

# Jewish Studies @ PENN

The Jewish Studies Annual Newsletter

Fall 2010

**Greetings**

*Director of the Jewish Studies Program*  
*Director of the Katz Center*  
Page 2



**Jewish Studies Program News**

*About our Students*  
*Research Awards*  
*Internships*  
NMAJH  
*Jewish Languages*  
*Kedma*  
*Arrivals/Departures*  
*Faculty Awards*  
Page 4

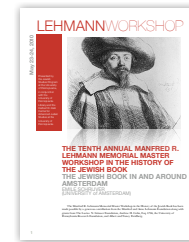


**Faculty News**  
Page 7

**Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies**  
Page 8

**2009–2010 Special Events and Programs**  
*Silvers Scholar*  
*Alexander Colloquium*  
*Kutchin Seminars*  
Page 10

**Penn's Judaica Library News**  
Page 12

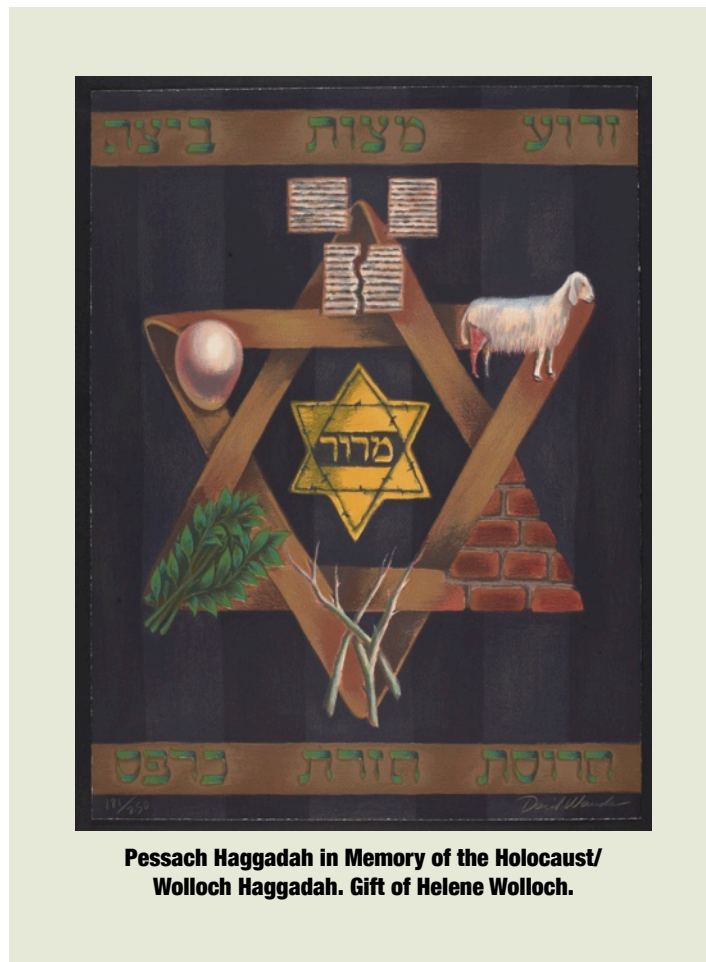


**Graduate Students**  
*Falk Fellowship*  
*Judah Goldin Seminars*  
*Student News*  
*Alumni News*  
Page 15

**Recent Gifts**  
Page 20

## Jewish Studies at the University of Pennsylvania

Penn, through its Jewish Studies Program and the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, offers one of the most comprehensive programs in Jewish Studies in America. The Jewish Studies Program (JSP) is an interdisciplinary academic group with twenty-one faculty members from eight departments that coordinates all courses relating to Jewish Studies in the university, as well as undergraduate majors and minors and graduate programs in different departments. JSP also sponsors many events, including two endowed lectureships and the Kutchin Faculty Seminars. The Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies (Katz Center) is a post-doctoral research institute that annually brings eighteen to twenty-five



**Pessach Haggadah in Memory of the Holocaust/  
Wolloch Haggadah. Gift of Helene Wolloch.**

distinguished scholars to Penn as fellows to pursue scholarly research on selected themes. These fellows are selected from the finest and most prominent Judaic scholars in the world. Every year several Katz Center fellows teach courses at Penn, and both graduate students and University faculty participate in the Katz Center's weekly seminars. The Katz Center is also home to one of America's greatest research libraries in Judaica and Hebraica and includes a Genizah collection, many manuscripts, and early printings. Together the Jewish Studies Program and the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies make Penn one of the most rich and exciting communities for Jewish scholarship and intellectual life in the world.



## GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR,

### Jewish Studies Program

This has been a wonderful year of activity in the Jewish Studies Program. Our program defines itself as an integral part of the humanities at Penn, both in the courses that we offer and in our extracurricular activities. A year in the life of Jewish Studies at Penn is punctuated by lectures delivered by distinguished visiting scholars, programs organized by our students, and a host of seminars, colloquia and social occasions that bring different groups together across campus.

Our engagement across disciplines was in full display last March when we joined together with the Middle East Center, and many other Penn schools and departments, to sponsor a groundbreaking conference that explored issues of gender in Judaism and Islam. The conference brought together leading scholars, from a variety of disciplines, who work in Jewish and Islamic culture. The two fields share a number of common themes, and our participants addressed a diverse range of topics from gendered readings of traditional texts, to issues of biology, science and sexuality, to feminist challenges to Muslim and Jewish traditions. During this event, distinguished professors from across the country shared new scholarship and the Penn community learned about the many intersections and comparative dimensions of these two ancient traditions. Fostering this kind of cross-cultural dialogue and intellectual exchange remains a primary mission of Jewish Studies at Penn, and we hope to organize more events like this in the coming years. If you would like to listen to the conference proceedings, please go to [http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/jwst/news\\_events.htm](http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/jwst/news_events.htm)

We have many exciting programs planned for the 2010-2011 academic year, including the Silvers Scholars program, which will be organized as a roundtable discussion on the topic of "The Challenge of Reading the Bible Today." In this roundtable, Jewish, Catholic and Protestant Bible scholars will engage in a discussion about balancing

critical and scholarly readings of the text with faith traditions. This year's Alexander Colloquium will also consist of a dialogue among scholars about the role that the Holocaust plays in the teaching and narration of modern Jewish history. You will read more details about these provocative programs inside this newsletter. Please also visit our website (<http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/jwst/>) to find our full calendar of events each year and feel free join us anytime.

The Jewish Studies Program draws its strength from the synergy of our efforts—from the scholars who come to Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies each year, to the individualized research opportunities we offer our students, from the energy of our faculty and their enthusiasm for teaching, to the lectures, discussions and conferences that take place outside the classroom walls.

Especially during these difficult economic times, the vitality of Penn's Jewish Studies Program depends on the generosity of our dedicated supporters. I hope that you will join our community and I welcome you to contact me and to become a part of our program in the coming year.

*Beth S. Wenger*  
Associate Professor of History  
Director, Jewish Studies Program

#### Cover image caption continued:

The "Pessach Haggadah in Memory of the Holocaust," also known as the "Wolloch Haggadah," was commissioned by Mr. and Mrs. Zygfryd B. Wolloch, New York. It is illustrated by the artist David Wander; the calligraphy and micrography were inscribed by Yonah Weinreb (Haifa and New York: Goldman's Art Gallery Haifa, Israel for The International Society for Yad Vashem, 1984.) This special, limited edition of the Haggadah was completed in 1984 and is dedicated to the memory of the Wollochs' parents who perished in the Holocaust together with most of European Jewry.



## GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR,

**Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies**

Another wonderful opportunity for collective learning and intellectual exchange at the Katz Center was realized this past year around the theme: "Secularization and its Discontents" in which eighteen scholars from around the world probed and interrogated the dominant paradigm of the modern Jewish experience, that of the inevitable march from a pre-modern "religious" to a modern "secular" one. Fellows presented formal papers on Wednesdays and met in study groups on Tuesdays to read and discuss the extensive theoretical and comparative scholarship on the topic. We experimented successfully with two mini-conferences in December and March, the first on the secularization of the Bible in the eighteenth century, and the second on Jewish-Muslim encounters in the modern era and the secular. The second mini-conference was co-sponsored with the Middle East Center. Our final conference took place on May 3-4 on campus and was most successful.

We held our second conference in Europe, in Antwerp, Belgium, in collaboration with the University of Antwerp's Institute for Jewish Studies, on last year's theme: Commerce and Culture, and most of the former fellows attended.

We held an active series of ten lectures in the greater Philadelphia community, three seminars for rabbis, and a New York series sponsored together with the Center for Jewish History and Yeshiva University Museum in New York. We ran our annual Meyerhoff lecture from Van Pelt Library with a simultaneous broadcast to a NYC audience.

Five new books are in production. The *Jewish Quarterly Review* enters its 100th year and we will celebrate this remarkable achievement with a conference in December co-sponsored with the Jewish Studies Program and the new National Museum of American Jewish History.

This year's theme is "Converts and Conversion" and twenty scholars from all over the world, including from Italy, Spain, Germany, Poland, Israel, and the USA, arrived in Philadelphia in September. Our theme for 2011-12 is "Travel and Travel Literature and the Shaping of Jewish identity." We expect both years to be exciting and to attract many Penn faculty and graduate students to our regular seminars.

The only downside to our year was the damage to our building caused by a flood of a leaking pipe. Our precious library was unaffected and through the heroic efforts of our building administrator, Sam Cardillo, we not only survived but are almost fully recovered. We have combined repair on the building with long-range maintenance as we try to preserve our building in the best way possible.

We hope to introduce a new Katz Center program in the summer of 2011, a graduate summer school of ten days duration co-sponsored with the Hebrew University in Jerusalem for the best graduate students around the world. Stay tuned for a formal announcement of this exciting development as our plans slowly take shape.

As in the past, I am grateful to so many friends of the Center for your generous and steady support of our endeavors. Please feel free to visit us and our wonderful library and to attend our many programs of outreach in Philadelphia and beyond.

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

The Jewish Studies Program at Penn produces the Jewish Studies @ Penn newsletter annually.

Editor: Christine Walsh

Assistant Editors: Beth Wenger and Rebecca Stern

We are grateful to Michelle and Peter, C'81, WG'85, Roth for their ongoing sponsorship of this newsletter, and for the Newton Family Fund's support this year.

# ABOUT OUR STUDENTS

## Graduation

Five students graduated with majors or minors in the different Jewish Studies departmental tracks.

Two seniors completed the Jewish Studies Program's Interdisciplinary Major: **Hannah Sheldon** and **Amanda Sugarman**.

Two seniors completed the Jewish Studies Program's Interdisciplinary Minor: **Malka Fleischmann** and **Ezra Weinblatt**.

One senior completed the Jewish Studies Program's Hebraica/Judaica Concentration in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations: **Pamela Kaplan**.

## Undergraduate Student Research

In 2009-2010, three graduating Jewish Studies majors submitted senior theses, which they presented to a large, appreciative audience on April 29, 2010.

"The Significance of the Fifth Century Jewish Community of Elephantine" by **Deborah Port**

"Ruler, Redeemer, and Defeated Victor: A Study in the Rabbinic Conception of Messiah ben Joseph" by **Hannah Sheldon**

"Post-Mosaic Alterations to the Torah Text: A View from Within Tradition" by **Amanda Sugarman**

## Prizes and Honors

The **Moshe Greenberg Prize for Excellence in Hebrew**, awarded to a graduating senior who began the study of Hebrew at Penn and who shows exceptional proficiency in the language, was awarded to **J. Elliott Thomasson**.

The **Workmen's Circle/Arbeter Ring Prize for Excellence in Yiddish Studies** is supported by a gift from the Philadelphia Branch of the Workmen's Circle and the United Worker's Educational Organization to reward excellence in Yiddish Studies. The prize was awarded to **John Henry Whitham**.

The **Merle Saunders Schaff Memorial Award** is awarded annually by the Department of Religious Studies for the best essay demonstrating creative thinking on any subject related to the archaeology

of Ancient Israel or to Judaic religions thought through the Middle Ages. The recipient was **Amanda Sugarman**.

In addition, JSP has established the **Judah Goldin Memorial Prize for Excellence in Advanced Hebrew Studies** (replaces the B'nai Zion Award). The award was given to **Pamela Kaplan**.

Thanks to a \$15,000 endowment gift by Ms. Julia Goldin, and the late Dr. Rosaline Goldin of Bala Cynwyd, JSP was able to create The **Samuel Esther Goldin Endowment Award Fund** to benefit an outstanding student majoring or minoring in Jewish Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. The award recipient last year was **Amanda Sugarman**. Additionally, **John Whitham** received an honorable mention for his essay. We are deeply grateful to the Goldin family.



Deb Port giving her thesis presentation in April

# STUDENT RESEARCH AWARDS

## Philip E. Goldfein Awards in Jewish Studies

The **Philip E. Goldfein Awards in Jewish Studies**, supported by a generous gift from **Robert, C'63** and **Philip, C'34 Goldfein**, are awarded to both undergraduate and graduate students to support research projects and other promising academic experiences. This past year's recipients were:

### Graduate Students:

**Andrew Berns** for research in Italy

**Matthew Handelman** for dissertation research

**Marc Herman** for Arabic language study at CUNY

**Akhmad Sahal** for Hebrew ulpan in Israel

### Undergraduate Students:

**Arielle Kane** for research in Tunisia

**Leanne Gale** for research in Israel

**Rachel Eisenstadt** for Yiddish language and culture immersion

## Raymond and Ruth Brenner Grants in Jewish Studies

The **Raymond and Ruth Brenner Grants in Jewish Studies** are granted for special opportunities in Judaic Studies. This award was established through the generosity of **Raymond and Ruth Brenner (parents of Jason, W'05, Adam, W'01, and Gregory, W'99 Brenner)** and their family. This past year's recipients were:

### Graduate Students:

**David Shyovitz** for conference participation in Arizona

**Tammy Jacobowitz** for participation in the AJS conference in Los Angeles

**Rebecca Cutler** for participation in the AIS conference in Toronto

### Undergraduate Students:

**Eitan Adler** for research in Israel

**Mark Andrew Lester** for research in Israel

**Yuval Orr** for research in Israel

**Ariel Stein** for research in Israel

**Stephanie Winer** for research in Israel

# JEWISH STUDIES INTERNSHIPS

The Jewish Studies Program continues to sponsor its Jewish Studies Internship program. This program, supported by a gift from **Emilio, C'71**, and **Reina C'72/71 Bassini**, is designed to encourage students to explore aspects of Jewish Studies outside the classroom. Under the direction of the Undergraduate Director, **Kathryn Hellerstein**, and graduate student coordinator,



Picture postcard of Eliezer Ben-Yehudah, credited with reviving Hebrew as a modern spoken language, poring over his books. The Paola and Bertrand Lazard Holy Land postcard collection.

**Tammie Wanta**, students initiated, organized and produced the following events during the academic year.

**Michael Rubin, Dina Beckman, and Nancy Wang** organized a program in which Professors **David Stern** (NELC) and **Annette Reed** (Religious Studies) engaged students in a talk titled, "Angelology and Monotheism: How did Christianity differ from Judaism in ascribing power to divinities other than God?"

**Pranav Merchant and Vikram Vish** brought Professor **Harry Reicher** (Law School) to speak about the Nazis' legalization of the Holocaust in a talk titled, "No One Ever Died Illegally in Auschwitz: The Nazis' Obsession with Legalizing the Holocaust"

## THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY

The Jewish Studies Program is proud to be part of the opening of the National Museum of American Jewish History (NMAJH) on Philadelphia's Independence Mall. On November 12, 2010, Penn will be one of the sponsors of a symposium that kicks off a weekend of events to mark the museum's opening. The NMAJH is the only museum solely dedicated to chronicling the history of America's Jews.

Jewish Studies at Penn has been a longtime partner of the NMAJH. For six years, the two institutions jointly sponsored a postdoctoral fellowship, with the fellow working as part of the museum staff and teaching a course at Penn. For fifteen years, Penn students have gained hands-on experience in Jewish history by serving as interns at the museum for

course credit. As the new museum opens, the Jewish Studies Program hopes to continue its strong and mutually beneficial relationship with the NMAJH.

## JEWISH LANGUAGES AT PENN

### Hebrew

The Modern Hebrew Language Program offers four semesters of coursework in Hebrew, stressing oral communication, reading with comprehension, and written expression. There is also a third year of courses designed to serve as a bridge to reading modern Hebrew literature and expository texts. Program faculty, under the supervision of **Ronit Engel**, have been pioneers in developing web-based instructional materials. This year, Professor Engel introduced numerous enhancements to the program's internationally acclaimed website. This website provides a portal to the wide range of information and activities concerning Hebrew and Israeli culture, as well as unique interactive exercises designed to increase student proficiency in the language. The program also offers students the opportunity to meet with major Israeli writers, whose works they have studied in class and to discuss their work with the writers in Hebrew. During the past year, the award-winning playwright and short story writer, **Savyon Liebrecht** came to campus to speak to Hebrew students.

### Yiddish

Since 1993, Penn has offered regular courses in Yiddish language and courses in translation on Jewish American literature, Yiddish writing in Eastern Europe, Jewish women writers, Jewish film and literature, and issues of cultural translation. Last year, Penn offered both beginning and

intermediate level Yiddish classes, including a course on Yiddish literature in the original. Continuing the practice of previous years, **Kathryn Hellerstein** and **Alexander Botwinik** enriched the classroom experience by introducing their students



Artist's rendering of the new NMAJH building

to Yiddish and Jewish culture through resources in Philadelphia. In November, students in the Women and Jewish Literature course attended a multi-lingual reading of Women poets in Israel at Kelly Writers House. In December, the intermediate Yiddish students joined Botwinik and Hellerstein in a visit to the Yiddish library at Brith Shalom, an assisted living apartment complex in Philadelphia, to help organize its holdings. In February, students saw two documentary films on Jews in the film industry at the Philadelphia Jewish Film Festival at the Gershman YMHA. Botwinik led the Yiddish students in two lively Yiddish sing-alongs in November and again in March. The March event included a Purim-shpil in song, directed by Botwinik and performed by students in our Yiddish classes. Additionally, our students attended sessions on Yiddish songs and culture by **Bob Freedman** in the Robert and Molly Freedman Jewish Music Sound Archive at Penn.

### Ladino

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

## ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

**Michelle Chesner**, the Judaica Public Services Librarian and Archivist based at the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, accepted the position of curator of Columbia University's Judaica collections. Chesner will be the first person to hold this newly endowed position.

We are pleased to welcome **Bruce Nielsen** as the new Judaica Public Services Librarian and Archivist. Nielsen has a divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary and a doctorate in Talmud from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. He is a skilled papyrologist with classical training in Greek and Latin, as well as Hebrew and Aramaic, and is regarded as perhaps the leading expert on Daniel Bomberg, a sixteenth-century Christian Hebraist and printer, who was responsible for producing landmarks in early Hebrew printing, such as the Rabbinic Bible and the first complete printing of the Babylonian Talmud.

The Jewish Studies Program is also pleased to welcome two new faculty members to our program:

**Yechiel Schur** is the Klatt Family Director for Public Programs at the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, and Adjunct Assistant Professor in the History department at Penn. His research interests include the history of death and the history of religious practices in medieval Europe.

**Larry Silver** is Farquhar Professor of Art History and a specialist in old master European painting and graphics. His most recent publications include: *Hieronymus Bosch* (2006), *Rembrandt's Faith* (with Shelley Perlove; 2009), *Peasant Scenes and Landscapes* (2006), and *Marketing Maximilian* (a study of early political imagery; 2008). In 2001, he organized a prints exhibition at Penn's Arthur Ross Gallery, titled "Transformation: Jews and Modernity," and he contributed to the important exhibition, "The Emergence of Jewish Artists in 19th-Century Europe" (Jewish Museum, New York, 2001). Together with Samantha Baskind, he is currently preparing a manuscript, titled "Modern/Jewish/Artists," to be published by Reaktion Books.



M.M. Warshawski, *Muzyka k Evreiskim narodnym piesniam* = *Noten tsu di Yudishe folkslieder*, a rare musical score of Yiddish folk music (ca. 1900). Acquisition made possible thanks to Arnold Kaplan

## UNDERGRADUATE JOURNAL: KEDMA

Thanks to a generous gift from the **Newton Fund**, the Jewish Studies Program supports the student-led journal, *Kedma: Penn's Journal on Jewish Thought, Jewish Culture, and Israel*. In addition to providing funding for the journal, several JSP faculty members serve as advisors to the undergraduates who publish the journal. *Kedma* is embarking on its sixth year and tenth issue. Featuring a wide assortment of essays, reviews, interviews, creative pieces, and more, *Kedma* is a forum for Penn students and faculty to discuss, debate, and challenge ideas about Judaism, Jewish society, and Israel. It seeks to bridge the political and religious spectrum by providing an open and intellectually honest forum for Jews and non-Jews, conservatives and liberals. It also seeks to engage and excite Jews at Penn, who are not normally active within the Jewish community, and to stimulate and challenge those who are. For more information, go to *Kedma's* website at <http://www.hillel.upenn.edu/kedma/about.html>, or email [kedmajournal@gmail.com](mailto:kedmajournal@gmail.com).

## FACULTY AWARDS AND HONORS

**Larry Silver** co-authored *Rembrandt's Faith: Temple and Church in the Dutch Golden Age* (Penn State U. Press, 2009) with Professor Shelley Perlove. The book was one of five finalists for the Charles Rufus Morey Prize, the College Art Association's annual book prize. Silver also served as a Fellow at the Clark Art Institute in Williamstown, Massachusetts during the spring semester.

**Benjamin Nathans** won a supplemental award from the New Directions Fellowship Program of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for work on his book on human rights and dissent in the Soviet Union. Nathans was also a visiting professor at the Ecole de Hautes Etudes on Sciences Sociales in Paris in March 2010.

**Annette Reed** and **Natalie Dohrmann** received a Littauer Faculty Research Grant to hire a graduate assistant to aid in the preparation of a bibliography and index for the volume *Judaism and Christianity, and the Roman Empire*.

**David Ruderman** was conferred an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree at the Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion's graduation ceremony.

## IN MEMORIAM

*Moshe Greenberg, 1928-2010*

The Jewish Studies Program and the University of Pennsylvania community mourn the loss of Professor Moshe Greenberg, who died at his home in Jerusalem on May 15, 2010, after a long illness.

Greenberg was born in Philadelphia on July 10, 1928. Raised in a Hebrew-speaking, Zionist home, he studied Bible and Hebrew literature from his youth. He received his B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1949 and his Ph.D., also from Penn, in 1954, in the field of Hebrew Bible and Assyriology. That same year, he also received ordination as a rabbi from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in New York. He taught Bible and Judaica at Penn from 1954-1970. Known as an extraordinarily gifted teacher, he won the Danforth Foundation's Harbison Award for Gifted Teaching in 1968. It was presented to him at the White House. In 1970, he settled in Israel and became a professor of Bible at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, where he taught from 1970-1996.

When Moshe Greenberg came to Penn to teach Bible, he became the first Jewish Biblical scholar appointed to a position in a secular university in postwar America. He had a major impact on the development of Biblical scholarship and taught numerous students who went on to become leading scholars in the United States and Israel. He was elected as a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Academy of Jewish Research. He was honored with the Guggenheim and other fellowships and received the Biblical Archeology Society's publication award for his commentary on Ezekiel. In 1994, the State of Israel awarded him *Pras Yisrael* (the Israel Prize) in Bible, the most distinguished academic award in Israel. That same year he was a Fellow at the Center for



Advanced Judaic Studies, and in 1996 he received an honorary degree from Penn.

Moshe is survived by his wife, Evelyn, his sons and grandchildren and his brother. A program in his memory will be held at the upcoming meeting of the

Society of Biblical Literature in Atlanta on November 22, 2010. For a fuller tribute to him, <http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/jwst/greenberg.htm>

## ABOUT OUR FACULTY

**Dan Ben-Amos**, Professor of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations and Folklore, guest edited a special Fall 2010 issue of the *Journal of American Folklore* Vol. 123 no. 490, a journal devoted to The European Fairy-Tale Tradition Between Orality and Literacy. His introduction (373-376) and essay entitled "Straparola: The Revolution That Was Not" (426-446) appear in this issue. Also, his book, *Communication and Folklore*, appeared in Estonian as *Kommunikatsioon ja Folkloor* in 2009.

**Joseph Benatov** teaches intermediate and advanced courses in modern Hebrew. During the 2009-2010 academic year, he translated seven contemporary Israeli plays and wrote an article on the saving of Bulgaria's Jews during the Holocaust.

**Alexander (Sender) Botwinik** is a Yiddish lecturer at the University of Pennsylvania. In addition to teaching Yiddish, Botwinik teaches music and choir at Har Zion Temple, and music at the Kaiserman JCC, and coordinates the annual choral youth-Zimria (song festival) sponsored by United Synagogue. In the fall, he led a Yiddish sing-along at Penn Hillel. In the spring, his Yiddish students joined Kathryn Hellerstein's Intermediate Yiddish students in performing Purim songs from Itzik Manger's *Megilla Lider* prior to a second Yiddish sing-along. In April, he gave a concert at Haverford College with tenor Richard Lenatsky. Both Lenatsky and Botwinik then gave a gala concert at the National Yiddish Book Center (Amherst, MA) in August 2010, featuring music by Alexander's father David Botwinik. The event included a book signing for Botwinik's newly-released *From Holocaust to Life: New Yiddish Songs*. Published by the League for Yiddish, New York, this book comprises 56 of David Botwinik's musical compositions, compiled and engraved by Alexander.

**Daisy Braverman** lecturer of Judeo-Spanish, worked on the translation into English of contemporary Judeo-Spanish poetry and collaborated on the editing of the translations.

**Michael Carasik**, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Biblical Hebrew, continues to teach Biblical Hebrew at Penn and at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. Carasik has begun teaching in the Philadelphia incarnation of the Me'ah Program of adult Jewish education, for which he taught in Boston and at Limmud in Philadelphia. This year, Carasik completed the Numbers volume of *The Commentators' Bible*, his English translation of the traditional commentaries of the *Miqra'ot Gedolot*, which is expected to be published in Fall 2011. Carasik also had publications in *Aramaic Studies in Judaism and Early Christianity* and presented a talk at the international conference of the National Association of Professors of Hebrew in New York City. Carasik continues to teach at local synagogues and to post his weekly "Torah Talk" podcast, which can be found at <http://torahtalk.michaelcarasik.com>.

**Ronit Engel**, Senior Lecturer in Foreign Languages and Coordinator of the Modern Hebrew Language Program, continued to work on her various projects in curriculum development and in instructional materials, including a graded reader of texts from the contemporary Israeli newspaper and periodical press and a web-based interactive program for teaching Hebrew grammar. Engel also continued to play an active role in activities aimed at bringing the contemporary Israeli literary scene to the attention of Penn students, most notably by initiating the visit to campus of the noted Israeli novelist and short-story writer, Savyon Liebrecht. Engel spent the summer in Israel and Europe, participating in the first Open Conference on Hebrew Language and Literature of the Israel Academy of the Hebrew Language, a festive occasion to mark the 120th anniversary of the founding of Va'ad Halashon—the international standard-setting body for modern Hebrew. Engel also participated in several symposia devoted to the work of various Israeli authors and workshops on the latest techniques in Hebrew language pedagogy.

**Natalie Dohrmann** is an Adjunct Assistant Professor in Religious Studies and the Jewish Studies Program at Penn. She is also the Executive Editor of the *Jewish Quarterly Review*, and the director of Publications at the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies. Dohrmann spent fall 2009 on research leave in Palo Alto, California. She is currently co-editing a volume with Annette Yoshiko Reed, which builds from the May 2008 conference "Jewish and Other Imperial Cultures in Late Antiquity" at the Katz Center

**Talya Fishman**, Associate Professor of Religious Studies, developed and taught a new graduate seminar in the fall, entitled Nature and the Supernatural in Medieval Jewish Culture. During her academic leave in Spring 2010, Fishman spent a month delivering lectures in Germany at the Freie Universität in Berlin; Martin-Luther-Universität in Halle-Wittenberg; Heinrich-Heine-Universität in Düsseldorf; the Judische Hochschule in Heidelberg; Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität in Frankfurt-am-Maine; and at the Martin-Buber-Institut für Judaistik at the Universität zu Köln. Most of the lectures were connected with her recently completed book, *Becoming the People of the Talmud: Transmission of Rabbinic Tradition and the Formation of Medieval Jewish Cultures*, which will be published by the University of Pennsylvania Press in 2011. While in Halle, Fishman participated in an international conference on "Christian Hebraism and Yiddishism Through 1900," presenting a paper entitled, "On the Prominence of Jewish Custom in the Writings of German Hebraists." Fishman also addressed the Oriental Club of the University of Pennsylvania on the topic, "When Oral Torah was Inscribed: Transformations in Rabbinic Culture," and participated in a panel entitled, "Beauty in the Two Cities: Religious Faith and Embodied Perception" at the Medieval Academy of America annual conference at Yale University, offering a paper called "Sensing Torah: A Medieval Jew on Beauty as a Springboard to Faith." Her article, "On the Emergence and Disappearance of Rhineland Pietism," will appear in the forthcoming *Festschrift* in honor of Professor Menahem Schmelzer.

**Nili Gold**, Associate Professor of Modern Hebrew Literature and Israel Studies, presented a paper on "Center and Periphery in Israeli Poetry" at the annual conference of the National Association of Professors of Hebrew (NAPH) in July 2010 before heading to Israel for her sabbatical. For the duration of the sabbatical, she has resided in Haifa, where she is researching and beginning to write her next book. The city has been a focus of Gold's latest scholarly inquiries and teaching interests. In the spring of 2010, Gold co-organized the first Middle East Film Festival at Penn, whose films, both documentaries and features, all focused on the portrayal of the city, in addition to teaching a course on artistic representations of Haifa.

**Jessica L. Goldberg**, Assistant Professor of Medieval History, is on leave this fall as a visitor at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Princeton, NJ. There, she is completing the manuscript for her first book, *The Business World of the Medieval Mediterranean: Institutions and Geographies of Trade in the Eleventh Century* for Cambridge University Press, to be published in their Economic History series, and beginning work on new project entitled "Syrian soap and spicy cinnamon: trade in the twelfth-century Mediterranean." She will also be contributing a chapter on "Economy" to the *Cambridge History of Judaism*, for the volume devoted to Jews in the Islamic World, and revising several articles for publication. Goldberg will be presenting her work in a number of talks and workshops this year, including a plenary panel on "Geniza studies in the 21st century" for the conference "Negotiating Trade" at Binghamton University, seminars on economic institutions at Yale and in Abu Dhabi, a seminar on economic geography at the Sorbonne, a panel on medieval jurisdiction at the American Society of Legal History, and talks on rhetorical norms in commercial correspondence at the Institute for Advanced Studies and Rutgers. This spring, she will be teaching a research seminar The Crusades: Christian, Muslim and Jewish experiences of Holy War, and a new lecture course, The World of the Middle Ages.

**Kathryn Hellerstein**, Associate Professor of Germanic Languages, continues to serve as Undergraduate Director of the Jewish Studies Program. Hellerstein wrote the introductory essay and served as the consulting editor for a special

# The Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies

## 2009–2010 at the Katz Center: Secularism and Its Discontents

Over the course of the year, eighteen scholars from around the world studied the ways that Jews and Jewish communities have variously defined themselves vis-à-vis “the secular,” all the while exploring how Jewish approaches to secularization are intimately tied to the Christian, Muslim, or multi-religious worlds in which Jews have lived and continue to live. The 2009–2010 Fellows brought considerable nuance to what is inevitably an overstated and static dichotomy between “the secular” and “the religious.”



Ethan Katz (University of Cincinnati) lectures at Main Line Reform Temple on Religious Relations in a Secular State: Jewish-Muslim Interaction in Contemporary France (Feb. 22)

In addition to the weekly seminars and the end-of-year colloquium, this year’s program included two full-day workshops. The first workshop on “Secularism and the Bible” focused on the reception of the Bible in ages when its readers were questioning its authority. The second workshop on “Fragmented Encounters” explored the interconnection of colonialism, race, and

the modern state in Muslim-Jewish relations. The program culminated with the Sixteenth Annual Gruss Colloquium. As in previous years, the participants were fellows from the Katz Center as well as invited speakers and guests. **Ari Jaskowicz** (Vanderbilt University) and **Ethan Katz** (University of Cincinnati) have been appointed the editors of a volume that will include the scholarly fruits of this year at the Katz Center. The Gruss Colloquium is made possible through the generous support of **Martin D. Gruss, W’64**.

## Thirteenth Annual Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Lecture

On April 21, 2010 we celebrated the publication of **Moshe Idel’s** new book, *Old Worlds, New Mirrors: On Jewish Mysticism and Twentieth-Century Thought* by inviting three panelists—**Vivian Liska** (Universiteit Antwerpen), **David N. Myers** (University of California, Los Angeles), and **Galili Shaha** (Tel Aviv University)—to reflect on this important work. Professor Idel himself responded. The Penn event was broadcast live to an audience convened at the Center for Jewish History in New York City. The Meyerhoff Lecture was established by the Joseph Meyerhoff Memorial Trusts to honor the generosity and service of **Eleanor Meyerhoff Katz** and the late **Herbert D. Katz** to Penn’s Department of History and the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies. It was cosponsored by the Kutchin Seminar Series of the Jewish Studies Program, the Department of History, the Department of Religious Studies, and the Centro Primo Levi. The book, published by the University of Pennsylvania Press in association with the Katz Center, is part of the series Jewish Culture and Contexts.

## 2009–2010 Public Programs

As in previous years, the Katz Center has collaborated with other institutions to build exciting and accessible programs for broad audiences. Over one thousand people participated this year in our various public events. Reflecting the richness and relevance of this year’s program, the 2010 Penn Lectures in Greater Philadelphia attracted many to our lectures on the “Secular and the

Sacred in the Modern Jewish World.” The lectures echoed the themes of the year, but with an eye on a broader audience. The series was made possible through a generous endowment from the Harry Stern Family Foundation and the generous support of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia and a consortium of local synagogues and communal institutions. Three fellows were chosen to deliver the 2010 Penn Lectures in New York City at the Center for Jewish History. The participants in this program interrogated the tension between the secular and the sacred in contemporary Jewish culture. **David N. Myers** (University of California, Los Angeles) discussed the ultra-orthodox community of Kiryas Yoel, New York. **Daniel Schwartz** (George Washington University) traced the adoption of Baruch Spinoza (1632–1677) by later freethinkers of various stripes in the centuries that followed as the forerunner and prophet of their Jewishly inflected secular views. **Yael Zerubavel** (Rutgers University) showed how biblical images, symbols, and themes were transformed into the official iconography, literature, art, and popular culture of the modern State of Israel. The program in New York City was cosponsored by the Center for Jewish History, Yeshiva University Museum, the Centro Primo Levi, and the Katz Center. Finally, fellows participated this year in two Friday night dinners and conversations with undergraduate students at the Penn Hillel. The dinner event in the fall involved a lively discussion on Franz Kafka’s “Before the Law,” led by **Michal Ben-Horin** (Tel Aviv University) and **Galili Shaha** (Tel Aviv University). The dinner in the spring included a conversation on “Heinrich Heine: Materialism and Spirituality” with **Ari Jaskowicz** (Vanderbilt University). We look forward to creating more venues of interaction between fellows and Penn students. We thank the education chairs at Penn Hillel, **Dina Bleckman, C’11** and **Ariel Fisher, C’11**, for their help organizing the events.

## 2010–2011 Fellowship Program: Converts and Conversion to and from Judaism

This fall, the new fellows have convened at the Center to study “Converts and Conversion to and from Judaism.” During this year, research fellows will examine phenomena of conversion from antiquity to the present in order to understand how social groups identify themselves, testing long-standing historiographical assumptions about communal and conceptual boundary-crossings. Conversion forces both the convert and the religion to define their outermost boundaries and formalize criteria for membership and exclusion. The act of conversion is at the same time a ritualized, often public, transformation, not only one of interior religious and psychological consciousness but of cultural and social affiliation. For the history of Judaism, conversion is doubly freighted—it can mark a break with one’s birth community, but it

has often also marked the impossibility of such a break. Examples of this ambivalence are legion. What then does it mean to be fully Christian, fully Muslim, or fully Jewish? Are these categories essential and stable, or are they themselves transformed or

redefined by conversion? How do Muslim or Christian understandings of conversion compare to or illuminate the Jewish experience? We hope to bring several arenas of inquiry and debate into a single conversation so that methodological, social scientific, and historical studies may be mutually instructive, enriching our broader understanding, not only of Jews in their world but of the religious experience itself.



Tom Sugrue (University of Pennsylvania) leading a tour for the 2009–2010 Fellows in historic Philadelphia (Sept. 30)



**2010–2011 Public Programs**

The act of conversion to or from Judaism entails crossing boundary lines between Judaism and other religions, most notably Christianity and Islam. By exploring the real experience of converts and the literary use of the idea of conversion, one can learn much about group identity and about inclusive and exclusive attitudes in general. Our fellows will discuss the historical and literary dimensions of conversion in the premodern and modern Jewish world. The upcoming Penn Lectures will run from January to April 2011 in Greater Philadelphia and in New York City. If you would like more information about our public programs, please contact Etty Lassman at [lassman@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:lassman@sas.upenn.edu), and keep an eye on our website at: <http://www.cajs.upenn.edu> (click on Public Programs to see the most recently updated information).

**2010–2011 Fellows:****Anne Oravetz Albert (F)**

Why Did Conversos Convert to Judaism? A Look at Their Sixteenth- and Seventeenth-Century Polemics  
Brown University  
*Selma Ruben Fellowship*

**Javier Castaño**

Conversos' Impact on Fifteenth-Century Castilian Jewish Communal and Social Networks  
Instituto de Lenguas y Culturas del Mediterraneo (Madrid)  
*Maurice Amado Foundation Fellowship*

**Theodor Dunkelgrün**

Jewish Converts and Renaissance Biblical Scholarship  
The University of Chicago  
*Martin Gruss Fellowship*

**Ayala Eliyahu (S)**

Abu'l-Barakat al-Baghdadi: Life and Work of a Twelfth-Century Jewish Convert to Islam  
Hebrew University  
*Albert J. Wood Fellowship*

**Netanel Fisher**

Conversion to Judaism in Israel and in the United States: A Comparative Study  
Hebrew University  
*Charles W. and Sally Rothfeld Fellowship*

**Sarah Gracombe**

Novel Converts: Cultural Englishness and Victorian Jewishness  
Stonehill College  
*Ivan and Nina Ross Family Fellowship*  
*Rose and Henry Zifkin Teaching Fellowship*

**Elliott Horowitz (S)**

Autobiographies of Three Converts from Judaism to Christianity at the Dawn of the Modern Age  
Bar-Ilan University  
*Ella Darivoff Fellowship*

**Yosi Israeli (S)**

Conversos Hermeneutics/Conversos Theology: The Writings of Pablo de Santa Maria (ca.1352–1435)  
Tel Aviv University  
*Samuel T. Lachs Fellowship*

**Sara Japhet (S)**

Ger and Conversion in Biblical Literature and Classical Biblical Exegesis  
Hebrew University  
*Ellie and Herbert D. Katz Distinguished Fellowship*  
*Erika A. Strauss Teaching Fellowship*

**Robert Jütte (F)**

A History of Fraudulent Conversion  
Institut für Geschichte der Medizin (Stuttgart)  
*Louis and Bessie Stein Fellowship*

**Ephraim Kanarfogel**

Rabbinic Attitudes toward Conversion and Reversion in Medieval Europe  
Yeshiva University  
*Ruth Meltzer Fellowship*

**Birgit Klein (S)**

Converts to Christianity and Their Jewish Families: Marriage, Divorce, and Inheritance in Early Modern Ashkenaz  
Hochschule für Jüdische Studien (Heidelberg)  
*Weiner Family Fellowship*

**Fabrizio Lelli (S)**

From Christianity to Judaism and Back: Conversion in Renaissance and Contemporary Southern Italy  
Università del Salento (Lecce)  
*Primo Levi Fellowship*

**Pawel Maciejko**

Doctrines of Conversion in Eighteenth-Century Sabbatianism  
Hebrew University  
*Louis Apfelbaum and Hortense Braunstein Apfelbaum Fellowship*  
*Nancy S. and Laurence E. Glick Teaching Fellowship*

**Barbara Meyer (F)**

Conversion after the Shoah: Theological and Philosophical Aspects  
Hebrew Union College, Israel  
*Dalck and Rose Feith Family Fellowship*

**David Satran (S)**

Conversion in Late Antiquity: Narratives, Boundaries, and the Role of Paideia  
Hebrew University  
*Ruth Meltzer Fellowship*

**Ellie Schinker**

Jewish Conversion in an Imperial Context: Confessional Choice and Multiple Baptisms in Nineteenth-Century Russia  
Emory University  
*Golub Family Fellowship*

**Sabine Schmidtke (F)**

A Convert's Son Writing against Judaism: Hajji Baba Qazwini Yazdi's "A Report on the Scriptural Evidence for Refuting the Jews" – An Analysis of Its Intellectual Environment, Transmission, and Impact  
Freie Universität Berlin  
*Ellie and Herbert D. Katz Distinguished Fellowship*

**Jeffrey Shoulson**

Fictions of Conversion: Community, Identity, and Instability in Early Modern England  
University of Miami  
*Ruth Meltzer Fellowship*

**Claude Stuczynski (F)**

Pauline Themes in Marrano Thought, Culture, and Polemic in Medieval and Early Modern Iberia  
Bar-Ilan University  
*Primo Levi Fellowship*

**Paola Tartakoff (F)**

Conversion and the Jewish-Christian Confrontation in Iberia, prior to 1391  
Rutgers University  
*Rebell Family Fellowship*

**Adjunct Fellows****Michela Andreotti**

University of Tennessee

**Arye Edrei**

Tel-Aviv University

**David Nirenberg**

The University of Chicago

**Short Term Fellows****Yosef Kaplan**

Hebrew University



Vivian Liska, Moshe Idel, David N. Myers, and Galili Shachar



David Myers, Nomi Stolzenberg, and Sarah Barringer Gordon



Nili Gold, Yigal Schwartz, and Beth Wenger

## MEYERHOFF LECTURE IN JEWISH HISTORY

The Fourteenth Annual Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Lecture in Jewish History was entitled "A Conversation with Moshe Idel about his new book—*Old Worlds, New Mirrors: On Jewish Mysticism and Twentieth-Century Thought*" with panelists **Vivian Liska** (University of Antwerp), **David N. Myers** (UCLA), and **Galili Shachar** (University of Florida). **Moshe Idel** (Hebrew University) responded and **David Ruderman** (University of Pennsylvania) moderated the panel. The Meyerhoff lecture took place on April 21, 2010, and was co-sponsored by the Jewish Studies Program Kutchin Faculty Seminar Series, the Department of History, the Department of Religious Studies, the Centro Primo Levi, and the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies.

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

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

## SILVERS VISITING SCHOLAR IN JEWISH STUDIES

The Fourteenth Annual Silvers Visiting Scholar Program was a talk by Professors **David Myers** (UCLA) and **Nomi Stolzenberg** (USC), entitled "An American Shtetl: Politics and Piety in Kiryas Joel, New York." In their lecture, Myers and Stolzenberg explored the community of Kiryas Joel, New York, which is a legally recognized municipality comprised almost entirely of Satmar Hasidic Jews. Mixing historical description with legal analysis, the talk examined the stunning and surprising rise of Kiryas Joel on American soil. Penn professor of Law

and History, **Sarah Barringer Gordon**, was the respondent.

The lecture on April 13, 2010, was co-sponsored by the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

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

## JOSEPH ALEXANDER COLLOQUIUM

The Twenty-Fourth Annual Joseph Alexander Colloquium was a talk entitled "Zionist Dilemmas: Internal Conflicts in Israeli Literature and Culture, 1948-2000," by **Yigal Schwartz**, professor at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, on October 13, 2009.

The Joseph Alexander Colloquium, Penn's oldest endowment lectureship in Jewish Studies, is supported through the generosity of the **Joseph Alexander Foundation** and the **Mackler Family**.

### Upcoming Events

**"Journals & Jewish Intellectual Life: The Jewish Quarterly Review at 100"** A day long symposium to be held at the National Museum of American Jewish History on Sunday, December 12, 10:00 am to 6:00 pm, 101 South Independence Mall East

Free and open to the public, but space is limited. To register: e-mail [katzcenter.rsvp@gmail.com](mailto:katzcenter.rsvp@gmail.com) or call 215-238-1290.

For a full schedule: <http://www.cajs.upenn.edu/public/jqr100/index.html>

**"Yiddish Theater: Prototypical American Art Form"** with Nahma Sandrow on January 18, 2011 at 6:30 pm, Amado Recital Hall, Irvine Auditorium, 3401 Spruce Street

Nahma Sandrow is author of *Vagabond Stars: A World History of Yiddish Theater*. Many American immigrant communities created their own theaters in their own languages. These theaters preserved cultural traditions and ties to home while simultaneously moving audiences forward toward Americanization. Exploring parallels with Mexican, German, Chinese, Italian, Polish and other foreign-language American theaters, the lecture shows how this creative tension between old and new produced energy and art.

**"Jewish History and the Holocaust: A Discussion"** with David Engel (NYU) and Sam Kassow (Trinity) on March 30, 2011, 5:00 pm, Hall of Flags, Houston Hall, 3417 Spruce Street

David Engel (NYU) and Sam Kassow (Trinity) are two leading historians of the Holocaust.

**Gross Visiting Professor in Talmudic Law**

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

This year, **Arye Edrei**, Professor of Law at Tel Aviv University served as the Gruss Professor. Edrei taught a course in the Law School and delivered the Gruss Lectures. The lectures focused on the subject of "Defining Community in an Era of Nationalism: Who is in and who is out in the eyes of the law?" The lectures were widely attended.

**Kutchin Seminars in Jewish Studies**

The Kutchin seminars are supported by the generosity of **Mel Kutchin, C'50**, and the late **Mitzi Kutchin**. The following Kutchin seminars took place during the 2009-2010 academic year:

"On Being Jewish by Sigmund Freud" A Panel Discussion, with **Betty Fuks**, a psychoanalyst practicing and teaching in the School of Communications at the Universidade Federal de Rio de Janeiro and **Elisa Slavet**, author of *Racial Fever: Freud and the Jewish Question* (Fordham University Press, 2009). **Liliane Weissberg** (University of Pennsylvania) and **Patricia Gherovici** (author and analyst) moderated the event on October 6, 2009.

Yiddish Sing-Along with **Alexander Botwinik** (University of Pennsylvania), co-sponsored by the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures and Penn Hillel on November 12, 2009.

"Sea of Voices" Group Poetry Reading with **Marjorie Agosin** (Wellesley College), **Kathryn Hellerstein** (University of Pennsylvania), **Nili Gold** (University of Pennsylvania), **Ronit Engel** (University of Pennsylvania), **Ilana Pardes** (University of Pennsylvania), **Eva Lezzi** (Katz Fellow), **Daisy Braverman** (University of Pennsylvania), **Rachel Rojanski** (Katz Fellow), and **Marla Pagan-Mattos** (Comparative Literature), co-sponsored by Kelly Writers House, Middle East



Students and faculty at Yiddish Purim Singalong

Center, Comparative Literature, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, and the Alice Paul Center for Research on Women, Gender, and Sexuality, on November 12, 2009.

"Stand Up for Peace," hosted by **Dean Obeidallah** and **Scott Blakeman**, co-sponsored by Green Field Intercultural Center, Middle East Center, Fully Planned, Penn for Palestine, Penn Hillel, and SPEC-Trum, on January 23, 2010.

"The Monk's Haggadah," a faculty works-in-progress seminar, with **David Stern** (University of Pennsylvania), on January 28, 2010.



Penn professors Annette Reed, David Stern, and Joe Lowry with Meira Poliak of Tel Aviv University (second from left)

"Jewish Scripture in an Islamic Milieu: Karaites and the Hebrew Bible," with **Meira Poliak** (Tel Aviv University), co-sponsored by Middle East Center, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, and the Department of Religious Studies, on February 1, 2010.

"Yiddish Songs and Poetry" with **Kathryn Hellerstein** (University of Pennsylvania) and **Alexander Botwinik** (University of Pennsylvania), co-sponsored by Penn Hillel and the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, on March 25, 2010.

"Zolotoi Plyos," a musical performance by the Russian folk ensemble - co-sponsored by the Department of Slavic Languages, Folklore Graduate Studies Group, and The University of Pennsylvania's College of Liberal and Professional Studies, on April 8, 2010.

"A Conversation about David Ruderman's New Book—*Early Modern Jewry: A New Cultural*

*History*," with **Yaacob Dweck** (Princeton University), **Anne Oravetz Albert** (Brown University), **Adam Teller** (University of Haifa). Responded to by **David Ruderman** (University of Pennsylvania) and moderated by **Amnon Raz-Krakotzkin** (Ben-Gurion University/CAJS). Co-sponsored by the Department of History, on April 16, 2010.

"The First Ladino Memoir: Saadi Halevi and 19th Century Ottoman Jewish Salonica," with **Aron Rodrigue** (Stanford University), co-sponsored by the Middle East Center, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Department of Romance Languages and Literature, Department of Religious Studies, and the Penn Language Center, on April 19, 2010



Ronit Engel (University of Pennsylvania) reading poetry

**Gender in Judaism and Islam**

On March 22, 2010, the Jewish Studies Program and the Middle East Center, along with a number of other departments and programs at

Penn, joined together to sponsor a pathbreaking conference on "Gender in Judaism and Islam." The conference brought together leading scholars, from a variety of disciplines, who work in Jewish and Islamic culture. Participants addressed a diverse array of topics, ranging from gendered readings of traditional texts, to issues of biology, science and sexuality, to feminist innovations within Muslim and Jewish traditions. Distinguished professors from across the country explored the many intersections and comparative dimensions of these two ancient traditions. The daylong conference not only sparked new trajectories of scholarship, but also encouraged the Penn community to consider both Jewish and Islamic culture in new ways.



Firozeh Kashani-Sabet (University of Pennsylvania) addressing the "Gender in Judaism and Islam" conference

# JUDAICA AT PENN'S LIBRARIES

The Judaica collections at Penn—located at the Van Pelt Library, at the Library at the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, at the Fisher Fine Arts Library and at the University Museum—continued to grow as an integrated unit within the University Libraries system under the management of **Arthur Kiron**, Schottenstein-Jesselson Curator of Judaica Collections. The staff of the Library at the Katz Center during the last academic year – **Michelle Chesner**, Judaica Public Services Librarian and Archivist; **Judith Leifer**, who oversees the Inter-Library Loan program for the Fellows and **Josef Gulka, G'70**, who supervises circulation – provided an exceptionally high level of service, both in terms of quantity and quality. Overall, Penn's Judaica staff responded to nearly 5,400 public service contacts, shelved over 5,300 volumes, administered the circulation of nearly 1,100 rare items, and filled hundreds of Inter-Library Loan (ILL) transactions.

## New Katz CAJS/Library Web Exhibit!

To mark the conclusion of the 2009-10 year of research, the Penn Libraries partnered with the Katz Center fellows to produce a beautiful virtual exhibit "Secularism and its Discontents: Rethinking an Organizing Principle of Modern Jewish Life." To view this current exhibit, go to: <http://www.library.upenn.edu/exhibits/cajs/fellows10/> To view past Katz CAJS/Library Web exhibits, go to: <http://www.library.upenn.edu/exhibits/cajs/>

## Public Program

Tenth Annual Manfred R. Lehmann Memorial Master Workshop on the history of the Jewish book.



Dr. Emile Schrijver

On May 23 and 24, 2010, the Penn Libraries joined with the Jewish Studies Program and the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies to host the tenth annual Manfred R. Lehmann Memorial Master Workshop on the history of the Jewish book. This year's topic was "The Traditional Eastern

European Jewish Book, 1500-1900." Dr. **Emile Schrijver**, Curator of the Bibliotheca Rosenthaliana at the University of Amsterdam, led the sessions. Once again, the Lehmann workshop, held at the Katz Center, attracted a full house. We extend our thanks to the **Manfred and Anne Lehmann**

**Foundation** for their generous support, and also recognize and thank **Albert Friedberg**, the **Lucius N. Littauer Foundation**, the **University of Pennsylvania Research Foundation**, and **Andrew H. Cohn, Esq., C'66**, for additional funding.

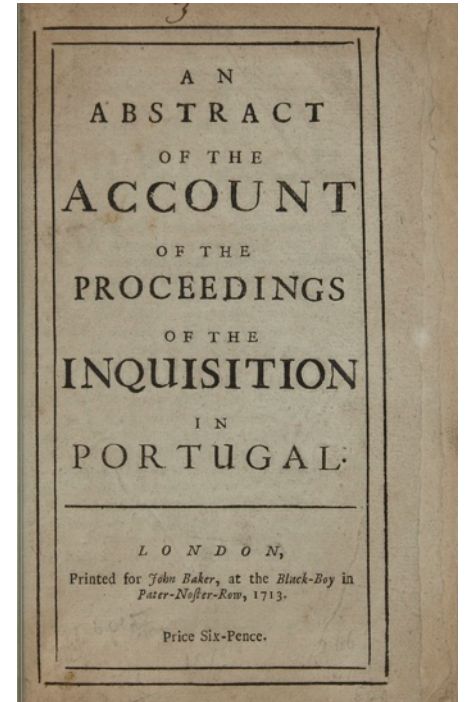
## New Acquisitions

- With great thanks and appreciation, we would like to acknowledge **Arnold Kaplan**, through whose generosity and wisdom we were able to acquire hundreds of original documents of American Jewish history – dating from the 18th century through the period of mass migration. Most of these documents once belonged to Mayer Sulzberger, the first president of Dropsie College, a founder of the American Jewish Committee, American Jewry's greatest book collector, and the first elected Jewish judge to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. These letters, commercial advertisers, photographs, and broadsides, reflect his profound role in shaping American Jewish communal life and show how Jewish institutional life grew during the period leading up to and during mass migration. Among the many noteworthy documents are map of Philadelphia, ca. 1852, which features the location of what is now the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies. Notably, an expanded view of the map shows how the Katz Center is located in an area of Center City Philadelphia that was once part of a vibrant Jewish commercial area, as evidenced by the commercial bill head of the Jewish lithographic firm, Leonhardt and Co.; an appeal from Henry Pereira Mendes, president of the Union of Orthodox Hebrew congregations in America to help rebuild the Orthodox synagogue of San Francisco after its destruction by the devastating earthquake of 1906; the original proposal to create a Philadelphia Kehillah in February of 1911; the typescript draft of the proposed constitution of the first Sephardic Federation in America, ca. 1916. These historical documents were acquired through private sale from the London-based Judaica dealer Joseph Weinstock.

- Thanks to the **Wolloch family**, including **Helene Wolloch** and her son, **Bob Wolloch**, the Penn Libraries have acquired the "Pessach Haggadah in Memory of the Holocaust," also known as the "Wolloch Haggadah," commissioned by Mr. and Mrs. Zygfryd B. Wolloch, New York. It is illustrated by the artist David Wander; the calligraphy and micrography were inscribed by Yonah Weinrib. This special, limited edition of the Haggadah was completed in 1984 and is dedicated to the memory of the Wollochs' parents who perished in the Holocaust together with most of European Jewry. The cover image of this issue's newsletter features one of the signature illustrations from this haggadah.

- Margy and Martin Meyerson Collection of Early State of Israel Ephemera

In memory of her late husband **Martin Meyerson**, former president of the University of Pennsylvania, **Margy Meyerson** donated a collection of over one hundred items consisting of ephemeral pamphlets, maps, photographs, brochures, bulletins, policy papers, booklists, investment prospectuses, tourist industry material, as well as government publications, off-prints, monographs and individual serials volumes, documenting the early decades of

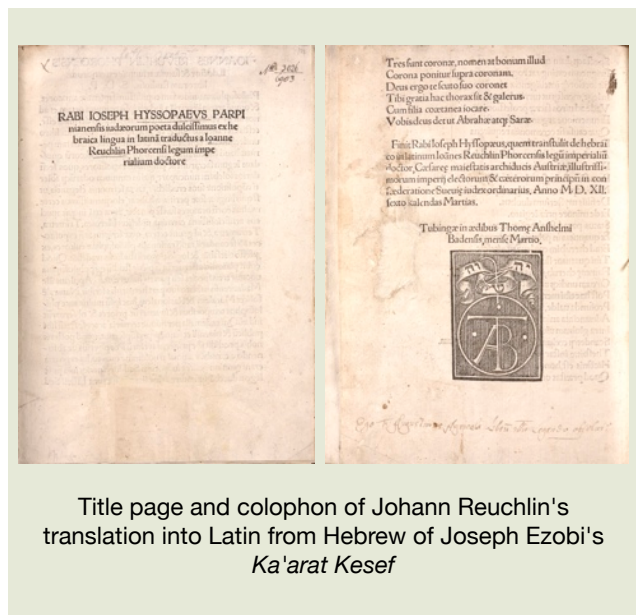


## An Abstract of the Account of the Proceedings of the Inquisition in Portugal....(London: John Baker, 1713). Gift of Annette Freund.

This scarce first edition contains a detailed description of the tortuous methods practiced by the Portuguese inquisitorial officials, as told by a new Christian who escaped from Lisbon on an English vessel and made his way to London, where he returned to Judaism. The preface contains a warning that Englishmen be vigilant against any foothold the inquisition might try to establish in England, calling up the spectre of Queen Mary I (Bloody Mary). It was purchased from Eric Kline Books in the context of this year's research topic at the Katz Center on Conversion and to add to the Penn libraries' distinguished Lea Library of the Inquisition.

the modern State of Israel. In addition to these printed works, Margy Meyerson also donated four beautiful hand-painted Oriental Jewish amulets written on the back of manuscript leaves written in Arabic. The amulets are undated but appear to have been made sometime in the first half of the twentieth century, perhaps for a tourist market, as **Shalom Sabar**, Erika A. Strauss Fellow (2003–2004), has suggested.

- The Judaica Collections partnered with the Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Penn to acquire Johann Reuchlin's translation into Latin from Hebrew of Joseph Ezobi's *Ka'arat Kesef*, a work of medieval Hebrew poetry: *Rabi Ioseph Hyssopaeus Parpinianensis iudaeorum poeta dulcissimus ex hebraica lingua in latina[m] tractatus a Ioanne Reuchlin Phorcensi legum imperialium doctore*. (Tubingen: Printed by Thomas Anshelm, 1512). The text is printed in Latin, Greek and Hebrew and contains a woodcut printer's device at the end (leaf b4b). As Prof. **Theodor Dunkelgrun**, a 2010-11 Katz Center Fellow and a leading authority on renaissance Christian Hebraism commented after seeing it: "The Reuchlin is really beautiful and provides a window into Reuchlin's understanding of the history of Jewish thought and literature. And it's wonderful that this copy has an early modern manuscript annotation beneath the colophon ("I, Brother Augustinus Agricola have just finished reading this book"). What a fine addition to Penn's early printed Hebraica indeed."



Title page and colophon of Johann Reuchlin's translation into Latin from Hebrew of Joseph Ezobi's *Ka'arat Kesef*

### Special Projects

- Thanks to the leadership of **Heather Sharkey**, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations (NELC) and **David McKnight**, Director of the Rare Book and Manuscript Library, we received an Instructional Technology Grant award for the proposal "Judeo-Arabic Culture and Its Place in Islamic Societies" approved by the SAS

Learning and Technology Committee. Working with the SCETI staff, particularly **Dennis Mullen** and **Chris Lipa**, we scanned a selection of Judeo-Arabic and Arabic manuscripts which are now viewable online: <http://syslsl01.library.upenn.edu/cocoon/dla/dropsie/index.html>

- Since receiving, in the Fall of 2009, the **Lenkin Family Collection of Photography**, with its outstanding holdings of early, historical images of the Holy Land, we have successfully implemented a plan to house and process the collection at the Library at the Katz Center. Thanks to the devoted and meticulous cataloging labors of **Louise Strauss**, who has been volunteering at the Penn libraries for the past two years, we have succeeded in cataloging over 2,500 of the 4,000 original photographs (and over 800 reproductions of photographs) we've received. Strauss was trained by **Jon Shaw**, the head of Research, Training and Quality Management at the Penn Libraries, to catalog each image, based on a careful, first-hand inspection of the original photographs and the data contained in the handwritten notebooks of the original collectors, Bertrand and Paola Lazard, into a specially designed template.

- Thanks to another volunteer, **David Cook**, Penn professor of neurology – who was also trained by **Jon Shaw** – we have moved forward with the copy cataloging of our inaccessible Hebrew Titles project collection – consisting of approximately 5,000 volumes of Hebrew imprints dating from the second half of the 19th century.

### Departure!

**Michelle Chesner**, the Judaica Public Services Librarian and Archivist based at the Katz Center, has been named Norman E. Alexander Librarian for Jewish Studies at Columbia University. She is the first person to hold this newly endowed position. Her last official day was April 30, 2010. Chesner came to Penn on January 5, 2009 and quickly distinguished herself as an invaluable colleague. She was a member of the Public Services group and during her tenure she transformed our relatively dormant archival program at the Katz Center into a fully automated, accessible resource. She participated in the first campus wide effort, the Penn Special Collections Assembly, to bring together archivists and librarians to share information and develop common standards of description and functionality and served on the Encoded Archival Description (EAD) committee. Congratulations to Michelle and best wishes for continued success in her new position.

### Welcome!

We are delighted to announce that **Bruce Nielsen** began working as our new Judaica Public Services Librarian and Archivist on September 1, 2010. Nielsen comes to us with exceptional experience and talent. He has a divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary and a doctorate in Talmud from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. At the JTSA, most recently he served as assistant dean of the graduate school and director of summer sessions. Bruce



Dr. Bruce Nielsen

proposed, designed and implemented the Excellence in Teaching Program at the JTSA. Earlier in his career, he served as the coordinator of the Saul Lieberman Institute for Talmudic Research, one of the pioneering efforts to computerize collections of rabbinic literature, with an emphasis on transcriptions of all known manuscripts of the Babylonian Talmud. He has an extensive record of publications and his scholarship displays an intensive engagement with rare books and manuscripts, a deep knowledge of bibliography in general and the history of the Jewish book in particular. He is a skilled papyrologist with classical training in Greek and Latin, as well as Hebrew and Aramaic, and is regarded as perhaps the leading expert on Daniel Bomberg, a sixteenth-century Christian Hebraist and printer, who was responsible for producing landmarks in early Hebrew printing, such as the Rabbinic Bible and the first complete printing of the Babylonian Talmud. Nielsen is based at the Library at the Katz Center, 420 Walnut Street, and will be actively engaged in developing public service programs of education and outreach to faculty and students as well as fellows at the Katz Center, in addition to managing our archive and manuscript collection holdings at the Katz Center.

### Thank You!

We are especially happy to acknowledge and thank the following individuals for their gifts and donations:

Jean Shaw Adelman, CW'52, PAR'76; Nabya Almeida; American Sephardi Federation; Liesel Appel; American Jewish Archives; Aviva Astrinsky; Beki L. Bahar; Adina Bar-El; Miriam and Ben-Zion Barlev; Nira Bartal; Miriam Beckerman; Daniele Bedarida; Carlos Benaim; Hakan Bengtsson; Stacey, C'95 and Michael Bennett; Charles Berlin; Terri Binder and Joseph Koschitzki; Howard A. Blum; Ann Bonn and Helen Weindling; Ruth and Raymond Brenner, PAR'99, PAR'01, PAR'05, and the Brenner Family Fund for Jewish Studies in honor of Gregory Brenner, W'99; Adam Brenner, W'01; Jason

Brenner, W'05; Viviana Bromberg; Roger Chartier; Petr Charvat; Albert Gleaves Cohen; Alma Orlowitz Cohen, FA'44; Boris Cohen PAR'76, Dov ha-Cohen; Ida Shahar Cohen; Martin Cohen; Andrew H. Cohn, Esq., C'66; Gloria Cohn; Julie L. Coleman; Mary Lou Collector; Congregation Adath Jeshurun; David G. Cook; Flora Campos Cornfield, CW'66, G'68, GR'74, PAR'97; Stephen Crane; Alon Dahan; Muhammad A. Dandamayev; Avi Decter; Yvonne Edels; Alfred H. Eidlisz; Michael E. Eigen, C'57; Mohamed El-Hawary; Murad El-Kodsi; Jeremy-Stuart de Fishberg; Sara Feinstein; Sandra Fifer; Jonathan Fishburn; Pamela Foa; Megan Foley; Elan Frank; John L. Frank; Robert, L'54, PAR'82, and Molly Freedman; Annette Freund; Jack and Naomi Friedman; Michal Galas; Gilad J. Gevaryahu, PAR'05, PAR'13; Erik, W'93, and Jackie Gershwind, Howard M. Girsh, W'56, L'59; Joann S. Girsh, CGS'07; Andrew Gluck; Andrew K. Gold; Yosef Goldman; Allen and Adele Gottfried, PAR'06; Michael Graves; Helaine Shoag Greenber, SW'86, GRS'89, CGS'07; Adele and Bertram Greenspan; Guido Guastalla; Silvia Guastalla; Gail Morrison-Hall; Gabriele Hammermann; Marjorie Hassen; Leonard Hayflick, C'51, GR'56; Marvin Heller; Richard Henriquez; Alice Herman; Bruna Herzfeld; Irwin Hochberg; Eric Hoffman, GR'78 L'84; Irving Horn; John R. Hose; Thomas Jefferson Foundation, Inc.; Institute for Contemporary Art; Seth Jerchower; Jewish Museum of Maryland; Jewish Publication Society of America; Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America; Maxine Kalina; Deeanne and Arnold Kaplan Foundation; Michael Kaplan; I. Milton Karabell; Dr. Deborah Karp; Melvin Kates; Jon Kean, C'89; Jeffrey Keil, W'65, PAR'91, Yaacov Kotlicki; Norman Kransdorf; Judith Korman Langsfeld, CW'67, PAR'94, PAR'02; Eric M. Lankin, W'78; Eric Laupot; Mordecai Lee; Judith Leifer; Marvin Lessen, EE'57; Walter A. Levy, G'73, PAR'93; Philip B. Lindy Lenora M. and John E. Link; Long Island Association of Jewish Libraries; Jack Lunzer; Jane Moskowitz Mack; Barbara Magalnick, GED'67; Mona Magnis; Paul David Mandel; Eugene Mark; Yaakov Mashiah; Gilbert Mathews, W'70, PAR'04; Barbara Matt; Prof. David Meghnagi; Miriam Meghnagi; Margy Meyerson; Christy Miller; Selly Mizrahi; Eleanor Chana Mlotek; Tamara Morgenstern; Musee d'art et d'histoire du Judaisme; Ezekiel N. and Margaret Musleah; National Museum of American Jewish History; Iris Newman, CGS'07; Dr. James W. Nelson Novoa; Jeffrey I. Pasek, L'76; Penn Program for Research on Religion and Urban Civil Society (PRRUCS); Edward M. Peters; Seymour Piwoz, C'52; Rabbi Jonathan V. Plaut; Jerry and Ellen Prince, G'74; Hilda Pring; Jackie Ranston; Rose Rechnic; Frieda Reider; Ruth Rin, CW'66, CGS'04; Evelyn Ringold; Barry S. Robbins, PAR'00, PAR'02; Dr. Lena Roos; Faye S. Rosenthal, CW'71; Jack Roth; Yosel Moses Rubin; Prof. David Ruderman; Eliahu and Henia Sela Saldinger; Victor D. Sanua; Lois

Satalof; Arkadius Scheinker; Dr. Avi Schmidman; Peter Schulman, W'83; Yeziel Schur; Prof. Robert Seltzer; Shalom Club at Lake Ridge, Toms River, New Jersey; Moshe A. Shaltiel-Gracian; Morris Shelanski; Harvey Sheldon; Adele Silver; Francine and Marvin Silverstein; Margie Singer; Flor Siperstein, GEN'97, GR'00; Serena S. Skwersky; Robert St. George; Eric L. Stern; Harry Stern; Ione Apfelbaum Strauss, CW'54, PAR'82, in honor of Erika A. Strauss; Paul A. Tanker; Yirmiyahu Ahron Taub; Selig A. Tauenblatt; Neville Teller; Mr. and Mrs. D. Stephen Toback, PAR'88, PAR'95; Fortunee Franchetti Treves; Irvin Ungar; Iosif I. Vaisman; Wout Jac. Van Bekkum; Marvin Verman, GAR'06; Saul Viener; Yeshayau Vinograd; Naomi Vogelman-Goldfeld; Temira Volcanyi; Prof. Dr. Friedrich Vollhardt; Bert Vorcheimer; Christine Walsh, CGS'00; Kevin Walsh; Lewis Wechsler; Bella Hass Weinberg, Meier Weisblum; Yitschok Weisblum; George H. Weiss; Ruth Westheimer; Norma R. Weiser; Falk Wiesemann; Anita J. Willens; Stephen M. Wind, C'00; Lynne Winters; Bob Wolloch; Helene Wolloch, Gerald Wolpe, PAR'78, PAR'81; Albert J. Wood; Ele Wood, CGS'65, G'78; Leonard Wood; Dan Wyman; Sharon Yannay; YIVO Institute for Jewish Research; Gilbert Young; Roza Zaks; Joseph Zernik; Susan Zeelander; Michael Zinman; Benjamin Zucker.

The following CAJS Fellows and guests have donated copies of their scholarship to the CAJS Library collection: Michela Andreatta; Doron Bar; Adina Bar-El; Hamutal Bar-Yosef; Israel Bartal; Elisheva Baumgarten; Malachi Beit-Arie; Dan Ben-Amos, HOM'71, CGS'97; Yaron Ben-Naeh; Shlomo Berger; Adele Berlin, CW'64, GR'76, PAR'93; Francesca Bregoli, G'06, GR'07; Miroslawa Bulat; Stephen Burnett; Alan D. Crown; Yaacov Deutsch; Aron Dotan; Harold Allen Drake; Glenn Dynner; Jacob Elbaum; David Engel; Shmuel Feiner; Paula Fredriksen; Shamma Friedman; Seymour Gitin; Sylvie Anne Goldberg; Paul Grendler; Alessandro Guetta; Joseph Hacker; Orna Has; Galit Hasan-Rokem; Elliott Horowitz; Adiel Kadari; Tamar Kadari; Marion Kant; Barbara Kirschenblatt-Gimblett; Samuel Z. Klauzner; Michael Kramer; Sara Japhet; Ruth Kartun-Blum; Robert Kraft; Daniel Lasker; Fabrizio Lelli; Lee I. Levine; Gideon Libson; Berahyahu Lifshitz; Ora Limor; Yehiel Limor; Aharon Maman; Rachel Manekin; Roger G. Ousterhout; Richard Popkin; Riv-Ellen Prell; Stefan Reif; Rachel Rojanski; Dalit Rom-Shiloni; Alan Rosen; Tovah Rosen; Moshe Rosman; Shalom Sabar; Christoph Schulte; Gerson Shaked; Jeffrey Shandler; Adam Shear; Daniel Sheerin; Jeffrey Shoulson; Marcos Silber; Mark S. Smith; Haym Soloveitchik; David Stern; Sarah Stroumsa; Adam Teller; Stephen Tinney; Smadar Tirosh-Heyd; Chava Turniansky; Veerle Vanden Daelen; Carsten Wilke; Marcin Wodzinski; Israel Yuval; Mordechai Zalkin; Ziony Zevit.



**Photograph of Brandenburg Gate draped with Nazi and Olympic Flags. From the Berlin Olympiade of 1936 Souvenir Album. Photographs by Eliezer Gelgor, Polish-Jewish owner of the Gelgor Photo Studio, Ramat Gan, Mandate Palestine.**

# GRADUATE STUDIES IN PENN'S JEWISH STUDIES PROGRAM

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

Our graduate programs, though small and highly selective, nonetheless remain among the strongest in America in our various fields of specialization: Bible and the Ancient Near East, Rabbinics and Biblical Interpretation, Jewish Intellectual History from the Medieval through Modern periods, Early Modern, Modern and American Jewish History, and Jewish literatures in many languages. The Jewish Studies Program itself does not run graduate programs—those continue to be located in graduate groups run through departments, such as the Department of History, the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, and the Department of Religious Studies—but the Jewish Studies Program sponsors a student-run graduate seminar. It also awards research stipends as well as special-needs and research grants to support graduate education and scholarship.

## The 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 the 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 a graduate student who works specifically in the area of Jewish Studies.

Through the years, Ed Falk has been one of Jewish Studies' most faithful and generous supporters. Ed began to make annual gifts in 1991, and from the beginning, he focused upon Jewish Studies, primarily because he wished to endow a fellowship in memory of his mother, who had been a deeply observant and committed Jew. From the beginning,

Ed also concentrated upon graduate students because of their seriousness and commitment.

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

Current Falk Fellows in the Jewish Studies Program are fourth-year student **Konstanze Kunst** (History), seventh-year student **Kerry Wallach** (Germanic Languages) and second-year student **Akhmad Sahal** (Religious Studies). Kunst is working in the field of medieval and early modern Jewish history; Wallach is studying modern German-Jewish literature and culture, and Sahal, the relationship of secularism to religion in Jewish culture.

This year we are pleased to welcome three new Falk Fellows to Penn:

**Sonia Beth Gollance** will be working in the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures focusing on German-Jewish and Yiddish literature in the modern period, with particular emphasis on questions of gender.



David Zvi Kalman, Falk fellow

**David Zvi Kalman** will be working in the Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations Department, focusing particularly on issues of jurisprudence within the Jewish and Islamic legal traditions. His work will examine both the internal evolution of each system as well as cross-pollination between the two.

**Tamara Morsel** will be studying early modern and modern Jewish intellectual history, with a particular interest in the

intersection of Jewish law and thought.

## Judah Goldin Graduate Student Seminar

Initiated in January 2000 by Professor Jeffrey Tigay, and named after the late professor of Postbiblical Hebrew literature and long-time faculty member, Judah Goldin, the Goldin Seminar consists of a series of lectures presented throughout the academic year in Biblical studies and related fields.

Coordinated and delivered by graduate students, the seminar was chaired last year by **Judah Kraut**.

The following papers were delivered at the Seminar last year.

**Dalit Rom-Shiloni**, Lecturer in Bible at Tel Aviv University, "Theodicy, or Better 'Theoretical Discourse': A Case for Hebrew Bible Theology"

**Nili Samet**, Post-doctoral Fellow University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archeology and Anthropology and professor at Bar-Ilan University, "Processes of Literary Adaptation in the Bible and in the Ancient Near East: An Ancient Proverb as a Test Case"

**Stephen Kim**, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, "The Explorations of Gilgamesh and Qoheleth: A Case for Semantic Borrowing"

**Alison Joseph**, University of California at Berkeley, "The Historiography of Deuteronomistic History"

**Aaron Butts**, University of Chicago, "Syriac in Contact with Greek: A Case for Grammatical Replication"



Sonia Beth Gollance, Falk fellow

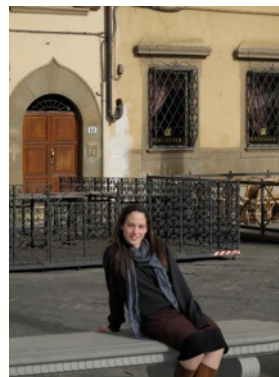
More information on the Judah Goldin Graduate Student Seminar can be found at its website, <http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/jwst/JudahGoldinSeminars.htm>

## Graduate Student News

**Spencer Allen** spent the fall 2009 semester completing his tenure as a visiting scholar the King Fahd Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies Center (MEST) at the University of Arkansas, teaching "The Searching for the Historical Paul and Jesus" and presented a paper at the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting in New Orleans, entitled "The Bible's 'Hard Headed Women,'" discussing descriptions about Eve, Delilah, and Jezebel in Elvis' first gold record "Hard Headed Woman." At the annual meeting in Atlanta this November, his Assyriological side will return with, "Assur and Enlil: Typology and Assyrian Theology."

**Rebecca Cutler**, a Benjamin Franklin fellow in the Department of History is completing her dissertation on the politics of American Jewish transnational medical activities in the Post World War II era. This past year Cutler was the Morris and Alma Schapiro Fellow at the Center for Jewish History in New York City and the Annenberg History Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania. She also received a Harry S. Truman Library

Institute Research Grant as well as a Goldfein Award from Penn's Jewish Studies Program. She presented several works in progress, including



Tamara Morsel, Falk fellow

papers at the Center for Jewish History, the Milstein Conference on New York and the American Jewish Experience, and the Association for Israel Studies Conference in Toronto. Cutler presently holds a research fellowship at the Center for Humanities at Wesleyan University in Connecticut.

**Benjamin Fisher** held a Benjamin Franklin fellowship in the Department of History, and is now completing his dissertation entitled “The Centering of the Bible in Seventeenth-Century Sephardic Amsterdam: Religion, Culture, and Scholarship.” His research focuses on the emergence of the Bible as the central text of education, culture, and religious scholarship among ex-conversos in Amsterdam. This past year, Fisher received a scholarship from the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture to conduct research in Amsterdam. He presented his work at the Association for Jewish Studies conference in Los Angeles, the Canadian Society for Jewish Studies conference in Montreal, and at the University of Toronto’s Centre for Renaissance and Reformation Studies. He has been awarded a dissertation completion fellowship from the Doris Quinn Foundation.

**Marc Herman**, a Benjamin Franklin fellow and Wexner Graduate fellow, completed his first year in the Department of Religious Studies. His long-term research interests are the intersection of law and religion in medieval Jewish society.

**Konstanze H. Kunst** has completed her comprehensive exams in Medieval, Early Modern and Modern Jewish History as well as in European Early Modern Cultural History. She was named Teaching Assistant of the year and received the Teaching Assistant award of the History Undergraduate Advisory Board after having been TA for courses about the “Rise and Fall of the Third Reich” and World War II. This year she is doing research for her dissertation in Prague, Oxford and several archives in Germany. She is interested in Jewish Printing in Prague and the Movement of Jewish Books and their Makers to and from the Habsburg Metropolis in the second half of the 17th century.

**Judah Kraut**, a doctoral student in Hebrew Bible and Ancient Near Eastern Literature, spent the Fall 2009 as a Teaching Fellow at Penn, serving as an instructor for NELC-150, Introduction to the Hebrew Bible. His article, “The Birds and the Babes: The Structure and Meaning of Psalm 8,” appeared in the Winter 2010 issue of *Jewish Quarterly Review*. In June 2010, Kraut presented a lecture series at the Drisha Institute, entitled, “An Introduction to the ‘Literary’ Study of the Bible.”

**Alexandra Rothstein** is a graduate student in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. She is working on her dissertation, which explores the development of expanded narratives about Biblical characters in Rabbinic literature and the Midrash collections of the early Islamic period, and in early Islamic literature.

**Akhmad Sahal** is a Falk fellow in the Religious Studies department. Last summer, he went to Israel, studying Hebrew at the University of Haifa’s Ulpan and conducting his preliminary research at the Jewish National Library in Jerusalem. His doctoral research seeks to compare deliberations among religious thinkers on the relationships of religious law and the secular state in Israel and Egypt in the 1920s-1940s. He plans to attend the Graduate Workshop, “Rethinking the History of Jewish Nationalism,” UCLA, January 2011.

**Yehuda Seif**, a William Penn fellow, completed his seventh year in the Religious Studies department, specializing in medieval Ashkenazic Jewry and focusing on “Charity and Poor Law in Medieval Ashkenaz.” Over the past year, he was also a fellow at The Center for Jewish Law and Contemporary Civilization at Yeshiva University’s Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law. Seif recently worked as a Senior Program Officer for the Tikvah Fund, a foundation dedicated to promoting Jewish excellence through ideas, and has now returned to full-time graduate work.

**David Shyovitz**, a Falk fellow and former Wexner Graduate fellow, is a sixth year doctoral candidate in the Department of History. His dissertation examines attitudes toward science and the natural world among thinkers in medieval Ashkenaz. Last year, he presented his research at a number of conferences, and was a fellow at the Center for Jewish Law and Contemporary Civilization at the Cardozo School of Law in New York. During the 2010-11 academic year, Shyovitz will be a College fellow in the History department at Northwestern University while he completes his dissertation. He will begin a tenure-track assistant professorship at Northwestern the following year.

**Gabriella Skwara**, a Benjamin Franklin fellow, completed her fifth year in the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures. For the 2009-10 and 2010-11 academic years she is serving as the resident director of the New England College Consortium Program in Salzburg, where she teaches courses on Austrian cultural and literary history, while also working on her dissertation, “Interfaces between German and Yiddish in Vienna during the Fin-de-siècle and Interwar Period.”

**Kerry Wallach**, a Falk fellow in the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, is currently completing her dissertation, “Headlining the Jewish Woman: Advertising and the Jewish Press in Weimar Germany.” In 2009, she presented her research at the annual conferences of the German Studies Association and the Association for Jewish Studies (AJS), for which she received travel grants from the Center for Jewish History and the AJS Women’s Caucus. She also gave an invited lecture at the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York about Jewish life in Nazi Germany. For the academic year 2010-2011, she holds a Penn CWiC Critical Speaking

Teaching Fellowship and is teaching a course on minority cultures in 20th-century Germany.

### Life After Graduate School

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

**Cornelia Aust**, a former Benjamin Franklin fellow in the Department of History, completed her dissertation entitled “Commercial Cosmopolitans: Networks of Jewish Merchants between Warsaw and Amsterdam, 1750-1820” this past May, and received her Ph.D. For the coming year (2010-2011) she has accepted a postdoctoral fellowship from the Martin Buber Society of Fellows at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Israel. In Jerusalem, she hopes to turn her dissertation into a monograph on the economic, social, and cultural life of the Jewish mercantile elite in eighteenth-century Central and Eastern Europe and its trans-regional connections. Over the past year, she presented her research at the meeting of the Association for Jewish Studies, a conference concerning “Jews, Commerce, and Culture” in Antwerp, and at the conference “Warsaw – The History of a Jewish Metropolis” at University College London. This past summer, she also participated in the Early Modern Workshop in Jewish history.

**Jennifer Glaser** is Assistant Professor of English and Comparative Literature at the University of Cincinnati and an affiliate faculty member in Judaic Studies. She is working to finish her manuscript, “Exceptional Differences: Race in the Postwar Jewish American Literary Imagination,” based on her dissertation project at Penn. Glaser has published or has publications forthcoming in a number of venues, including *PMLA*, *Prooftexts*, *MELUS*, *Safundi*, a *Continuum* volume on Philip Roth, and an anthology of essays from Random House.

**Tammy Jacobowitz** defended her dissertation entitled, “Leviticus Rabbah and the Spiritualization of the Laws of Impurity” in October. For 2009-2010, she was awarded a Memorial Foundation dissertation grant to complete her dissertation. She presented a paper entitled, “Policing Bodies, Controlling Borders: Leviticus Rabbah and Leprosy” at the Association of Jewish Studies conference in Los Angeles, for which she was awarded the AJS Women’s Caucus award. She teaches and lectures in communities throughout the metropolitan NY area. In September, Jacobowitz began teaching Bible and Jewish Thought full-time at the SAR High School in Riverdale, NY. She lives in Teaneck, NJ, with her husband and three children.



**Debra Kaplan** is the Dr. Pinkhos Churgin Memorial Assistant Professor in Jewish History at Yeshiva University. Her book, *Beyond Expulsion: Jews, Christians, and Reformation Strasbourg*, published by Stanford University Press, will be available in Spring 2011. Kaplan has published several articles on Jewish communities in Alsace, Jewish autobiographical texts, Jews during the Reformation, and the economic lives of early modern Jewish women. She is currently working on several projects, including communal ordinances about the mikvaot in sixteenth century Altona, and daily life in Frankfurt am Main between the 16th and 18th centuries.

**Ellie Schainker** successfully defended her dissertation this past spring and received her PhD in History in May. This academic year, Schainker is a fellow at the Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, continuing her research on converts and conversion in Russian-Jewish society. Schainker has accepted a tenure-track position at Emory University beginning in Fall 2011, where she will be the Arthur Blank Family Foundation Assistant Professor of Jewish Studies and History. This past year, she lectured on Imperial Russian-Jewish history and contemporary Russian-Jewish culture to student and public audiences in California, New Jersey, and New York.

**Adam Shear** (PhD, History, 2003) continues to teach Jewish history in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Pittsburgh. In June of 2010, he began a term as director of Pitt's Jewish Studies Program. A volume of articles on *The Hebrew Book in Early Modern Italy* that he co-edited with Joseph R. Hacker will be published in 2011 by the University of Pennsylvania Press. This volume originated in the Katz Center's research group on Jewish Material Texts in 2005-2006.

**Susan Zeelander** received her PhD in May from the department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, and she is now a visiting scholar in the department. Her dissertation, "Endings in Biblical Narratives" was written under the direction of Professor Jeffrey H. Tigay and is available at <http://repository.upenn.edu/edissertations/169>. In addition to continuing her research, Zeelander is presenting a paper at the SBL meeting in November 2010 and is teaching adult education classes, including "Narratives in Numbers."

**Positions for our New Graduates**

This has been an especially rewarding year for our newly minted Ph.Ds. The Jewish Studies Program is pleased to announce the following positions accepted by our recent graduates:

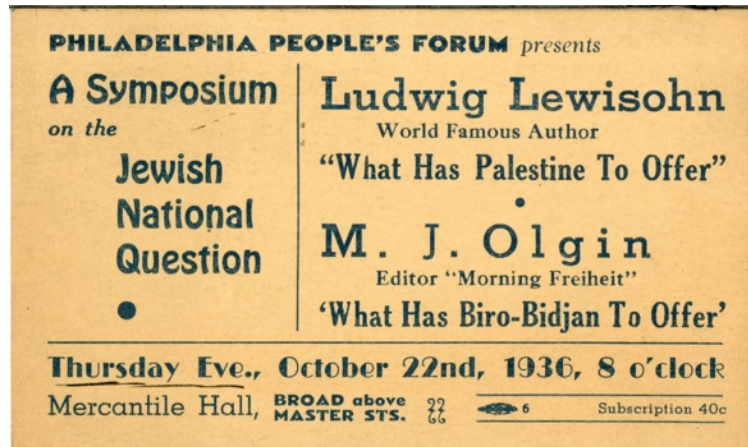
**Anne Oravetz Albert** has been accepted as a fellow at Penn's Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies for the 2010-2011 academic year.

**Cornelia Aust** has accepted a postdoctoral fellowship from the Martin Buber Society of Fellows in the Humanities at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

**Yaacob Dweck** has been appointed assistant professor in modern Jewish history at Princeton University.

**Ellie Schainker** will accept a position as assistant professor in modern Jewish history at Emory University, after spending the 2010-2011 academic year as a fellow at Penn's Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies.

**David Shyovitz** has been appointed assistant professor in medieval Jewish history at Northwestern University.



Admission ticket to attend the Philadelphia People's Forum, featuring a Symposium on the Jewish National Question, Thursday, October 22, 1926. Acquisition made possible thanks to Arnold Kaplan.



Original Photograph of the Port of Tel Aviv, November, 1938, taken by Eliezer Gelgor, Polish-Jewish owner of the Gelgor Photo Studio, Ramat Gan, Mandate Palestine.

issue of *Nashim: A Journal of Jewish Women's Studies and Gender Issues*. Her articles also appeared in *Radical Poets and Secular Jewish Culture*. Hellerstein also published translations of Yiddish poems by Malka Heifetz Tussman in the Spring 2010 edition of *Kerem*, and by Kadya Molodowsky in *Mahzor Lev Shalem: Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur*, and Anna Margolin and Rivke Basman-Ben-Hayim in *Nashim* 19. Hellerstein also published her own poems in *Critiphoria* and *Nashim* 19. Hellerstein organized and chaired the multi-lingual reading of poetry written in Israel by women, at Penn's Kelly Writers House. Hellerstein continues to serve as the Coordinator of Yiddish Studies Literature Sections for the Annual Conventions of the Association for Jewish Studies, on the Executive Committee of Yiddish Discussion Group for the Modern Language Association, as poetry editor of both *Kerem* and *Nashim: A Journal of Jewish Women's Studies and Gender Issues* as well as on the Editorial Advisory Boards for *Nashim* and *Yiddish*, and on the Jewish Publication Society's National Council. She served as the finalist judge for a national Yiddish Poetry Translation Contest, and the International Association of Yiddish Clubs. In March 2010, Hellerstein was awarded a School of Arts and Sciences Language Teaching Innovation Grant to develop Blackboard pedagogical materials for intermediate Yiddish.

**Arthur Kiron**, Schottenstein-Jesselson Curator of Judaica Collections, delivered a number of public lectures and programs about the newly acquired Lenkin Family Collection of Photography. He continues to direct the American Genizah Project, co-direct the annual Manfred R. Lehmann Memorial Master Workshop in the History of the Jewish Book with David Stern, serve on four library committees, and on a number of academic book advisory boards. Kiron was a member of the planning committee for a conference on "Gender in Judaism and Islam," held at Penn in March 2010. During the past year, Kiron was appointed to the academic advisory committee of the Center for Jewish History in New York City. He also continues to serve on the board of communal organizations, such as the American Veterans of Israel (Machal) Legacy organization. Kiron has forthcoming publications in *Renaissance and Revival in American Jewish History: Leah Levitz Fishbane Memorial Volume* and a review in *The Bodleian Library Record*.

**Robert Kraft**, Emeritus Professor of Religious Studies, is no longer teaching regular courses but is available for directed reading and research with graduate students (RELS 999). He has finished creating digital images of the collection of papyri and related materials at the University Museum and will now adapt that material for inclusion on the online Advanced Papyrological Information System [APIS] site. He also continues to encode textual variants of the ancient Greek Jewish Scriptures as part of the Computer Assisted Tools for Septuagint/Scriptural Studies [CATSS] project. Details of these and other activities may be found on his web page at <http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/rak/kraft.html>. In Fall

of 2009 a collection of his essays appeared with the title "Exploring the Scripturesque: Jewish Texts and their Christian Contexts" in the *Supplement to the Journal for the Study of Judaism* (Brill). That material is also available through his website.

**Ian Lustick** is the Bess W. Heyman Professor in the Political Science department. During the spring, Lustick lectured on the prize winning Israeli film, "Waltz with Bashir" at the Philadelphia Free Library and at Tufts University. He also presented a paper at the 2010 meeting of the Association for Israel Studies in Toronto, entitled "Emigration from Israel: How Come? How Much? How Important?" At that conference, Lustick also debated other scholars on the question of whether "Time is on Israel's Side, or Against It." In this past year, Lustick has advised several Penn students who have been writing, or are beginning to work on dissertations and honors thesis projects relating to Israel and based in part on field work in Israel. Lustick has also been invited to participate in a review committee organized by the Israel Council of Higher Education to assess Israeli university programs in political science, public policy, and international relations.

**Benjamin Nathans**, the Ronald S. Lauder Endowed Term Associate Professor of History, was visiting professor at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales in Paris during spring 2010. His recent publications on human rights and the Soviet dissident movement have appeared in the *London Review of Books*, *Novoe literaturnoe obozrenie* (Russia), and other journals, and are forthcoming with Cambridge University Press and *The Nation*. Nathans gave the keynote address, "Socialism Demagnetized: New Approaches to the Post-Totalitarian Era of Soviet History," at an international symposium at Penn in April 2010. He also presented his work at the University of California at Berkeley, The Hoover Institution at Stanford, the Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies (Germany), and the European University of St. Petersburg (Russia). Nathans continues to act as historical consultant to Ralph Appelbaum Associates (New York), an interpretive museum design firm currently creating a museum of Russian-Jewish history in Moscow.

**Annette Yoshiko Reed** has been appointed in 2010 as M. Mark and Esther K. Watkins Assistant Professor in the Humanities; she is part of the core faculty of Penn's Department of Religious Studies as well as a member of the Jewish Studies Program and the Graduate Group in Ancient History. In 2009-2010, she was a Faculty Fellow in the Penn Humanities Forum on Connections. She also participated in a series of meetings for the Tikvah Project in Jewish Thought's Working Group on Messianism at Princeton University. She presented papers at a symposium on "La croisée des chemins revisitée" at Université François Rabelais de Tours, and at a Penn Museum conference on "History and Material Culture in Asian Religions," the latter of which she helped to organize. Other talks this year included a discussion with David Stern on

"Angelology and Monotheism" for Penn's Bassini Interns Program and a text-workshop on "Demons in Ancient Judaism" for the 2010 LimmudPhilly Learningfest. Reed continues to serve on the Editorial Board of the book-series *Texts and Studies in Ancient Judaism*, as Program Unit Chair of the Hellenistic Judaism Section of the *Society of Biblical Literature*, and as Coordinator of the Philadelphia Seminar on Christian Origins. In addition to her ongoing research on the Pseudo-Clementines and "Jewish-Christianity," she is writing a monograph about the Book of Jubilees and working with Natalie Dohrmann on an edited volume that builds from the 2008 Katz Center project on "Jewish and Other Imperial Cultures in Late Antiquity."

**David B. Ruderman** published a new book this past spring entitled *Early Modern Jewry: A New Cultural History* (Princeton University Press, 2010). The book was discussed by four commentators at a seminar sponsored by Penn's Jewish Studies Program and will also be discussed at a special session devoted to the book at the Association for Jewish Studies meeting in December, 2010. Other recent publications include: "Buchdruck und jüdische Kultur in der Frühen Neuzeit Europas" in *Münchener Beiträge zur Jüdischen Geschichte und Kultur*, ed. Michael Brenner (Munich, 2009), pp. 8-22; and "Verschmolzene Identitäten: Juden, Christen und die veränderte Wahrnehmung der Anderen in der europäischen Frühen Neuzeit," in *Rainer Kampling*, ed. During the past year, Ruderman presented lectures at the University of Frankfurt, Boston University, Johns Hopkins University, Rutgers University, Ramaz High School, the Samuel Bronfman Foundation, The Foundation for Jewish Studies, Washington D.C., and the University of Antwerp. He was awarded an honorary doctorate from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion this past spring. He is the recipient of a Scaliger fellowship at the University of Leiden for the summer, 2010 and a Berlin fellowship from the American Academy of Berlin for the spring semester, 2011. He continues to serve on the advisory board of the Mandel Center for Judaic Studies of the Hebrew University and has organized a conference at the University of Antwerp on Jews, Commerce, and Culture in June, 2010, a sequel to one held at Penn. He has just completed his sixteenth year as Ella Darivoff Director of the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies and continues to serve as editor of the series "Jewish Culture and Contexts" published by the University of Pennsylvania Press.

**Larry Silver**, Farquhar Professor of Art History, has two book projects of interests to Jewish Studies, *Rembrandt's Faith. Temple and Church in the Dutch Golden Age*, co-authored with Shelley Perlove of U. Michigan-Dearborn (Penn State University Press, 2009). It was a finalist for the annual book prize of the College Art Association. Silver's other book, *Diaspora and Zion: Jewish Artists and Modernity* is in progress and co-authored with Samantha Baskind, a modern American art specialist at Cleveland State

University; it will be a survey of modern Jewish artists, investigating how that very profession was a hallmark of modernity for Jewish individuals in Europe, America, and Israel. The book is expected to be used as a textbook for college classes and should be out by 2011. Silver enjoyed a sabbatical research leave, in which he spent the fall as an honorary fellow at the Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies. In the spring, he was a Fellow at the Clark Art Institute in Williamstown, Massachusetts.

**Jonathan Steinberg**, Walter H. Annenberg Professor of History, completed a large biography of Bismarck, which Oxford University Press accepted for publication in December 2009. During the spring he cut 60,000 words from the manuscript and completed a revision. The book, the first biography to focus on Bismarck's personality, will also be the first to show how central anti-semitism was not only to Bismarck himself but in Prussian society. The book will appear in England on February 10, 2011, and in the USA on April 1, 2011, Bismarck's birthday. With Marion Kant, Steinberg taught during the spring, the seminar on "Secular Judaism and Secular Jews: Lives and Choices."

**David Stern**, Moritz and Josephine Berg Professor in Near Eastern Languages and Literatures, published several articles over the past year in *Art Judaica*, *China Social Sciences*, *Jewish Studies Annual*, and in *Kerem*. Stern also has forthcoming publications in the *Jewish Studies Internet Journal* next year, in a volume entitled *Cooperation and Control: Producing Hebrew Books in Early Modern Italy*, to be published by the University of Pennsylvania Press, and in *Revue des Études Juives*. In addition, Stern also wrote a lengthy general introduction to a new facsimile edition of the Washington Haggadah (a famous fifteenth century illustrated Passover haggadah now in the Library of Congress), as well as a translation of the haggadah's text, to be published next spring by Harvard University Press. Stern delivered lectures at Northwestern University, the Newberry Library in Chicago, the Center for Jewish History in New York City; Yale University; Princeton University; the Workshop on the History of the Material Text at the University of Pennsylvania; Villanova University; the Works-In-Progress Seminar of Penn's Jewish Studies Program; and at the Fellows Retreat of the American Academy for Jewish Research held at the University of Toronto. In December, he delivered a paper at an international colloquium on the Jewish Book History at the Bibliotheca Rosenthaliana of the University of Amsterdam, and in March, he served for three days as a visiting fellow at the Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan. During the end of May and early June, he was a distinguished visiting professor at Ben-Gurion University in Israel where he delivered papers to the departments of Jewish Thought and of Hebrew Literature and participated in an international conference on "Jewish Thought and Jewish Belief." During the spring semester, Stern served as Acting Graduate Chair of the Department of Near Eastern Languages and

Civilizations. Stern continued to serve on the Executive Committee of the American Academy for Jewish Research and was appointed to the Nominations Committee of the Association for Jewish Studies. For the tenth year he also served as the co-director of the Manfred Lehmann Master Workshop in the History of the Jewish Book, and for the fifth year, he taught the Rabbinics class for the Meah adult education program in Philadelphia.

**Jeff Tigay**, A.M. Ellis Professor of Hebrew & Semitic Languages & Literatures, is completing a revised Hebrew version of his 1996 commentary on Deuteronomy, which will be published in the Israeli commentary series *Mikra le-Yisrael*. He recently completed an article on "The Role of the Elders in the Laws of Deuteronomy" for a forthcoming Festschrift, and he is continuing work on two multi-year publication projects: a Hebrew commentary on Exodus, for the *Mikra Le-Yisrael* series, and the first volume (on the Biblical period) of The Posen Library of Jewish Culture and Civilization: Anthology of Primary Sources, Documents, Texts, and Artifacts, a ten-volume series being published by Yale University Press. In November, 2009, he presented a seminar on Biblical criticism as part of the Eilu ve-Eilu Fellowship program at the Drisha Institute in New York, and a lecture in "Deuteronomy: The Mind and Heart of the Torah" at the Steven Wise Free Synagogue in New York. In January he presented a paper on Monotheism in the Hebrew Bible" as part of symposium entitled "What Do We Mean When We Say 'Monotheism,'" held at the American Jewish University in Los Angeles. This November he will be moderating a panel in memory of Prof. Moshe Greenberg at the annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature in Atlanta.

**Liliane Weissberg** is the Christopher H. Browne Distinguished Professor in Arts and Sciences, and works on German-Jewish literature and thought. In Summer 2009, she was Visiting Professor in Interdisciplinary Holocaust Studies at the Fritz Bauer-Institut, Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität Frankfurt/M. She co-taught a doctoral seminar in archival studies at the Deutsches Literaturarchiv Marbach in July and August. In Spring 2010, she was a Fellow at the Center for Advanced Studies at the Ludwig Maximilians Universität München, researching a book on Freud. She was named Honorary Member of the Psychoanalytic Center of Philadelphia, and received a Fulbright Fellowship for Spring 2011, to continue her research on Freud at the Freud Museum there. She will also be a Visiting Professor in the History Department at the Universität Wien. Weissberg has also been named Franz Rosenzweig-Professor at the Universität Kassel, and will visit there in Spring 2012. She organized a conference on "Hannah Arendt und die Frankfurter Schule" at the Universität Frankfurt in January and on "Envisioning Realism" at the University of Pennsylvania in March 2010. Her small book on *Hannah Arendt, Charlie Chaplin, und die verborgene jüdische Tradition* appeared in the Fall, and two anthologies are forthcoming: *Hannah*

*Arendt und die Frankfurter Schule* (Frankfurt/Main: Campus Verlag), and *Picture This! Writing with Photography* (with Karen Beckman, Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press). Weissberg contributed the lead article for the exhibition *Preussens Eros—Preussens Musen* (Haus der Geschichte Berlin-Brandenburg, Potsdam; September- January 2011), and curated the exhibition *The Wolf Man Paints! Drawings and Painting by Freud's Patient Sergius Pankejeff* (Slought Gallery, Philadelphia; November 2010 to January 2011), the first exhibition to show Pankejeff's work. In the 2009-2010 academic year, she published articles on Freud, Dare Wright, Arendt, Karl Löwith, the current state of German-Jewish studies, and the current state of German Studies in the United States. She served on the Program Committee of the Modern Language Association of America, as well as Fellowship committees from the German Studies Association, the Leo Baeck Institute New York, The Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes, the Mellon Foundation, the Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, and other institutions.

**Beth S. Wenger** is Associate Professor of History and Director of the Jewish Studies Program. Her newest book, *History Lessons: The Creation of American Jewish Heritage*, was just published by Princeton University Press. She received a grant from the Lucius N. Littauer Foundation that supported the book's publication. Wenger's essay, "Constructing Manhood in American Jewish Culture," will appear in a forthcoming anthology, *Gender and Jewish History: Culture, Religion, and Politics*, published by Indiana University Press. She also has an essay in *Dreams of Freedom*, the catalogue published in conjunction with the new exhibition at the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia. Wenger served as one of four historians who helped to create the museum's core exhibition, which opens in November 2010. Wenger delivered several public lectures this past year, including the Sonenshine Endowed Lecture in Jewish Studies at Old Dominion University and a keynote address at the Southern Jewish Historical Society in New Orleans. She also participated in two roundtable discussions – one on the question of American Jewish exceptionalism and the other on the creation of the National Museum of American Jewish History's exhibition – at the Biennial Scholars' Conference on American Jewish History held at the Center for Jewish History in New York. Wenger continues to speak widely on her recent book, *The Jewish Americans: Three Centuries of Jewish Voices in America*, which is a companion volume to the 2008 PBS documentary titled *The Jewish Americans*. Wenger was recently elected Vice Chair of the Executive Committee of the Academic Council of the American Jewish Historical Society, and will assume the Chair in December 2010. Wenger also serves as a Distinguished Lecturer of the Organization of American Historians and on the Academic Board of the Association for Jewish Studies.

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA  
JEWISH STUDIES PROGRAM  
711 Williams Hall  
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6305

Phone: 215-898-6654 • Fax: 215-573-6026  
Web: <http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/jwst/>  
Email: [jsp-info@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:jsp-info@sas.upenn.edu)

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 2563  
Philadelphia, PA

**You can help us maintain the excellence of our program.  
Please consider a contribution to the Jewish Studies Program at Penn.**

Please make checks payable to the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania, and include your name, address, and phone number. For credit card contributions, please call 215-898-5262. Contributions are tax deductible.

Gifts should be sent to:  
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA  
JEWISH STUDIES PROGRAM  
711 Williams Hall  
255 South 36th Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19104-9959

R E C E N T G I F T S

# In Appreciation

**Jewish Studies Program Donors  
July 1, 2009-June 30, 2010**

Emilio Bassini, C'71, WG'73,  
and Reina Marin Bassini,  
CW'72, GEd'72, parents  
Adam T. Brenner, W'01  
Gregory F. Brenner, W'99, *in  
memory of Martin Fisher*  
Raymond B. and Ruth  
Brenner, *in memory of Fred  
Oppenheimer and Sylvia  
Brenner*  
Michael A. Carasik  
Charlotte Yiddish Institute  
Edward J. Falk, W'66  
Annette Freund  
Julia Goldin, G'46  
Rabbi Nason S. Goldstein,  
C'64  
Rabbi Louis Kaplan, ED'49,  
GED'50  
Harry and Bernice Kosansky  
Manfred and Anne Lehmann  
Foundation

Melvin Kutchin, C'50  
Mr. Benjamin L. Newton, C'07  
David S. Newton, WG'81,  
parent  
Michelle and Peter E. Roth,  
C'81, WG'85  
Norman Turkish

**Katz Center for Advanced Judaic  
Studies Donors  
July 1, 2009-June 30, 2010**

Dean Stewart Adler, W'79,  
L83, and Susanna E. Lachs,  
CW'74, ASC'76  
David Altshuler, *in honor of  
David Ruderman*  
Barbara S. Berkowitz, ED'51,  
and Edwin J. Berkowitz, C'49  
Josephine Cohen, a graduate  
of the University of  
Pennsylvania

Betsy Marks Darivoff, C'79,  
and Philip M. Darivoff, W'79,  
WG'85, parents, and the  
Darivoff Family Foundation  
Avrom I. Doft, W'60  
Cynthia Rabin Golub, W'76,  
and Bennett W. Golub  
Martin D. Gruss, W'64, and  
Audrey B. Gruss  
Harvey M. & Lyn P. Meyerhoff  
Philanthropic Fund, *in  
memory of Herbert D. Katz*  
Leslie Wohlman Himmel,  
CW'75  
David and Barbara B.  
Hirschhorn Foundation  
The Jesselson Family  
Arthur H. Joseph, W'47  
Eleanor Meyerhoff Katz,  
parent, and the Eleanor M. &  
Herbert D. Katz Foundation,  
*in memory of Herbert D. Katz*  
Thomas O. Katz, W'79, and  
Elissa E. Katz, C'79, parents,  
*in memory of Annabel F. Lindy*

Lloyd F. Lampell, *in honor of  
Rabbi Sholom Nemtzov*  
Philip B. Lindy, W'52 and the  
late Annabel F. Lindy  
Audrey Stein Merves, CW'56,  
and Stanley Merves, parents,  
and the Louis and Bessie  
Stein Foundation #2  
Harvey and Lyn P. Meyerhoff  
Fund, *in memory of Herbert  
D. Katz*  
Albert M. Perlstein, W'57,  
GGs'96, and Arlene G.  
Perlstein, CW'59  
Sandra Trilling Piwoz, *in  
memory of Dr. Seymour Piwoz*  
Julie Beren Platt, C'79, and  
Marc E. Platt, C'79, *in  
memory of Annabel F. Lindy*  
Brad A. Prutkin, C'95  
Ivan Ross, W'83, and Nina  
Ross  
David B. Ruderman, *in honor  
of Rabbi Barry Friedman*  
The Jay and Jeanie  
Schottenstein Family

Alan Shuch, WG'75  
Barbara-Lee Silverman  
Louise A. Strauss  
Rabbi Joshua H. Strom, *in  
honor of David Ruderman*  
Temple Shaaray Tefila, *in  
honor of David Ruderman*  
Estate of Louis Vederman  
Deborah and Kenneth  
Vogelstein, parents, and the  
David and Barbara B.  
Hirschhorn Foundation  
Michael D. and Sharon  
Weiner, parents  
Stephen M. Wind  
Estate of Albert J. Wood  
Eloise Larrea Wood, CGS'65,  
G'78