

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*



Yiddish Remington Rand typewriter. Photo courtesy of Katrin Kogman-Appel.

What's inside this issue:

GREETINGS- 2-3
COURSES- 4
UNDERGRADUATES- 5
GRADUATE STUDENTS- 7
FACULTY-10
CULTURAL PROGRAMS- 14
KATZ CENTER- 17
LIBRARY- 21
GIFTS- 26
SPECIAL FEATURE- 27

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 2020, I find it hard to believe that a year ago, no one could have foreseen all the changes we have all learned to live with. I will recap the highlights of Penn's Jewish Studies Program in 2019-2020 during these extraordinary times. The Jewish Studies calendar was full up through the week before Spring Break, in early March. In October, for the 34th Annual Alexander Colloquium, Ilan Stavans (Amherst College) spoke on "The Seventh Heaven: Travels through Jewish Latin America." In February, for the 24th Annual Silvers Visiting Scholar, a panel discussion, "Revolutionizing American Judaism: The Jewish Counterculture in the 1960s and 1970s," inaugurated the completion of a pioneering oral history project partnered by the Jewish Studies and the Penn Library.

The Kutchin Seminars in Jewish Studies brought an array of fascinating co-sponsored programs. We kicked off the year in September with three events: Professor Fabrizio Lelli, of the University of Salento in Italy gave the Distinguished Fellow's Lecture in Jewish Manuscript Studies; a welcome event for two new faculty members, Simcha Gross (in NELC and Jewish Studies) and Reyhan Durmaz (in Religious Studies); and a lecture by Keren Friedman-Peleg, the Israel Institute Visiting Fellow at the Katz Center. October brought two acclaimed speakers, Israeli author Judith Katzir and translator and theorist Lawrence Venuti (Rutgers) to campus. In November, for the 20th annual Kristallnacht Commemoration, Jewish Studies and the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures brought Wolf Gruner (University of Southern California) to speak on "Total Devastation: The Forgotten Mass Destruction of Jewish Homes During Kristallnacht 1938." In December, Jewish Studies co-sponsored a colloquium, "On Commentary: Philosophical and Literary Genealogies." In January, Charles Freilich (NYU), the former Israeli deputy national security advisor, spoke on "Israeli National Security: A New Strategy for an Era of Change." February was an especially busy month, with three lectures: Israeli actor and director Roy Horovitz gave a dramatic reading; Alon Tam (of Penn and a Katz Center fellow) spoke on "Egypt's Jews, 1880-1950: Identity, Community, and Public Space," and Benjamin Porat, (Israel Matz Institute for Jewish Law and Hebrew University of Jerusalem) lectured on "Talmudic Law: The Biblical Struggle for Social Justice: New Perspectives" as Penn

Law's 2019-2020 Gruss Visiting Professor of Law. That same month, a panel on "Dual Allegiances in America: Christian, Jewish & Muslim Perspectives" featured Jewish Studies' Beth Wenger among other speakers. In early March, Zohar Weiman-Kelman (Ben-Gurion University) spoke on "Queer Expectations: A Genealogy of Jewish Women's Poetry." However, due to the pandemic shutdowns at Penn and throughout the nation and the world, our many events planned for the rest of Spring semester, from March through June, had to be canceled or postponed, including the 23rd Annual Meyerhoff Program on "Microhistory and Global History;" the New Media Middle East Film Festival 2020; a graduate student conference, "Infidelities: New Directions in Armenian Studies;" and the 20th Annual Manfred L. Lehmann Memorial Master Workshop on the History of the Jewish Book. Regrettably, we also had to cancel celebrations of two colleagues who retired in June 2020, David Ruderman, professor in History, and Ronit Engel, head of the Hebrew Language Program in NELC and undergraduate director of Jewish Studies.

Our faculty and students in Jewish Studies courses and across the university rose to the challenges of Spring 2020, which continue into the current academic year. We converted our in-person teaching and learning to online formats. All members of the Penn community retooled ourselves to be teachers and students, as well as administrators and staff on Zoom. Although this format of teaching is technically "remote," I have come to feel that the physical distance necessitated by this health crisis has not resulted in intellectual or personal remoteness. Rather, we adapt the technology to overcome isolation and to continue to build our sense of community.

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 Departments of Anthropology, Art History, English, Germanic Languages and Literatures, History, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Political Science, Religious Studies, Romance Languages, Russian and Eastern European Studies; the Programs of Cinema Studies, Comparative Literature and of Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies; the Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, the Middle East Center.

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 2021,

Kathryn Hellerstein

Ruth Meltzer Director, Jewish Studies Program

Greetings from the Director, Katz Center

The focus of the Katz Center's fellowship program in 2019-20 was the Jewish home—the study of the domestic, the familial, and the lived-in in Jewish history and culture. Little did we realize as we began the year that we would end it with fellows confined to their homes, displaced by the pandemic and finding themselves in a situation where being at home constituted a kind of exile. Even with all the unprecedented challenges, however, the fellows proved remarkably resilient, adaptive, and supportive of one another.

The last year was a very eclectic one, exploring topics that ran the gamut from Late Bronze Age Canaanite houses where the living mingled with the dead, to medieval Jewish homes in the Islamic world and early modern German speaking lands, to public housing projects in the twentieth century. After the pandemic hit, we were able to sustain our seminars on-line and to mount virtual public programs, and we plan for the year to continue with a meeting at the Association for Jewish Studies and through a volume to be published by Penn Press. I want to take this moment to publicly thank this year's fellows for being such an extraordinary group.

Although the coming year will bring challenges too, we are very excited to be welcoming a new cohort of fellows, either in person or virtually, for a year focused on "America's Jewish Questions." This is the first year of the Center's fellowship program exclusively focused on American Jewish life, and it is meant as a tribute to an incredibly robust and dynamic subfield of Jewish Studies that is working to reshape not just our understanding of American Jewish life but how we think about American history and culture more broadly.

If all goes according to plan, the year should include a major symposium on early American Jewish history—a field greatly boosted by the establishment at Penn of the Arnold and Deanne Kaplan Collection of Early American Judaica, now online—and another symposium on the relationship between democracy and philanthropy in contemporary Jewish life, generously supported by philanthropists Michael Lowenstein, Daniel Wainstein, and by the Lippman Kanfer Foundation for Living Torah, and cosponsored by the Andrea Mitchell Center for the Study of Democracy, the Center for High Impact Philanthropy, and J-Phil: the Jewish Philanthropy Research Initiative, a joint project of the Katz Center and the Feinstein Center for American Jewish History at Temple University.

We will not be having our usual public events in the fall because of the pandemic, but we are in the midst of planning on-line programs which will have the advantage of being accessible to people beyond the Philadelphia area, including some music-centered programs. Partly because of the American focus, partly because of what has been happening in the country, we see the year as a moment to try to think in new ways about the role of racism, inequality and discrimination as a part of American and American Jewish experience, and will be looking to advance scholarship and public programming on related topics. See the Katz Center website for updated information.



I should not neglect to mention the continued work of previous cohorts either. Just a few months ago, for example, Penn Press published an edited volume that shared the work of an earlier year focused on converts and conversion in Jewish history, edited by Theodor Dunkelgrün and Pawel Maciejko. See

<https://www.upenn.edu/pennpress/book/16122.html>

The Katz Center undertook other activities meant to support research and the scholars who advance it. In the summer of 2019, with continued support from Garry and Kathy Rayant, we ran our annual summer school for graduate students in partnership with Professor Elisheva Baumgarten and the Mandel School for Advanced Studies in the Humanities at the Hebrew University, and plan to resume the school in the summer of 2021 in Philadelphia with a focus on "trouble-makers" in Jewish history—rebels, radicals and rascals. For the longer term, we are very honored to be bringing in a third European partner into this collaboration, Dr. Vivian Liska in her role as the director of the Institute of Jewish Studies at the University of Antwerp.

We have also been developing programs in support of early career scholars, continue our great partnership with CLAL to help connect scholars with rabbis and other Jewish communal leaders, and to continue to build ties with Israeli academia, including continued fellowship support from the Israel Institute to bring a Katz fellow each year to offer courses on modern Israel-related topics (this year's fellows include Alon Tam and Keren Friedman Peleg), and a collaboration in the works with Ben-Gurion University. In 2020-21, in an effort to involve a broader community of people in the life of the center, we are also initiating a new "Friends of the Katz Center" group meant to support the center's public outreach work. If you are interested in supporting new research in Jewish Studies, please feel most welcome to be in touch with me.

I end by thanking the Jewish Studies program, its director Kathryn Hellerstein and its administrator Chrissy Walsh for their invaluable partnership. I must also acknowledge the retirement of my predecessor David Ruderman whose many contributions to scholarship include making possible the many and various undertakings described in this report, clear evidence of how his impact on the field continues unabated.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Steven Weitzman".

Steven Weitzman

Courses

FALL 2020

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 059 Advanced Modern Hebrew
 Jewish Studies 100 Jewish Political Thought & Action
 Jewish Studies 122 Religions of the West
 Jewish Studies 128 Spirituality in Contemporary Israel
 Jewish Studies 131 How to Read the Bible
 Jewish Studies 150 Introduction to the Bible
 Jewish Studies 154 Fantasy, Dreams, Madness in Lit & Film
 Jewish Studies 157 Medieval and Early Modern Judaism
 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 231 Studies in Ladino
 Jewish Studies 255 Bible in Translation: Kings
 Jewish Studies 259 The first Israelis: Amichai, Oz, et al
 Jewish Studies 260 Jewish Folklore
 Jewish Studies 268 Woman in Jewish Literature
 Jewish Studies 320 Spirit and Law
 Jewish Studies 523 Medieval Jewish Cultural
 Jewish Studies 565 Reading Benjamin Reading Kafka

SPRING 2021

Jewish Studies 032 Beginning Yiddish II
 Jewish Studies 034 Intermediate Yiddish II
 Jewish Studies 051 Elementary Modern Hebrew I
 Jewish Studies 052 Elementary Modern Hebrew II
 Jewish Studies 053 Intermediate Modern Hebrew III
 Jewish Studies 054 Intermediate Modern Hebrew IV
 Jewish Studies 059 Advanced Modern Hebrew
 Jewish Studies 102 Jewish Humor
 Jewish Studies 149 Gender and Religion in Israel
 Jewish Studies 154 Image of the City
 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 255 Book of Exodus
 Jewish Studies 263 Jewish Films & Literature
 Jewish Studies 264 Translating Cultures
 Jewish Studies 337 Jewish Magic
 Jewish Studies 359 Giants of Hebrew Literature
 Jewish Studies 390 Senior Research Seminar
 Jewish Studies 612 Hannah Arendt



Backspace key on Remington Yiddish typewriter. Courtesy of Mr. Robert B. Washington in memory of his grandfather, Augustus C. Brandon. Photo credit: Katrin Kogman-Appel.

LANGUAGES

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

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

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

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

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 it was revived. 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 undergrads across campus on a variety of topics, from commentary on Jewish religious practices to modern-day Israeli culture. The revived issues of *Kedma* are online at: <https://repository.upenn.edu/kedma/>

Issue 2, Number 1: Spring 2018

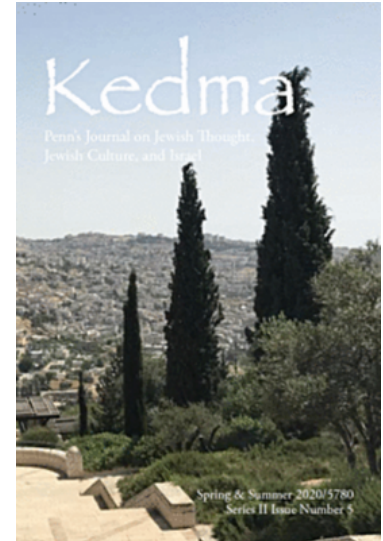
Issue 2, Number 2: Fall 2018

Issue 2, Number 3: Spring 2019

Issue 2, Number 4: Fall 2019

Issue 2, Number 5: Spring & Summer 2020

Forthcoming is Issue 2, Number 6: Spring & Summer 2021



The Jewish Studies Meltzer Internship Program

This 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.



Jewish Settlements in Palestine in the 1920s and 1930s. A collection of 81 photographs documenting the establishment of residential communities, pioneer work, and people in Palestine. Acquired thanks to a gift from Stephan Loewentheil.

The members of the Jewish Studies Program at Penn note with sadness the death of **Julia Goldin, G'46**, on April 28, 2020. She was a daughter of the late Esther and Samuel Goldin, and the sister of the late Dr. **Rosaline Goldin, Gr'40**, who passed away in 2006.

Thanks to a \$10,000 endowment gift in 2005, by Dr. Rosaline Goldin and Ms. Julia Goldin of Bala Cynwyd, the Jewish Studies Program created the **Samuel and Esther Goldin Endowment Award Fund**, with which we honor outstanding students for research in Jewish studies at the University of Pennsylvania.

We extend our condolences to the Goldin family and honor the memory of Julia Goldin and Dr. Rosaline Goldin with gratitude and appreciation for their generous support of the Jewish Studies Program.

Celebrating JSP Students

STUDENT RESEARCH AWARDS

Brenner Family Fund

Shachar Levanon (NELC) for studying German Language.

Adam Sax (COML) for dissertation research.

Nathaniel Shils (PSCI) for dissertation research in Jerusalem.

Nathaniel Shils (PSCI) for local dissertation research.

Goldfein Scholarship Fund

Lea Makhloufi (C'20) for research on the implications for Israel of the Gaza WASH crisis.

Ben Notis (NELC) for attending mini course at Princeton University.

Louis Schwartz and Elaine Friedman Schwartz Memorial Award

Sarah Goldfarb (C'21) for research on depiction of Delilah in the Bible.

Shoshana Sternstein (C'20) for research on Persian Jews.

Sam Finkelman (HIST) for dissertation research.

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.



Depiction of the human body in the shape of a house. *Sefer Ma'aseh Toviyah* (Treatise on Science and Theology), Tobias ben Moses Cohn, Venice: Stamparia Bragadina, 1707. Purchased at the Sotheby's auction of the Arthur and Gitel Marx Collection, thanks to an anonymous gift.

PRIZES AND HONORS

The Samuel Esther Goldin Endowment Award:
Shoshana Sternstein, C'21

The Moshe Greenberg Prize for Excellence in Hebrew:
Corey Berman, C'20, and Sarah Fortinsky, C'20

The Workmen's Circle/Arbeiter Ring Prize in Yiddish Studies:
Adam Sax (PhD Student in COML)

The Charlotte Yiddish Institute Book Prizes:
Cameron Isen, C'20

The Judah Goldin Memorial Prize for Excellence in Advanced Hebrew Studies:
Talya Koschitzky, C'20

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 third-year students **Itay Blumenzweig** (COML), **Laura Eckstein** (HIST), **Shachar Levanon** (NELC), **Noa Nikolsky** (ENGL), and **Ben Notis** (NELC), second-year student **Jeremy Steinberg** (RELS), and first-year student **Hilah Kohen** (COML).

We were pleased to welcome two new Falk Fellows to Penn in Fall 2020:

Oded Even Or was born in Tel Aviv in 1987. He holds a B.A. in philosophy and cognitive science from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and an M.F.A. in creative writing from the Iowa Writers' Workshop. As a PhD candidate at UPenn's comparative literature program, he hopes to investigate English and Hebrew fiction by translingual writers.

Alexandra (Sasha) Zborovsky is an incoming PhD student in the University of Pennsylvania's history department. She intends to study Soviet Jewish history and late 20th century Jewish migration with Dr. Ben Nathans and Dr. Beth Wenger. She recently received her BA in History and English literature at the Ohio State University, graduating Summa Cum Laude. Her undergraduate thesis explored the effect of the Holocaust on American Jewish comedians 1950-1970. Zborovsky had a summer internship with the Office of Digital Humanities at the National Endowment for the Humanities.



Oded Even Or, new Falk Fellow



Alexandra (Sasha) Zborovsky, new Falk Fellow

Graduate Students

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

This past year **Ben Notis** continued his exploration of medieval Jewish cultures, Arabic literature, and Islamic history. In the fall semester, he studied Arabic accounts of the Crusades with Prof. Paul Cobb, and dipped into the Early Modern period with other graduate students in Jewish Studies in a seminar with Prof. Talya Fishman. In addition, he studied medieval Arabic literary theory with Prof. Huda Fakhreddine. In the spring semester, he contemplated medieval Arabic philosophy with Prof. Joe Lowry. He was very excited to read excerpts of Maimonides's Guide of the Perplexed! As a visiting student at Princeton, he was very lucky to take a course in Geniza historiography with Prof. Marina Rustow. Finally, he took an excursion to the rich world of Hebrew liturgical poetry with Prof. Talya Fishman.

Julia Kolchinsky Dasbach is completing her Ph.D. in Comparative Literature and Literary Theory with her hybrid critical and creative dissertation project *Lyric Witness: Re-Presenting the Holocaust in Intergenerational Contemporary American Poetry*. Her poetry collection, *The Many Names for Mother* (Kent State University Press, 2019) won the Wick Poetry Prize and was a finalist for the Jewish Book Award. Her second collection, *Don't Touch the Bones* (Lost Horse Press, 2020) won the Idaho Poetry Prize. She has had recent poems appear in *POETRY*, *The Nation*, and *American Poetry Review*, among many others.

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

Hilah Kohen is a first-year doctoral student in Comparative Literature. She works primarily in Russian with additional research in the Kavkazi Jewish language Juhuri and Modern Hebrew. Prior to enrolling at Penn, Hilah worked as an editor and translator for the independent Russian-language news outlet Meduza, where she focused on postcolonial movements in the contemporary Russian opposition. This was a shift from her previous research on the numerous but frayed connections that joined queer writers such as Marina Tsvetaeva and Virginia Woolf in the early 20th century. Her undergraduate thesis on how that context shaped the English-language canon of Russophone literature received the ACLA's Presidential Undergraduate Prize. You can read her public-facing work in *Nashville Review*, *The Los Angeles Review of Books*, and elsewhere.

Shachar Levanon, third-year doctoral student in NELC, focusing on modern Hebrew and Yiddish literature, primarily modernist poetry in the first half of the twentieth century. He is interested in American Yiddish and Hebrew literature written in the USA and specifically New York. Levanon has been studying various American Hebrew and Yiddish coteries, looking for common threads and discerning major differences among several writers in these groups. He is interested in literary theory, continental philosophy and psychoanalysis as critical tools of thinking about the multifaceted influences that shaped these writers' creative worlds.

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 elegy-genre in the 20th century through an archive of German-Jewish, Queer, and Yiddish-American poets. He is a recipient of a 2020-2021 Fulbright grant to conduct research through the Institute of Jewish Studies in Antwerp, Belgium. He has also been selected as a graduate fellow at Penn's Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Jeremy Steinberg is wrapping up his first year as a graduate student in the Religious Studies department. He is interested in Judaism (including nascent Christianity) in the Greco-Roman world in the late Hellenistic period and early Roman empire, with a particular focus on the new forms that earlier Jewish texts and concepts take when understood and interpreted in a Greco-Roman cultural context. His research projects in the 2019-2020 school year include an investigation of what constitutes legitimate historiography in the eyes of Flavius Josephus; an exploration of the influence of Enochic demonology on the work of the second-century CE Christian apologist Tatian the Syrian; and a study of the Nervan coin with the legend *fiscus Iudaicus calumniam sublata* ("the abuse of the Jewish treasury has been stopped") in the context of ancient numismatic evidence.

In the 2019-2020 school year, **Jill Stinchcomb** primarily worked on her dissertation, "Remembering the Queen of Sheba in the First Millennium." She presented at Annual Meetings of the Society for Biblical Literature in November and the Association of Jewish Studies in December. In the spring, she shared her research with the Late Antique, Medieval, Early Modern Working Group at Brooklyn College on "The Queen of Sheba's Hairy Legs in Late Antique Jewish Literature." In March, she received the Florence Levy Kay Postdoctoral Fellowship in Hebrew Bible and Mediterranean Cross-Cultural Textual Traditions at Brandeis University. She will defend her dissertation in the summer.

Tom Tearney spent the 2019-2020 academic year in Philadelphia after two years of research abroad. During his final year of study at Penn, he took a language course in the Modern Hebrew program, and intends to continue cultivating his language skills. In June 2020, he successfully defended his PhD dissertation, "Wege der Verheißung: Jewish Thought and the Portrayal of History in Franz Werfel's Work." He is currently living in Philadelphia, working as a researcher and translator.

Graduate Students

GRADUATE STUDENT ALUMNI NEWS

Cornelia Aust (PhD, History, 2010), is a researcher and lecturer in early modern history at Bielefeld University. She is researching Jewish dress and outward appearances and their perceptions by Jews and Christians in 16th- to 19-century central and east central Europe. In February 2020, she joined the Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies as a visiting fellow, where she worked on Jewish material culture as it appears in 18th-century inventories of Jewish men and women in central Europe. In the context of a collaborative research group at Bielefeld University (SFB 1228: Practices of Comparing) she published an article on practices of comparing used by Prussian administrators during the incorporation of former Polish territories and their Jewish inhabitants following the partitions of Poland in the last decades of the eighteenth century.

Sonia Gollance (PhD, Germanic Languages and Literatures, 2017) is a Visiting Assistant Professor in Germanic Languages and Literatures at The Ohio State University, where she directs the Yiddish and Ashkenazic Studies program. She is on the Board of the Melton Center for Jewish Studies and is associated faculty at the Center for Folklore Studies. Outside of OSU, she is the Managing Editor of Plotting Yiddish Drama (an initiative of the Digital Yiddish Theatre Project), chairs the Best Article Prize Committee of the Coalition of Women in German, and received a Translation Fellowship from the Yiddish Book Center to support her translation of Tea Arciszewska's *Miryaml*, a modernist play about the Holocaust. Her recent article in *Eighteenth-Century Studies* analyzes the significance of masquerade balls in texts about notorious court Jew Joseph "Jud" Süß Oppenheimer. Her first book, *It Could Lead to Dancing: Mixed-Sex Dancing and Jewish Modernity*, will appear with Stanford University Press in Spring 2021. In 2021, she will begin a position in Yiddish Studies at the University of Vienna.

Ari Gordon (PhD, NELC, 2019) is director of Muslim-Jewish Relations at American Jewish Committee (AJC), where he also oversees the Muslim-Jewish Advisory Council. In 2019-20, Gordon oversaw a number of groundbreaking projects. He led an intensive dialogue program between American Muslims and Modern Orthodox Jewish leaders at Yeshiva University and SAR High School addressing the theme "Tradition and Modernity: Religious Identity and Civic Engagement in the United States." Gordon organized the launch of the Louisville Muslim-Jewish Advisory Council at the Muhammad Ali Center, and taught a session about the impact of 'the Champ's' complex legacy of activism for contemporary Muslim-Jewish relations. He accompanied a delegation of senior Muslim leaders from 28 countries, visiting Auschwitz at the 75th anniversary of its liberation; the mission was co-led by AJC CEO David Harris and Muslim World League Secretary General, Dr. Muhammad al-Issa. Since COVID-19 began, Gordon convened several online public sessions on the impacts of the virus on Muslim-Jewish relations in the U.S., which have been seen over 60K times.

Marc Herman (PhD, Religious Studies, 2016) served as a Research Fellow at the Abdallah S. Kamel Center for the Study of Islamic Law and Civilizations at Yale Law School during 2019-2020. In 2019, he published a book chapter titled "What is 'Islamic' about Geonic Depictions of the Oral Torah?"

in *Geneses: A Comparative Study of the Historiographies of the Rise of Christianity, Rabbinic Judaism, and Islam* edited by John Tolan, and an article titled, "Two Themes in Maimonides' Modifications to his Legal Works," in the *Journal of the American Oriental Society*. He has a forthcoming essay in the *Association for Jewish Studies Review*, and is working on a coedited volume titled "Accounting for the Commandments in Medieval Judaism: Studies in Law, Philosophy, Pietism, and Kabbalah."

David Zvi Kalman (PhD, NELC, 2019) is Scholar in Residence at the Shalom Hartman Institute of North America and a research associate at the Center for Jewish Law at Cardozo Law School. In 2019-2020, he was an affiliated scholar at the Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, and presented work at AAR and the conference of The Maintainers in Washington, D.C. His publishing house, Print-O-Craft, received an award from the Association of Jewish Libraries and a Lambda Literary Award for Noam Sienna's *A Rainbow Thread: An Anthology of Queer Jewish Texts from the First Century to 1969*.

Alex Moshkin (PhD, Comparative Literature, 2018) is a SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow in the Centre for Comparative Literature at the University of Toronto. His research focuses on multilingual Russian-Jewish literature, cinema, and visual art in the late 20th and early 21st century. In the past year, he published "Post-Soviet Nostalgia in Israel? Historical Revisionism and Artists of the 1.5 Generation" in *East European Jewish Affairs*, and "History, Diaspora, and Geography: The Case of Russian-Israeli Cinema, 1991-2016," in *Global Russian Cultures* (ed. Kevin M. F. Platt). His book project, *Russian-Israeli Culture: In Search of Identity*, investigates how Russian-speaking émigrés to Israel created a cultural identity for themselves in synch with the Israeli society.

David Shyovitz (PhD History, 2011) is Associate Professor of History at Northwestern University and Director of NU's Crown Family Center for Jewish and Israel Studies. He spent the 2019-20 academic year working on his book manuscript, *O Beastly Jew! Jews, Animals, and Jewish Animals in the Middle Ages*, and completed an article on the authorship of the influential medieval text *Sefer Hasidim* (forthcoming in the journal *Jewish History*). He delivered invited lectures at Rutgers University and Yeshiva University as well as the annual Shapiro Lecture at the Catholic Theological Union and the Abraham Joshua Heschel Lecture at Elmhurst College. He also led a Jewish history study trip to Italy under the auspices of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago. When Northwestern courses moved online in the spring quarter, Shyovitz taught a Zoom course on the history of Jewish-Christian relations and an advanced undergraduate seminar on the history of the blood libel.

Kerry Wallach (PhD, Germanic Languages and Literatures, 2011) is Associate Professor of German Studies at Gettysburg College. She recently completed a three-year term as Department Chair. She taught a new course on Antisemitism and Jewish Responses in Literature and Film. She is on sabbatical in 2020-2021 to complete her second book project, tentatively titled *Rahel Szalit-Marcus, a Jewish Artist in Berlin and Paris*. This project is supported by a Hadassah-Brandeis Institute Research Award and a Sharon Abramson Research Grant from the Holocaust Educational Foundation of Northwestern University.

Faculty

FACULTY NEWS

As a folklorist, **Dan Ben-Amos**, Professor of Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations and Folklore, studies proverbs and believes that they always contain a kernel of truth. This year he discovered that this hypothesis is not always valid. A Hebrew proverb states: “Pious people--others do their work” (Rozental, Rubik, *Milon ha-tserufim*. Jerusalem: Keter, 2009). He is sure that he is not a pious person, still this year others did his work. Two of his friends, Simon J. Bronner and Wolfgang Mieder, edited a volume in his honor: *Contexts of Folklore: Festschrift for Dan Ben-Amos on His Eighty-Fifth Birthday*, in *International Folkloristics* 13 (Peter Lang 2019). A former student, Juwen Zhang, edited a journal issue in his honor, *Ethnicity and Genre: Essays in Honor of Dan Ben-Amos*, in *Western Folklore* 79, no.1 (2020). This former student also edited a collection of his articles in Chinese translation: 民俗学概念与方法--丹·本·阿默思文集/民俗学系列/中国社会治理智库丛书 [Concepts and Methods in Folkloristics: Essays by Dan Ben-Amos. A Gift for Professor Dan Ben-Amos’ 84th Birthday. Eighteen essays translated into Chinese], in *Social Sciences Press*, (China, 2018). Translators who are unbeknown to him translated the three volumes of *Folktales of the Jews* into Russian (Russia: Gonzo Publishing, 2019) One of his articles was reprinted: “The Idea of Folklore: An Essay” in *The Bloomsbury Reader in the Study of Myth*, edited by Jonathan Miles-Watson and Vivian Asimov (Bloomsbury Academic 2019). Still, regardless of the piety that he does not claim, one of his articles, “The Pharmacist’s Burial” (IFA 21021) appeared in a volume, *In The Power of a Tale: Stories from the Israel Folktale Archives*, edited by Haya Bar-Itzhak and Idit Pintel Ginsberg (Wayne State University Press, 2019). And together with his wife, Batsheva Ben-Amos, he edited a volume of essays about the diary genre, entitled *The Diary: The Epic of Everyday life* (Indiana University Press, 2020).

Joseph Benatov is Lecturer in Foreign Languages in the Modern Hebrew Language Program. He teaches Hebrew courses at the intermediate and advanced levels. During the 2019-20 academic year, 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 will be published in Bulgaria later this year. He also served as Middle East Center committee member for the granting of next year’s FLAS fellowships. Benatov lectured on the history of Jewish life in Bulgaria at the Magen David Sephardic Congregation in Bethesda, MD. He was an invited speaker at the Princeton Public Library. Benatov participated in the yearly pedagogical symposium organized by the Penn Language Center. His ongoing research focuses on the history and culture of the Sephardic Jewish communities of the Balkans.

Alexander (Sender) Botwinik is a Yiddish lecturer teaching beginning and intermediate levels. He also teaches music, choir, and Hebrew at Har Zion Temple, and coordinates an annual choral youth *Zimria* (song festival). He continues to work on a CD devoted to children’s songs, selected from the material in his almost 100-year-old father’s (David Botwinik), music in his book *From Holocaust to Life*.

Michael Carasik, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Biblical Hebrew, participated in the Shalom Spiegel Institute Summer Seminar in Medieval Hebrew Literature in New York and presented on biblical poetry at the Renaissance Weekend in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. In February, he was the Neustadt Lecturer at the Wimberly School of Religion at Oklahoma City University and at Temple B’Nai Israel in Oklahoma City. He published reviews of Galia Hataf’s *The Semantics-Pragmatics Interface of the Biblical Hebrew Verb Forms in Hebrew Higher Education*, and of James S. Diamond’s *Scribal Secrets*, and Alexander Rofé’s *The Religion of Israel and the Text of the Hebrew Bible* on the Review of Biblical Literature website. He began contributing to the *Koren Tanakh of the Land of Israel*, and continues to translate scholarly work from Hebrew to English. His “Torah Talk” podcast is in its 12th year.

Isabel Cranz, Assistant Professor of Hebrew Bible, completed her book about illness and leadership in the Bible. The book is set to appear in the *Society for Old Testament Study Monographs* (Cambridge University Press). She presented parts of the book at an invited lecture at the University of Potsdam and at the SBL annual conference 2019 in San Diego. She also organized a conference panel about the future of the comparative method. Comparative approaches were equally important for her presentation at the EABS conference in Warsaw, where she drew from ancient Near Eastern rituals to shed new light on the vision cycle of Zechariah. Finally, Cranz was appointed section editor for the ancient Near East Section for the online journal *Religion Compass* in January 2020.



Seder ha-tefilot she-'omerot ha-nashim kodem le-mitsvot ha-mutalot 'alehen : na. ha. h. le-hitpalel lifne ha-makom 'al benehen asher yaldu...Hebrew, with instructions in Italian. Gazzuolo, 1774 or 1775. Gift of Stephan Loewentheil.

Faculty

FACULTY NEWS

Natalie B. Dohrmann is Associate Director of the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies and coeditor of the *Jewish Quarterly Review*. Among her recent publications: “Ad similitudinem arbitrorum: On the Perils of Commensurability & Comparison in Roman and Rabbinic Law,” in *Legal Engagement: The Reception of Roman Tribunals and Law by Jews and Other Provincials of the Roman Empire*, ed. K. Berthelot, N. Dohrmann, and C. Nemo-Pekelman (Rome, forthcoming); “Jewish Books and Roman Readers: Censorship, Authorship, and the Rabbinic Library,” in *Reconsidering Roman Power: Roman, Greek, Jewish and Christian Perceptions and Reactions* (Rome, 2020); “Jews in the Roman World: From Herod to Constantine the Great,” in *Religionen der Menschheit: Judaism*, ed. M. Tilly and B. Visotzky (Stuttgart, 2020). She serves as an area editor for the *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* and the *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*.

Over the past year, **Talya Fishman**, Associate Professor of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, has continued working on two research projects. One is a study of Jewish Orality in Antiquity and the Middle Ages; the other is a book tentatively entitled, “Image, Material Devotion and the Senses in Hebrew Writings of Medieval Catalonia.” With the publication of *Mehevah le-Menahem: Studies in Honor of Menahem Hayyim Schmelzer* (after a lag of many years), her article, “On the Emergence and Disappearance of Rhineland Pietism,” finally appeared. In 2019-20, Fishman taught two graduate courses for readers of Hebrew texts: European Jews and the Religious Other in the Middle Ages and Early Modernity, and Piyyut and Developments in Jewish Prayer. She taught undergraduate seminars on Jewish Political Thought and Action and The Religious Other in the Lives and Perceptions of Jews, Christians and Muslims.

Nili Gold, Professor of Modern Hebrew Literature, served as NELC Undergraduate Chair in AY 2019/20. In October 2019, Professor Gold organized and hosted a public interview and lecture with renowned Israeli author Yehudit Katzir, co-sponsored by the Middle East Center, NELC, and Jewish Studies. She also hosted the author in a smaller session in a Hebrew literature seminar. Gold has completed a forthcoming article on Katzir for the *Jewish Women's Archive* publication dedicated to Shalvi and Hyman. In the spring semester, Gold continued her role in organizing and co-curating the Middle East Film Festival, which was to feature her public interview with the celebrated Israeli director Avi Nesher after the screening of his film *Another Story*. As part of her popular course on the Image of the Holocaust, Gold hosted two speakers: Dr. Roy Horovitz, who spoke about the Holocaust in Israeli Drama, and Dr. Joseph Halio, who discussed Salonica and the Greek Holocaust. Currently, she is busy working on several forthcoming book chapters and articles (in Hebrew and in English), one on Israeli and Iranian connections, another on Benjamin Shvili, and a third on Dahlia Ravikovitch.

Assistant Professor of Ancient Rabbis, **Simcha Gross**, joined NELC's faculty in the Fall of 2019. Over the course of the last academic year, he delivered invited lectures at Princeton University, the University of Chicago, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and the University of Pennsylvania. His co-edited volume, *Jews and Syriac Christians: Intersections Across the First Millennium*, was published with Mohr Siebeck (2020). Among the volume's sixteen contributions is his article “A Long Overdue Farewell: The Purported Jewish Origins of Syriac Christianity,” which contextualizes a pervasive scholarly claim and challenges its validity. In addition, he also co-authored the extended introduction to the volume, which provides an overview of the field and offers direction for future research. Another article, entitled “The Sources of the History of ‘Abdā damšihā: The Creation of a Persian Martyr Act,” will appear later in 2020. Gross has also devoted significant time to teaching, especially in developing a number of new courses, including Jews and Judaism in Antiquity, Jewish Magic, Rabbis and Others, the Making of Scripture, and the Sasanian Empire. He has taken over the (co)directorship of the Philadelphia Seminar in Christian Origins (PSCO), now in its 58th year, exploring the theme of “Popular Piety,” and he successfully proposed “Premodern Jewish Law” as the theme of the Katz Center in Advanced Jewish Studies for 2021-2022.

Kathryn Hellerstein is Professor of Germanic Languages and Literatures and Ruth Meltzer Director of the Jewish Studies Program. In 2019-2020, Hellerstein published a book that she edited and introduced, *Jews in China: Cultural Conversations, Changing Perspectives, selected essays by Irene Eber*. She also published “Teaching Jewish American Literature with an Anthology,” in *MLA Teaching Jewish American Literature*; “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*; and, in both English and Yiddish, the “Introduction” to Sheva Zucker, *Af yener zayt shvel* (On the Other Side of the Threshold): Selected Articles from the *Magazine Afn Shvel*, 2005-2020. Her translations of Yiddish poetry and prose appeared in the *Posen Library of Jewish Culture and Civilization, Volumes 8 and 12*, as well as in the Special Translation Issue: 2019 *Pakn Treger Digital Translation Issue Language, Literature & Culture, Avrom Ovinu Receives a Letter and Other Yiddish Correspondence*, from the Yiddish Book Center.

Arthur Kiron is the Schottenstein-Jesselson Curator of Judaica Collections, head of the Library at the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, Adjunct Assistant Professor of History, and co-founder and co-director of Penn's Judaica Digital Humanities program. He curated the 21st annual Katz-Libraries Judaica web exhibition; partnered on the 5th annual Penn Libraries' Schoenberg Institute-Katz Center (SIMS-Katz) Hebrew Manuscript Studies Fellowship, served on multiple internal Penn Libraries working groups, created the content for the new Arnold and Deanne Kaplan Collection website, oversaw numerous new gift opportunities and

FACULTY NEWS

special acquisitions, and continues to serve on the editorial board of *Judaica Librarianship* and numerous other professional, academic, and communal advisory boards.

Late in 2019, Bess W. Heyman Chair in Political Science, **Ian Lustick's** book on the transformation of the Israeli-Palestinian relationship was published by the University of Pennsylvania Press. *Paradigm Lost: From Two-State Solution to One-State Reality* argues that there is no longer any chance to negotiate a two-state solution and that positive change can only come about through a democratization process that eventually results in full citizenship for all those, between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River, whose lives and property are governed, effectively if not formally, by decisions the government of Israel makes. Until the pandemic hit, Professor Lustick gave dozens of lectures and interviews on the book and is also publishing a series of follow-on articles. A lecture tour in Israel scheduled for June was postponed. In the fall, he offered a new research seminar for advanced undergraduates entitled "Transnational Boycotts," which analyzes the Boycott,

Divestment, and Sanctions campaign waged against Israeli policies to a range of historical boycotts including those targeting anti-Catholic discrimination in Northern Ireland, Apartheid in South Africa, and anti-Semitic persecution in Germany.

Ibrahim Miari is a Lecturer in Foreign Language (Hebrew Language) since Fall 2012, where he teaches beginner Modern Hebrew language courses. Miari continues to serve as a committee member for the UPenn Middle East Film Festival, a position he has held since 2013. In November 2019, Miari participated in the annual Middle East Studies Association conference which took place in New Orleans, LA. This past summer, Miari gave a virtual theater workshop in Hebrew at Middlebury College for the School of Hebrew summer program in Vermont.

2020-21 was a sabbatical year for **Benjamin Nathans**, Alan Charles Kors Endowed Term Associate Professor of History, who spent the fall semester at the Davis Center for Historical Studies at Princeton and the spring semester at the Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies in Germany. Nathans used his sabbatical to wrap up two projects, a co-edited volume entitled *From Europe's East to the Middle East: Israel's Russian and Polish Lineages* (forthcoming, Penn Press) and a monograph

called *To the Success of Our Hopeless Cause: A History of the Soviet Dissident Movement*. He presented his work in progress to audiences in Princeton, Freiburg, Indiana University in Bloomington, the Hebrew University and the Van Leer Institute in Jerusalem, and other venues. Two of his essays, one on human rights and the other on a pair of documentary films about Russia, appeared in the *New York Review of Books*.

During the 2019-20 year, **Heather J. Sharkey**, Professor of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, prepared an edited volume on the history and politics of religious freedom in collaboration with Jeffrey Green of Penn's Political Science Department and the Andrea Mitchell Center for the Study of Democracy. She attended two conferences in Paris and wrote an article about the history of Sudanese Arabic culture which is forthcoming in the *Cahiers d'Études Africaines*, a French journal of African studies. In Spring 2020, to commemorate and critically appraise the history of American women's suffrage and professional progress in light of the 1920 passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, she taught a seminar called *Women Making History: The Penn Museum and the Centennial 2020*. Meanwhile, she continued to advise Penn students, Miriam Minsk and Noga Even, as they edited and published *Kedma*, the undergraduate journal of Jewish and Israel studies.

Larry Silver, Art History (emeritus), still mostly lives in the sixteenth-century Low Countries in his academic research. However, he published an article in *Ars Judaica*, 2019, "Barnett Newman: Jewish Place and Moment." He also had the chance over the past year to have moving visits to former Jewish communities in Morocco (chiefly Fez; Penn Alumni Travel, February 2020) and Uzbekistan (chiefly Bukhara).

Alon Tam, Israeli Institute Fellow at the Katz Center Fellow, taught Israel in the Middle East, and co-taught Israel and Iran: Historical Ties, Contemporary Challenges, with Penn Prof. Kashani-Sabet. Tam gave a public lecture titled "Egypt's Jews, 1880-1950: Identity, Community, and Public Space," co-sponsored by the Middle East Center and the Jewish Studies Program. He was an affiliated fellow at the Katz Center, under the annual theme of "The Jewish Home." In 2020-2021, he will be the Stanley A. and Barbara B. Rabin Postdoctoral Fellow at Columbia University.



First edition of *Kanun al nisa* by Yosef Hayim ben Eliyahu, al-Hakam [Ben Ish Hai], published in Baghdad [printed in the style of "Livorno (typographical) letters"]: [n.p.], 1906. Text in Judeo-Arabic about Jewish laws pertaining to women. Purchased thanks to the Elis and Ruth Douer Endowment for Sephardic Studies.

Faculty

FACULTY NEWS

Liliane Weissberg, Christopher H. Browne Distinguished Professor in Arts and Science, was on leave during the academic year 2019-2020. She was the Ellie and Herbert D. Katz Distinguished Fellow at the Katz Center of Advanced Studies at Penn in the Fall; and in the Spring, she was the Anna Maria Kellen Fellow at the American Academy in Berlin. She published essays on Freud, Hannah Arendt, Karl Jaspers, Rudi Weissenstein and Ellen Auerbach, Jewish activists during the post-WWI Munich and Alexander and Wilhelm von Humboldt. She appeared on German public radio and various podcasts speaking about Walter Benjamin, postcards and modernity, and interviewing the painter Jo Baer. Weissberg contributed to the exhibitions on the Brothers Humboldt (Fall 2019) and Hannah Arendt and the Twentieth Century (Spring 2020) at the German Historical Museum in Berlin, and wrote for the catalogs. She also contributed to the catalog of the new permanent exhibition of the Sigmund Freud Museum in Vienna. Weissberg served on the scholarly advisory boards of the German Historical Museum, the Dubnow Institute Leipzig, the Moses Mendelssohn Center Potsdam, the Research Institute Sanssouci Potsdam, the Center for Jewish Studies Graz.

Working in partnership with Lila Corwin Berman of Temple University, **Steven Weitzman**, Abraham M. Ellis Professor of Hebrew and Semitic Languages and Literatures Ella Darivoff; Director of the Katz Center of Advanced Judaic Studies, launched a new initiative to promote research in the study of Jewish philanthropy that met for the first time in the fall of 2019 to set an agenda and to begin the work of developing a network of scholars working in related areas. Known as J-Phil, the new initiative, to include symposia like one scheduled in the spring of 2021, focused on the relationship between philanthropy and democracy in contemporary Jewish life; publication, and a new website meant to serve as a resource for this interested in the topic (not finished yet, but see j-phil.org). Weitzman's other scholarly endeavors include beginning work as a co-editor of a new handbook of Jewish Studies for Princeton University Press, and a pandemic-related monograph exploring how the story of the Ten Plagues has been understood and imagined by Jews, Christians, Muslims and others over the course of history, into the present. In this age of self-distancing, Weitzman has been focused on sustaining Katz Center activities in new forms, and is looking forward to a 2020-21 fellowship year meant to develop new ways of thinking about American Jewish history and culture, along with a resumption of the center's summer school with the Hebrew University in 2021; the launch of a new friends group for the Katz Center, and the rebuilding of (in-person) intellectual community at the Center as soon as circumstances permit.

Beth S. Wenger, Moritz and Josephine Berg Professor of History, is Associate Dean for Graduate Studies in the School of Arts and Sciences. She also serves as Chair of the Academic Advisory Council of the Center for Jewish History in New York. Wenger was a contributor to the published "Roundtable on Anti-Semitism" that appears in the July 2020 issue of the *Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era*. In 2019-20, she delivered several

conference papers and invited lectures, and published reviews in the *Journal of American History*. 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.



Image of four Jewish women Survivors in a Displaced Person Camp under a sign that reads "Control Commission for Germany, Palestine Transit Camp." From a personal photo album of a Holocaust survivor interned in DP Camps in Germany and Slovenia between 1946-1948 before immigrating to Israel. Purchased at Kedem Auction house, thanks to the support of the Mark S. Zucker Judaica Endowment.

Julia Wilker is Associate Professor in the Department of Classical Studies and currently serves as chair of the Graduate Group in Ancient History. Her publications in 2019/2020 included companion chapters on the interrelation of peace and religion in Greek and Roman antiquity (*Bloomsbury's Cultural History of Peace*, ed. by Sheila Ager. London: Bloomsbury Academic) and on Hasmonean Women (*Women and Monarchy in the Ancient Mediterranean*, ed. by Elizabeth Carney and Sabine Müller. London – New York: Routledge). Further articles on the presentation of women and power in the works of Flavius Josephus, the role of female client rulers and their networks, and the social and political influences of Eastern client kings in first-century Rome are in press.

Cultural Programs

ENDOWED LECTURES

The 34th Annual Alexander Colloquium

"The Seventh Heaven: Travels through Jewish Latin America"

The annual Joseph Alexander Colloquium with **Ilan Stavans**, Lewis Sebring Professor of Humanities, Latin American, and Latino Culture, at Amherst College, on October 29, 2019, was sponsored by the Joseph Alexander Foundation and the Mackler Family, and cosponsored by the Comparative Literature and Literary theory Program, and the Department of Romance Languages, and Hispanic Studies. Stavans, an internationally-renowned essayist, translator, editor, and cultural commentator, spoke about his four years traversing Latin America in search of manifestations of Jewish life.

The 24th Annual Silvers Visiting Scholar

"Revolutionizing American Judaism: The Jewish Counterculture in the 1960s and 1970s"

The University of Pennsylvania Jewish Studies Program, in partnership with the Penn Libraries, has completed a pioneering oral history project documenting the early years of this movement, complete with interviews from 32 founding members. On February 13, 2020, a panel consisting of **Jayne Guberman** (oral historian for the project); **Riv-Ellen Prell** (a leading scholar of the movement; University of Minnesota); **Michael Strassfeld** (executive director of the project and a founding member of the movement; and **Beth S. Wenger** (academic director of the project; University of Pennsylvania) presented their findings. The Silvers Visiting Scholar Program, endowed by David, C'71, and Patricia, CW'72, Silvers, was cosponsored by the Department of History, and the Department of Religious Studies.

The 23rd Annual Meyerhoff Program

"Microhistory and Global History"

Carlo Ginzburg (UCLA) and **Francesca Trivellato** (Princeton University). Cosponsored by the Center for Italian Studies, the History Department, Italian Studies Program, and the Kislak Center for Special Collections. *Postponed until Spring 2021, because of the pandemic.*



(l to r) Michael Strassfeld, Beth Wenger, and Jayne Guberman panelists at the Silvers Visiting Scholar Program, February 13, 2020. [Not pictured: Riv-Ellen Prell].



(l to r) Ilan Stavans with Kathryn Hellerstein at Alexander Colloquium, October 29, 2019.

Cultural Programs

KUTCHIN SEMINAR SERIES

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

"Changing Minds: Geographic Discoveries and New Worlds through the Eyes of a Renaissance Jewish Scholar," with **Fabrizio Lelli** (University of Salento, Lecce, Italy), cosponsored by the Schoenberg Institute for Manuscript Studies, and the Herbert D. Katz Center Distinguished Fellow's Lecture in Jewish Manuscript Studies on September 10, 2019.

"Magic and Matrimony in Late Antique Society," **Simcha Gross** (Near Eastern Languages and Culture, University of Pennsylvania), cosponsored by Philadelphia Seminar on Christian Origins on September 12, 2019.

"A Constant State of Emergency: The Politics of Trauma on the Border of Israel and Gaza," with **Keren Friedman-Peleg** (College of Management Academic Studies, and Israel Institute Visiting Fellow), cosponsored by the Middle East Center and the Hebert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies on September 25, 2019.

Acclaimed Israeli writer **Judith Katzir**, in conversation with **Nili Gold**, Professor of Modern Hebrew, Language and Literature, University of Pennsylvania, on the literary innovations brought by the wave of female authors in the 1980s and 1990s and women authors, cosponsored by Middle East Center, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations on October 3, 2019.



Judith Katzir, speaking to large audience of mostly Penn undergraduates, October 3, 2019.

Translator/translation theorist, **Lawrence Venuti** (Temple University), in public conversation with **Emily Wilson**, Chair of Comparative Literature, University of Pennsylvania), and also gave a lecture on "Traduttore Traditore: The Instrumentalism of Conventional Wisdom," cosponsored by the Graduate Program in Comparative Literature and Literary Theory, the Center for Italian Studies, the Department of English, and the Department of Classical Studies on October 23, 2019.

"Total Devastation: The Forgotten Mass Destruction of Jewish Homes During Kristallnacht 1938," with **Wolf Gruner** (University of Southern California, Los Angeles), cosponsored by the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, and the Hebert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies on November 14, 2019.



(l to r) Simon Richter, Wolf Gruner, Kathryn Hellerstein, Steve Weitzman, November 14, 2019.

"On Commentary: Philosophical and Literary Genealogies," a public colloquium with various speakers, cosponsored by the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, the Department of Classical Studies, the Program in Comparative Literature and Literary Theory, Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst, the Department of English, and the Provost's Office on December 12-13, 2019.

"Israeli National Security: A New Strategy for an Era of Change," with **Charles Freilich** (New York University, former Israeli deputy national security adviser), with comments by **Nathaniel Shils** (Penn Ph.D. student), cosponsored by the Department of Political Science, the Christopher Browne Center for International Politics, the Middle East Center, and the Russian and East European Studies on January 30, 2020.

Cultural Programs

KUTCHIN SEMINAR SERIES

Dramatic Reading with Israeli actor and director, **Roy Horowitz**, cosponsored by the Middle East Center and the Department of Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations on February 4, 2020.

"Egypt's Jews, 1880-1950: Identity, Community, and Public Space," with **Alon Tam** (University of Pennsylvania, and Katz Fellow), cosponsored by the Middle East Center on February 5, 2020.

"Talmudic Law: The Biblical Struggle for Social Justice: New Perspectives," with **Benjamin Porat**, Penn Law's 2019-2020 Gruss Visiting Professor of Law, Vice Dean and Director of the Israel Matz Institute for Jewish Law, Joseph H. and Belle Braun Senior Lectureship in Law, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, cosponsored by the Caroine Zelaznik Gruss and Joseph S. Gruss Lecture in Talmudic Civil Law on February 6, 2020.

"Dual Allegiances in America: Christian, Jewish & Muslim Perspectives," with featured panelists: **Beth Wenger** (University of Pennsylvania), **Michael Breidenbach** (University of Pennsylvania, and Faculty Fellow at Collegium Institute), **Adnan Zulfiqar** (Rutgers Law School), and **Rogers Smith** (University of Pennsylvania), cosponsored by the Program for Research on Religion and Urban Civil Society, and the Collegium Institute on February 12, 2020.



(l to r, back row) Isabel Cranz, Roy Horowitz, Ibrahim Miari, Joseph Benatov, (l to r, front row) Debra Baer Mozes, Ronit Engel, and Kathryn Hellerstein, February 4, 2020.

"Movement, Mobility, and the Journey: Ancient Actions and Perspectives," a Graduate Student conference with various speakers, cosponsored by the Center for Ancient Studies on February 28-29, 2020.

Queer Expectations: A Genealogy of Jewish Women's Poetry," with **Zohar Weiman-Kelman** (Ben-Gurion University), cosponsored by Department of Germanic Languages & Literatures, and the Theorizing Colloquium Series of the Program in Comparative Literature and Literary Theory on March 2, 2020.

"New Media Middle East Film Festival 2020," cosponsored by the Middle East Center, Cinema & Media Studies, and the Department of Near Eastern Languages & Civilization on March 16-20, 2020, *but cancelled because of the pandemic*.

"Infidelities: New Directions in Armenian Studies," a Graduate Student conference with various speakers, cosponsored by the Middle East Center, the Department of English, the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Cinema & Media Studies; Russian and Eastern European Studies; Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies; the Department of the History of Art; Annenberg Center for Advanced Research in Global Communication, the Program in Comparative Literature and Literary Theory, Lauder Institute, Wolf Humanities Center, Ann Matter, SASgov; and the University Research Foundation Award on March 27- March 28, 2020, *but cancelled because of the pandemic*.

20th Annual Manfred L. Lehmann Memorial Master Workshop on the History of the Jewish Book: "Rereading the Whole Jewish Book" with **David Stern** (Harvard University & Lehmann Workshop Founding Director); and "Digital Technology and the Jewish Book: New Horizons" with **Moshe Koppel** (Bar Ilan University), **Michelle Chesner** (Columbia University), and **Josh Teplitsky** (Stony Brook University), cosponsored by Penn Libraries and the Hebert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies on May 10-11, 2020, *but postponed because of the pandemic*.

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, aided by our vast 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 the Law, Year 1: Rethinking Premodern Jewish Legal Cultures

In 2021–2022, the fellowship will support scholars working on law as a dynamic feature of Jewish culture in premodern contexts, spanning from antiquity to the eighteenth century. This is the first of two consecutive fellowship years devoted to exploring the connections between Jewish studies and legal thought, culture, and practice.

2020–2021: America's Jewish Questions

This fellowship year, scholars at the Katz Center are delving into some of the most pressing debates within US history and Jewish history and are examining vital questions shaping Jewish cultural studies, literary theory, and social scientific inquiry. Fellows are directing their attention to the diversity of Jewish practices, politics, and peoples, at home and abroad, and are reconsidering 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 Comm. College, CUNY
Kathryn Hellerstein | University of Pennsylvania
Melissa R. Klapper | Rowan University
Markus Krah | 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

This year's short-term and adjunct fellows are: **Galeet Dardashti, Rebecca A. Kobrin, Michal Kravel-Tovi, Toni Pitock, Annie Polland, Uzi Rebhun, Mirjam Thulin, Rachel Werczberger, and Shira Wolosky.**

Katz Center

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2019–2020

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

During the 2019–2020 fellowship year, the Katz Center focused on the most formative and intimate of contexts within Jewish life: the home. As an object of inquiry, the home has not one door, but many. Fellows looked into the Jewish home across many different thresholds and looked back out from the home into the broader world.

Collectively, the research represented fields including archaeology, architectural history, anthropology, the study of photography, and legal studies, in addition to historical and textual studies.

2019–2020 Fellows List

Viola Alianov-Rautenberg | Institute for the History of German Jewry, Berlin

Ofer Ashkenazi | Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Leora Auslander | University of Chicago

Ela Bauer | Kibbutzim College, Tel Aviv

Melissa S. Cradic | Badè Museum of Biblical Archaeology, Pacific School of Religion

Sigal Davidi | Tel Aviv University

Federica Francesconi | University at Albany, SUNY

Miriam Frenkel | Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Keren Friedman-Peleg | College of Management Academic Studies, Israel

Gregg E. Gardner | University of British Columbia

Pratima Gopalakrishnan | Yale University

Claris Harbon | McGill University

Anna Kushkova | University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Cecile E. Kuznitz | Bard College

Marjorie Lehman | Jewish Theological Seminary

Nathanael Riemer | University of Potsdam

Jeffrey Shandler | Rutgers University

Katherine Sorrels | University of Cincinnati

Joshua Teplitsky | Stony Brook University

Jacqueline Vayntrub | Yale University

Liliane Weissberg | University of Pennsylvania

In addition, we welcomed short-term and adjunct fellows:

Yonatan Adler, Cornelia Aust,

Anat Feinberg, David Zvi

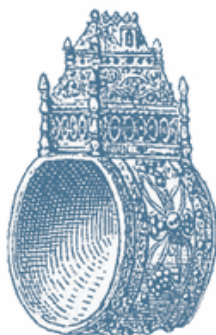
Kalman, Ephraim Kanarfogel,

Yael Landman, Sharon Musher,

Vanessa Ochs, Ilana Pardes,

Shalom Sabar, Alon Tam, and

Shlomo Zuckier.



December Symposium

In this day-long workshop, "Sites of Passage: Domestic Materials in Jewish Contexts," fellows and invited speakers shared provocative case-studies built around resonant domestic objects—the door, the cabinet, and the bed—drawn from a range of geographies and historical periods. The format of the day emphasized the generative potential of juxtaposition and modeled new approaches to Jewish history and culture through the lens of the home. In addition to speakers from among our fellowship cohort, the day was enriched by the participation of **Annette Aronowicz** (Franklin and Marshall College), **Jordan Katz** (Columbia University), **Laura Levitt** (Temple University), **Chava Weissler** (Lehigh University), and members of Penn's own faculty: **Reyhan Durmaz**, **Simcha Gross**, **Sophie Debiasi Hochhäusl**, **Donovan Schaefer**, **Peter Stallybrass**, and **Mantha Zarmakoupi**.



From "Sites of Passage: Domestic Materials in Jewish Contexts," the Katz Center's 2019 December Symposium, a panel featuring (from left): Reyhan Durmaz, Jeffrey Shandler, Chava Weissler, Jordan Katz, and Annette Aronowicz.

23rd Annual Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Lecture

The scheduled Meyerhoff Lecture, "Microhistory and Global History"—a conversation between historians **Carlo Ginzburg** and **Francesca Trivellato**—was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

26th Annual Gruss Colloquium in Judaic Studies

Despite much planning by the fellows and staff and having a finalized program that included many visiting scholars, the Gruss Colloquium, or "The Jewish Home: Boundaries, Domesticity, and Power" (April 26–27, 2020), also fell victim to the ravages of the pandemic.

Leora Auslander, **Federica Francesconi**, and **Joshua Teplitsky** will edit a volume showcasing some of the best work produced during the 2019–2020 academic year.

Katz Center

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION



A public program, "The Histories (Le Mancenillier)." Cole Akers interviewing, David Hartt (right).

For the Local Community

Each year, in order to bring Jewish studies to wider audiences, the Katz Center organizes outreach programs in partnership with host institutions throughout the Philadelphia area. In 2019–2020, in connection with the fellowship theme, these programs focused on experiences of and reflections on aspects of Jewish houses, sense of home, and domestic life, past and present.

Highlights of the series included:

- Four programs, in conjunction with an art installation and a movie screening, on Jewish architects and architecture in the Philadelphia area, including Louis Kahn, Louis Magaziner, and Frank Lloyd Wright. Speakers included **David Hartt** (Penn).
- A lecture by **Jeffrey Shandler** (Rutgers University) on uses and re-imaginings of the ketubah.
- Three mini-courses designed to bring the college seminar experience to adult learners: **Alon Tam** (UPenn) taught about the history of Middle Eastern Jews in Israel, **Shalom Sabar** (Hebrew University of Jerusalem) taught about at-home magical rituals related to childbirth among pre-modern Jews, and **Viola Alianov-Rautenberg** (Institute for the History of German Jewry) taught about German immigrants to pre-state Israel.
- Many of the events lined up for the spring semester were cancelled due to Covid-19, but we were able to convert the mini-courses into an online format to reach students near and far.
- A number of fellows also taught in local congregations and similar settings as part of our community partnership program, bringing speakers to local communities.

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 product of a collaboration between the Katz Center and Clal, the National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership. 2019–2020 was its fifth year enlisting influential voices in the Jewish world in an effort to translate and disseminate Jewish studies scholarship beyond the academy. Rabbinic participants drawn from diverse American Jewish communities came to the Katz Center three times over the course of the year to learn from fellows and invited scholars, including **Joshua Teplitsky** (Stony Brook University) on Jewish domestic spaces in early modern Europe, **Vanessa Ochs** (University of Virginia) on contemporary home-based Jewish rituals, **Cecile E. Kuznitz** (Bard College) on Jewish affordable housing projects in twentieth-century Eastern Europe, and **Sigal Davidi** (Tel Aviv University) on female architects in pre-state Israel. Together, the rabbis and Katz Center fellows explored how these and other research themes relate to the needs and interests of contemporary American Jews.

For Graduate Students

For six years, the Katz Center has worked collaboratively with the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School for Advanced Studies in the Humanities at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem to offer a weeklong intensive course—a 'summer school'—for graduate students in Jewish studies. After two summers during 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 directorship of **Steven Weitzman** (Katz Center/UPenn), **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, that aims to pair a distinguished scholar with one of our medieval manuscript holdings. The scholar visits Penn to work with materials, 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 2019–2020 SIMS-Katz fellow was Professor **Fabrizio Lelli** (University of Salento, Lecce, Italy), who focused on Penn's manuscript copy of Abraham ben Mordecai Farissol's *Iggeret orhot 'olam* [LJS 499] (Italy, after 1525). His video mini-course, *Changing Minds: Geographic Discoveries and New Worlds through the Eyes of a Renaissance Jewish Scholar*, situates this extraordinary work of geography and ethnography in the literary, artistic, political, and scientific context of the Northern Italian Renaissance. The course is available to all, and for free, on edX.org.

Be sure to watch the wonderful online minicourses featuring the first two fellows in this initiative:

- Professor **Y. Tzvi Langermann** (Bar-Ilan University), SIMS-Katz fellow in 2015–2016, opened up the world of medieval Jewish medicine through his analysis of a fifteenth-century Sicilian medical miscellany (UPenn MS Codex 1649). You can find *The History of Medieval Medicine through Jewish Manuscripts* on edX.org.
- And in 2016–2017 Professor **Alessandro Guetta** (Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales, Paris) based his online course, *The*

Tabernacle in Word & Image: An Italian Jewish Manuscript Revealed, on Malkiel Ashkenazi's *Tavnit ha-mishkan* and *Hanukat ha-bayit* (CAJS Rar Ms 460), composed in 17th-century Mantua. Guetta showed how Jews in Renaissance Italy found ways to both participate in the revolution in Italian architecture and recover suppressed talmudic traditions through this heavily illustrated exploration of Jews' own lost architectural past.



2019-2020
SIMS-Katz
fellow,
Fabrizio
Lelli

Two other mini-courses resulting from the SIMS-Katz fellowship are in production and will be available soon: Professor **Judith Olszowy-Schlanger** (École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris/Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies), will teach a prolegomena to the paleography of medieval manuscripts. Professor Dr. **Elisabeth Hollender** (Seminar für Judaistik, Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität) will look closely at Penn's *Maḥzor minhag Ashkenaz le-Yamim ha-nora'im ule-Sukot* (LKCAJS Rar Ms 382), a festival prayer book produced in late 13th- or early 14th-century Ashkenaz. Hollender will analyze the physical object, page layout, and the volume's many scars to tell a story about the liturgical life of one community through many generations, beginning in medieval Germany.

130 YEARS OF 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 marks *JQR*'s 110th year in continuous publication on American soil, and 130th since the founding of the journal in England. We marked the year with a special retrospective forum in the fall 2020 issue. We invited six scholars—**Elisheva Baumgarten**, **Jonathan Decter**, **Eve Krakowski**, **Jessica Marglin**, **Benjamin Sommer**, and **Irene Zwiep**—to scour our earliest numbers to see what the scholarship there, 130 years ago, revealed about their own fields. The results were at once surprising, thought-provoking, and great fun to read.

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.

Library News

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 University Libraries system under the management of **Arthur Kiron, Schottenstein-Jesselson Curator of Judaica Collections**.

This past academic year, however, was a time of significant disruption for our Libraries' Judaica operations. The COVID-19 shutdown in March of 2020 resulted in the closing of all physical Library operations and the transition to remote work. While Library facilities remain closed to the public, Libraries' staff continue to provide remote services and e-resources; circulation of some physical collections has resumed with new safety measures in place.

Prior to the shutdown, the full-time staff of the Library at the Katz Center during the last academic year – **Dr. Bruce Nielsen**, Judaica Public Services Librarian and Archivist; **Smadar Shtuhl**, who handles Judaica acquisitions and provides bibliographical support to the Curator, and **Josef Gulka G'70**, who supervises circulation, as well as **Lido Giovacchini**, our part-time Library Assistant – provided an exceptionally high level of service, both in terms of quantity and quality. Through March of 2020, Penn's Judaica staff responded to more than 400 public service contacts, paged and shelved over 3,100 circulating volumes, administered the consultation of over 400 rare items, delivered dozens of tours of the rare book room at Library at the Katz Center, and filled hundreds of Faculty Express, Inter-Campus, Borrow-Direct and Inter-Library Loan (ILL) transactions.

BREAKING NEWS!

We are delighted to announce that **Ilan Stavans**, of Amherst College, the internationally known scholar, writer, editor, translator, playwright, cultural critic, publisher, teacher, lexicographer, columnist, journalist, travel writer, biographer, actor, TV and radio host, has donated to the Penn Libraries the **Ilan Stavans Collection of Jewish Latin American History, Culture, and Literature**. The Stavans collection, the largest private assemblage of its kind, includes manuscripts, incunabula, rare books, special and signed editions, dictionaries, plays, posters, maps, photographs, letters, videos, radio, TV, music, and other material connected with the Jewish communities of Latin America (including Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, Colombia, Chile, Venezuela, Peru, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Panama, and Guatemala) from the colonial period to the present. Among the languages represented in the collection are Spanish, Yiddish, Ladino, Hebrew, English, German, Polish, and Russian. Stavans' typed and email correspondence consists of approximately 30,000 items; he also amassed a substantial collection of Yiddish items from Latin America (2,000 items) and the collection holds around 200 of his public television and radio one-hour interviews.



The Titanic Disaster: Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society Monthly Report - In Memoriam With the names of the drowned Jewish passengers. New York: April 1912, 6pp. Acquired thanks to the Busch, Goldstein-Gensler, Margolies, and Rare Judaica Endowed funds.

Library News

NEW JUDAICA COLLECTION GIFTS AND ACQUISITIONS

David M. Goldenberg, the former President of the Dropsie College for Hebrew and Cognate Learning, the editor of the *Jewish Quarterly Review*, and the leading intellectual force who transformed the College into the Annenberg Research Institute, today known as the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at Penn, has donated his personal and administrative papers collection. The **David M. Goldenberg Papers** not only cover his academic career but also document how Goldenberg saved the institution he led from financial and physical ruin. In the aftermath of the November 9, 1981 arson attack, deliberately set on the 43rd anniversary of Kristallnacht, which destroyed a large part of the College's library, Goldenberg brought the institution back to life and guided it towards a new purpose as a post-graduate institute of academic Judaic Studies. The Goldenberg collection includes 19 manuscript boxes and 1 flat box of photographs, comprising his administrative and personal papers spanning the years 1981 to 2003, as well as additional boxes of his research files.

Robert Lehman and **Alexander Weil** donated five binders containing manuscript materials, typewritten sheets (some oversized), and photo documentation of research undertaken by Rabbi I. Harold Sharfman for his study of Rabbi Abraham Rice (published as *The First Rabbi: Origins of Conflict Between Orthodox and Reform: Jewish Polemic Warfare In Pre-Civil War America: a Biographical History*. Malibu, Calif.: J. Simon, Pangloss Press, 1988). Many of the photos are of original documents, some of which may no longer be locatable today. At least one of the binders of materials is titled "The Sermons and Correspondence of Rabbi Abraham Rice," which was intended for a supplementary volume planned for publication but never realized. The binders also contain assorted materials related to the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the death of R. Abraham Rice, which involved a ceremony and a re-instatement of Rabbi Rice's gravesite in Baltimore.

Paul D. Neuwirth has made a series of gifts supporting the study of Israeli numismatics. **The Paul D. Neuwirth Collection of Israel Medals** consists of four distinct groups of medals issued by the State of Israel between the years 1959 and 2019: Medals issued by the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation (IGCMC) listed by year minted or issued, and by subject with similar subjects grouped together; Israel Official Award Medals issued by the IGCMC as ordered by the State Government, municipal and public bodies to commemorate events, to mark jubilees, and to award members, employees and guests; IGCMC Greeting Tokens in the form of medals issued to subscribers since 1966; American-Israel Numismatic Association (AINA) Greeting Tokens minted by the IGCMC for the AINA. These medals honor and memorialize a vast array of topics, providing insight into what the government of Israel thought merited such recognition during these past six decades and shedding light on the market of collectors to whom these medals, in part, were directed. We are truly grateful for these fascinating primary source materials that support Israel Studies and contemporary culture.

In the spirit of these difficult times, we would like to highlight two special acquisitions that reflect the possibility of overcoming trauma and rebuilding lives. Thanks to the **Mark S. Zucker Judaica Endowment**, we acquired the first edition of Viktor Frankl's *Trotzdem Ja Zum Leben Sagen* ["Say yes to Life"] (Vienna: Franz Deuticke Verlag, 1946). This German work, translated later into English as *Man's Search for Meaning*, is the first published version of three lectures delivered shortly after the liberation by the founder of logotherapy. Here, Frankl affirms, as the German title tells, the urgent call to "Say yes to life anyway," derived from the chorus of the Buchenwald song written by Austrian librettist and concentration camp prisoner Fritz Löhner-Beda, who was killed in 1942.

Another remarkable post-war document of survival and resilience purchased thanks to the **Zucker Endowment** is a photograph album of a Holocaust survivor who spent time in several DP camps in Slovenia or Germany during the years 1946-1948 and later immigrated to Israel. Of the 36 small photographs found, there are photographs of a group waving a flag that reads "Kibbutz," two photographs that were taken in Bergen-Belsen, a photograph in which a sign that reads "Control Commission for Germany, Palestine Transit Camp" is seen, photographs from the Windisch-Laibach camp (Slovenia). Possibly, several other photographs taken in DP camps.

First edition
of Viktor
Frankl's
*Trotzdem Ja
Zum Leben
Sagen* ["Say
yes to Life"]
(Vienna: Franz
Deuticke
Verlag, 1946).
Acquired
thanks to the
Mark S.
Zucker
Judaica
Endowment.



Library News

THANKS TO A SPECTACULAR GIFT FROM AN ANONYMOUS
BENEFACTOR, PENN'S JUDAICA COLLECTIONS WERE ABLE TO
ACQUIRE AT THE SOTHEBY'S JUDAICA AUCTION OF THE ARTHUR
AND GITEL MARX COLLECTION IN NOVEMBER 2019,
THE FOLLOWING ICONIC WORKS:

Seder Birkat ha-mazon (Frankfurt an der Oder: [Johann David] Grillo, ca. 1746-1766): Grace after meal, with Passover haggadah, and other texts with Yiddish translation.

Jacob Emden. *Sefer ha-shimush* (Altona: n.p., 1758-[ca.. 1762]): a provocatively illustrated anti-Sabbatean polemic by one of the leading Ashkenazic religious authorities of 18th century German lands.

Jacob ben Isaac Rabbino, of Janova. *Tsenerene* (Sulzbach: S. Arnstein und Sohne, 1826): an illustrated Yiddish paraphrase of the Pentateuch, liturgical scrolls, and haftaroth, Toviyah Katz (ha-Kohen). *Helek rishon mi-Sefer ha-'olamot o Ma'a'seh Toviyah* (Venice: Bragadini, 1707): an encyclopedic work of science, medicine, law, and theology.

Mahzor (High holiday prayer book) according to the Polish rite (Weckelsdorf: Sons of Yehudah Bak, 1680): extremely rare volume of the only book, with distinctive typography, printed in this small Bohemian town.

Manuscript in the hand of Moses Gomes de Mesquita. Collection of Prayers and Formularies for the use of the Spanish and Portuguese Jewish community of London, ca. 1746.

Manuscript in the hand of Yekutiel Sofer. Liturgy for the Counting of the Omer (Spring harvest) days and the Blessings for the New Moon. Amsterdam, 1766.

Tanuji, Ishmael, ha-Kohen. *Sefer ha-zikaron: piske halakhot* (Ferrara: Avraham ibn Usque, 1555), comprehensive, systematic presentation of Talmudic laws still en force by one of the leading Sephardic religious authorities in 16th century Ottoman Tunisia, and printed in Ferrara by the Portuguese converso Abraham ibn Usque, bearing his famous printer's mark on the title page.



Sefer shimush by Ya'akov Emden, published in Altona by the author between 1758 and ca. 1762. Rare group of searing essays and wood-cut illustrated anti-Sabbatian polemics. From the library of Abraham (Arthur) Marx, purchased at the Sotheby's auction of the Arthur and Gitel Marx collection, thanks to an anonymous gift.

Library News

DIGITAL JUDAICA AT THE PENN LIBRARIES

Penn Judaica Digital Humanities:

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

Our Judaica DH coordinator, **Emily Esten**, played a major role administering our institutional partnerships with the **Zooniverse**, **Princeton University**, **Oxford University**, **Cambridge University**, **Manchester University**, and **Haifa University**. Over the summer of 2020, amidst the pandemic, she developed and launched the digital 2nd edition of **Robert Singerman's Judaica Americana** (JA2) in partnership with Robert Singerman who continues to provide invaluable advice and assistance to the project. JA2 may be accessed and searched in Penn's Scholarly Commons Repository:

https://repository.upenn.edu/judaica_americana/

New Kaplan Collection Website and Colenda

Ingestion: <https://kaplan.exhibits.library.upenn.edu/> and

<https://kaplan.exhibits.library.upenn.edu/accessing>

This year marked a signal achievement in the accessioning, digitization, and ingestion into Colenda, the Penn Libraries' digital image repository, of the **Arnold and Deanne Kaplan Collection of early American Judaica**. The launch of the new website in the Fall of 2019 was timed to coincide with Arnold Kaplan's 80th birthday. Digitization Specialist **Dennis Mullen** designed the new Kaplan Collection website, and **Arthur Kiron**, the Schottenstein-Jesselson Curator, wrote the content. The site serves as a public portal to the Kaplan collection and enhances discovery by linking to Colenda.

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

Working with **Lynn Ransom** at SIMS and **Natalie Dohrmann**, Associate Director of the Katz Center, **Arthur Kiron** helped to coordinate the fifth SIMS-Katz manuscript research fellowship, in partnership with **Steven Weitzman**, Director of the Katz Center, **William Noel**, former Director of the Kislak Center and SIMS, and **Kathryn Hellerstein**, the Director of Penn's Jewish Studies Program. In the Fall of 2019, we hosted Prof. **Fabrizio Lelli**, a former Katz Fellow, and the Associate Professor of Hebrew Language and Literature at the University of Salento (Lecce, Italy), to research our LJS 499 manuscript, Abraham ben Mordecai Farissol's 16th century geographical treatise, *Igeret orhot 'olam* (LJS 499; ca. 1524). The treatise is the first modern Hebrew work on geography and contains the first Hebrew text to mention by name the New World ('olam hadash). As part of the program, Lelli delivered a MOOC and gave a public lecture, "Changing Minds: Geographic Discoveries and New Worlds through the Eyes of a Renaissance Jewish Scholar," cosponsored by Penn's Jewish Studies Program.

Digital Exhibitions:

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

Working in partnership with the Katz Center Fellows and with **Leslie Vallhonrat** from the Libraries' Web Unit, we produced our 21st annual online exhibit. This year's topic is "The Jewish Home: Dwelling on the Domestic, the Familial, and the Lived-In":

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



Wedding ring surmounted by a symbolic house, Italy, 17th century. Inscribed in Hebrew inside the band: "mazel tov." The Stieglitz Collection of the Israel Museum, Jerusalem.

Library News

IN MEMORIAM



We mourn the passing of **Ione Apfelbaum Strauss, CW'54, PAR'82**, and mother of Penn Libraries volunteer **Louise A. Strauss, C'82**. A University Trustee and pioneering figure in Penn's institutional history, she was the first woman to serve as the president of Penn's alumni association and the first woman to serve as the chair of the Board of Overseers of the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies. She endowed the Katz Center's Louis Apfelbaum and Hortense Braunstein Apfelbaum Fellowship in memory of her parents and the Erika A. Strauss Teaching Fellowship in memory of her late daughter. Ione was a truly special person, a woman of self-effacing modesty and inner strength who made signal contributions to the University and a lasting impression on all who had the privilege of being in her presence. She will be greatly missed. We extend our deepest sympathies to Louise, her family and friends.



Cardos, Isaac (Fernando), *Las Excelencias de los Hebreos* ["The Excellences of the Hebrews"] (Amsterdam: David de Castro Tartas 1679). The Valmadonna Library copy. Purchased at the Kestenbaum and Company auction thanks to the Elis and Ruth Douer Endowment for Sephardic Studies.



Hermes 2000 Hebrew typewriter.
Photo credit: Kathryn Hellerstein.

In Appreciation

JULY 1, 2019 – JUNE 30, 2020

LIBRARY DONORS

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 a former Katz Center Fellow]:

Alex Ashendorf
Shoshana B. Akabas, C'14
Anat Bar-Cohen
*Dan and *Batsheva Ben-Amos
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*Ilana Pardes
Eleanor Penniman
Kenneth E. Pinczower
Rare Judaica Acquisitions Endowment
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Kenneth Schoen
Robert Singerman
Ilan Stavans
Yonah Betzalel Stefansky
Jane K. Segal, GD'83
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Pola Rubin
Louise A. Strauss, C'82
Yermiyahu Ahron Taub
Alexander Weil
Herbert L. Weiner
Sheila Weiner
Albert J. and Ele Wood Endowment
Dan Wyman
Mark S. Zucker, C'83, W'83, parent

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

JEWISH STUDIES PROGRAM DONORS

We would like to thank the following people for their generous gifts and donations to the Jewish Studies Program during the past academic year:

Anonymous
Adam T. Brenner, W'01
Gregory F. Brenner, W'99
Raymond B. and Ruth Brenner, parents
Robert J. Chalfin, W'78, WG'78, and Deborah Adler Chalfin, parents, *in honor of James Schwartz's birthday*
Cynthia Charnock, *in memory of Julia Goldin*
The late Melvin Kutchin, C'50
Max and Sunny Howard Memorial Foundation
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Special Feature

RETIREMENTS AFTER A QUARTER CENTURY OF TEACHING AT PENN



RONIT ENGEL

Ronit Engel thrived in her roles at Penn as Senior Lecturer in Foreign Languages, Coordinator of the Modern Hebrew Language Program in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, and Undergraduate Director of the Jewish Studies Program.

With degrees in Bible, Hebrew literature, Hebrew language, and Education from Tel Aviv University, she began her teaching career at the prestigious Lycee Alliance Israelite Universelle in Ramat Aviv before joining the faculty of Tel Aviv University's unit for Hebrew language instruction. While in Israel, she developed special programs to prepare immigrant physicists and medical students to undertake advanced study in Hebrew. She also led special training seminars for teachers and directors in Israeli *ulpanim* on behalf of Israel's Ministry of Education.

In the United States, Engel inaugurated the program in Hebrew language instruction at Franklin and Marshall College. She came to Penn in 1995 as a special consultant charged with revamping the Modern Hebrew Language Program. One year later, she became Program Coordinator, introducing innovations that gained Penn recognition as a leader in Hebrew language instruction in North America. The program's reputation has brought her invitations to consult at universities as close as Princeton and McGill and as far as Warsaw and Kyoto.

Engel's interest in foreign language pedagogy made her an active member of the Penn Language Center, the National Association of Professors of Hebrew, and SCRIPT (the Israel Association for Academic Literacy). Each summer, she takes part in curriculum development seminars at Tel Aviv University and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, bringing back the latest developments in instruction to her Penn classroom.



DAVID RUDERMAN

At the time of his retirement from Penn, David B. Ruderman was the Joseph Meyerhoff Professor of Modern Jewish History. He was also the Ella Darivoff Director of the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania for twenty years, from 1994 to 2014.

He is the author of many books, including *The World of a Renaissance Jew: The Life and Thought of Abraham b. Mordecai Farissol*, for which he received the National Jewish Book Award in history in 1982; *Kabbalah, Magic, and Science: The Cultural Universe of a Sixteenth-Century Jewish Physician*, and *A Valley of Vision: The Heavenly Journey of Abraham Ben Hananiah Yagel*. His latest book is *A Best-Selling Hebrew Book of the Modern Era: The Book of the Covenant of Pinḥas Hurwitz and its Remarkable Legacy*. He has produced two courses on Jewish history for the Great Courses/ Teaching Company on both medieval and modern Jewish history.

Ruderman was educated at the City College of New York, the Teacher's Institute of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, and Columbia University. He received his rabbinical degree from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York in 1971, and his Ph.D. in Jewish History from the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, in 1975. Prior to coming to Penn, he held the Frederick P. Rose Chair of Jewish History at Yale University (1983-94) and the Louis L. Kaplan Chair of Jewish Historical Studies at the University of Maryland, College Park (1974-83), where he was instrumental in establishing both institutions' Judaic Studies programs.

In 2001, the National Foundation for Jewish Culture honored him with its lifetime achievement award for his work in Jewish history, and in 2014, thirty-one of his colleagues and former students presented him with *Jewish Culture in Early Modern Europe: Essays in Honor of David B. Ruderman*.

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Collection of Photographs by Sam Frank of Immigration and Transit Camps in Israel, Early 1950s, depicting immigrants from Yemen (including numerous photographs of Habbani Jews), Iraq, India, Uzbekistan, Romania and elsewhere, in the transit camps of Tira, Bnei Zion, Tel Mond, Nahariya, Khalsa (Kiryat Shemonah), Ein Shemer, Even Yehuda, Beersheba and Kisolon, and in housing complexes for immigrants in Acre and Beersheba. Purchased at the Kedem auction house thanks to the support of Stephan Loewentheil.