur'an: Context and Reception" at the Catholic University of America. Stinchcomb is currently completing the dissertation while looking to the next stages of her academic career.

Tom Tearney spent the 2018-2019 academic year in Vienna, Austria, continuing to write his dissertation following his time there as a Fulbright scholar the year before. He attended a conference at the Freud Museum Vienna in November and conducted research in the archives of the Austrian National Library. His research continues to focus on Franz Werfel's dramatic works about ancient and contemporary Jewish history, and he will defend his dissertation in June 2020.

GRADUATE STUDENT ALUMNI NEWS

Cornelia Aust (PhD, History, 2010), is a researcher and lecturer in early modern history at Bielefeld University. In her current project, she is researching Jewish dress and outward appearances and their perceptions by Jews and Christians in seventeenth to nineteenth-century Central and East Central Europe. She just edited (with two co-editors) a special issue on "Dress and Cultural Difference in Early Modern Europe" for the *European History Yearbook*, including an article she wrote entitled, "From Noble Dress to Jewish Attire: Jewish Appearances in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and the Holy Roman Empire."

In April, **Matt Chalmers** (PhD, Religious Studies, 2019) successfully defended his dissertation, entitled "Representations of Samaritans in Late Antique Jewish and Christian Texts." In the fall, he began a year-long position as Visiting Assistant Professor of Religion at Washington and Lee University (Lexington, Virginia), teaching courses on the Hebrew Bible, Jewish identity, bodies, materiality and religion, and the history of antisemitism. His current article projects examine the Samaritans in Josephus, Epiphanius, and the extra-Talmudic minor tractate *Massekhet Kutim*. This research investigates Jewish and Christian identities and identification in ancient texts and the history of scholarship, with the Samaritans as a conceptual and textual foil.

Sonia Gollance (PhD, Germanic Languages and Literatures, 2017) is a Moritz Stern Fellow in Modern Jewish Studies at Lichtenberg-Kolleg, the Göttingen Institute for the Advanced Study in the Humanities and Social Sciences at Georg-August-Universität Göttingen (Germany). In Fall 2018, she taught a history seminar on German Jewish bodies. She is the Managing Editor of Plotting Yiddish Drama (an initiative of the Digital Yiddish Theatre Project), serves on the Best Article Prize Committee of the Coalition of Women in Germany, and participated in the Yiddish Book Center's Yiddish Pedagogy Program. Her article about Abraham Cahan's writing about dance appeared in *Dance Chronicle*. This past academic year, she gave talks at the German Studies Association conference, Lund University (Sweden), Lichtenberg-Kolleg Colloquium, Association for Jewish Studies conference, and German Jewish Studies Workshop. In August 2019, she will begin a new position in Yiddish Studies at The Ohio State University.



Kerry Wallach (PhD, Germanic Languages and Literatures, 2011), with her sons, Zev and Rafi, and wife, Jess.

In the 2018-19 academic year, **Marc Herman** (PhD, Religious Studies, 2016) was an Institute Fellow at the Frankel Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan. During this year he made presentations at the conference for the Association for Jewish Studies, University of Michigan, and Northwestern University, and published an article in the *Jewish Quarterly Review* and an article in an edited volume, both about addressing the Islamic contexts of medieval Jewish legal thought. He is currently working on his first book, titled *Imagining Revelation: The Oral Torah in an Islamic Key*. He will be a research fellow at the Kamel Center for Islamic Law and Civilization at Yale Law School during the next academic year.

Kerry Wallach (PhD, Germanic Languages and Literatures, 2011) is Associate Professor and Chair of German Studies at Gettysburg College. In April, she presented a paper on antisemitism and Wagner's legacy in Avner Dorman's opera *Wahnfried* at the "Moments of Enlightenment: German Jewish Interactions from the 18th Century to the Present" Jonathan M. Hess Symposium at UNC Chapel Hill. She is currently working on a second book project on Jewish artist and illustrator Rahel Szalit-Marcus.



(l to r): Prof. Isabel Cranz (Penn) with Falk Fellow Ben Notis at welcome reception for Katz Center fellows.

FACULTY NEWS

Dan Ben-Amos, Professor of Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations and Folklore, had three volumes of *The Folktales of the Jews* appear in Russian, and one volume of his collected essays appear in Chinese. On the occasion of his 85th birthday Simon Bronner and Wolfgang Mieder edited a *festschrift* for him entitled, *Contents of Folklore*.

Joseph Benatov is Lecturer in Foreign Languages in the Modern Hebrew Language Program. He teaches Hebrew courses of all levels. During the 2018-19 academic year, Dr. Benatov published the article, "Transnational American Studies: A Postsocialist Phoenix," in a special issue of the journal *Twentieth-Century Literature*. He presented at the 8th annual Judeo-Spanish Symposium at the University of California, Los Angeles. He lectured at the Kehila Kedosha Janina Synagogue and Museum in New York; at the West Side Jewish Center (NYC); and at Keneseth Israel Congregation in Philadelphia. Benatov also delivered two lectures at the advanced seminar of the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous. He participated in the yearly pedagogical symposium of the Penn Language Center and conducted summer archival work overseas. His ongoing research focuses on the history of the Sephardic Jewish communities of the Balkans. Benatov is also currently translating Israeli writer Etgar Keret's most recent collection of short stories from Hebrew into Bulgarian.

Alexander (Sender) Botwinik is a Yiddish lecturer. In addition, he teaches music, choir and Hebrew at Har Zion Temple and coordinates an annual choral youth *Zimria* (song festival). In Fall 2018, Botwinik performed at the Haverford College Yiddish Culture Festival with Lawrence Indik, opera singer and professor at the Boyer College of Music and Dance at Temple University. He is continuing to work on a second CD of his father David Botwinik's music - this time devoted to children's songs, selected from the material in his book *From Holocaust to Life*. A Yiddish music project he worked on several years ago is now available at: <https://www.alivetobyssunshine.com>. The film, *Toby's Sunshine*, captures the life and works of the artist and Holocaust survivor Toby Knobel Fluek.

Daisy Braverman is a Ladino lecturer. She gave two talks at the International Day of Ladino in New York City, one in June 2018, on "Judeo-Spanish/Ladino Theater," and the other in June, 2019, "Sephardic Customs and Traditions: An Era Gone By?" Braverman was chosen to be one of the *Shadarim*, a representative from the United States, of native Judeo-Spanish speakers and traveled to Jerusalem in October 2018 to attend meetings and give a talk on Judeo-Spanish Theatre in the U.S. In Fall 2019, she began work in Israel, along with representatives from other countries, on creating a Judeo-Spanish-English dictionary.

Michael Carasik, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Biblical Hebrew, was interviewed in January on "Medieval Jewish Commentary" for the *Onscript* podcast. He served in October as scholar-in-residence for the annual retreat of the New Jersey West Hudson Valley Area Region of Reform Rabbis and in May for Congregation Agudath Israel of Caldwell, N. J. He has translated a number of articles and talks from Hebrew to English for Israeli scholars through Academic Language Experts.

Isabel Cranz is Assistant Professor of Hebrew Bible in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. She is currently working on her second book on sick kings in the Hebrew Bible. In July/August 2018, she presented her research on diseased leadership at an international conference in Helsinki. Her talk has been turned into an article for an edited volume. In September 2018, she published an article on magic in the peer reviewed journal *Semitica*. Another article on the healing of the Aramaic general Naaman has been published in the peer reviewed journal *Vetus Testamentum*. Cranz serves on several steering committees for the Society of Biblical Literature and has organized a panel on the reconstruction of the religion of women for the annual meeting of the Association of Jewish Studies. In the Spring, she presented her book on royal illness for the departmental colloquium of 2019. Her work examines and re-reads biblical narratives of cursing, disease and ritual through the lens of magic, divination, and the demonic.

Natalie B. Dohrmann is Associate Director of the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies and coeditor of the *Jewish Quarterly Review*. Among her recent work is “Ad similitudinem arbitratorum: On the Perils of Commensurability & Comparison in Roman and Rabbinic Law,” in *Legal Engagement: The Reception of Roman Tribunals and Law by Jews and Other Provincials of the Roman Empire*, ed. K. Berthelot, N. Dohrmann, and C. Nemo-Pekelman (Rome, forthcoming); “Jewish Books and Roman Readers: Censorship, Authorship, and the Rabbinic Library,” in *Reconsidering Roman Power: Roman, Greek, Jewish and Christian Perceptions and Reactions* (Paris, 2019); “Jews in the Roman World: From Herod to Constantine the Great,” in *Religionen der Menschheit Judaism*, ed. M. Tilly and B. Visotzky (Stuttgart). She serves as an area editor for the *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* and the *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*.

Ronit Engel is Senior Lecturer in Foreign Languages, Director of the Modern Hebrew Language Program, and the Undergraduate Director for the Jewish Studies Program. Now beginning her twenty-fifth year on the Penn faculty, she continues to be recognized as a pioneer in matters relating to the application of electronic technologies to foreign language instruction. Some of the results of her research in this area can be seen in the internationally-renowned website, *Hebrew on the Web*, which Engel continues to develop and expand from year to year. She is also known for introducing the study of Palestinian Israeli writers who write fiction and poetry in Hebrew into the modern Hebrew language and literature curriculum. In October 2018, she gave a lecture on one such writer, Sayed Kashua, at the Shanghai International Studies University, where she discussed similarities between Kashua's efforts to represent the experience of Israel's Palestinian minority in Hebrew and Philip Roth's English-language representations of the Jewish minority in the United States. While in China, she also offered a workshop for foreign language program coordinators and instructors at New York University's Shanghai campus. In addition, Engel continued to play an active role in the work of the National Association of Professors of Hebrew (NAPH). She chaired the session on educational technologies and their applications to Hebrew-language teaching at NAPH's annual conference in June 2018, which was held in Amsterdam.

Talya Fishman, Associate Professor of Jewish Intellectual and Cultural History of the Medieval and Early Modern Periods, undertook intensive study to prepare three graduate seminars. One course explored points of cultural and intellectual intersection between Jewish and Islamic societies of 9th - 11th century Baghdad, while another examined notions of the divine-human nexus expressed in Hebrew, Judeo-Arabic and Arabic (Muslim) writings of al-Andalus. Newly available sources structured the third seminar, on the culture of rabbinic Jews of pre-Expulsion England, and the Christian Hebraism of that era. Fishman updated sources included in her undergraduate seminars, *Jewish Political Thought and Action*, and *The Religious Other in the Lives of Jews, Christians and Muslims*, to provide much needed opportunities to discuss and understand prominent developments in our times. In May, she facilitated the 19th Lehmann Memorial Workshop in the History of the Jewish Book, at which Professor Yossi Chajes (Haifa University) introduced participants to the complex diagrams of kabbalistic “trees,” *ilanot*. Her article, “Appearance and Disappearance of Rhineland Pietism,” was published in the *Menahem Schmelzer Festschrift*, and she is completing an entry “Orality in Jewish Cultures” for the *Routledge Medieval Encyclopedia Online*.

Nili Rachel Scharf Gold is Professor of Modern Hebrew Literature. In November, she hosted a screening of the Holocaust-related Israeli documentary *Shadows*, and a lecture by one of its subjects, Professor Yigal Schwartz, on autobiography, including his own, *Hungarian Chorus*. In December, Gold presented “Applefeld's Early Stories and their Transformations,” at the AJA Annual Conference. In Spring 2019, she led her Penn Global Seminar, Haifa—Literature, Architecture, Film, on an in-depth visit of the city of Haifa. In March, she co-organized Penn's Middle East Film Festival, featuring *Tramway in Jerusalem* and invited its creator, Amos Gitai, for a lecture. In June, Gold delivered a paper at a conference on Literature as a ‘Culture Hero’ at the University of Haifa, entitled, “The Written Life of Amichai as a Young Man.” *Heifa ahuvati (Haifa, my love)*, a Hebrew version – not a translation – of her 2018 book *Haifa: City of Steps* appeared in November (Tel Aviv: Zmora Bitan); and in February, *Vehaga'agu'im sgurim bi: Yehuda Amichai, zmihto shel meshorer*, a revised Hebrew edition of *Yehuda Amichai: The Making of Israel's National Poet*, was published (Jerusalem: Mineged).

Kathryn Hellerstein is Professor of Germanic Languages and Literatures and Ruth Meltzer Director of the Jewish Studies Program. In 2018-2019, Hellerstein lectured at the Jewish Museum of Maryland on “Melech Ravitch in China,” in the context of an exhibition on Jewish refugees in Shanghai during World War II, and spoke at the University of Chicago on “Anthologizing Dvovre Fogel,” at a symposium on this Yiddish poet. In June 2019, supported by the Penn China Research and Engagement Fund and the Jewish Studies Program, she co-organized the Penn CREF and Nanjing University Academic Workshop on “Teaching and Translating ‘China and Jews,’” at the Beijing Penn Wharton China Center, and lectured on “Pedagogical Approaches to Teaching ‘Jews and China.’” She participated in “From Across the Waters: A Reading by Refugees and their Descendants,” at the Philadelphia Free Library, co-organized by Julia Kolshinsky Dasbach, Penn COML doctoral candidate, and spoke at “The YIVO Summer Program's 50th Anniversary, Honoring Chava Lapin,” at the Center for Jewish History in New York. Her article, “A Poet-Translator Writes a Reader's Report: What Chana Bloch Taught Me,” appeared in *Shofar*. She published two poems in *Word Hotel (6:1)* and saw two other poems translated into Russian by Irina Argutina, in *International Anthology of Contemporary Poetry* [<http://marginally.ru/>]. Hellerstein taught two new courses: a freshman seminar, *Jews and China: Views from Two Perspectives*, and a graduate seminar, *Translating Literature*.

Arthur Kiron is the Schottenstein-Jesselson Curator of Judaica Collections, head of the Library at the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, and Adjunct Assistant Professor of History. He co-directed Penn's 19th annual Manfred R. Lehmann Memorial Master Workshop in the History of the Jewish Book; curated the 20th annual Katz-Libraries Judaica web exhibition; spoke at Penn's History of Material Texts seminar about the study of rabbinic literature in the colonial Americas and presented to a group from the Medieval Academy of America about one of Penn's rare Hebraica manuscripts; partnered on the 4th annual Penn Libraries' Schoenberg Institute-Katz Center Hebrew Manuscript Studies Fellowship and introduced the speaker at this year's public lecture; partnered on the launch of phase two of the "Scribes of the Cairo Geniza" Project; supervised two interns from the National Museum of American Jewish History; served on the Executive Board and oversaw logistics for the Jewish Counterculture Oral History Program; served on multiple internal Penn Libraries working groups; and continues to serve on the editorial board of *Judaica Librarianship* and on numerous other professional, academic, and communal advisory boards.

Ian Lustick, Bess W. Heyman Chair in Political Science, taught an advanced undergraduate seminar on The Arab-Israeli Conflict and International Politics. His article, "The Red Thread of Israel's Demographic Problem," was published in *Middle East Policy* in its Fall 2018 issue. The article first appeared in Arabic in the Ramallah based-journal *Qadaya*. In the spring, he benefited from a Dean's Research Leave to finish his book, *Paradigm Lost: From Two-State Solution to One-State Reality*, which was published by the University of Pennsylvania Press in 2019. One of his dissertation supervisees, Matthew Berkman, successfully defended his dissertation, entitled, "Coercive Consensus: Jewish Federations, Ethnic Representation, and the Roots of American Pro-Israel Politics," and one of his Senior Honors thesis students, Jordan Dewar, completed her thesis, "Engineering an Ethnic Mosaic: The Institutionalization of Civic Nationalism in Kosovo, Israel, and the West Bank."

Ibrahim Miari, Lecturer in Foreign Languages in the Modern Hebrew Language Program, continues serving on Penn's Middle East Film Festival committee.

Benjamin Nathans, Associate Professor of History, continued his quest to reach a broad readership via essays in the *New York Review of Books* and the *Times Literary Supplement* on human rights, the Russian writer and Gulag survivor Varlam Shalamov, and other topics. His co-edited volume, *From Europe's East to the Middle East: Israel's Russian and Polish Lineages*, was accepted for publication by Penn Press in its "Jewish Culture and Contexts" series. "Human Rights Defenders within Soviet Politics," an article drawing on Nathans' research on the Soviet dissident movement, appeared in the volume *Dimensions and Challenges of Russian Liberalism*. Nathans gave invited talks at Harvard University, Hunter College, Arizona State University, the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington, D.C., the Van Leer Institute in Jerusalem, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the Fritt Ord [Free Speech] Foundation in Oslo, and Philadelphia's own Cosmopolitan Club. He continues to serve as editorial consultant for a six-volume history of *Jews in the Soviet Union*, underwritten by the Shvidler Foundation and sponsored by NYU.

David B. Ruderman, Joseph Meyerhoff Professor of Modern Jewish History, concludes his final year of teaching, his 45th, and his 25th at Penn in June 2020. During the past year he held the Humboldt Research Award at the Goethe University, Frankfurt; a fellowship at the Maimonides Center of Advanced Judaic Studies in Hamburg; and was a member of a research group on the study of the Mishnah in early modern Europe at Oxford University. He has edited with Francesca Bregoli, *Connecting Histories: Jews and Their Others in Early Modern Europe* (Penn, 2019), and his own monograph will appear in early 2020, also from Penn Press entitled, *Missionaries, Converts, and Rabbis: The Evangelical Alexander McCaul and Jewish-Christian Debate in the 19th c.*



19th annual Lehmann Workshop attendees in May 2019.

During the 2018-19 year, **Heather Sharkey** spoke at the Katz Center's opening panel for its theme-year program on "Jewish Life in Modern Islamic Contexts," and later spoke to rabbis in the Katz Center's LEAP Program in collaboration with Clal and Rabbis without Borders. She published an article about Ottoman and post-Ottoman minorities in a roundtable on "Minoritization and Pluralism in the Modern Middle East," which appeared in the *International Journal of Middle East Studies*. She gave talks in Paris, Brussels, Louvain, and Chicago; organized a panel at the Middle East Studies Association annual conference on the theme of "Between Egypt and the Egyptian Diaspora: The Changing Contours of Coptic Studies," and organized a mini-symposium at Penn on modern Coptic studies. She continued to serve as faculty Fellowships Director in CURF, and advised engineering student Miriam Minsk, C'21, who edited *Kedma*, the Penn undergraduate journal of Jewish and Israel studies.

Larry Silver, now emeritus, published a popular study of Rembrandt, *Rembrandt's Holland* (Reaktion, 2018) and is co-editor of a volume from the Getty Research Institute, *Canons and Values: Ancient and Modern* (2019). For the latter study, he wrote the Introduction, "Canons in World Perspective – Definitions, Deformations, and Discourses," as well as an article, "Jewish Art and Modernity." He also contributed a paper, "The French Connection: Jewish Collectors, Dealers, and Artists in Paris, 1905-1929," to a summer, 2018, workshop at Bar-Ilan University on the topic of Art Patronage and Jewish Culture, organized by Profs. Richard Cohen and Mirjam Rajner.

Alon Tam was a fellow this year at the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, and an Israel Institute Visiting Faculty at the Jewish Studies Program and the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. He taught Israel in the Middle East, contextualizing Israel in its larger geographical area with a comparative look at key issues in society, culture, and politics. He also taught Middle Eastern Jews in Israel, exploring the experiences and issues that Jews from the Middle East and North Africa face in contemporary Israel. At the Katz Center, Dr. Tam was part of a cohort of leading scholars who gathered around the theme of "Jews in Modern Islamic Contexts," where he worked on his new research project, which explores the social history of the Jewish community in Cairo during the 20th century from the perspectives of class and shared public spaces in an urban setting.

Jeff Tigay, Emeritus A.M. Ellis Professor of Hebrew & Semitic Languages & Literatures, retired in December, 2010 after close to 40 years on the faculty. His 1996 commentary on the book of Deuteronomy appeared in a revised and expanded Hebrew edition *Sefer Devarim, 'Im Mavo uFeirush (Deuteronomy, with Introduction and Commentary)* as part of the Israeli commentary series *Mikra Le-Yisrael* (Am Oved Publishers and Magnes Press) in 2016. He and Adele Berlin co-edited *Ancient Israel, From Its Beginnings through 332 BCE*, Volume 1 of The Posen Library of Jewish Culture and Civilization: Anthology of Primary Sources, Documents, Texts, and Artifacts (Yale University Press). He is currently writing a Hebrew commentary on the book of Exodus, also for the *Mikra Le-Yisrael* series.

Liliane Weissberg, Christopher H. Browne Distinguished Professor in Arts and Science, was Fellow at the Center for Advanced Studies at the University of Munich last summer. She published a brief study of Jewish music making in Berlin in the late 18th century, *Münzen, Hände, Noten, Finger: Berliner Hofjuden und die Erfindung einer deutschen Musikkultur*, and, together with Andreas Kilcher (ETH Zurich), a book on the idea and concept of commentary in Jewish philosophy, *Nachträglich, grundlegend: Der Kommentar als Denkform in der jüdischen Moderne von Hermann Cohen bis Jacques Derrida*. She also published essays on Jean Améry, Max Horkheimer, Franz Kafka. Weissberg has been involved in two exhibitions by the German Historical Museum in Berlin on the Brothers Humboldt, and on Hannah Arendt, and contributed to the catalogs. An account of her 2012 exhibition for the Jewish Museum in Frankfurt, *Juden. Geld. Eine Vorstellung* was featured in a show on German television. She presented papers and participated in many conferences; including three keynote addresses and a lecture at the Freud Museum in Vienna. Weissberg was Visiting Scholar at the Dubnow Institute for Jewish History and Culture at the University of Leipzig during the German 2019 spring term. She won a research award from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, and a Fellowship from the Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies for the 2019 Fall semester. Weissberg has also been awarded the Berlin Prize of the American Academy and spent the Spring 2020 term in Berlin.

As Katz Center director, **Steve Weitzman** shepherded a fellowship year devoted to Jewish life in modern Islamic contexts that explored Jewish history and culture in contexts ranging from North Africa to Pakistan. His own research activities included the publication of a revised third edition of *The Jews: a History*, now also being translated into Chinese; and the publication or submission of essays ranging in topic from biblical poetry to the history of angels in the Hellenistic period to an effort to supplement his book, *The Origin of the Jews*, with an essay on what feminist scholarship says about Jewish origins. Seeking to support new generations of scholars, Weitzman continued a summer school for graduate students in Jewish Studies in partnership with Elisheva Baumgarten, is working to help the AJS develop a more inclusive approach to scholars in contingent roles, and is developing a series of career development workshops for early career scholars. With Lila Corwin Berman of Temple University, Weitzman is also beginning an initiative to promote study of Jewish philanthropy which met for the first time in the fall of 2019.

Beth S. Wenger, Moritz and Josephine Berg Professor of History, concluded her sixth and final year as Chair of the History Department, and has been appointed Associate Dean for Graduate Studies in the School of Arts and Sciences. She also serves as Chair of the Academic Advisory Council of the Center for Jewish History in New York. Wenger's essay, "Peripatetic Journeys," appeared in the 2018 anthology *Conversations with Colleagues: On Becoming an American Jewish Historian*. Wenger co-organized the 2018 Biennial Scholars Conference on American Jewish History, titled "Fractured Paradigms: Rethinking the Study of American Jews." She serves as Academic Director of the Jewish Counterculture Oral History Project, which documents the experiences of founding members of the *Havurah* movement. As of fall 2019, all the oral histories, two films, and other documents are available to the public. A founding historian of the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia, Wenger continues her role as consultant to the Museum.

Julia Wilker is Associate Professor in the Department of Classical Studies and currently serves as chair of the Graduate Group in Ancient History. Her publications in 2018-2019 included an article on the rise of Judea as a regional power in the early first century BCE in *Diplomatic and Interstate Relations in the Hellenistic World, 2018: 127-145*, and a chapter on Jewish identity and self-perception in Rome after the destruction of the Temple in 70 CE, "Zwischen Zerstörung und Neufindung - Die Flavien und die Juden," in *Das Neue Alte Rom. Die Flavien und ihre Zeit, 2018: 113-138*. Articles on the representation of the Roman emperor by client kings, including Herod the Great for an edited volume on the emperor's image, the interrelation of peace and religion in Greco-Roman antiquity in Bloomsbury's *Cultural History of Peace in Antiquity*, and the role of women in the Hasmonean dynasty in *Routledge's Companion to Women and Monarchy in the Ancient Mediterranean* are in press.



(l to r): musician Jessica Roemer, Naomi Seidman (University of Toronto), Kathryn Hellerstein (Penn), and musician Basya Schechter at the Alexander Colloquium on November 22, 2018.

CULTURAL PROGRAMS

JOSEPH AND REBECCA MEYERHOFF LECTURE

The 22nd Annual Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Lecture in Judaic Studies: “Jews, Muslims, and Modernity,” with **Aron Rodrigue** (Stanford University), cosponsored with the Department of History, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Middle East Center on October 18, 2018.



(l to r) Jessica Marglin (University of Southern California), Aron Rodrigue (Stanford University), Lital Levy (Princeton University), and Julia Phillips Cohen (Vanderbilt University) at the Meyerhoff Lecture on October 18, 2018.



(l to r) Kathryn Hellerstein (Penn), Edwin Seroussi (Hebrew University), and Timothy Rommen (Penn) at the Silvers Visiting Scholar Program on February 19, 2019.

SILVERS VISITING SCHOLAR PROGRAM

The Twenty-Third Annual Silvers Visiting Scholar Program was a talk on “Hatikvah: Secular Anthem or Religious Song?” with **Edwin Seroussi** (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem; Katz Center Fellow). This lecture on February 19, 2019, was sponsored by David, C’71, and Patricia, CW’72, Silvers, and also cosponsored by the Jewish Studies Program and the Department of Music.

JOSEPH ALEXANDER COLLOQUIUM

The Thirty-Third Annual Joseph Alexander Colloquium was a talk entitled, “Sister Scholars: Bais Yaakov and the Emergence of Orthodox Girls’ Culture in Interwar Poland,” with **Naomi Seidman** (University of Toronto), and performance by **Basya Schechter**.” The event on November 27, 2018, was sponsored by the Joseph Alexander Foundation and the Mackler Family, cosponsored by the Program on Gender, Sexuality, and Woman’s Studies, and the Department of Music.

KUTCHIN SEMINARS

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

"Iranian Jews in the Twentieth Century," with **Lior Sternfeld** (Penn State College of Liberal Arts), cosponsored with the Middle East Center, and The Herbert D. Katz Center on October 29, 2018.

Film screening and discussion of *Shadows* with **Yigal Schwartz** (Ben Gurion University of the Negev), cosponsored with Cinema and Media Studies Program, and the Department of Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations on November 1, 2018.

In commemoration of *Kristallnacht*: "'And Now I Have to Read in Jewish Something': Yiddish Performance by Holocaust Survivors," with **Jeffrey Shandler** (Rutgers University), cosponsored with the Department of Germanic Languages & Literatures on November 8, 2018.



(l to r) Pnina Motzafi-Haller (Ben Gurion University), Dan Ben-Amos (Penn), and Nancy Berg (Washington University, St. Louis; Katz Fellow) on January 31, 2019.

"Three Lives of the Sarajevo Haggadah," with publisher of the new facsimile edition of the Sarajevo Haggadah, **Aleksandra Bunčić**, cosponsored with the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies on March 12, 2019.

"A Mahzor is a Mahzor is a Mahzor? Studying CAJS Rare MS 382," with **Elisabeth Hollender** (Goethe University), cosponsored with the Schoenberg Institute for Manuscript Studies & the Herbert D. Katz Center Distinguished Fellowship in Jewish Manuscript Studies on March 19, 2019.

"Jews and Sufis: Shared Musical Traditions: Performance and Discussion," **Edwin Seroussi** and **DÜNYA Ensemble**, cosponsored with the Middle East Center, and the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies on March 17, 2019.

Middle East Film Festival 2019: "New Middle East Cinema," recently released feature films from Middle Eastern societies and cultures introduced by a presenter with special knowledge of the country, culture, and issues addressed in the film, cosponsored by the Middle East Center, Cinema and Media Studies Program, and Department of Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations from March 25 - 29, 2019.

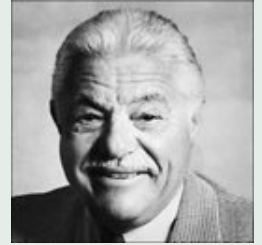


(l to r) Kathryn Hellerstein (Penn), Jeffrey Shandler (Rutgers University), and Simon Richter (Penn) on November 28, 2018.

"From Across the Waters: A Reading by Refugees & their Descendants," hosted by **Julia Kolchinsky Dasbach** on December 5, 2018.

"A Tale of Two Audiences: Reading and Writing a Feminist Ethnography in Israel and in the US," with **Pnina Motzafi-Haller** (Ben-Gurion University), cosponsored with the Department of Anthropology, the Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations department, the Middle East Center, the Program for Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies, and Penn Hillel on January 31, 2019.

"Welcome to TheatreLand," with Israeli actor-director, **Roy Horovitz**, cosponsored with the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, and the Modern Hebrew Language Program on February 11, 2019.



The members of the Jewish Studies Program at Penn note with sadness the recent death of Melvin Kutchin. We remember Mel and Mitzi with affection and gratitude.

MELVIN KUTCHIN
Formerly of Lexington and Andover, on Tuesday, February 19, 2019, at age 93. For 57 years the beloved husband of the late Maxine "Mitzi" (Lampert). Devoted father of Ed & Jill Kutchin, Susan & Bob Pellegrino, and Jim & Peri Kutchin. Loving grandfather of Michael and Adam Davidson, Zachary and Alexander Kutchin, and Julie Kutchin. Great-grandfather of Cora and Kenzie. Dear brother of the late Seena Cohen, and Renee Konwaler. Melvin and Mitzi were long-time friends of the Jewish Studies Program at the University of Pennsylvania. Their fund, the Melvin and Maxine Kutchin Scholarship and Endowed Scholarship II, has supported, and continues to support, dozens of academic events each year.

(Obituary published in *The Boston Globe*)

KUTCHIN SEMINARS (CONTINUED)

The 94th Annual Meeting of the Medieval Academy of America: The Global Turn in Medieval Studies, cosponsored with the Department of Religious Studies, the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, and the Department of Romance Languages from March 7-9, 2019.



(l to r) Food preservationist and author, Jennifer Abadi, and Kathryn Hellerstein (Penn) on March 28, 2019.

“Too Good To Passover: Preserving the Varied Foods, Traditions and Memories of Passover in the Sephardic and Judeo-Arabic World,” with food preservationist and author, **Jennifer Abadi**, on March 28, 2019.

“Israeli Filmmaker, **Amos Gitai**, in conversation with **Nili Gold** (University of Pennsylvania), cosponsored with the Cinema & Media Studies Program, and the Department of Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations on April 1, 2019.

“It Happened Here: Live History in the City” with **Sarah Gensburger** (The Institut des Sciences Sociales du Politique in Nanterre, France), cosponsored with PennImmersive, the Price Lab for the Digital Humanities, and the Department of Romance Languages on April 10, 2019.

“Yiddish Today: A Yiddish Pedagogy Workshop,” with **Sheva Zucker** (League for Yiddish), **Ellen Kellman** (Brandeis University), and **Kathryn Hellerstein** (University of Pennsylvania), cosponsored with the Penn Language Center, and the Department of Germanic Languages & Literatures on April 8, 2019.

“From Across the Waters: Poetry of the Soviet Diaspora,” organized by Penn doctoral candidate **Julia Kolchinsky Dasbach**, cosponsored with the Program in Comparative Literature and Literary Theory on April 27, 2019.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Jewish Studies Program co-sponsored the “China and Ashkenazic Jewry: A Pedagogical Workshop” at the Penn Wharton China Center Beijing, funded by the University of Pennsylvania China Research and Engagement Fund (PennCREF), along with the Glazer Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies, and Nanjing University, on June 2, 2019.



Attendees of the “China and Ashkenazic Jewry: A Pedagogical Workshop” on June 2, 2019, in Beijing, China.

GRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCES

The **New Disabilities Poetics Symposium** on October 18, 2018, curated critical and collaborative discussions around the relationships between the disabled body and contemporary poetic practices through avenues that test the very limits of poetry, publics, and performance. Organized by a cohort of graduate students, including two Jewish Studies graduate students, **Ariel Resnikoff** and **Adam Sax**.

The **Disabilities in the Ancient World** conference on February 22-23, 2019, comprised of four thematic panels demonstrating how ancient peoples explained an atypical body or sensory impairment that they possessed or encountered in diverse traditions. Dr. **Julia Watts Belser** (Georgetown University) gave a keynote speech titled, “Disability and the Making of Rabbinic Manhood: Negotiating Power, Pain, and Empire.” Organized by **Debby Chih-Yen Huang** (EALC), **Kyle West** (AnCH), **Timothy Warnock** (AnCH), **Theodora Naqvi** (CLST), and **Shaashi Alawat** (SAST).

KATZ CENTER

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

THE ANNUAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM: THE CORE OF THE KATZ CENTER'S MISSION

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

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

2019–2020:

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

This fellowship year, scholars at the Katz Center are seeking to advance research that will shed light on the most formative and intimate of contexts for Jewish life: the home. As an object of inquiry, the home has not one door but many. Fellows are looking into the Jewish home across many different thresholds and looking back out from the home into the broader world. Collectively, they represent fields that include archaeology, architectural history, anthropology, the study of photography, and legal studies, in addition to historical and textual studies.

Looking Ahead: America's Jewish Questions

In 2020–2021, the fellowship will support scholarship that revises, reframes, or expands our understanding of American Jews, their history, religious life, politics, culture, and experience.

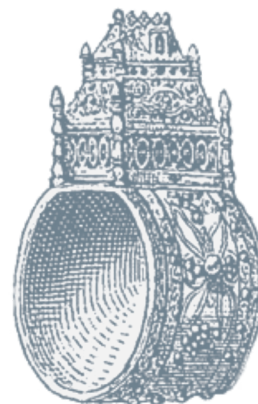


2019–2020 Fellows List

- **Viola Alianov-Rautenberg** | Institute for the History of the German Jews, Berlin
- **Ofer Ashkenazi** | Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- **Leora Auslander** | University of Chicago
- **Ela Bauer** | Kibbutzim College, Tel Aviv
- **Melissa S. Cradic** | Badè Museum of Biblical Archaeology, Pacific School of Religion
- **Sigal Davidi** | Tel Aviv University
- **Federica Francesconi** | University at Albany, SUNY
- **Miriam Frenkel** | Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- **Keren Friedman-Peleg** | College of Management Academic Studies, Israel
- **Gregg E. Gardner** | University of British Columbia
- **Pratima Gopalakrishnan** | Yale University
- **Claris Harbon** | McGill University
- **Anna Kushkova** | University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- **Cecile E. Kuznitz** | Bard College
- **Marjorie Lehman** | Jewish Theological Seminary
- **Nathanael Riemer** | University of Potsdam
- **Jeffrey Shandler** | Rutgers University
- **Katherine Sorrels** | University of Cincinnati
- **Joshua Teplitsky** | Stony Brook University
- **Jacqueline Vayntrub** | Yale University
- **Liliane Weissberg** | University of Pennsylvania

This year's short-term and adjunct fellows are: **Yonatan Adler, Cornelia Aust, Anat Feinberg, David Zvi Kalman, Ephraim Kanarfogel, Yael Landman, Sharon Musher, Vanessa Ochs, Ilana Pardes, Shalom Sabar, Alon Tam, and Shlomo Zuckier.**

The 2019–2020 fellowship year focused on the Jewish Home: Dwelling on the Domestic, the Familial, and the Lived-In.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2018-2019

Jewish Life in Modern Islamic Contexts

During the 2018–2019 fellowship year, the Katz Center focused on exploring Jewish life, culture, and thought as these have developed in modern times across North Africa, the Levant, the Arabian Peninsula, and Central and South Asia. Scholars to bridge linguistic, geographic, social, and methodological boundaries, to connect the study of the intellectual with the study of the everyday, and to encourage attention to new sources and approaches.



The 2018–2019 fellowship year focused on Jewish Life in Modern Islamic Contexts.

2018–2019 Fellows List

- **Esra Almas** | Istanbul Şehir University
- **Nancy Berg** | Washington University, St. Louis
- **Chen Bram** | Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- **Dina Danon** | Binghamton University
- **Keren Dotan** | Open University of Israel
- **Yuval Evri** | SOAS University of London
- **Hadar Feldman Samet** | Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- **Annie Greene** | University of Chicago
- **Alma Heckman** | University of California, Santa Cruz
- **Kerstin Hünefeld** | Free University of Berlin
- **Sarah Levin** | University of California, Berkeley
- **Yoram Meital** | Ben Gurion University of the Negev
- **Aviad Moreno** | Ben Gurion University of the Negev
- **Yigal S. Nizri** | University of Toronto
- **Joseph Sassoon** | Georgetown University
- **Edwin Seroussi** | Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- **Reuven Snir** | University of Haifa
- **Alon Tam** | University of Pennsylvania
- **Alan Verskin** | University of Rhode Island
- **Mark Wagner** | Louisiana State University

22nd Annual Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Lecture

The Katz Center used the 2018 Meyerhoff Lecture as an opportunity to reflect on the field of Sephardi studies by inviting field pioneer **Aron Rodrigue** (Stanford University) to discuss his own fascinating intellectual biography, and to trace its legacy through the work of three influential students of the next generation, **Julia Philips Cohen** (Vanderbilt University), **Jessica Marglin** (University of Southern California), and **Lital Levy** (Princeton University).

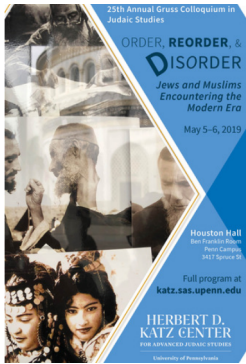
December Symposium

The 2018 December Symposium was called *Jews in Muslim Contexts: Spatial Approaches*. The fellows organizing the event chose to frame the experiences of Jews across a range of experiences in the modern Muslim world by comparing experiences of space from the café, the village, and the city, to the state and the empire. Katz Center scholars shared the stage with several outside invited speakers: **Deborah Starr** (Cornell University), **Laurence Salzmann** (photographer); **Habiba Boumlik** (CUNY Graduate Center), **Michelle Campos** (University of Florida), **Arie Dubnov** (George Washington University), **Renata Holod** (Penn), and **Jack Kugelmass** (University of Florida).

In addition, we welcomed short-term and adjunct fellows: **Joseph Alpar**, **Orit Bashkin**, **Haggai Ben-Shammai**, **Julia Phillips Cohen**, **Noah Gerber**, **John Ghazvinian**, **Ari Gordon**, **Benjamin Hary**, **Sifra Lentini**, and **Lital Levy**.



A panel featuring scholars (l to r) Yuval Evri (SOAS University of London), Michelle Campos (University of Florida), Alma Heckman (University of California, Santa Cruz), and Arie Dubnov (George Washington University).



25th Annual Gruss Colloquium in Judaic Studies

In May, the fellows convened for a last time in a conference titled "Order, Reorder, and Disorder: Jews and Muslims Encountering the Modern Era," where they sought to re-envision the circumstances of Jews and Muslims living in the modern era by reconstructing the myriad ways that social, cultural, political, and economic relationships were ordered, and by shedding light on their "reordering" in modernity. Joining fellows' research we heard from several invited scholars over the course of the two-day event: **Norman Stillman** (University of Oklahoma), **Zvi Zohar** (Bar Ilan University), **Bernard Haykel** (Princeton University), **Lawrence Rosen** (Princeton University and Columbia University), **Marc David Baer** (London School of Economics and Political Science), **Bedross Der Matossian** (University of Nebraska-Lincoln), **Matthias Lehmann** (University of California, Irvine), **Bat-Zion Eraqi Klorman** (Open University of Israel), **Francesca Trivellato** (Institute for Advanced Studies), and **Huda J. Fakhreddine** (Penn).

Nancy Berg and **Dina Danon** will edit a volume showcasing some of the best work produced during the 2018–2019 academic year.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

For Religious Leaders

The LEAP program is the fruit of a collaboration between the Katz Center and Clal, the National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership. 2018–2019 was its fourth year enlisting influential voices in the Jewish world in the effort to translate and disseminate Jewish studies scholarship beyond the academy. Rabbinic participants drawn from diverse American Jewish communities came to the Katz Center three times over the course of the year to learn from fellows and invited scholars, including **Yuval Evri** (SOAS, University of London) on Sephardi reactions to modernity, **Heather Sharkey** (Penn) on relations between Jews, Muslims, and Christians at the end of the Ottoman Empire, **John Ghazvinian** (Penn Middle East Center) on the role of Jews in Iranian-American relations, and **Nancy Berg** (Washington University of St. Louis) on modern Mizrahi literature—among many others. As always, the interaction between rabbis and scholars was productive and illuminating for both sides.



Participants in the 2018–2019 LEAP program, a partnership between the Katz Center and Clal.

For the Local Community

Each year, the Katz Center organizes outreach programs in partnership with host institutions throughout the Philadelphia area. In 2018–2019, these programs focused on the modern history of Jews in historically Muslim lands, primarily the Middle East and North Africa, communities that are still underrepresented in historiography and in the popular imagination alike. Highlights of the series included:

- **Sarah Abrevaya Stein** of UCLA spoke at the National Museum of American Jewish History about one Sephardi family's century-long voyage from Ottoman Salonika across Europe, the Americas, and beyond—a voyage that highlighted, the Holocaust experience of Salonikan Jews in commemoration of International Holocaust Remembrance Day.
- We presented an inspiring and unusual musical performance featuring Ottoman Jewish and Sufi music, performed by the renowned **Dünya Ensemble** with discussion by **Edwin Seroussi** of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Katz Center fellow and winner of the 2018 Israel Prize.
- **Aleksandra Bunčić**, a visiting scholar at Harvard and a specialist in the preservation of historic artifacts and monuments, discussed the history of the Sarajevo Haggadah and showed off a magnificent facsimile edition of the book.
- In the first of a new type of programming designed to bring the college seminar experience to adult learners, **Alan Verskin** taught a four-week evening course on the history of Jewish life in the Near and Middle East from the time of Muhammad to the State of Israel.
- A number of fellows also taught in local congregations and similar settings as part of our community partnership program, pairing speakers with local communities.



The Katz Center hosted a public program featuring the renowned Dünya Ensemble with guest artist and scholar Joseph Alpar and a discussion led by Katz Center fellow Edwin Seroussi.

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

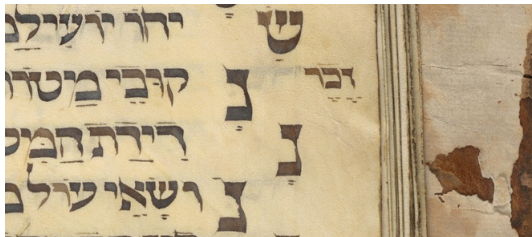
For Graduate Students

Every summer, the Katz Center works collaboratively with the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School for Advanced Studies in the Humanities at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem to offer a weeklong intensive course—a "summer school"—for graduate students in Jewish studies. Directed by **Steven Weitzman** and **Elisheva Baumgarten** (Hebrew University), the program is located in alternate years in Philadelphia and Israel, and the 2019 program took place in Jerusalem. Students from three continents joined a select faculty for an immersive experience of interdisciplinary study on the topic of secrecy and deceit in Jewish history and culture. The 2020 summer school will take place in Philadelphia on the topic of rascals, rebels, and troublemakers. We thank **Dr. Garry Rayant** and **Dr. Kathy Fields-Rayant** for their generous support of the summer school.



SCHOLARS & MANUSCRIPTS

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



Professor Hollender's lecture explored a 13th-century liturgical manuscript, CAJS MS 382

2015–2016 Fellow: Y. Tzvi Langermann (Bar-Ilan University)
Manuscript: A 15th-c. Sicilian medical miscellany (UPenn MS Codex 1649)
MOOC: Go to EdX.org to learn from Prof. Langermann about the circulation of 13th-c. medicine by reading the wide variety of clues left in this manuscript: The History of Medieval Medicine through Jewish Manuscripts.

2016–2017 Fellow: Alessandro Guetta (Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales, Paris)
Manuscripts: Malkiel Ashkenazi's Tavnit ha-mishkan and Hanukat ha-bayit (CAJS Rar Ms 460), 17th-c. Mantua
MOOC: Go to EdX.org to learn from Prof. Guetta how Jews in Renaissance Italy found ways to both participate in the revolution in Italian architecture and recover suppressed talmudic traditions through one man's production of a heavily illustrated exploration of Jews' own lost architectural past.

2017–2018* Fellow: Judith Olszowy-Schlanger (École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris / Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies)
Manuscript: A variety of Geniza fragments from Penn's collection
2018–2019* Fellow: Elisabeth Hollender (Seminar für Judaistik, Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität)

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

2019–2020* Fellow: Fabrizio Lelli (University of Lecce)
Manuscript: Abraham ben Mordecai Farissol, Iggeret orhot 'olam [LJS 499], (Italy, after 1525)

*MOOC masterclasses are in production and will be released in 2020!

JEWISH QUARTERLY REVIEW

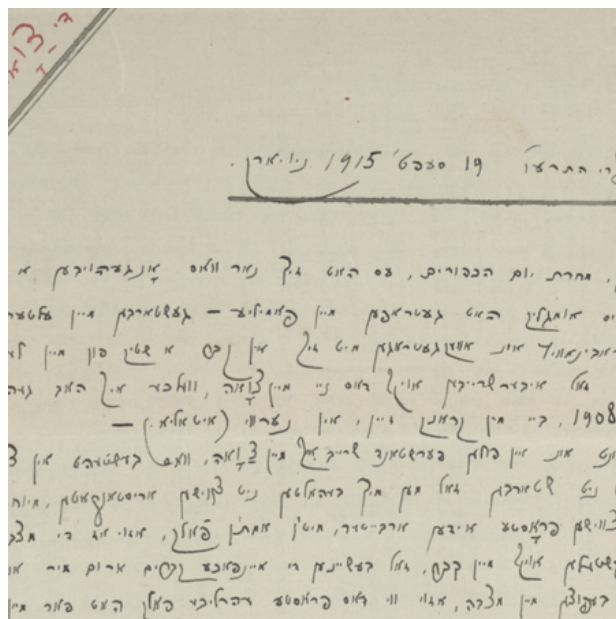
Established by Israel Abrahams and Claude Montefiore in 1889, the *Jewish Quarterly Review* is the oldest English-language journal in the field of Jewish studies. Today's *JQR*, housed at the Katz Center, preserves the attention to textual detail so characteristic of the journal's early years, while encouraging scholarship in a wide range of fields and time periods. In each quarterly issue the ancient stands alongside the modern, the historical alongside the literary, the textual alongside the contextual. The last volume year—volume 109—was chock-a-block full of amazing research. The fall issue (*JQR*109.3) was a special issue on *Wissenschaft des Judentums* that brought strong new work on major figures' less known work, such as Ismar Schorsch and Alexandra Zirkle on Heinrich Graetz; and the recovery of a major but little studied figure from Spain, Abraham S. Yahuda. There were a host of essays demonstrating the depth of current scholarship on rabbinic law and culture in a range of historical contexts—**Orit Malka, Yakir Paz, Yair Furstenberg, Yuval Blankovsky, Rachel Rafael Nies, Robert Brody, Haym Soloveitchik, and Ellie Schainker**—as well as essays on converts, crusaders, commentaries, kabbalah, caravans, and much more. 2020 marks *JQR*'s 110th year in continuous publication, and that is only in the United States – we go back much farther in our earlier British guise. We'll mark the year with a special retrospective forum in the fall 2020 issue. Less than a handful of English language scholarly journals can say the same, and we are always awed by the legacy and level of scholarship preserved in our century-plus-old archives. Subscribe via JQR.pennpress.org and keep up to date via the vibrant *JQR* Blog through the Katz Center website, featuring contributor conversations, external commentary, and supplemental texts.

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JUDAICA AT PENN'S LIBRARIES

The Judaica collections at Penn—located at the Van Pelt-Dietrich Library Center, at the Library at the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, at the Fisher Fine Arts Library, and at the University Museum—continued to grow as an integrated unit within the University Libraries system under the management of **Arthur Kiron**, Schottenstein-Jesselson Curator of Judaica Collections. The full-time staff of the Library at the Katz Center during the last academic year – **Dr. Bruce Nielsen**, Judaica Public Services Librarian and Archivist; **Smadar Shtuhl**, who handles Judaica acquisitions and provides bibliographical support to the Curator, and **Josef Gulka, G'70**, who supervises circulation, as well as **Lido Giovacchini**, our part-time Library Assistant – provided an exceptionally high level of service, both in terms of quantity and quality. Overall, Penn's Judaica staff responded to more than 600 public service contacts, paged and shelved close to 4,200 circulating volumes, administered the consultation of over 1,100 rare items, delivered dozens of tours of the rare book room at Library at the Katz Center, and filled hundreds of Faculty Express, Inter-Campus, Borrow-Direct and Inter-Library Loan (ILL) transactions.



Sholem Aleichem's handwritten draft in Yiddish of his Last Will and Testament. Dated Sept. 19, 1915. New York.

SELECTED NEW JUDAICA COLLECTION GIFTS

Among the most extraordinary single gifts-in-kind we have received to date was made this past year by **Robert V. Waife**, the grandson of the Yiddish journalist B.Z. Goldberg. Goldberg was the son-in-law of the Yiddish writer and humorist, **Solomon Naumovich Rabinovich** (1859-1916), world-renown by his pen name, **Sholem (Sholom) Aleichem**, who entrusted to his son-in-law the original drafts he wrote by hand for his funeral arrangements: his Last Will and Testament and the "Epitaph" to be inscribed on his tombstone, located in Mount Carmel Cemetery, in Queens, New York. Including in his Will is a request that friends and family gather each year on his memorial date to read aloud his Will and its ethical precepts, a practice that has been maintained for more than a hundred years.

We are profoundly grateful to Prof. **Adam Mendelsohn**, the Director of the Isaac & Jessie Kaplan Centre at the University of Cape Town, and **Veronica Belling**, the distinguished librarian of the Kaplan Centre Library, for the donation to the Penn Libraries of 371 volumes of Jewish books looted by the Nazis that were distributed after the war to the South African Jewish community. These books were the subject of years of conscientious, meticulous cataloging and research by Veronica Belling, who delivered a number of public presentations and published articles about the collection.

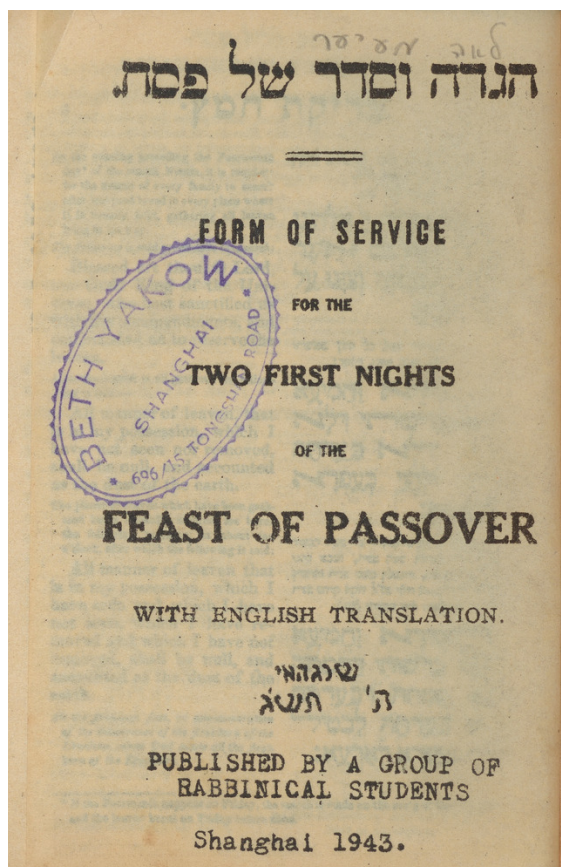


Hamshah humshe Torah: bi-leshon Ashkenaz: im haftarat u-megilot ve-targum li-megilot asher yekhuneh be-shem Tseenah u-reenah. 2 vols. Vilna: Bi-defus ve-hotsaat ha-almanah vеха-ahim Rom, 1878. Part two, bearing the special bookplate of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies memorializing this book as having been rescued from Nazi looting and recovered after the Holocaust and sent to South Africa.



Joseph Moldovan, C'76, and Susan Moldovan, C'76, have made yet another exceptional gift of 150 works of rare Judaica, including early Hebrew printed books and manuscripts, communal ledger books (*pinkasim*), marriage contracts, and broadsides, written in Hebrew, French, German, Italian, and Yiddish. Many of these works are already cataloged and may be searched online, such as a rare midnight prayer (*Tikun hatsot*) recited in remembrance of the Temple in Jerusalem, practiced by the Jewish community of Casale Monferrato in northern Italy during the 18th c. <https://franklin.library.upenn.edu/catalog/> (Search for the following: 9977501428303681)

One of the pioneering scholars of Sino-Jewish history, Prof. **Irene Eber** donated and dedicated the "Yedidya Geminder Memorial Archive of Sino-Judaica." The scholarly archive is comprised of 24 linear feet of Prof. Eber's research notes, recordings, slides and photographs, drafts of publications, and books, particularly related to Jewish refugees in Shanghai. The gift was made in honor and memory of her father, **Yedidya Geminder**, who was murdered during the Holocaust. Lamentably, Prof. Eber died shortly after making her gift and we join with her family and friends in mourning her passing.



Hagadah ve-seder shel pesah. Form of Service for the Two First Nights of the Feast of Passover with English Translation. Shanghai: Published by a Group of Rabbinical Students, 1943.

On the eve of their moving to a new building, the **Board of Governors of Congregation Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth** in Wilmington, Delaware donated a library collection of forty boxes of more than 1,000 books of 20th century American Jewish education, as well as learning games, and related ephemera. The collection has been cataloged and may be browsed online here: <https://franklin.library.upenn.edu/catalog>. Incorporated in 1889, AKSE is the oldest traditional Jewish congregation in the State of Delaware. Specially thanks are due to **Paula Gordon** for all of her intensive, conscientious efforts to preserve the Congregation's unique library history and coordinate the gift of the collection to the Penn Libraries as well as to **Bradford Glazier**, a member of the Congregation, for connecting us.

We are delighted and grateful to **Freda Nessim** for her donation of a fascinating collection of fifty-six volumes of Latin American Judaica, mainly with a focus on Sephardic literature. Most of the items are monographs in Spanish and English, some translated into Spanish for the first time, and published between the 1940s and the 2000s. Included are a number of signed copies by the author to the Nessim family, including a volume of poetry by Isaac Hamuia and by Elia Salem of his book *Las Leyes de las Mujeres* based on a Hebrew work written exclusively for women by the Haham Yosef Haim (also known as the *Ben Ish Hai*), the chief Rabbi of Baghdad. Other highlights are a Hebrew-Spanish haggadah for the Cuban Sephardic Hebrew Congregation in Miami Beach, Florida; works about the Spanish and Mexican Inquisitions; histories of the Sephardic community of Chile; an annotated Spanish translation of Yosef ha-Kohen's "*Emeq ha-bakha*" (Valley of Tears), the Hebrew chronicle of the Chmielnicki massacres in Poland and the Ukraine in 1647-48; two books, including one unrecorded title, by Edmond S. Malka, the son of the late chief rabbi of Sudan, as well as a number of studies of classic medieval and early modern Sephardic literature. The collection also is noteworthy for its publications printed in Buenos Aires and for a few issues of the scarce French-Sephardic periodical *Les cahiers séfardis* edited by S. Levy and published in the immediate aftermath of the Holocaust in Neuilly-sur-Seine between 1946 and 1949.

Miriam Camitta, Florence Carnahan, and Lillian Fry have donated to the Penn Libraries of "The Lillian Bassein Hettling Collection of the Leon Elbe (Bassein) Papers." This important literary collection consists of two parts: a donation made by the Yiddish writer, novelist, satirist, and journalist. Leon Elbe's daughters Florence Carnahan and Lillian Fry, consisting of four boxes of Leon Elbe (Bassein)'s papers, books, ephemera, photographs, manuscripts, correspondence, newspaper clippings, handwritten journals and a scrapbook. The second part, donated by Miriam Camitta [Leon Elbe (Bassein)'s great niece] consists of published literary works by authors such as Moshe Shelubsky, Joel Entin and Leon Elbe, Joseph Rolnick, Celia Dropkin, a record album by Noah Nachbush, Mozart's Sonaten, Beethoven's Sonatas, and a printed program in honor of the Yiddish translator, Yehoash.

SELECTED NEW JUDAICA SPECIAL ACQUISITIONS:

Thanks to the **Elis and Ruth Douer Endowed Fund for Sephardic Studies** we were able to purchase at auction a unique, 16th century Hebrew manuscript written in Egypt containing a polemical response by Rabbi Abraham Monson to attacks by Rabbi Menahem Lonzano on the kabbalistic works of Hayim Vital and Isaac Luria. **Louis Meiselman**, our new rare Judaica Cataloging librarian has produced a blog about this work: <https://katz.sas.upenn.edu/blog/cajs-rar-ms-481-kabbalistic-and-polemical-manuscript-fragment-1605-egypt-provenance>. Also thanks to the Douer fund we acquired at auction a unique, 17th century unpublished Hebrew manuscript *Sefer ha-or* by the Moroccan Jewish Yehudah ben Ya'akob Hanin, interpreting Hebrew letters, vowels, and cantillation notes through the lens of kabbalistic teachings as well as a 16th century edition of the Mishnah Seder Nashim, printed in Venice by Marco Giustiani in 1547. The title page of this copy contains a prayer for the sick written in a Yemenite hand and on the last page is another handwritten inscription predicting the arrival of the Messiah in the coming year of 5369 (1608-09).

Thanks to the **Frommer Endowed Fund** we successfully bid on a group of twelve Yiddish pamphlets about the autonomous Jewish republic of Birobidzhan located in the Eastern Soviet Union. Birobidzhan was created to serve as a homeland within the Soviet Union for its Jewish minority population. Yiddish, the language in which these pamphlets, bound together in one volume, were printed was the official language of the autonomous territory.

One of the more unusual auction purchases we were able to make, thanks to the **Gershwind-Bennett Endowed Fund**, in partnership with Penn's Jewish Studies Program, was one of 500 copies of the first printing of "Dos Gezang fun Neger-Folk/The Song of the Negro" the Yiddish translation of Langston Hughes' poetry, and other African-American folksongs and spirituals. Born B. Vaysman in Lodz, Poland, the translator Zishe Bagish, traveled widely before dying heroically in Auschwitz where he reportedly gave his life to save others. Another landmark firstwork of Judaica acquired thanks to the Gershwind-Bennett Judaica Endowment is the complete run of *Gal-Ed: The Hebrew Review and Magazine of Rabbinical Literature*, which constitutes the first rabbinical journal published in England, issued between 1835 and 1836 and edited by the Stockholm-born Morris Raphall.

Another Judaica first, acquired at auction thanks to the Library at the Katz Center **Rare Judaica Acquisitions Fund**, is *Shemesh Lashon ha-Kodesh / Sole della Lingua Santa* (1591), recognized as the first Hebrew grammar published in Italian. This first edition imprint also documents the first occasion when Hebrew letters were printed in the town of Bergamo in northern Italy. Authored by Guglielmo Franchi, a Roman Jew convert to Christianity, the visually attractive book includes a folding grammatical chart and is bound in contemporary vellum. Thanks again to the LKCAJS Rare Judaica Acquisitions Fund, we were able to acquire an iconic text in the history of Jewish toleration in early modern Europe, the first edition of Simone Luzzatto's famous *Discorso circa il Stato de gl' Hebrei, et in particolar dimoranti nell' inclita Citt' a di Venetia* ("Discourse on the Jews of Venice").

Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of **Arnold and Deanne Kaplan**, we acquired two Jewish textiles of American Judaica: a Torah ark curtain (*parokhet*) and valance (*kaporet*) dedicated in Prussian Breslau in 1853 in honor of a Jewish wedding celebrated earlier that year in San Francisco amidst the California Gold Rush.



Trunk of Szmul Edeltuch, whose family fled Nazi German and found refuge in Shanghai during the Holocaust. After the war, the Edeltuch family made their way to New York via San Francisco.

Finally, mentioned must be made of an archive of personal papers that belonged to the **Edeltuch family**, a German Jewish family who took refuge in Shanghai during the Holocaust. This collection was purchased at auction thanks to the **Mark Zucker Judaica Endowment**, in partnership with Penn's Jewish Studies Program. It includes a dramatic, worn steamer trunk which bears the marks of their journey to safety and ultimate arrival in the United States, as well as a marriage certificate, a Passover Haggadah printed in Shanghai in 1943, and many additional documents that belonged to **Eleanore (Leah Meyer) Edeltuch**. We would like to express our deep thanks to the Kestenbaum & Company Auction house which continues to serve as a major resource for building Penn's rare Judaica collections and is the source of most of the items and valuable descriptions provided here.

DIGITAL JUDAICA AT THE PENN LIBRARIES

Penn Judaica Digital Humanities Lab: <https://judaicadh.github.io/>

We welcomed our new Judaica DH coordinator, **Emily Esten** to Penn in the Fall of 2018. Thanks to her leadership, and through our institutional partnerships with the Zooniverse, Princeton University, Oxford University, Cambridge University, Manchester University, and Haifa University, we launched Phase II (the transcription phase) of the Scribes of the Cairo Geniza project in April of 2019. Over the summer of 2019, we began implementing our next set of Judaica DH projects during the two years remaining on the Gershwind-Bennett Judaica Digital Humanities Grant Project. To that end, we received a signed gift agreement from Robert Singerman conveying copyright to his magisterial bibliography *Judaica Americana* as well as the draft of his revised, 2nd edition. Through Penn's Judaica DH program, the second edition of Singerman's bibliography will be transformed into an enhanced, interactive digital presentation. For now, the revised text of the 2nd edition may be viewed online in draft form as a pdf via Penn's Scholarly Commons Repository: https://repository.upenn.edu/judaica_americana/

LKCAJS-Katz Annual Web Exhibition

Our 20th annual online web exhibit, "Jews in Modern Islamic Contexts," produced in partnership with the Katz Center Fellows, and **Leslie Vallhonrat**, from the Libraries' Web Unit, went public in August of 2019, and is now viewable online at: <https://www.library.upenn.edu/collections/online-exhibits/jews-modern-islamic-contexts>

"Jews in
Modern
Islamic
Contexts"
online
exhibition



JUDAICA SPECIAL PROJECTS

The Jewish Counter Culture Oral History Project:

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

In partnership with Penn's Jewish Studies Program, with Prof. **Beth Wenger**, the academic director of the JCCOHP, the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies in the School of Arts and Sciences at Penn, and Rabbi **Michael Strassfeld**, the Executive Director of the JCCOHP, and under the direction of oral historian Dr. **Jayne Guberman**, and videographer and Penn anthropologist, Dr. **Noam Osband**, we have completed the interviewing of twenty-five founding members of Havurat Shalom and went public in August of 2019. This project involved extensive partnerships, including coordinating the long-term storage solution with **Kenneth Whitebloom** at Penn's Scholarly Commons of the videographic interviews and their transcriptions. Penn CURF summer intern **Clara Phillips** worked on a post-production film-editing project based on this material, which also has been added to the Scholarly Commons repository; we also coordinated the production of a film to serve as an introduction to the project which also may be found on Scholarly Commons and our Libraries' YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/pennlibraries/videos>

SIMS-Katz Fellowship:

<https://katz.sas.upenn.edu/fellowships/sims-katz>

Working with **Lynn Ransom** at SIMS and **Natalie Dohrmann**, Associate Director of the Katz Center, we coordinated the fourth SIMS-Katz manuscript research fellowship, an initiative led by SIMS Curator Lynn Ransom, in partnership with **Steven Weitzman**, Director of the Katz Center, **William Noel**, Director of the Kislak Center and SIMS, and **Kathryn Hellerstein**, the Director of Penn's Jewish Studies Program. This past year's Fellow was Prof. **Elisabeth Hollender**, a former Katz Fellow, Professor of Judaistik in the Seminar for Judaistik of the Goethe-Universität in Frankfurt, a specialist in medieval Jewish liturgical poetry (*piyut*) and the incoming president of the European Association of Jewish Studies. She researched our (LKCAJS) Rare ms. 382, delivered a MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) and gave a public lecture.

SIMS-Katz MOOCs are now available for enrollment online at:

<https://www.mooc-list.com/course/history-medieval-medicine-through-jewish-manuscripts-edx>

<https://www.edx.org/course/the-tabernacle-in-word-image-an-italian-jewish-manuscript-revealed-0>

National Museum of American Jewish History Internships

In the Spring semester of 2019, **Cecilia Mourse**, an undergraduate from Bryn Mawr, served as a student intern under the auspices of an internship program run by the National Museum of American Jewish History. She is working on a database of Jewish material art historical artifacts. Our NMAJH Summer 2019 intern, **Laura Auketayeva**, a doctoral student at American University, processed and produced a finding aid about the Soviet Student School book collection, and produced blogs about additional collections she processed. They can be found here: <https://pennrare.wordpress.com/author/lauraauk/> — We are enormously grateful to **Ethel Weinberg** and **Judy Finkel** at the NMAJH for creating and leading such a successful internship program.

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

We hosted our 19th annual Lehmann Workshop on May 12-13, 2019, in partnership with Penn's Jewish Studies Program and the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies. The topic was "The Forest of Ilanot: Exploring a Forgotten Genre." This year's workshop was led by Prof. **J. H. (Yossi) Chajes**, in the Department of Jewish History at the University of Haifa and the Director of its Center for the Study of Jewish Cultures. Chajes, a former Katz Center Fellow, currently directs the "Ilanot Project"— about kabbalistic cosmological diagrams, which has been awarded four Israel Science Foundation (ISF) grants, the Friedenbergs Prize for the outstanding ISF-funded project in the Humanities, and a Volkswagen Foundation grant — in collaboration with the digital humanities lab at Göttingen University — to develop "Maps of God - Building a Portal to Visual Kabbalah."

Rare Judaica tours for Library Advancement and Educational purposes: Multiple tours of the Rare Book Room at the Library at the Katz Center were led by **Bruce Nielsen** and **Arthur Kiron**.

JUDAICA TECHNICAL SERVICES

Original Hebraica Cataloging

Jasmin Shinohara, our Hebraica original cataloger, in addition to her tireless work cataloging new Hebrew publications from Israel, completed the cataloging of the Moldovan Family Haggadah collection as well as continued to work on Hebraica legacy cataloging projects.

Dr. **David G. Cook**, an LKCAJS library volunteer, working closely with Jasmin Shinohara, continues to process/copy catalog our backlog of several thousand rare Hebraica printed works. To date, he has searched and downloaded over 7,000 records.

Judaica Archival Processing

Louise Strauss, a board member of the Katz Center and a LKCAJS volunteer, continues to make major contributions as an archival processor, having created finding aids for, inter alia, the Albert J. Wood papers, the Joshua Gilboa papers, and the **David M. Goldenberg** papers. The Goldenberg papers are especially noteworthy for their historical importance related to the history of modern Jewish studies, his work as editor of the *Jewish Quarterly Review*, his role in the transformation of the Dropsie College for Hebrew and Cognate Learning, where he served as president, into the Annenberg Research Institute, a post-graduate research center where he served as Associate Director, and through the time of the institutional merger between the ARI and the University of Pennsylvania, after which he continued to serve as the Associate Director of what eventually would become the Katz Center.

Post-1601 Hebrew Manuscripts Digitization and Cataloging

Sarah Reidell, the Margy Meyerson Curator of Conservation, completed the conservation survey of our post-1601 Hebrew manuscripts. We are now implementing the scanning phase, in partnership with **Michael Overgard**, the manager of the Schoenberg Center for Electronic Text and Image (SCETI) to contribute to the National Library of Israel's KTIV digital Hebrew manuscripts project.

WELCOME

We are delighted to announce the appointment of **Louis (Chaim) Meiselman** to be Penn's first rare Rare Judaica Cataloging Librarian. He is based at the Kislak Special Collections Processing Center and frequently contributes to the Special Collections blog on the topic of Hebrew manuscripts:

<https://pennrare.wordpress.com/author/lmeiselman/>

FAREWELL

It is with a heavy heart that we announce that **Laurie Allen**, the Penn Libraries' Director of Digital Scholarship, has accepted a position at the Library of Congress as a member of their prestigious Labs team, which is a leader in digital collections innovation. Laurie served as Co-Director of the Penn Libraries' Judaica Digital Humanities program since its inception in 2016, and was the lead project director of our Scribes of the Cairo Geniza project.

IN MEMORIAM

Penn's Judaica Collections join the Penn Libraries and Beitler family and friends in mourning the passing of Dr. **Lorraine Beitler**. Active on numerous cultural institution boards and advisory committees, Lorraine devoted her life to education and used the act of collecting the Dreyfus Affair to promote social toleration and respect for cultural differences. Her gift to the Penn Libraries of her Dreyfus Affair collection, her establishment of an advisory committee to promote awareness, and the endowment of an annual lectureship were transformative. With her son Jonathan, she also gave an important collection of Judaica to the Penn Libraries. May the memory of her goodness serve as a blessing. To learn more about her role as the Curator of the Lorraine Beitler Collection of the Dreyfus Affair at the Penn Libraries, see: http://sceti.library.upenn.edu/dreyfus/overview_curator.cfm

IN APPRECIATION

July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

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

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We are especially happy to acknowledge and thank our library volunteers, Dr. David G. Cook, M'68, GM'74, and Louise A. Strauss, C'82, as well as the following individuals for their gifts and donations:

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PENN GLOBAL SEMINAR: HAIFA

BY SARAH GOLDFARB

In the spring of 2019, I traveled to Haifa with Dr. **Nili Gold's** Penn Global Seminar, which focused on exploring the intersection between literature, architecture, and topography. Focusing on Dr. Gold's *Haifa: City of Steps* as the core text of our class, supplemented by various thematically relevant poems and short stories, we explored how the physicality of the city shapes the experiences of its inhabitants. The travel portion of the course seamlessly aligned with the texts and stories we analyzed in class. In Haifa, we visited various sites described in Dr. Gold's book, quite literally bringing the text to life and enabling students to approach the trip with a knowledge and awareness of locality uncommon for young tourists in a foreign city. Professor Gold also organized a Q&A and city-tour with Yehudit Katzir, a Haifa native who wrote several of the short stories we looked at in class. After leading a tour of locations in the city meaningful to her and her writing, Katzir also gave a reading from her most recent book, *Dearest Anne*. Professor Gold also ensured that, while abroad, we got a taste of Israeli cuisine and culture with visits to delectable local restaurants and the Western Wall, also encouraging students to explore Haifa in the evenings. The class as a whole, aided by the wonderful travel experience, was one of my favorite courses at Penn and really pushed me to consider how the physical space of a city affects the experience of living in it.



Sarah Goldfarb, C'21



Professor Nili Gold

photo credit: Francois Inseher



Photos courtesy of Sarah Goldfarb.

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The 'Griselini Bible': Arba'ah ve'esrim (Venice: Bragadin for Isaac Foa, 1739-1741), a Hebrew Bible with marginal annotations in Italian, featuring an engraved frontispiece showing scenes from the Binding of Isaac, by Francesco Griselini and Simon Calimani. Purchased at the Kestenbaum and Company auction, thanks to the support of the Rare Judaica Acquisitions Fund.