

University of Padua Medical diploma, 1704, conferred upon Gershon Cantarini (Grassival Cantarin). Gift of Congregation Scharai Zedek, Tampa, Florida, 2018

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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

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.

Katz Center

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.

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.

GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR,

Jewish Studies Program

As I write in December 2021 I am struck by the fact that we have endured the pandemic for almost two years. After three semesters of teaching and conducting academic life on Zoom, Penn enjoyed in-person classes and on-campus life in Fall 2021, thanks to the advent of the vaccine, strict protocols for testing and masking, and a diminishment of cases of COVID-19. Unfortunately, though, in the final weeks of this semester, the Omicron variant of the virus has emerged, causing a surge in campus cases. As a result, the last three days of exams were conducted online. We have yet to learn what will be when the Spring 2022 semester starts on January 12. Despite this all, the Jewish Studies Program continues. Here, I will recap the highlights of Penn's Jewish Studies Program in 2020-2021, when all events and classes were conducted online. One benefit from the online format of our events was that they attracted large audiences from across the globe.

Our two annual endowed lectures were focused on Jewish American culture, in tandem with the theme of the Katz Center, "America's Jewish Questions." In October, Darra Goldstein, a professor and prize-winning cookbook and food history writer from Williams College, delivered the 35th Annual Alexander Colloquium in a talk entitled, "The Ashkenazi Kitchen in America." In March, Steven J. Zipperstein, a professor at Stanford University, spoke on his new project, "On Beginning a Biography of Philip Roth," as the 25th annual Silvers Visiting Scholar.

The Kutchin Seminars in Jewish Studies brought an array of fascinating co-sponsored programs, including three programs on antisemitism in the fall; a panel on "The Pittsburgh Synagogue Shooting: Reflections from Scholars and Writers on Life before and after America's Deadliest Antisemitic Attack;" the annual Kristallnacht commemoration, "From the Ottoman Empire to Auschwitz: Sephardic Jews and the Holocaust," by Devin E. Naar (University of Washington); and "Tracing the History of a Toxic Present: Antisemitism and Resurgent Ethnonationalism," with Alexandra Minna Stern (University of Michigan). Other programs included a colloquium on "Elective Affinities: Reading Benjamin Reading Kafka;" "The Pathos of Chosenness: Who are the Jews if not Exceptional?;" and a colloquium to launch *The Diary: The Epic of Everyday Life*, edited by Batsheva Ben-Amos and Jewish Studies faculty member Dan Ben-Amos. A panel (organized by the Katz Center) on "American Jewish Musical Encounters," was composed of Josh Kun (USC Annenberg School), Galeet Dardash, (anthropologist and vocalist/composer), Shaul Magid (Dartmouth College and Shalom Hartman Institute of North America), and Anthony Russell (vocalist, composer, and arranger). The distinguished scholar and thinker, Carlo Ginzburg (Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa), delivered five stunning lectures, organized by the Center for Italian Studies, the Italian Studies Section of the Department of Romance Languages, the Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts, and others. An international (virtual) conference on "Spinoza After Marx," was cosponsored with the Department of Germanic Languages & Literatures, and the Program in Comparative Literature & Theory. These and the other events—on the Passover Haggadah; contemporary Russian-Jewish fiction; Germans, Israelis, and Palestinians; Jews in Egypt; and queer topics in Jewish Studies are listed in detail later in this newsletter.

As in past years, Jewish Studies continues to collaborate with many departments and programs at Penn to bring this wealth of scholarship to our students, faculty, and the wider community. Our partners last year included: the Katz Center, the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, the Department of History, the Program in Comparative Literature & Theory, the Department of Romance Languages, the Department of Russian and East European Studies, the Middle East Center, the University Research Foundation, the Center for Teaching and Learning, the Center for Italian Studies, the Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts, the Workshop in the History of Material Texts, the Wolf Humanities Center, and the Kelly Writers House.

Jewish Studies was sorry to see the departure of Isabel Cranz, assistant professor of Hebrew Bible (NELC) and the retirement of Ian Lustick, the Bess W. Heyman Professor, Political Science Department.

I remain grateful to be working with Steven Weitzman, director of the Katz Center to develop our many projects that connect the JSP and the Katz Center. With best wishes for Spring 2022,



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



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GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR,

Katz Center



Like other every institution on the planet, the Katz Center spent the 2020-21 academic year adapting, persevering, and making the most of a dire situation, but what got us through it was a commitment to doing everything we could to advance of our mission of supporting new research and sharing it as broadly as we can. I am pleased to report that, thanks to the fellows and the staff of the Katz Center and its library, we were true to that mission.

Our fellowship theme in 2020-21 was entitled “America’s Jewish Questions,” a year meant to contribute to an exciting period of rethinking in the field of American Jewish Studies. As envisioned by Beth Wenger, Lila Corwin Berman and Deborah Dash Moore, our goal was to bring together scholars from different disciplines and career stages for a year of research, collaboration, conversation, and question-asking about the future of the field. The fellows included some of the most accomplished senior scholars in the field, together with newly minted scholars at the beginnings of their professional lives, and we aimed to bring in as guest scholars from beyond the field of Jewish Studies—Robrt Orsi, Katie Lofton, Alexandra Stern and other luminaries—as a way to think about American Jewish life from new perspectives.

The pandemic threatened to up-end the year, but thanks to the fortitude and commitment to our fellows, we were able to move the entire fellowship on-line, to carry on with seminars, conferences and other gatherings in a virtual form, and to convene in small groups in an effort to replicate a bit of the feeling of a hallway conversation. The fellows pushed forward their projects, and they were wonderful to each other—intellectually engaged, supportive, and as fully present as technology allows. Looking back on the year, I can only hope that the fellows appreciate that it was a major triumph of theirs’ not to allow the pandemic to end the year, and I relish the time when we can bring them together for an in-person conference, and when I can read the volume that will result from the year.

The pandemic also forced our public programs online, and on that front, we discovered something we were not expecting. Zoom proved a great way for the Katz Center to share scholars and scholarship with a much broader, international audience. A guest lecture by the remarkable and legendary intellect Carlo Ginzburg drew some 1,500 people, and a series on Jews, Race and Religion, featuring a wonderful roster of scholars speaking to the various intersections of Jewish and racial identity, often drew more than 1,000 per lecture. This program, cosponsored by Penn’s new SNF Paideia program and an initiative by the Provost’s Office, gave the Katz Center a chance to bring new scholarship to bear on how Jewishness its into the racialized culture of the United States.

I am also grateful to our director of public programs Anne Albert and our events coordinator Dajana Denes Walters for other wonderful on-line programs that mini-courses and a series entitled “Jews and the America to Come” that reflected on the role that Jews can play in some of the social transformations now underway in American society. I also wish to thank Lilia Corwin Berman, for a second time, for her partnership in co-convening a new online seminar focused on new research in the study of Jewish philanthropy that has already met twice this year.

Although the pandemic is far from over, the Katz Center is moving closer and closer to a full restoration of its activities—the 2021-22 fellows are back at the center in person; books are circulating at the library again; we have renewed our partnership with CLAL that brings rabbis together with scholars to learn from each other; and we are planning for a restoration of the summer school for graduate students that we do in partnership with the Hebrew University, adding a new European partner—Vivian Liska and the University of Antwerp. We also look forward to hosting lectures by Meneham Ben-Sasson, Elisheva Baumgarten, and many others.

Finally, I want to share that we are working to launch a new program in memory of our cherished board member Howard Reiter who tragically passed away this year at far too young an age. More about that program later—this was heartbreaking news, but we aim to honor Howard’s memory with a program that will honor his love of Israel and wonderful sense of curiosity and love of learning.

I am always extremely grateful to the Katz Center staff, but even more so during this challenging period—they have been incredibly resilient, and our newest member Lilia Mataac has done a fantastic job taking the reigns of her position in very challenging circumstances. I also wish to express my gratitude to Jewish Studies director Kathryn Hellerstein, Chrissy Walsh and to the members of the Center’s advisory boards for their generous-hearted partnership.

Steven Weitzman

COURSES

Fall 2021

Jewish Studies 026 Jews and China: Views from Two Perspectives
 Jewish Studies 031 Beginning Yiddish I
 Jewish Studies 033 Intermediate Yiddish I
 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 122 Religions of the West
 Jewish Studies 133 Jews and Christians
 Jewish Studies 150 Introduction to the Bible
 Jewish Studies 157 Medieval and Early Modern Jewry
 Jewish Studies 160 The Making of Scripture
 Jewish Studies 171 Elementary Biblical Hebrew I
 Jewish Studies 173 Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Prose
 Jewish Studies 216 Re-Reading the Holocaust
 Jewish Studies 255 Bible in Translation: Kings
 Jewish Studies 260 Jewish Folklore
 Jewish Studies 262 Representations of the Holocaust
 Jewish Studies 3203 Power and Peril

Spring 2022

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 Modern Israeli Culture
 Jewish Studies 153 Medieval Jewish Writings
 Jewish Studies 154 Voices of Israel
 Jewish Studies 156 Jews and Judaism in Antiquity
 Jewish Studies 172 Elementary Biblical Hebrew I
 Jewish Studies 174 Intermediate Biblical Hebrew I
 Jewish Studies 207 Jews, Race, and Religion
 Jewish Studies 254 Women in the Bible
 Jewish Studies 264 Translating Cultures
 Jewish Studies 337 Jewish Magic
 Jewish Studies 359 Amichai
 Jewish Studies 390 Senior Research Seminar
 Jewish Studies 577 Inside the Archive

Languages

The **Modern Hebrew Language Program** (MHLP) offers five semesters of coursework in Hebrew, stressing cultural and communicative competence. Our language sequence is offered over four levels, followed by a fifth-semester content course taught in Hebrew. Program faculty have been pioneers in developing web-based instructional materials, which are used for Hebrew instruction at a growing number of institutions throughout North America as well as in Latin America, Europe, and even Israel. Our classes, website, and social-media presence all serve as a portal to contemporary Israeli society and culture. In addition to our general curriculum, students interested in business, economics, medicine, and engineering have the opportunity to acquire specialized knowledge in their field of study, tailored to their respective language level. Our Modern Hebrew courses are dynamic, interactive, fun, and are deeply rooted in Israeli culture and society.

The **Yiddish Language Program** offers 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.

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.



The Robert and Molly Freedman Jewish Music Archive

Located in Penn's Rare Book and Manuscript Library at the University of Pennsylvania. The Robert and Molly Freedman Jewish Music Archive currently contains over 4,000 recordings, primarily in Yiddish and Hebrew.

Over 35,000 entries in the trilingual database catalog include the title of each track or band of the recording, author(s), composer(s) where known, and performers.

http://sceti.library.upenn.edu/freedman/learn_intro.cfm

UNDERGRADUATES

Kedma: Penn's Journal on Jewish Thought, Jewish Culture, and Israel

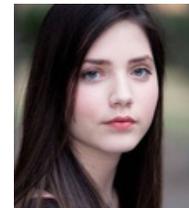


Kedma was founded on Penn's campus in 2005 and last published in 2013 before the Spring 2018 semester when JSP Professor **Heather Sharkey**, who continues to be an outstanding mentor, helped initiate *Kedma's* revival. We now have the opportunity to publish the work of undergraduates across campus on a variety of topics, from commentary on Jewish religious practices to modern-day Israeli culture.

We're grateful to **Miriam Minsk, EAS'21**, and **Noga Even, WH'21**, for their outstanding leadership and editorial work over the last several years.



Miriam Minsk, EAS'21



Noga Even, WH'21

The revived issues of *Kedma* are online at:
<https://repository.upenn.edu/kedma/>

Issue 2, Number 1: Spring 2018
 Issue 2, Number 2: Fall 2018
 Issue 2, Number 3: Spring 2019
 Issue 2, Number 4: Fall 2019
 Issue 2, Number 5: Spring & Summer 2020
 Forthcoming: Issue 2, Number 6: Spring & Summer 2021

Meltzer Internship Program

The Jewish Studies Meltzer Internship Program enables students to explore the intellectual dimensions of Jewish studies outside the classroom. During the semester, interns develop and organize an event for students. Programs might include a discussion with a scholar, a panel discussion, a performance, or any other event that raises issues relevant to Jewish studies. The Meltzer Faculty Advisor and Grad Coordinator will assist with conceptualization and with clarification of financial and technical needs. Each intern has a programming budget for the Meltzer event, and each receives a research stipend.

Under the direction of Director, **Kathryn Hellerstein**, and Graduate Student Supervisor, **Adam Sax** (COML), in 2020-2021, two students chose to initiate, organize, and produce academic events as Jewish Studies Meltzer Interns. **Isaac Tanner, C'24**, organized an event with Dr. Alan Jotkowitz (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev), entitled, "The Role of Narrative in Jewish Medical Ethics," on March 17, 2021. **Benjamin Moss-Horwitz, C'23**, organized a talk, "Jewish Anti-Zionism in the 20th Century," with Dr. Benjamin Balthaser, on April 15, 2021.



Dr. Alan Jotkowitz
 (Ben-Gurion University
 of the Negev)



Benjamin Balthaser
 (Indiana University at
 South Bend)

CELEBRATING JSP STUDENTS

Student Research Awards

Brenner Family Fund

Ayelet Rubenstein (C'22) for research on the Legacy of the Sects in the Self-Formation and Imagination of the Rabbis

Goldfein Scholarship Fund

Sam Strickberger (C'22) for research on Jewish Orthodox Race-Based Slavery Debates, 1848-1861

Louis Schwartz and Elaine Friedman Schwartz Memorial Award

Zoe Penina Baker (School of Design, PhD Candidate) for research on Jewish maximalism and collecting post-Holocaust and Jewish Folk Art

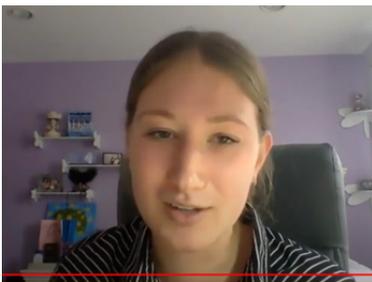
Alexandra Zborovsky (History PhD Candidate) for German language immersion program at Middlebury Language School

Undergraduate Senior Research

Two seniors, **Sarah Goldfarb**, C'21, and **Samuel Orloff**, C'12, presented their research to faculty, family, and friends in an online event on April 28, 2021, to celebrate undergraduate research projects in Jewish Studies.



Samuel Orloff, C'12



Sarah Goldfarb, C'21

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.

Prizes and Honors

Congratulations to our students:

The Samuel Esther Goldin Endowment Award:
Sarah Goldfarb, C'21, and Samuel Orloff, C'21

The Moshe Greenberg Prize for Excellence in Hebrew:
Reese Berman, C'21

The Workmen's Circle/Arbeiter Ring Prize in Yiddish Studies:
Tyler Kliem, C'24

The Charlotte Yiddish Institute Book Prizes:
Miriam Glickman, C'21; Tyler Kliem, C'24; Judah Nouriyelian, C'24; Jared Rogers, C'21; Mathias Salmon, C'23; and Micah Weitzman, C'22.

The Judah Goldin Memorial Prize for Excellence in Advanced Hebrew Studies:
Shira Silver, C'21

GRADUATE STUDENTS

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 in the School of Arts & Sciences 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 fourth-year students **Itay Blumenzweig** (COML), **Laura Eckstein** (HIST), **Shachar Levanon** (NELC), **Noa Nikolsky** (ENGL), and **Ben Notis** (NELC), third-year student **Jeremy Steinberg** (RELS), second-year student **Hilah Kohen** (COML), and first-year students **Oded Even Or** (COML) and **Alexandra (Sasha) Zborovsky** (HIST).

Graduate Student Colloquium

There were two graduate student colloquia this year. "Movement, Mobility, and the Journey," on February 28-29, 2020; and "Infidelities: New Directions in Armenian Studies," on March 27-28, 2020. (The second conference was cancelled due to coronavirus pandemic.)



First illustrated American Haggadah. Prepared by Hayim Liberman (Chicago: Israelitische Presse, 1879). Gift of the Kaplan Family Foundation to the Arnold and Deanne Kaplan Collection of Early American Judaica.

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Graduate Student News

During her first year in the Comparative Literature program, **Hilah Kohen** concentrated on questions of language politics and colonialism in the Soviet Union and the post-Soviet world. She led two collectively authored articles: “Reading Race in Slavic Studies Scholarship through a Digital Lens” (forthcoming in *Slavic Review*) and “Teaching and Learning Indigenous Languages of the Russian Federation” (forthcoming in *Russian Language Journal*). Hilah’s preliminary dissertation research, which is anchored in Juhuri (Kavkazi Jewish) literature, asks how the Soviet system of *korenizatsiia* (Indigenization) created complex relationships between colonized language communities inside and outside the USSR. She has also begun translating Juhuri texts into English within Transversal, a translation collective co-founded with fellow COML student Liz Rose. Hilah’s recent Russian-to-English translation work includes the “Young Russophonia” issue of *Words Without Borders*, co-edited with Josephine von Zitzewitz.

This past year **Ben Notis** continued his exploration of Jewish history, Islamic history, and Arabic literature. On Zoom in Fall of 2020, he studied Arabic poetry with Prof. Huda Fakhreddine, took a seminar on Islamic history with Prof. Paul Cobb, and took a class at Princeton on the Epistle of Forgiveness by the medieval poet al-Ma’arrī (late tenth-mid eleventh century Syria). He also TA’d Intro to Bible for Prof. Isabel Cranz. In Spring 2021 he studied Rabbinic literature with Prof. Simcha Gross and read more Arabic texts about Islamic Spain with Professor Cobb. As well, he TA’d Intro to the Middle East with Prof. Cobb. He hopes to move forward to dissertation research in the Fall of 2021.

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. After a one year delay due to the pandemic, Adam will be conducting dissertation research this academic year at the Institute of Jewish Studies at the University of Antwerp, Belgium, thanks to a Fulbright award.

The 2020-21 school year marked **Jeremy Steinberg**’s second year in the Religious Studies department. His studies focus on Jewish identity and literary composition under Greek and Roman influences in the late Second Temple period. During this school year, he gave two conference presentations: “Translation Across Literary Cultures in 2nd c. BCE Alexandria” at the 2021 Ancient Judaism Regional Seminar in April (Philadelphia, PA; via Zoom) and “Josephus’ Response to a Flavian Display of Power: Reading the Unemotionality of the Triumph Narrative, BJ VII.123-57” at the Jewish Authors and Power in the Graeco-Roman World workshop in June (Bern, Switzerland; via Zoom). In April, he co-organized the 2021 Ancient Judaism Regional Seminar. He also passed his qualifying exams in April.

In 2020-21, Dr. **Alon Tam** held the Rabin-Shvidler Postdoctoral Fellowship at Columbia and Fordham Universities, where he continued his research on the social history of Egyptian Jews, which he started at Penn. He continued writing on the urban history of Cairo’s Jews and its intersections with social hierarchy, as well as working on old and new projects about such topics as Egyptian Jews and their collective memory, or their charity work in the 20th century. He is also co-editing a volume on Israel, Jews and Iran, together with Prof. Firoozeh Kashani-Sabet, based on a course taught at Penn. At Columbia University, Tam has taught about the history of Jews in the Middle East and North Africa. He continued to give talks on Egyptian Jewish history at academic conferences and public forums, including ones co-sponsored by the JSP and the Institute for Jewish Experience at the American Sephardi Federation.

Alexandra (Sasha) Zborovsky is a 2nd year PhD student in the University of Pennsylvania’s history department and a Falk Fellow in the Jewish Studies Program. She studies the history of the Soviet Union and 20th century Jewish history with Dr. Ben Nathans and Dr. Beth Wenger. As a first year student at Penn, she completed a research paper on the transit process of Soviet Jewish refugees in the 1970s and 1980s. She will be presenting her work at both the Association for Jewish Studies’ (AJS) and The Association for Slavic, Eastern European, and Eurasian Studies’ (ASEEES) annual conferences this upcoming fall. As a recent recipient of the Schwartz Award, she spent the summer studying German at the Middlebury Language School. She is incredibly thankful that Penn’s Jewish Studies Program helped fund this wonderful opportunity. And now, after a year of online learning at Penn, she is excited to finally join the community in person this upcoming fall.

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Graduate Student Alumni News

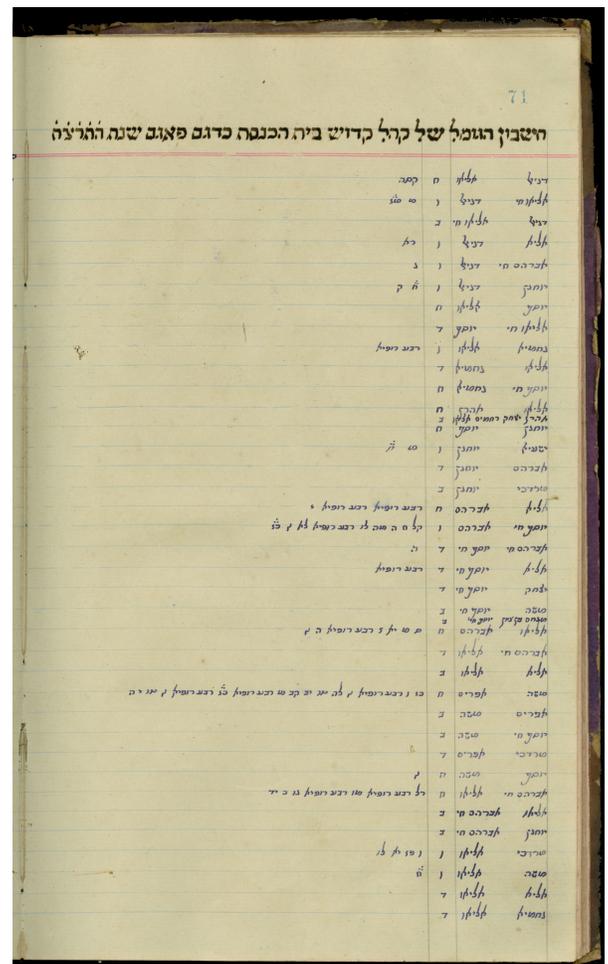
Sonia Gollance (PhD, Germanic Languages and Literatures, 2017) completed her third semester as Visiting Assistant Professor in Yiddish and Ashkenazic Studies at The Ohio State University. In January 2021 she began working for the University of Vienna as Postdoctoral Research and Teaching Associate (Universitätsassistent) in Yiddish Literature and Culture Studies. Her first book, *It Could Lead to Dancing: Mixed-Sex Dancing and Jewish Modernity*, appeared with Stanford University Press in May. Publication of this book was supported by a Cashmere Subvention Grant from the AJS Women's Caucus. Gollance published an article on notorious court Jew Joseph "Jud" Süß Oppenheimer in *Eighteenth-Century Studies*. She received a 2020-2021 Translation Fellowship from the Yiddish Book Center to support her translation of Tea Arciszewska's modernist play about the Holocaust, *Miryeml*. In September 2021, she will begin a new position as Lecturer (Assistant Professor) in Yiddish at University College London in the Department of Hebrew and Jewish Studies.

In the academic year of 2020-21, **Marc Herman** (Ph.D.) was the Aresty Visiting Scholar at the Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life at Rutgers University and held a Harry Starr Fellowship in Judaica at Harvard University. Among other publications, he wrote an article that appeared in the *Association for Jewish Studies Review* and a coedited volume, with Jeremy Brown, titled *Accounting for the Commandments in Medieval Judaism: Studies in Law, Philosophy, Pietism, and Kabbalah*. Marc will hold a fellowship at the Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania next year.

Adam Shear (PhD, History, 2003) continued as chair of the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Pittsburgh and helped colleagues with the transition to hybrid teaching in the pandemic. In summer 2020, he finished a four year term as co-editor of the *Association for Jewish Studies Review*. He continued work on the *Footprints: Jewish Books Through Time and Place* project with colleagues from Columbia, Stony Brook, and JTS (all with Penn and Katz Center associations!) and continued his research on the impact of printing on transmission of medieval Jewish texts. In 2021-2022, he will be on sabbatical and is looking forward to more time for research and getting back into libraries and archives non-virtually.

Tom Tearney earned his PhD in Germanic Languages and Literatures in August 2020 after successfully defending his dissertation on Jewish thought in Franz Werfel's dramas. Since graduation he has remained connected with UPenn, conducting research on early modern material culture with faculty from the History of Art department. He has recently completed a translation of a speech by Zecharias Frankel for a JPS compilation of primary texts, and has written a lexicon entry on Joseph Roth and German-Jewish reportage, both forthcoming in 2022.

Kerry Wallach (PhD, Germanic Languages and Literatures, 2011) is Associate Professor of German Studies at Gettysburg College. In 2020-2021, she completed two book projects while on sabbatical: a co-edited volume (with Aya Elyada) of recent scholarship in German-Jewish Studies; and a biography of forgotten Jewish artist Rahel Szalit-Marcus. She also published chapters in three books: "The Jewish Vamp of Berlin," on the actress Maria Orska, in *Rethinking Jewishness in Weimar Cinema*; "Digital German-Jewish Futures" in *The Future of the German Jewish Past*; and "Visual Weimar" in *The Oxford Handbook of the Weimar Republic*.



Handwritten ledger book records of the Ernakulam Kadavumbaghum Synagogue in Cochin (Kerala, India). Gift of Kenneth X. Robbins, 2021.

FACULTY

Faculty News

Dan Ben-Amos, Professor of Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations and Folklore, delivered the annual Archer Taylor Memorial Lecture in the Annual Meeting of the Western States Folklore Societies, right from his home in Mt. Airy, Philadelphia. Archer Taylor was a prominent folklorist and a President of the MLA who received his MA degree from the University of Pennsylvania (1910). In his lecture Ben-Amos examined how the distinguished Israeli poet Nathan Alterman, drew upon Archer Taylor riddle scholarship, in preparing his volume *The Book of Riddles* that was published posthumously (1971). And then, a few weeks later, he saw his translation of Nathan Alterman's poem "A Letter of Menakhem Mendel" published in the journal of Penn's students *Doublespeak* (Spring 2021, pp.132-135). Adjusting to life online Ben-Amos edited a special issue devoted to folklore of the online journal *Humanities*, titled "The Challenge of Folklore."

Joseph Benatov is the director of the Modern Hebrew Language Program and Associate Program Director of Jewish Studies. He teaches Hebrew courses at the intermediate and advanced levels. During the 2020-21 academic year, Dr. Benatov completed the translation from Hebrew into Bulgarian of Etgar Keret's latest collection of short stories, which appeared in English under the title *Fly Already*. The translation was published in Bulgaria in December. Benatov's book review of the Hebrew textbook *In Second Gear* appeared in the academic journal *Hebrew Higher Education*. During the academic year he also delivered public lectures for the Sephardic Jewish Brotherhood Foundation, the Kivunim gap-year program, the Myerberg Center (MD), and Hadassah Greater Washington. In March, he presented a paper at the 10th annual Judeo-Spanish Symposium at UCLA. Benatov's ongoing research focuses on the history and culture of the Sephardic Jewish communities of the Balkans.

Alexander (Sender) Botwinik is a Yiddish lecturer at the University of Pennsylvania. In addition, Botwinik teaches Hebrew, music and choir at Har Zion Temple and coordinates an annual choral youth *Zimria* (song festival). In the fall of 2020, Alex was the Yiddish and vocal coach for a boy soprano to prepare for the filming of a segment of a documentary film about the power of music. The scene involved a Yiddish song written by a young boy who was murdered in the Holocaust. The task involved translating and adapting the song for a pre-recorded orchestral piece, over which a local Philadelphia child ultimately recorded in a professional studio in Tennessee. The movie, produced by nine-time Emmy award-winning producer Chris Gero, is called *The Sound of Us*. Alex also continued work this year on a second CD of his father David Botwinik's music, this time devoted to Yiddish children's songs.

Michael Carasik, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Biblical Hebrew, published reviews of Mordechai Z. Cohen, *The Rule of Peshat* and of Sung Jin Park, *The Fundamentals of Hebrew Accents* on the *Review of Biblical Literature* website. He continues to contribute to the *Koren Tanakh of the Land of Israel* and to translate scholarly work from Hebrew to English. In the summer of 2021, he taught Biblical Hebrew to a group of rabbinical students from Hebrew Union College. His "Torah Talk" podcast is in its 13th year.

Natalie B. Dohrmann is Associate Director of the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies and coeditor of the *Jewish Quarterly Review*. She has just completed an essay titled "Roman War, Rabbinic Law, and Provincial Sovereignism," which will appear in *Unrest in the Roman Empire: A Discursive History*, edited by Lisa Eberle and Myles Lavan. "Ad similitudinem arbitrorum: On the Perils of Commensurability & Comparison in Roman and Rabbinic Law," will appear shortly in *Legal Engagement: The Reception of Roman Tribunals and Law by Jews and Other Provincials of the Roman Empire*, which she edited along with Katell Berthelot and Capucine Nemo-Pekelman (Rome, 2021); "Jewish Books and Roman Readers: Censorship, Authorship, and the Rabbinic Library," was published in 2020 in *Reconsidering Roman Power: Roman, Greek, Jewish and Christian Perceptions and Reactions* (École Française de Rome); "Jews in the Roman World: From Herod to Constantine the Great," appeared in *Religionen der Menschheit. Judaism, vol. 3 History*, ed. M. Tilly and B. Visotzky (Stuttgart, 2021). She serves as an area editor for the *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* and the *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*.

Talya Fishman, Associate Professor of Jewish Intellectual and Cultural History of the Medieval and Early Modern Periods, taught classes for undergraduates and graduate students by Zoom, and attended online lectures from all over the world. At a virtual conference celebrating the legacy of her late teacher, Professor Isadore Twersky, organized by the Shazar Center in Jerusalem in June, 2021, she delivered a Hebrew lecture, "Factors in the Non-Talmudocentric Approach to Jewish Law: Structural and Ideational Antecedents of the Mishneh Torah." In July, Dr. Fishman delivered a paper entitled, "Evidence of Regional Specificity from Medieval Jewish Writings of the Early Islamic World" at an international virtual conference on Premodern Comparative Literary Practice in the Multilingual Islamic World(s).

FACULTY

Faculty News

At the end of Spring 2021, **Nili Gold**, Professor of Modern Hebrew Language & Literature, proudly celebrated when her colleague and advisee Ibrahim Miari received his MA at NELC. During 2020-21, Professor Gold faced the challenge of continuing to teach and advise graduate and undergraduate students via zoom. In November 2020, Gold published a memorial article in *Haaretz* on the poet Natan Zach shortly after his death, and in early 2021, she published in *Hebrew Higher Education* a review of the novel *Lime* by Israeli author Esty G. Hayim. Gold also completed and submitted four articles, all forthcoming in 2021—on Israeli poets Dahlia Ravikovitch, Benjamin Shvili, and Yehuda Amichai, respectively—and on author Judith Katzir. Gold organized and moderated the panel for Batsheva Ben-Amos and Dan Ben-Amos' book launch, sponsored by the Jewish Studies Program and the Comparative Literature and Literary Theory Program, and co-organized an online panel in lieu of the annual Middle East Film Festival. During summer 2021, Gold received a PURM award and consequently mentored an undergraduate researching lesser heard voices in contemporary Israeli poetry, a project that will contribute to Professor Gold's "Voices of Israel" course.

Over the past year, **Simcha Gross**, Assistant Professor of Ancient Rabbinics in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, has published a number of studies related to his interests in Jews and Christian communities in the Near East in the first millennium of the Common Era. The *Journal of the American Oriental Society* recently published his article "The Curious Case of the Jewish Sasanian Queen Šišīnduxt: Exilarchal Propaganda and Zoroastrian Contact in 9th-11th Century Baghdad," which studies a fascinating story found in a medieval Zoroastrian Persian text about a Jewish-Persian queen from the 5th century CE, arguing that the story is a fiction of the 10th century. In Aramaic Studies, he published an article on a section of the Passover Haggadah, and he also published a piece on the genre of Syriac Christian martyr acts in an edited volume. Gross has forthcoming articles at the *Jewish Quarterly Review*, the *AJS Review*, and *Studies in Late Antiquity*, and he co-edited a forthcoming issue of *Jewish Studies Quarterly*. Gross was invited to lecture at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the Goethe University in Frankfurt, and at the Material Texts seminar at Penn. Gross has also devoted time to teaching and mentoring, serving as the coordinator for the Hebrew and Judaica concentration at NELC, and preparing a new course on Jews and Christians in Antiquity for Fall 2021. In addition, he helped craft the theme for the Katz Center's upcoming fellowship year, where he will be a fellow.

Kathryn Hellerstein is Professor of Germanic Languages and Literatures and Ruth Meltzer Director of the Jewish Studies Program. In 2020-2021, she co-edited three projects: a forthcoming book, *China and Ashkenazic Jewry: Transcultural Exchange*; a special issue of the online journal, *In geveb*, "Walking With Vogel: New perspectives on Debora Vogel through poetry, visual art, translation, and scholarship;" and "Yiddish Women Writers," in the new edition of *Encyclopedia of Jewish Women*. She published articles: "China Comes to Warsaw, Or Warsaw Comes to China: Melech Ravitch's Travel Poems and Journals," in *Times of Mobility: Transnational Literature and Gender in Translation*;" "No Better Education": Helen Solomon at Wellesley College, 1901-1902," co-authored with Cynthia Gensheimer, in *American Jewish History*, special issue on "Women and Gender in American Jewish History," and "Kadya Molodowsky," in *Encyclopedia of Jewish Women*. Her poem, "The Chinese Unicorn," and biographical sketch of Irene Eber, appeared in *Nashim: A Journal of Jewish Women's Studies & Gender Issues*. In Spring 2021, she was the Albert J. Wood Fellow at the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, where she presented a lecture on "Jewish American Women Poets as Anthologists of Translations (1966-1999)." She also gave talks on "China and Jews: Transnational Exchanges," for the Penn Global Town Hall, and on "Journey from Yiddish to China: Where Translation and Scholarship Lead," for a Graduate Seminar in Jewish Studies at York University.

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 co-founder and co-director of Penn's Judaica Digital Humanities program. In May of 2021, he was reappointed Adjunct Assistant Professor of History in Penn's History Department and also serves on the core faculty of Penn's Jewish Studies Program. He published "Hidden in Plain Sight: A Bibliotheca Hebraica Atlantica" in *The Spirit of Inquiry in the Age of Jefferson* (American Philosophical Society Press, 2021), 259-93; he 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.

FACULTY

Faculty News

Ian Lustick, Bess W. Heyman Chair in Political Science, spent a good deal of the pandemic year working closely with Dr. Karmit Vagshal, in Israel (via Zoom), on the translation of his book into Hebrew. That task was completed and Resling Press will be publishing *Paradigm Lost: From Two-State Solution to One-State Reality* in Hebrew later this year. In the Fall of 2020 he taught an advanced undergraduate seminar on “BDS: Transnational Boycotts in Comparative and Theoretical Perspective.” He has also maintained a busy schedule of seminar, invited lecture and workshop presentations (via Zoom) in Israel, Turkey, and the United States. Professor Lustick retired in June, but will remain active as a scholar and researcher as the Bess W. Heyman Professor Emeritus in the Political Science Department.

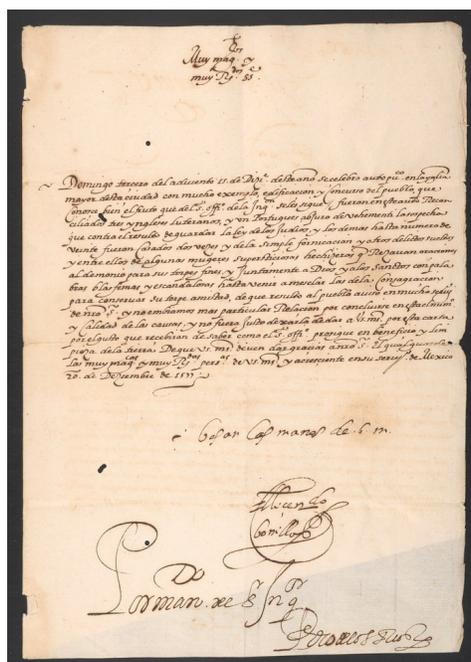
For **Benjamin Nathans**, Associate Professor of History, the global pandemic brought home with maximum clarity the supreme value of live, in-person teaching. Lectures and seminars via Zoom felt like a facsimile of the real thing, of the human connections that foster engaged learning. “Life is with people,” as the Yiddish saying puts it. Zoom made it possible to give guest lectures without actually going anywhere, and Nathans spoke at globally accessible forums sponsored by the Jewish History Colloquium at George Washington University, the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard University, the National Library of Israel, and the Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies in Germany. His essays appeared in the *New York Review of Books* and the *Times Literary Supplement*, along with a scholarly article in a German-language volume on the history of human rights. His co-edited volume, *From Europe’s East to the Middle East: Israel’s Russian and Polish Lineages*, was published with Penn Press in Fall 2021.

In Spring 2021, **Heather Sharkey**, Professor of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, started two online talks series in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations (NELC). She is collaborating on the first series with Alon Tam (Penn PhD 2017) and NELC PhD candidate Weston Bland; it is called the Modern Egyptian Studies Forum (MESF). The second series, called “Bite-Sized Talks: Food and Foodways of the Middle East throughout History,” hosted Penn graduate and cookbook author Reem Kassis for its inaugural event. Sharkey and students in her NELC 235 seminar (Food and the Islamic Middle East) wrote a community cookbook called *Penn Cooks: Recipes from the Time of COVID-19*, which they donated to the University Archives for the Penn COVID-19 Community Archiving Project. In May 2021, Sharkey presented a paper entitled, “The Display of Religious Identity: Towards a Theory of Indistinguishability in the Modern Middle East,” at the online symposium on Narratives of Being Jewish in the Middle East, hosted by the Institute for Iranian Studies at the Austrian Academy of Sciences in Vienna.

Larry Silver, Emeritus Farquhar Professor of Art History, has remained an active member of the Library Committee of the Jewish Theological Seminary, a position that he has held for several years. He is currently working on a project for a forthcoming exhibition in Russia that combines both of his interests: Rembrandt and Jewish art, specifically on how the art of Rembrandt provided a model for (chiefly European) Jewish artists of the modern era.

Jeff Tigay, Emeritus A.M. Ellis Professor of Hebrew and Semitic Languages and Literatures, and Adele Berlin published *Ancient Israel, from Its Beginnings through 332 BCE, Volume 1 of The Posen Library of Jewish Culture and Civilization* (Yale University Press and The Posen Foundation, 2021). The volume is an anthology of primary sources (texts and visual culture) from the Biblical period. It can be read online by registering, at no charge, at <https://www.posenlibrary.com/frontend/volume-1-0>. Tigay’s article “The Literary and Exegetical Significance of Some Differences Between the Parasha and Chapter Divisions in Exodus and Deuteronomy,” appeared in *Semitic, Biblical, and Jewish Studies in Honor of Richard C. Steiner* (ed. A. Koller, M. Z. Cohen, and A. M. Moshavi), Yeshiva University Press, 2020. Tigay continues to work on a Hebrew commentary on the book of Exodus for the Israeli commentary series *Mikra Le-Yisrael* published by Am Oved Publishers and Magnes Press.

Alaska Land Deed, manuscript documenting transfer of property from the Russian subject Vaseli Kashoff to the American fur trader Benjamin Levy at the time of the U.S. purchase of Alaska. October 17, 1867 - October 23, 1868. At the formal transfer of sovereignty in Sitka, Jewish soldier Benjamin Levi (Levy) lowered the Russian flag and raised that of the United States. Gift of the Kaplan Family Foundation to the Arnold and Deanne Kaplan Collection of Early American Judaica.



FACULTY

Faculty News

Liliane Weissberg, Christopher H. Browne Distinguished Professor in Arts and Science, presented papers this year at the University of Bologna, Clark University, the National Library in Jerusalem, the Tel-Aviv Museum of Art, and participated in the *Ausseer Gespräche* (Austria), all via Zoom. Her film about the friendship of Hannah Arendt and Walter Benjamin, presented as a keynote for a symposium at the German Historical Museum in Berlin, entered the collection of the Museum of Modern Literature in Marbach. Weissberg published essays on Sigmund Freud, Hannah Arendt, and Agnes Heller. She contributed the afterword for the new German edition of Hannah Arendt's *Rahel Varnhagen* (2021), and published a critical edition of the writings of Benjamin Veitel Ephraim, the son of a court Jew who served as a Prussian spy in Paris during the French Revolution, *Benjamin Veitel Ephraim: Kaufmann, Schriftsteller, Geheimagent* (2021). The publication received support from Jewish Studies Program's Lucius Littauer Fund. Weissberg continued to serve on the scholarly boards of the German Historical Museum in Berlin, the Moses Mendelssohn Centrum in Potsdam, the Center for Book History in Munich, and the Center for Jewish Studies in Graz.

In addition to his role as Katz Center director, **Steven Weitzman**, Abraham M. Ellis Professor of Hebrew and Semitic Languages and Literatures, was able to push forward several new research projects, some collaborative, others involving individual research. Working with co-editors Leora Batnitzky and Eve Krakowski of Princeton University, he has commenced work on a new Princeton Companion to Jewish Studies that aims to present the state of the field in a form that will be helpful to scholars, students and general readers seeking a way to navigate all the different intellectual pathways that converge in the field of Jewish Studies. With regard to more individual pursuits, Weitzman has recently published essays that include "Fighting with Angels," appearing in a volume honoring the scholar Saul Olyan; an essay on literary approaches to the Apocrypha included in *The Jewish Annotated Apocrypha*, and—as a result of a side-interest in contemporary religion—an essay in the *Journal of the American Academic of Religion* exploring Penn's own role in introducing a new conception of spirituality into contemporary military culture. Under the influence of the pandemic, and as a way of coping with it, Weitzman is currently writing a book that explores the role of the Ten Plagues story in collective imagination, exploring a more than 2000 year history of interpretation and story-telling about martyred frogs, apocalyptic hail, hardened-hearts, and many other topics.

Beth S. Wenger, Moritz and Josephine Berg Professor of History, is Associate Dean for Graduate Studies in the School of Arts and Sciences. In Spring 2021, she concluded a six-year term as Chair of the Academic Advisory Council of the Center for Jewish History in New York. Wenger was a convening fellow of the Katz Center 2020-21 fellowship year on "America's Jewish Questions." Her essay "The Search for Usable Jewish Pasts" will appear in a forthcoming Princeton University Press anthology on late-nineteenth century American Jewish culture and she is also contributing a piece on "secularism" in the forthcoming *Oxford Handbook of American Jewish History*. Wenger participated in the "Roundtable on Anti-Semitism" published in the *Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era* in July 2020. During the pandemic, she delivered several conference papers, invited lectures, and podcasts in virtual forums.

Wenger serves as Academic Director of the Jewish Counterculture Oral History Project, which documents the experiences of founding members of the Havurah movement. In 2020, the project was completed and the oral histories, two films, and other documents are now available to the public at https://repository.upenn.edu/jcchp_oralhistories/34/. 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 continues to serve as chair of the Graduate Group in Ancient History. In 2020-2021, she taught classes on Ancient Mediterranean Empires and Cleopatra VII as well as the Dissertation Prospectus Workshop for graduate students in ancient studies. In her research, she has focused on questions of identity among aristocrats and dynasts from the eastern Mediterranean who joined the Roman imperial elite, the presentation of women in the works of Flavius Josephus, and changing concepts of hegemony in late classical and early Hellenistic Greek thought. Wilker is also preparing a biography of Queen Berenice, one of the last known members of the Herodian dynasty and lover of Titus, who famously ended the relationship when he became Roman emperor in 79 CE.

CULTURAL PROGRAMMING



Darra Goldstein
(Williams College)

Endowed Annual Lectures

The Thirty Fifth Annual Alexander Colloquium was a talk entitled, “The Ashkenazi Kitchen in America,” with **Darra Goldstein** (Williams College). The event on October 15, 2020, was sponsored by the Joseph Alexander Foundation and the Mackler Family.

The Twenty Fifth Annual Silvers Visiting Scholar Program was a talk entitled, “On Beginning a Biography of Philip Roth,” with **Steven J. Zipperstein** (Stanford University). The event on March 15, 2021, was endowed by David, C’71, and Patricia, CW’72, Silvers.



Steven J. Zipperstein
(Stanford University)

Kutchin Seminars in Jewish Studies

“The Pittsburgh Synagogue Shooting: Reflections from Scholars and Writers on Life before and after America’s Deadliest Antisemitic Attack,” cosponsored by the Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, the Jewish Studies Program at the Dietrich School of the University of Pittsburgh, and the Jack Buncher Endowed Chair in Jewish Studies in the Department of History at Carnegie Mellon University on October 26, 2020.

““Whoever is hungry, come and eat”: On the Origins and Winding Reception of a Puzzling Passover Passage,” with **Simcha Gross** (University of Pennsylvania), cosponsored by the Workshop in the History of Material Texts on November 9, 2020.



Devin E. Naar (University of Washington)

Annual Kristallnacht commemoration: “From the Ottoman Empire to Auschwitz: Sephardic Jews and the Holocaust,” with **Devin E. Naar** (University of Washington), cosponsored by the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures on November 10, 2020.



Simcha Gross (University of Pennsylvania)

“Tracing the History of a Toxic Present: Antisemitism and Resurgent Ethnonationalism,” with **Alexandra Minna Stern** (University of Michigan), cosponsored by the Katz Center and the History Department, on November 19, 2020.

“Elective Affinities: Reading Benjamin Reading Kafka,” a colloquium, cosponsored by the Department of Germanic Languages & Literatures, the Wolf Humanities Center, the Program in Comparative Literature & Theory, and the University Research Foundation on December 5, 2020.

CULTURAL PROGRAMMING

Kutchin Seminars

“The Pathos of Chosenness: Who are the Jews if not Exceptional?,” with **Todd Gitlin** (Columbia University), cosponsored by the Katz Center and the Wolf Humanities Center on December 9, 2020.

Book Launch: *The Diary: The Epic of Everyday Life*, edited by Batsheva Ben-Amos and Dan Ben-Amos, with **Batsheva Ben-Amos** (University of Pennsylvania), **Dan Ben-Amos** (University of Pennsylvania), **Kathryn Carter** (Wilfrid Laurier University, Ontario), **Nili Gold** (University of Pennsylvania), **James M. Hargett** (University at Albany, State University of New York), **Kimberly Harrison** (Florida International University), **Jochen Hellbeck** (Rutgers University, New Brunswick), **Desirée Henderson** (University of Texas Arlington), **Steven E. Kagle** (Illinois State University), **Kimberly Katz** (Towson University), **Leena Kurvet-Käosaar** (University of Tartu), **Ben Nathans** (University of Pennsylvania), **Elizabeth Podnieks** (Ryerson University), **Julie Rak** (University of Alberta), **Leonard Smith** (Oberlin College) and **Jill Walker** (Rettberg, University of Bergen), cosponsored by the Comparative Literature & Literary Theory Program on February 3, 2021.



Participants in book launch: *The Diary: The Epic of Everyday Life*, edited by Batsheva Ben-Amos and Dan Ben-Amos, on February 3, 2021.



Wassily Kandinsky, "Ohne Titel (Untitled)," 1916, held privately.

“American Jewish Musical Encounters,” with **Josh Kun** (USC Annenberg School), **Galeet Dardashti** (anthropologist and vocalist/composer), **Shaul Magid** (Dartmouth College and Shalom Hartman Institute of North America), and **Anthony Russell** (vocalist, composer, and arranger), cosponsored by the Katz Center, the Wolf Humanities Center Hershey Humanities Against Racism Fund, the Middle East Center, and the National Museum of American Jewish History on February 9, 2021.

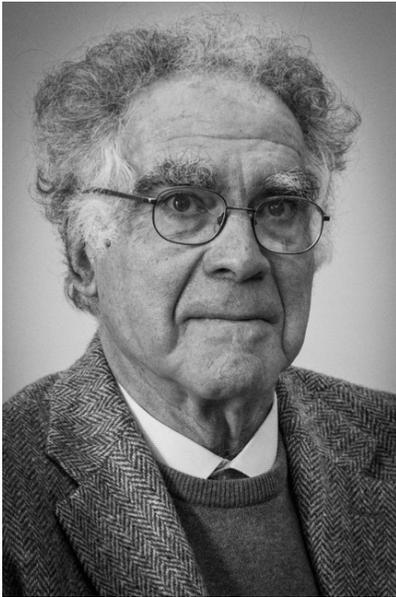
“Queer Topics in Jewish Studies,” with **Golan Moskowicz** (Tulane University) and **Anna Elena Torres** (University of Chicago), faculty respondent, **Kathryn Hellerstein** (JSP, GRMN), cosponsored with the Center for Teaching and Learning, and the Program in Comparative Literature and Literary Theory on February 11, 2021.

“The Moral Triangle: Germans, Israelis, and Palestinians,” with **Sa’ed Atshan** (Swarthmore College) and **Katharina Galor** (Brown University), cosponsored by the Middle East Center, the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures on February 17, 2021.



CULTURAL PROGRAMMING

Kutchin Seminars



Carlo Ginzburg (Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa)

“Reproduction/Reproduction: An Experiment in Historical Anthropology (on Dante),” with **Carlo Ginzburg** (Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa), cosponsored by the Center for Italian Studies, the Italian Studies Section of the Department of Romance Languages, the Kislak Center, Italian at Penn; the Center for Italian Studies; the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies; the Department of History; the Workshop in the History of Material Texts; the Jewish Studies Program; Penn Libraries, and the Italian Academy for Advanced Studies in America, Columbia University on February 23, 2021.

“Microhistory and Global History,” **Carlo Ginzburg** (Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa) in conversation with Francesca Trivellato (Princeton’s Institute for Advanced Study), cosponsored by the The Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, the Center for Italian Studies, the History Department, Italian at Penn, the Workshop in the History of Material Texts, and the Kislak Center for Special Collections on March 2, 2021.

“Forging the People: Machiavelli, Michelangelo,” with **Carlo Ginzburg** (Scuola Normale Superiore/Pisa), cosponsored by the Italian Academy for Advanced Studies in America, Columbia University; the Center for Italian Studies; the Italian Studies Section of the Department of Romance Languages; and the Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts on March 16, 2021.

“Montaigne, the Wave, the Diagram Depicting Life (and Death),” with **Carlo Ginzburg** (Scuola Normale Superiore/Pisa), cosponsored by the Italian Academy for Advanced Studies in America, Columbia University; the Center for Italian Studies; the Italian Studies Section of the Department of Romance Languages; and the Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts on April 6, 2021.

“Morphology and History: A Conversation,” with **Carlo Ginzburg** (Scuola Normale Superiore/Pisa), Roger Chartier (University of Pennsylvania and College de France), and moderated by Eva Del Soldato (University of Pennsylvania), cosponsored by the Katz Center, the Department of History; the Workshop in the History of Material Texts; and the Jewish Studies Program on April 12, 2021.

Book talk: *Something Unbelievable* by **Maria Kuznetsova** (Auburn University) on the Cheburashka Collective, cosponsored with the Kelly Writers House, the Program in Comparative Literature & Literary Theory, and Department of Russian and East European Studies on April 22, 2021.

“The Jewish Effendiya: Between Jewishness and Middle-Classness in Modern Egypt,” with **Alon Tam** (Columbia’s Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies), cosponsored by the Institute of Jewish Experience on May 2, 2021.

“Virtual Coffeehouse in 20th Century Cairo,” with **Alon Tam** (Columbia’s Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies), cosponsored by Institute of Jewish Experience on May 9, 2021.

“Spinoza After Marx,” a conference, cosponsored by the Department of Germanic Languages & Literatures, and the Program in Comparative Literature & Theory from May 27-29, 2021.



Alon Tam
(Columbia’s Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies)



Choir of Rabbi Moshe Cohen in Samuel Menashe synagogue, Alexandria, Egypt, before 1967. Nebi Daniel Association public photo collection.

KATZ CENTER

HERBERT D. KATZ CENTER

FOR ADVANCED JUDAIC STUDIES

University of Pennsylvania



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

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 Jewish Studies Program 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 Fall Colloquium 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.

Looking Ahead: Jews and Modern Legal Culture

During the 2022–2023 fellowship year, the Katz Center turns its attention to the study of law between the 18th and 21st centuries, an age of transition from a world of empires to the modern age of the nation-state and international law. This year's fellowship aims to encourage new research in the study of Jews and the law across disciplinary perspectives, a focus that includes Jewish law as it has developed in modern contexts as well as the role of Jews within other legal cultures.

2021–2022: Rethinking Premodern Jewish Legal Cultures

This fellowship year treats law in theory and practice, as both created by and imposed on Jews. It focuses on the broad contexts in which Jewish (and Israelite) law was developed by and for Jews, and in which it operated, treating law as a necessary component for understanding the broader dynamics of culture, history, governance, and economics of each place and period. Seeing law as constituted by and embedded within wider dynamics, the fellows see law's impact on various historical, religious, intellectual, artistic, and political moments, for a wide variety of actors: Jews and non-Jews, men and women, the empowered and the marginal.

2021–2022 Fellows List

Menahem Ben-Sasson | The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Guy Darshan | Tel Aviv University
Alyssa M. Gray | Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion
Simcha Gross | University of Pennsylvania
Chaya T. Halberstam | King's University College at the University of Western Ontario
Louise Hecht | University of Potsdam, Germany
Marc Herman | Harvard University
Tirza Y. Kelman | Ben Gurion University of the Negev
Ada Kuskowski | University of Pennsylvania
Hayim Lapin | University of Maryland
Bernard M. Levinson | University of Minnesota
Paul Mandel | Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies
Hanan Mazeh | Ben Gurion University of the Negev
Tamar Menashe | Columbia University
Vered Noam | Tel Aviv University
Evelyne Oliel-Grausz | Sorbonne Université Paris 1 Panthéon
Micha J. Perry | University of Haifa
Zvi Stampfer | Orot Israel College
Daniel Strum | University of São Paulo
Yael Wilfand | Bar-Ilan University
Hamza M. Zafer | University of Washington

This year's associate scholars are: **Noga Ayali-Darshan, Jay Berkovitz, Beth Berkowitz, Arye Edrei, Rachel Furst, Yair Furstenberg, Ayelet Hoffmann Libson, Ephraim Kanarfogel, Eve Krakowski, Ephraim Shoham-Steiner, and Mira Wasserman.**

KATZ CENTER

Highlights from 2020–2021

America's Jewish Questions

During the 2020–2021 fellowship year, the Katz Center delved into some of the most pressing debates within US history and Jewish history, and examined vital questions shaping Jewish cultural studies, literary theory, and social scientific inquiry. It directed attention to the diversity of Jewish practices, politics, and peoples, at home and abroad, and reconsidered many of the basic assumptions and concepts that have shaped the study of American Jews.

2020–2021 Fellows List

Elazar Ben-Lulu | Ben Gurion University of the Negev

Lila Corwin Berman | Temple University

Tobias Brinkmann | Pennsylvania State University

Ayelet Brinn | Fordham University & Columbia University

Michael Casper | New York Public Library

Alanna E. Cooper | Case Western Reserve University

Jessica Cooperman | Muhlenberg College

Deborah Dash Moore | University of Michigan

Hasia R. Diner | New York University

Libby Garland | Kingsborough Community College, CUNY

Kathryn Hellerstein | University of Pennsylvania

Melissa R. Klapper | Rowan University

Markus Krahn | University of Potsdam

Jon Levisohn | Brandeis University

Heather Nathans | Tufts University

Noam Pianko | University of Washington

Lana Dee Povitz | Middlebury College

Kate Rosenblatt | Emory University

Laurence Roth | Susquehanna University

Britt Tevis

Amy Weiss | Saint Elizabeth University

Beth S. Wenger | University of Pennsylvania

In addition, we welcomed associate scholars: **Galeet Dardashti**, **Rebecca A. Kobrin**, **Michal Kravel-Tovi**, **Toni Pitcock**, **Annie Polland**, **Uzi Rebhun**, **Mirjam Thulin**, **Rachel Werczberger**, and **Shira Wolosky**.



December Symposium

Street and Sanctuary: Jews and Visibility in American Public Spaces

In this day-long Zoom workshop, fellows and invited speakers thought about America and the history, culture, and experience of Jews through the lens of space. They asked what constitutes a Jewish space and how it is produced. American Jews have claimed multiple kinds of spaces as their own and have also been relegated to them by discrimination. The symposium explored a variety of spaces to consider the nature of Jewishness as it is consolidated, demonstrated, and performed in these settings, considering who is included in and excluded from these spaces, how they shape public encounters with and between Jews, and how Jewish identities are made and remade with and in them.

Papers clustered under the subheads “Sanctuary” (featuring work on cemeteries and synagogues) and “Street” (with research on avenues, mom and pop shops, and bookstores). In addition to fellow participants, the symposium welcomed **Allan Amanik** (Brooklyn College), **Dean Franco** (Wake Forest University), and **Jennifer A. Thompson** (California State University, Northridge).

23rd Annual Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Lecture

The Katz Center was delighted to have been able to reschedule the 23rd Meyerhoff Lecture, previously postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. “Microhistory and Global History” was a conversation between two leading Italian historians: **Carlo Ginzburg** and **Francesca Trivellato**. Ginzburg, of UCLA, spoke of his pioneering methodology of microhistory, made most famous by his book *Il formaggio e i vermi* (The Cheese and the Worms [1976]). Trivellato, an economic and global historian of the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, led their conversation, which was attended by 1295 people. Nearly 75% of attendees signed on from locations outside of the United States, while another 3000+ have since watched the recording on the Katz Center’s YouTube channel.

24th Annual Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Lecture

In the immediate aftermath of the momentous presidential election, it was timely and unsettling to hear from the 24th Meyerhoff lecturer, **Alexandra Minna Stern**, Carroll Smith-Rosenberg Collegiate Professor of History, American Culture and Women’s and Gender Studies as well as the Associate Dean for the Humanities (Office of the LSA Dean) at the University of Michigan. Stern is an expert on far right extremist, especially alt-right, white ethnonationalist movements in the United States, and gave a riveting talk titled, “Tracing the History of a Toxic Present: Antisemitism and Resurgent Ethnonationalism.”

Lila Corwin Berman, **Deborah Dash Moore**, and **Beth Wenger** will edit a volume showcasing some of the best work in the study of Jews and Jewish culture in the Americas produced during the 2020–2021 academic year.

KATZ CENTER

Outreach and Education



For the Local Community

Each year, the Katz Center organizes programs to bring Jewish studies scholarship to audiences beyond the university and the academy. In 2020–2021, this programming moved entirely to an online model. The shift began as a necessary response to the Covid-19 pandemic, but it quickly became clear that the new format was an asset in that it allowed many more people to participate than ever before. The Katz Center plans to continue its outreach online, and most programs will be recorded and posted on the Center's YouTube channel, for free use going forward.

Two main series were featured in the 2020–2021 lineup, both of which connected with but also transcended the fellowship's focus on American Judaism. The first series, **"Jews and the America to Come,"** drew on the insights of scholarship to explore the implications for American Jews of the sudden and monumental changes of 2020. As the country struggled with a pandemic and unemployment, many Americans were newly awakened to racial injustice and economic inequality. Much of the change was tragic; some of it was hopeful; and the combination may yet produce a very different America. The series featured talks by **Sigal Ben-Porath** (Penn) on campus speech, **Keren R. McGinity** (Brandeis University) on #MeToo, **Rabbi Jill Jacobs** (T'ruah) on intersectional movements, **Dov Waxman** (UCLA) on US-Israel relations, and **Anthea Butler** (Penn) on Jews in the civil rights movement.

The second series, "Jews, Race, and Religion," used the prism of Jewish experience to examine intersections of race and religion, drawing lessons from the history of antisemitism, examining the role of Jews in the racialized culture of the United States, and exploring the impact of race on Jewish experience. While the 11 talks in the series centered on the study of history, they incorporated a range of intellectual perspectives from Jewish studies, religious studies, and critical race studies.

In addition, as always, a number of fellows taught in local congregations and similar settings as part of our community partnership program.

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

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. 2020–2021 was its sixth 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 gathered online three times over the course of the year to learn from scholars affiliated with the Katz Center. Together, the rabbis and Katz Center fellows explored key issues in the American Jewish experience through a set of deep historical dives. The Katz Center fellows who participated as teachers included **Beth Wenger** (Penn) on the history of antisemitism, **Deborah Dash Moore** (University of Michigan) on the boundaries of Jewish culture, **Elazar Ben-Lulu** (Ben Gurion University of the Negev) on early Jewish communal responses to AIDS, **Jon Levisohn** (Brandeis University) on Jewish literacy, and **Heather Nathans** (Tufts University) on Jews in early America.

For Graduate Students

The Katz Center is engaged in an ongoing collaborative partnership 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. After two summers in which the school was unfortunately cancelled due to Covid-19, beginning in the summer of 2021 the partnership will be expanded to include the University of Antwerp. The new tri-continental arrangement will host summer schools that rotate between the United States, Israel, and Europe under the leadership of Katz Center director **Steven Weitzman**, **Elisheva Baumgarten** (Hebrew University of Jerusalem), and **Vivian Liska** (University of Antwerp). This exciting development further strengthens the international connections between students and scholars fostered by the program.

We thank **Dr. Garry Rayant** and **Dr. Kathy Fields-Rayant** for their generous support of the summer school.

KATZ CENTER

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 Distinguished Visiting Scholar fund, which aims to pair a distinguished scholar with one of our medieval manuscript holdings. The scholar visits Penn to work with materials, and then shares his or her findings with the broader community in a range of venues and media, among them a graduate seminar, a public lecture, and a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC).

The latest addition to our catalogue comes from **Elisabeth Hollender** (Goethe University of Frankfurt am Main, Germany). *In the Margins of a Medieval Jewish Prayer Book: What Can Physical Manuscripts Tell Us about History?* looks closely at the manuscript of one heavily used and not particularly exceptional thirteenth-century Mahzor (prayer book for the holidays) as a way to walk us into the way Jewish prayer rites changed over time in an every-day Jewish community from the German Rhineland. The binding, marginalia, cuts, burn marks, scars, and illumination, all allow Hollender to paint a vivid portrait of a lost community and its world through one loved and valued artifact.

To learn about and link to the rest of the MOOCs, please visit the Katz Center's website at katz.sas.upenn.edu/resources/learn-online/virtual-courses.



A page from CAJS Rare MS 382, a late thirteenth–early fourteenth-century Mahzor held in the Penn Libraries collections.

The Jewish Quarterly Review

Established in America 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.

2020 saw a perhaps understandable uptick in submissions, and we are excited to see the vibrant scholarship happening across Europe, Israel, and the Americas. At the same time we have, more frustratingly, seen a decrease in the number of submissions by female scholars. Covid-19 has been a punishing year for women and mothers of small children, and we send out support to those whose scholarship has been sidelined so as to care for other more pressing matters. We are alert to trends that have been detrimental to women's productivity and are open to feedback on how we might work to counter them. The academy must take this 18+-month-long deficit seriously as a pressing issue going forward.

Meanwhile, in happier news, we invite you to peruse our pages. For those days when a 40-page article is too much to digest, please take note of the vibrant forums in JQR from the past year. One took on the genre of the list (JQR 111.3 [summer 2021]), another looked at pivotal figures in Jewish studies from across Latin America (JQR 111.4 [fall 2021]), and yet a third at Georg Simmel's *The Stranger* (111/2 [spring 2021]).

Subscribe via JQR.pennpress.org and keep up to date via the vibrant JQR digital content through the Katz Center website, featuring contributor conversations, external commentary, and supplemental texts.

JUDAICA AT THE PENN 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 Penn 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 – weathered the challenges of COVID, worked remotely and eventually on site under very difficult and controlled circumstances. The Library at the Katz Center was closed to the public from March of 2020 through August of 2021 and regular services such as in-person consultations, inter-campus deliveries and pick-ups, as well as numerous public programs were suspended. Nonetheless, the Center’s staff responded to 457 public service contacts received by email, regular post, and by phone, paged and shelved 862 circulating volumes delivered to Van Pelt for loaning by mail, filled 106 scan requests, administered the consultation of 127 special collections requests for digitization, and filled hundreds of Faculty Express, Inter-Campus, Borrow-Direct and Inter-Library Loan (ILL) transactions.

NEW JUDAICA COLLECTION GIFTS AND ACQUISITIONS

Spectacular new gift over nearly 1,000 rare items by Arnold and Deanne Kaplan to their Collection of Early American Judaica:

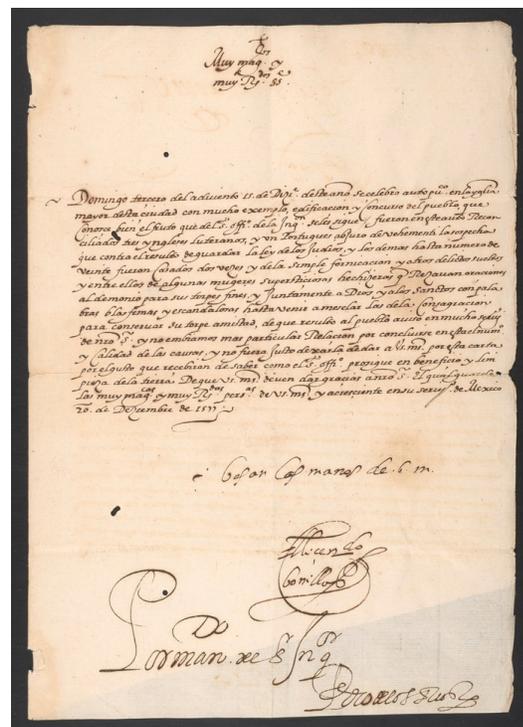
In April of 2021, the Penn Libraries received a truly spectacular gift of nearly one thousand items of early American Judaica. In breadth, depth, and significance, these new acquisitions donated by Arnold and Deanne Kaplan to the Kaplan Collection of Early American Judaica could stand on their own as one of the finest collections of early American Judaica.

The earliest item is a manuscript report of an Inquisitor auto-da-fe held in Mexico City in 1577, signed by the Inquisitor General. 17th century maps document the earliest moments of Jewish settlement in the Caribbean, as well as North America, including a Jewish colony established by Moses Levy in Florida in the 1830s. Handwritten letters attest to *shadarim* (fundraiser emissaries) from the Land of Israel, visiting the North American colonies in the 18th century.

There are political pamphlets and proclamations relating to Jewish emancipation from the 1753 English Jew Bill to the New Hampshire adoption in 1877 of a neutral oath to hold state office so Jews could serve without having to swear their oaths in the name of the Christian savior. The gift also includes a wide range of materials relating to American Jewish military history, dating from the French and Indian War in the mid-18th Century, through the American Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, and leading up to and during the American Civil War.

Also included in the collection are hundreds of economic documents, including billheads, trade cards, receipts, checks, bills of lading, and stock certificates. These documents illustrate the development of Jewish merchant trade and businesses during the 18th and 19th centuries, the sale of enslaved people, the settlement of the American West, the deeds to land sold in Alaska in the 1860s and licenses to Jews to engage in fur trading there. We find Dutch almanacs from the early 19th century referring to Jewish holidays and rabbis and *mohelim* (ritual circumcisors) in Surinam, colonial Canadian Jewish business archives and New Orleans mid-19th century city directories listing Jewish businesses. There are books and pamphlets, reform hymnals, and the first illustrated American haggadah; broadsides and sheet music, scrapbooks and diaries, synagogue charters and by-laws and photographs of some of the earliest congregation buildings in San Francisco, dating from the Gold-Rush era. There are also works of art, fine silver and coin silver cutlery, engravings, and drawings, and even a decorative Christian baptismal certificate signed in Yiddish by the Jewish scrivener.

The master collecting to which these items bear witness speak for themselves. And yet we must try to say: Thank you Arnold and Deanne Kaplan!



Alonso Hernandez Bonilla, General Inquisitor of Mexico. Report of the Auto-da-Fé held in Mexico on December 15, 1577. Gift of the Kaplan Family Foundation to the Arnold and Deanne Kaplan Collection of Early American Judaica.

JUDAICA AT THE PENN LIBRARIES

NEW JUDAICA COLLECTION GIFTS AND ACQUISITIONS

Other important Judaica gifts-in-kind received were:

Stephan Loewentheil, a newly appointed member of the Penn Libraries' Board of Advisors, donated a unique, 18th century Italian Hebrew manuscript: Seder tefilot nidah, halah, hadlakah (Gazzuolo, 1774 or 1775).
https://franklin.library.upenn.edu/catalog/FRANKLIN_9977809546003681

Paul D. Neuwirth donated his master collection of Israel Numismatics: a collection of coins and medals issued by the State of Israel, collected over several decades and classified in four main series: Hanukkah Menorah Series; Anniversary of Independence Series; Other Coins of Israel; Israel State Medals & Official Award Medals.

Dr. Kenneth X. Robbins donated a Collection of South Asian and North African Judaica, including postcards depicting North African Jews, Jews and the Holy Land, and additional varied items including forty-six volumes of handwritten records of the Ernakulam Kadavumbaghum Synagogue in Cochin.

Adam N. Rin, Hadas Rin, and Ruth A. Rin donated a precious family treasure: the first edition of Seder ha-dorot (Karlsruhe, [1769], authored by their progenitor Jehiel ben Solomon Heilprin and passed down within the family to the present donors. Seder ha-dorot (Karlsruhe: Gedrukt durkh Yohan Fridrikh Kornelyus Shtern, 529 [1769]).



Seder tefilot nidah, halah, hadlakah (written in Gazzuolo, in northern Italy, in 1774-1775). Manuscript of devotional prayers for women for the performance of the commandments of ritual immersion, tithing of dough, and candle lighting. Gift of Stephan Loewentheil, 2020.

Special Acquisitions (selected highlights):

Harold Wohl/Sons of Jacob American Jewish Sheet Music Collection: 231 printed pieces of early 20th century Jewish sheet music purchased in partnership with the Kislak Curators, from the Sons of Jacob Synagogue of Waterloo, Iowa and with great thanks to the Sons of Jacob Synagogue, particularly Naomi McCormick, John McCormick, Bobbi Kazenelson, Stephanie Schmidt, and Kenneth Schoen for their tireless, conscientious efforts to arrange for the sale, packing and shipping of this special collection.

Collection of 97 Hebrew books printed in Shanghai in 1942-1947, by yeshiva students who fled to the Far East during the Holocaust, purchased at the Kedem Auction. The collection comprises volumes of Talmud and Rambam, books on Halacha and novellae, Chassidut and Kabbalah, ethics and homily, books of Jewish thought and biographies. Most of the books are photo-offset editions, though some are original works composed by the refugees themselves, including a book (in Yiddish) about the Treblinka extermination camp. The collection includes the book *Pizmonim le-Simchat Torah*, printed in 1935 (by the small community of Indian and Iraqi Jews in Shanghai), and a catalog printed by the YIVO institute in New York, 1948, for the "Jewish Life in Shanghai" exhibition – "Catalogue of the exhibition, Jewish life in Shanghai, September 1948-January 1949.

JUDAICA AT THE PENN LIBRARIES

DIGITIZATION PROJECTS

A.S. Yahuda Samaritan Manuscripts Digitization Project in Cooperation with Princeton University

The Penn Libraries digitized the A.S. Yahuda Samaritan manuscripts collection at the Library at the Katz center in cooperation with an international initiative based at Princeton University to conduct a census and provide access to all Middle Eastern manuscripts whose sales were brokered by Yahuda with institutional libraries and private collectors in the West. This collection of 49 Samaritan codex manuscripts forms an important component of this dispersed corpus, which is interesting in itself and also offers insight into the history of knowledge and of power relations among the Middle East, Europe and the United States.

Anglophone Jewish Newspapers Digitization project

The scanning of complete or near-complete runs of some of the earliest extant English-language Jewish newspapers: the Voice of Jacob, the Asmonean, the Occident and American Jewish Advocate; the (Philadelphia) Jewish Record was undertaken in partnership with the National Library of Israel's Historical Jewish Press project (or JPress).

Benjamin Zucker Family Ketubah Collection: <https://openn.library.upenn.edu/html/0051.html>

Fully digitized and now freely accessible in OPenn is The Benjamin Zucker Family Collection of Ketubot, or Jewish marriage contracts. The Zucker Collection consists of 249 historical documents of exceptional provenance, written in a variety of Jewish scribal hands, on parchment or paper, many beautifully decorated and some illuminated. The collection, on loan to us through September 1, 2022 for digitization and presentation in OPenn, and with an option to purchase, presents intimate family heirlooms that are at the same time unique works of art and genealogical records. The range of dates spans from the 17th through the 20th centuries; the geographical expanse extends over three oceans and four continents. The earliest dated ketubah in the collection (Z71) was signed and witnessed in Modena (Italy) on December 8, 1600; the most recent one (Z92) in Djerba, Tunisia, dated September 15, 1948. The bulk of the collection stems from Islamic lands and the Italian peninsula, including an exceptional collection of 18th and early 19th century ketubot from Ancona. Of particular significance are the ketubot of the storied Sassoon family, including the earliest decorated ketubah from Iraq (Z241), signed and witnessed in Baghdad on December 25, 1764. The nineteen countries represented include: Argentina, Austria, Canada, Egypt, England, France, Georgia, Greece, India, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Kurdistan, Morocco, Ottoman Palestine, Tunisia, Turkey, the U.S., and Yemen. This project was made possible thanks to the generosity of Benjamin Zucker.

Edeltuch Collection, a collection of personal papers, documents, books, manuscripts, correspondence and ephemera that belonged to a German-Jewish family who sought refuge in Shanghai during the Holocaust, was digitized. The archive belonged to Eleanore (Leah) Meyer-Edeltuch and Mir Yeshiva student Shmuel Edeltuch.

Post-1601 Hebrew Manuscripts

Our multi-year international partnership with the National Library of Israel's Ktiv digital Hebrew manuscripts project to scan and share our post-1601 Hebrew manuscripts with them had to be temporarily suspended due to COVID.



The Benjamin Zucker Family Ketubah Collection, fully digitized and now freely accessible in OPenn, KET Z256: Ketubah, 1823.

JUDAICA AT THE PENN LIBRARIES

PENN JUDAICA SPECIAL PROJECTS

Digital Exhibitions:

<https://www.library.upenn.edu/collections/online-exhibits>

Due to COVID we were not able to organize this past year's (2020-21) exhibition in partnership with the Katz Center Fellows on the topic of "America's Jewish Questions."

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

<http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/jwst/events>

This annual workshop, entering its 20th year, was focused on the topic "Milestones and Frontiers in the Study of the Jewish Book." The workshop was postponed due to COVID-19 and will be rescheduled.

Penn Judaica Digital Humanities:

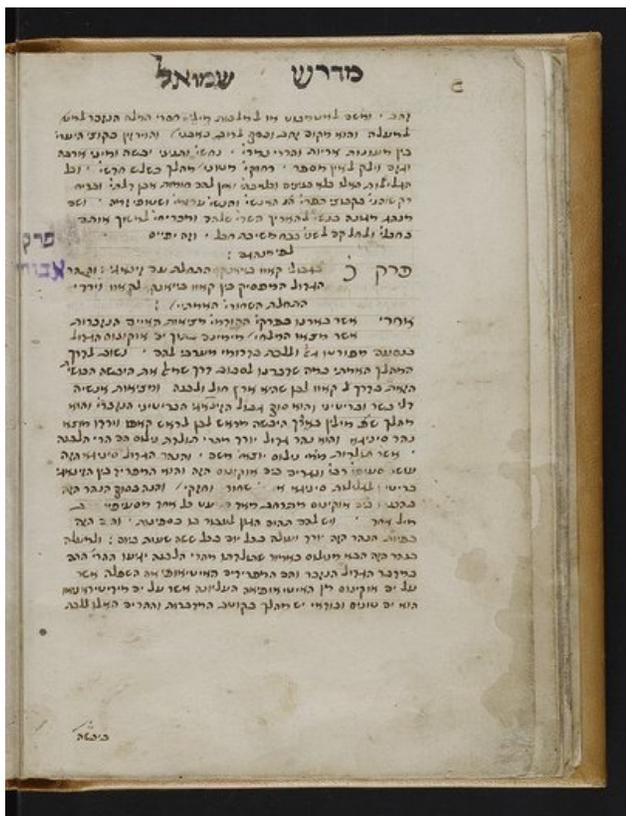
<https://judaicadh.github.io/projects>

In January of 2021, Emily Esten began her tenure as the first endowed Arnold and Deanne Kaplan Collection of Early American Judaica Curator of Digital Humanities. The Judaica Digital Humanities program was co-founded and continues to be co-directed by the Schottenstein-Jesselson Judaica Curator, who contributed to the PIQ job description and served on the search committee, chaired by Nicky Agate. Work continues on the core projects: "Scribes of the Cairo Geniza"; Robert Singerman's *Judaica Americana* 2nd edition (JA2); "Sabato Morais Papers Digitization."

SIMS-Katz Fellowship:

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

Working with Lynn Ransom, SIMS Curator and Natalie Dohrmann, Associate Director of the Katz Center, the Schottenstein-Jesselson Curator helped to coordinate the fifth SIMS-Katz manuscript research fellowship, in partnership with Steven Weitzman, Director of the Katz Center, Sean Quimby, Director of the Kislak Center, and Kathryn Hellerstein, the Director of Penn's Jewish Studies Program. **Prof. Shalom Sabar** will be our next SIMS-Katz Distinguished Fellow, which is now being rescheduled for the Spring of 2022. He will be researching, speaking publicly about, and delivering a series of MOOC sessions about the Benjamin Zucker Family Collection of Ketubot (Jewish marriage contract manuscripts), now digitized on OPenn.



The manuscript of Abraham Abraham ben Mordecai Farissol's 16th century geographical treatise, *Iggeret orhot 'olam* (LJS 499; 1524), the first modern Hebrew work on geography with a special interest in the Jewish dispersion, and also the first Hebrew writing that mentions the New World, examined by SIMS/Katz Fellow, Fabrizio Lelli (University of Salento, Lecce, Italy), in 2019, and now digitized on OPenn.

JUDAICA AT THE PENN LIBRARIES

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 during the last academic year [* indicates the donor is a former Katz Center Fellow]:

Jason Busch, C'97
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Elis and Ruth Douer Endowed Fund in support of Sephardic Culture
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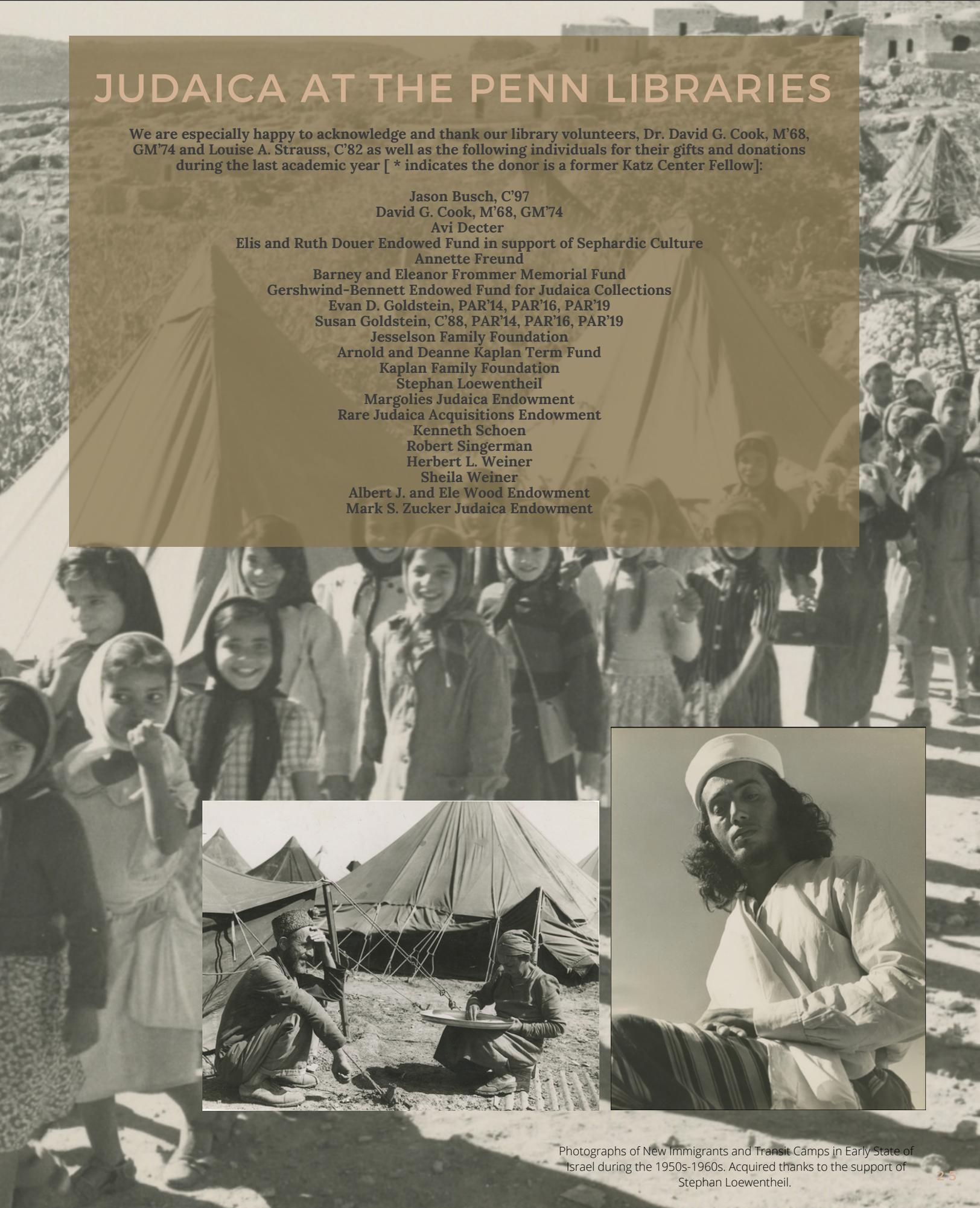
Robert Singerman

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Albert J. and Ele Wood Endowment

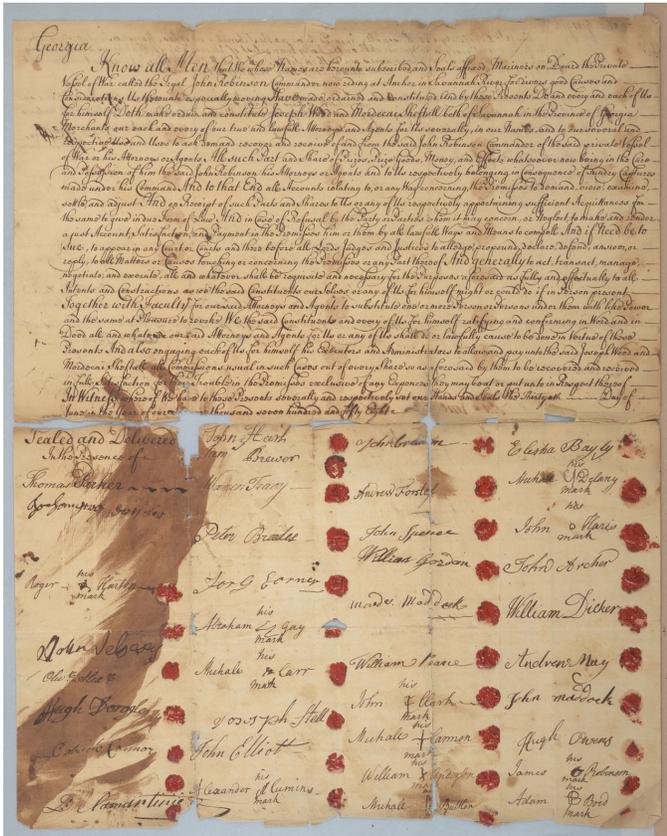
Mark S. Zucker Judaica Endowment



Photographs of New Immigrants and Transit Camps in Early State of Israel during the 1950s-1960s. Acquired thanks to the support of Stephan Loewentheil.

GIFTS

July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021



Privateer Contract in manuscript, which may be the earliest known Jewish privateers contract in the Americas. Savannah, Georgia, June 30, 1758, written in ink on laid paper, 36 signatures and wax seals of the seamen. Among the signatories to the contract is Mordecai Sheftall, who later served as a colonel, the highest ranking Jewish officer, in the Colonial American army.

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- Stephan Loewentheil
- Illene Rubin
- Seymour Samuels, III, in memory of Mrs. Linda Samuels
- Louise A. Strauss, C'82

SPECIAL FEATURE

From Ian Lustick on his Retirement

In July 2021, I moved to emeritus status after teaching at the University of Pennsylvania for thirty years. I remain active and interested as a scholar and as a teacher and colleague and look forward to continuing to be engaged in the intellectual life of the campus. Since coming to Penn in 1991, I have found the Jewish Studies Program to be a rich and welcoming source of collegial interaction. I have also been proud and satisfied to have brought to so many Jewish students an enthusiastic, warm-hearted, but intellectually rigorous approach to the study of Israel and Zionism. Some of my best teaching, I believe, has come in seminars, independent study project, honors theses, and in office hours with Jewish Studies students struggling to come to terms with conflicts between emotional ties to Israel and to familial culture, on the one hand, and the often-unsettling discoveries one makes studying Israel and Israeli-Palestinian relations using scholarly, historically sophisticated, and social scientific techniques. Helping students incorporate knowledge while sustaining their values and their commitments to their Jewishness has helped me integrate my own trajectories as a Jew, a scholar, and a teacher. One of the specific ways I did this, in conjunction with the Solomon Asch Center for the Study of Ethnopolitical Conflict and the Jewish Studies Program, was a program funded by the Gantz family. This program offered Penn students opportunities to spend a summer in Israel doing field research under the guidance of a Penn faculty member in support of an independent study course or honors thesis. Founding and directing that program were highlights of my Penn career.

Looking back, I can also see how impactful my undergraduate experience at Brandeis was, from 1967-1971, not only via the semester I spent in Israel, at the Jacob Hiatt Institute, but because of my exposure to the just-being-born movement for Black Studies. This was a movement whose demands resonated with me and other young Jews who found establishment Judaism disturbingly lacking in commitments to Jewish education, to the plight of Soviet Jewry, and to addressing real problems of anti-Semitism as well as discrimination by Israel against Palestinian Arabs. We responded with sit-ins, public and clandestine support of Jews in the Soviet Union, Jewish Arts Festivals, the publication of Jewish student newspapers, and mobilization around demands for funding Jewish education and more sophisticated forms of engagement with Israel than those prevailing at the time. I don't think it is an exaggeration to say that our efforts in the sixties and seventies helped create the climate on American campuses that led, among other things, to the founding of Jewish Studies Programs around the country, including at UPenn in 1982.





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University of Padua Medical diploma, 1704, conferred upon Gershon Cantarini (Grassival Cantarin).
Gift of Congregation Schaarai Zedek, Tampa, Florida, 2018.