

Jewish Studies @ PENN

The Jewish Studies Annual Newsletter

Fall 2011

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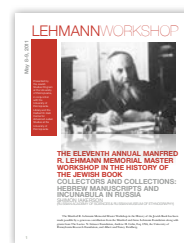
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Jewish Studies at the University of Pennsylvania

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 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.



15th Century Manuscript Copy of the Book of Esther. Gift of Lawrence J. Schoenberg (C'53, WG'57, PAR'93) and Barbara Brizdle Schoenberg.



GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR,

Jewish Studies Program

On two different occasions last year, Penn students, faculty, and members of the community filled Houston Hall's auditorium to capacity. In the fall semester, as part of the Silvers Scholars program, the Jewish Studies Program sponsored a roundtable discussion on the topic of "The Challenge of Reading the Bible Today." In this roundtable, Jewish, Catholic and Protestant Bible scholars explored the delicate balance of engaging in critical and scholarly readings of the text while also respecting faith traditions. In the spring semester, the Alexander Colloquium also prompted a dialogue among scholars, this time about the role that the Holocaust has played—or in some cases, not played—in the larger teaching and narration of modern Jewish history. As I looked around the auditorium at these events, I was particularly struck by the diversity of those who attended. There were undergraduate and graduate students of all backgrounds, not only those engaged specifically in Jewish studies, but also students and faculty from departments across campus, along with members of the wider Penn community. They came, in part, because these two topics are among the most hotly contested and widely debated issues in our society, and also because the scholars involved presented a range of opinions and truly engaged with one another. Our goal in the Jewish Studies Program has long been to bring together different constituencies, to create a dialogue that connects Jewish Studies with other areas in the humanities, and when possible, to use scholarship to grapple with the important issues of the day. It was a pleasure to witness the dynamism of those efforts at their best in our programs last year. We have begun to podcast many of our lectures. If you are interested in listening to either of these programs, please follow this link for the Silvers Scholar program: <http://itunes.apple.com/us/itunes-u/silvers-visiting-scholar/id431285331> and for the Alexander Colloquium please follow this link: <http://itunes.apple.com/us/itunes-u/alexander-colloquium/id431284852>

In the coming year, we have planned an array of exciting programs. On October 26-27, 2011, we will welcome the acclaimed Israeli author Aharon Appelfeld to campus for a two-day conference that will explore his life and work. Appelfeld will read from his writing and take part in a public discussion of his work during the conference. On November 7, 2011, Jascha Nemstov of Berlin's Abraham Geiger College will join us for this year's Alexander Colloquium to perform a concert featuring composers of the St. Petersburg Society of Jewish Folk Music and their successors. In the spring semester, the Silvers Visiting Scholar program will be devoted to a panel discussion about "The Second War: North American Fighters in Israel's War of Independence." You will read more details about these provocative programs inside this newsletter. Please also visit our website at <http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/jwst/> to find our full calendar of events 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.

As always, 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
Professor of History
Director, Jewish Studies Program

Cover image caption continued:

Written in codex form in a fifteenth-century square Italian hand, this Hebrew text of the Biblical Book of Esther, amounting to sixteen leaves in total, originally formed part of a larger miscellany. The manuscript begins on the recto of the first folio with the conclusion of the Book of Lamentations and Esther on the verso. Following Esther there is a single added folio which contains two liturgical poems, Asher Heini (lacking two verses) and Shoshanath Ya'akov, written in a semi-cursive rabbinic Italian hand. Notably, the scribe left space around the text of Esther for the elaborate illumination and decorations which were added at a considerably later time. The presence of the aforementioned two liturgical poems associated with Purim indicates that in its current form the codex of Esther was adapted for Purim, which is customarily observed by reading the Hebrew text from a megillah (scroll).



GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR,

Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies

During the past year, the Katz Center hosted a wonderful group of scholars on the theme of Converts and Conversion to and from Judaism. Participants came from Spain, Belgium, Croatia, Germany, Italy, Poland, Israel, and the United States with variegated backgrounds, ages, and research interests. As often happens at our Center, these diverse individuals came together to create a powerful and exciting collective. The fellows participated in our weekly formal seminars while organizing their own "shadow" seminars that regularly met a second day a week. They also shaped two highly successful conferences, one at the end of December, and one in May. And they forged new personal and professional alliances from their intense contact with each other. It was indeed inspiring to feel the energy and commitment of this group throughout the year!

We expect to have the same results this coming year when a new community of scholars emerges at our Center around the exciting theme of Travel and Travel Literature, a topic much discussed in recent cultural studies. As in the past, we have launched a wide range of public lectures in Philadelphia and New York around the topic and we continue to share the results of our dynamic program through our widely disseminated e-newsletter edited by Dr. Yechiel Schur. Please use the website of the Center: <http://www.cajs.upenn.edu/> to join our mailing list.

The Center's journal, *The Jewish Quarterly Review*, celebrated its one hundredth anniversary this past fall with a festive conference jointly sponsored with Penn's Jewish Studies Program at the new National Museum of American Jewish History. Our publication series "Jewish Cultures and Contexts," published several new books this year and continues to generate some of the most innovative scholarship in Jewish studies.

I am also happy to announce the creation of a new and exciting program of the Katz Center: a new summer school for graduate students from around the world to be co-sponsored by the Hebrew University. The school will alternate its location between Israel and Philadelphia, inviting about twenty-five of the most promising students in their first three years of graduate training for textual study with a faculty of distinguished scholars and teachers from Israel and the Diaspora. In addition to strengthening its ties with the Hebrew University through this program co-directed by me and by Professor Yisrael Yuval of the Hebrew University, the Katz Center hopes to extend its mission of socializing scholars, of creating communities of learning, both on the doctoral level as well as the post-doctoral. The program is unique in attracting simultaneously students from Israel, Europe, and North America to be taught by an international faculty. The school will open in July, 2012 in Israel and continue in Philadelphia the following summer.

I had the great privilege of serving as a fellow of the American Academy of Berlin this past spring. I am most indebted to Dr. Natalie Dohrmann for stepping in and assuming most of my responsibilities during my leave along with the other dedicated members of the staff of the Center. My sincere thanks to them all.

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 Editor: Beth Wenger

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

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

Three seniors completed the Jewish Studies Program's Interdisciplinary Major: **Dina Bleckman, Hannah Gerstenblatt** and **Ariel Stein**.

Three seniors completed the Jewish Studies Program's Interdisciplinary Minor: **Saraleah Cogan, Akiva Dworkin** and **Naomi Kaplan**.

Undergraduate Student Research

In 2010-2011, three graduating Jewish Studies majors submitted senior theses, which they presented to a large, appreciative audience on April 28, 2011.

"A Quest for Authenticity: The Rise and Future of Independent Minyanim" by **Dina Bleckman**

"Translating Cultures: The Writer as Spokesperson in Abraham Cahan's and Anzia Yezierska's Short English Fiction" by **Hannah Gerstenblatt**

"Programming for Professionals: The Organization of Orthodox Outreach in America" by **Ariel Stein**



Hannah Gerstenblatt, C'11, giving her thesis presentation in April

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 **Linda Castillo**.

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 **Saraleah A. Cogan**.

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 **Rachel Schonwetter**.

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 **David A. Stark**.

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 **Hannah Gerstenblatt**. We are deeply grateful to the Goldin family.

Akhmad Sahal for participation in two conferences

William Zimmerle for research in Israel

Undergraduate Students:

Rebecca Freedman for research in Israel

Ariel Stein for research in Baltimore

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:

Sonia Gollance for Krakow Jewish Culture Festival

Jason Goodman for research in Poland

Konstanze Kunst for research in Czech Republic/Germany

Jacob Eder for conference participation

Kerry Wallach for conference participation in London

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:

Rachel Ellis for statistical software

Itay Greenspan for research in Israel

Marc Herman for Arabic language study in Israel

David Zvi Kalman for participation at AJS conference in Boston

Undergraduate Students:

Dina Bleckman for research in New York

Channah Dulin for research in Israel

Anna Vinogradov for research in New York and Philadelphia

Rachel Schonwetter for research at the American Jewish Archives in Cincinnati.

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**,



Rabbis representing four different Jewish denominations spoke at a Bassini Intern panel discussion at Penn Hillel. [Left to Right]: David Straus (Main Line Reform Congregation), Dan Ehrenkrantz (Reconstructionist Rabbinical College), Eric Yanoff (Congregation Adath Israel), Yonah Gross (Congregation Beth Hamedrosh), and Beth Wenger (University of Pennsylvania).

(Ritche Stank/DP Staff Photographer)

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 Directors, **Kathryn Hellerstein** (fall) and **Nili Gold** (spring), and graduate student coordinator, **Tammie Wanta**, students initiated, organized and produced the following events during the academic year.

Daneel Schaechter and **Brian Mund** organized a program in which Professor **Michael Steinlauf** (Gratz College) led students in a talk on the "Diaspora: Now and Then." A hundred years ago, the legendary writer Y. L. Peretz stood at the center of a new Jewish culture rooted in the Eastern European Diaspora. Peretz believed that the Diaspora could be a powerful source of Jewish creativity and identity expressed in Yiddish as well as Hebrew.

Michael Rubin and **Dina Bleckman** ran a program in which Professor **Elihu Katz** (Annenberg School) engaged students in the book of Esther through the lens of communication studies titled, "Haman's Fall."

Becka Lefkoe, **Melissa Goldstein**, and **Elie Peltz** organized a program where four rabbis of the major Jewish denominations: Rabbi **Eric Yanoff** (Congregation Adath Israel), Rabbi **Yonah Gross** (Congregation Beth Hamedrash), Rabbi **Dan Ehrenkrantz** (Reconstructionist Rabbinical College), Rabbi **David Straus** (Congregation Main Line Reform), discussed the status of their movements today and the key issues facing the American Jewish community of tomorrow. Professor **Beth Wenger** (History) moderated the panel.

Ryan Ortega organized a program in which Professor **Paul Franks** (University of Toronto) and Professor **Paul Guyer** (Philosophy) discussed issues in Jewish philosophy in a program titled, "Jewish and anti-Jewish Dimensions of Post-Kantian Philosophy."

Meir Dardashti and **Chaim Gevaryahu** organized a program on Rabbi Isaac Abravanel with Professor **Javier Castano** (Katz fellow and Instituto de Lenguas y Culturas del Mediterraneo, Madrid) who discussed Rabbi Abravanel's unique role both as a prominent Judaic scholar and a man of profound political influence.

Dina Bleckman and **Michael Rubin** organized a program in which Professor **Jeffrey Tigay** (Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations) spoke about his personal relationship to teaching and the Bible, and reflected on years of teaching at Penn titled, "Last Lecture with Dr. Jeffrey Tigay."

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. Professor Engel and her staff continue constantly to introduce enhancements to the program's internationally acclaimed curriculum and website. The website provides a portal to a 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.

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 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 five 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.

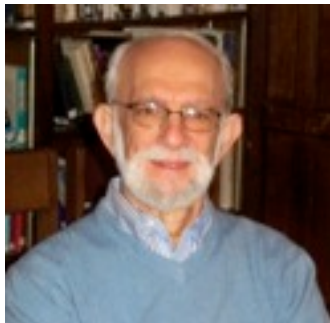
DEPARTURES

Ruth Rin, who first joined Penn Library's Cataloging Department in 1974, retired after years of service to the library and to Jewish Studies. Rin served as Penn's Hebraica bibliographer for 17 years, and was the Hebraica cataloging librarian since 1983. Throughout her career, she demonstrated a passion for Hebrew language materials and a dedication to making those materials accessible to students and faculty. In addition, Rin served on the Association of Jewish Libraries Cataloging Committee, and she continues to contribute to the national Name Authority Cooperative Hebraica funnel project. The Jewish Studies Program benefited enormously from Rin's enthusiasm for Hebrew language and literature, and we wish her well as she continues to pursue that passion in new arenas.

In December 2010, Professor **Jeffrey H. Tigay**, A.M. Ellis Professor of Hebrew and Semitic Languages and Literatures, retired after teaching at Penn for 39 years. Tigay was one of the most popular and distinguished faculty in Jewish Studies at Penn. His "Introduction to the Bible" was consistently the Jewish Studies course with the highest undergraduate enrollment, and his graduate program in Biblical Studies was among the most distinguished in the world; he supervised 14 dissertations, and his students hold many important positions in universities in America and Israel. As a scholar, Tigay was equally distinguished. The author and editor of four books and numerous articles, his volume on Deuteronomy in the Jewish Publication Society's *Torah Commentary* series has become the definitive commentary in English on that Biblical book and is currently being translated into Hebrew for the very prestigious *Mikra Le-Yisrael* series. More than simply a great teacher and scholar, Tigay was also a wonderful colleague. As Director of the

Jewish Studies Program between 1995-98, he oversaw the growth of the program during that formative period and remained a

source of wisdom and encouragement to his colleagues ever since. We wish him a long and productive retirement. Emeritus professors like Tigay don't vanish; they simply publish more!



Jeffrey H. Tigay

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 seventh year. 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.

FACULTY AWARDS AND HONORS

Benjamin Nathans received a Lucius N. Littauer Foundation Grant for Translation into Hebrew of *Beyond the Pale: The Jewish Encounter with Late Imperial Russia*.

David Ruderman received a German Transatlantic Program Fellowship at the American Academy in Berlin in Spring, 2011. He was also awarded a National Jewish Book Award in History for his book *Early Modern Jewry: A New Cultural History*.

Jonathan Steinberg's *Bismarck. A Life* (Oxford University Press,) was short-listed for the BBC Samuel Johnson Prize for Non-Fiction.

Liliane Weissberg was named the 2011 Fulbright Freud Scholar at the Freud Museum in Vienna, and Visiting Professor at the University of Vienna in Spring 2011. She was also named the 2012 Franz Rosenzweig Visiting Professor in Jewish Philosophy at the Universitaet Kassel.

Beth Wenger received a Lucius N. Littauer Foundation Grant to support the publication of *History Lessons: The Creation of American Jewish Heritage* (Princeton University Press).

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY

For fifteen years, Penn students have gained hands-on experience in Jewish history by serving as interns at the museum for course credit. Here's what last year's interns, **Jessica Bell, C'11**, and **Zachary Kowalski, C'13**, had to say about their experience, "This semester interning at the National Museum of American Jewish History has been truly enjoyable. One of our main projects was to help create a database of the museum's artifacts, wall panels and text labels.



NMAJH interns Jessica Bell and Zach Kowalski

We carefully read every word in the museum to make sure that the information in the database matched that on the walls of the museum. Throughout the semester, we learned a great deal about American Jewish history, as well as the inner workings of a large cultural institution. Working with the Curatorial Department gave us a behind-the-scenes look at how a museum and its artifacts are organized and maintained. As a culminating point of our internship, we planned and implemented the museum's first-ever College Night, an event that drew more than 150 students to the museum from local colleges and universities. We pitched our marketing idea, obtained funding and worked with the Public Programs Department in preparation for the event. Lastly, our internship required that we engage in historical research and write a final paper. After a semester's worth of Jewish history, the two final topics we chose to write about were Halakic law in Conservative Judaism and Judaism's response to the American Counterculture movement of the 1960s. We would like to thank the museum staff for their guidance and enthusiasm, as well as Professor Beth Wenger for giving us this opportunity. This semester was truly special."

ABOUT OUR FACULTY

Dan Ben-Amos, Professor of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations and Folklore, published *Folktales of the Jews Volume 3: Tales from Arab Lands* (Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 2011). Dov Noy is a consulting editor and Ellen Frankel is the series editor for the project.

In addition to teaching Hebrew, **Joseph Benatov** completed several translation projects. Paul Dry Books published his English translation of the contemporary Bulgarian novel *Zift*. Benatov translated into Bulgarian some thirty Israeli poems, which will appear in an anthology later this year. The Israeli embassy in Bulgaria presented a CD with his translations of six contemporary Israeli plays. He also translated Martin McDonagh's most recent play, *A Behanding in Spokane*, scheduled to premiere at the Bulgarian National Theater this fall. He also recently lectured on the history of Bulgaria's Jews at the Manhattan JCC.

Alexander (Sender) Botwinik is a Yiddish lecturer at the University of Pennsylvania. In addition to teaching Yiddish, he 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. Since the summer of 2010, Botwinik has been very busy arranging concerts featuring music by his father David Botwinik, following his newly-released book *From Holocaust to Life: New Yiddish Songs*. This book has already earned much praise in radio interviews and newspaper articles. Published by the League for Yiddish, New York, and now in its 2nd printing, this book comprises 56 of David Botwinik's musical compositions, compiled and engraved by Alexander. The most recent concerts were at Kol Ami Congregation in Elkins Park with singers Richard Lenatsky and internationally acclaimed Lisa Willson; and then in Montreal -- as part of the Second International Yiddish Theatre Festival; and in New York at YIVO in the Center for Jewish History, featuring Lisa Willson. At Penn Hillel, Botwinik led a fun and informative event: a Yiddish-Hebrew-Russian-Dutch Sing-along, which brought together students and faculty from the respective departments.

Michael Carasik, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Biblical Hebrew, continues to teach Biblical Hebrew at Penn and at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. This past summer, he published the Numbers volume of *The Commentators' Bible*, his English translation of the traditional commentaries of the *Miqra'ot Gedolot*, and work on the Deuteronomy volume is well along. Carasik also published "Why Did Hannah Ask for 'Seed of Men'?" in the *Journal of Biblical Literature*, and began contributing regularly to the "Weekly Portion" column of the online *Jewish Ideas Daily*. He 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 is the Senior Lecturer in Foreign Languages and Coordinator of the Modern Hebrew Language Program. During the 2010-11 academic year Engel was active on several fronts. She served as an external evaluator for the Hebrew language program of the prestigious Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California. She also advised Yeshiva University about its curriculum and methods of teaching Hebrew, met and consulted with instructors, and designed and taught a special demonstration course to illustrate the principles of contemporary language instruction in Hebrew. Engel was also called upon to provide a critical evaluation of a proposed new textbook, and she continued to refine the curriculum and materials used in the Modern Hebrew Language Program at Penn.

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.

Talya Fishman, Associate Professor of Religious Studies, developed and taught a new graduate seminar in the fall, entitled *Rethinking Ashkenaz and Sefarad*. She presented a paper in Hebrew at the Mandel Institute for Jewish Studies in

Jerusalem entitled, "When Oral Torah Was Inscribed: Rethinking the Prominence of Minhag in Medieval Ashkenaz," and spoke on the topic "Minhag Mevatel Halakha? Rethinking the Prominence of Custom in Medieval Ashkenaz," in a panel on Rabbinics at the Association for Jewish Studies Conference in Boston. Fishman was also part of a multi-day conference on "The Reception of the Religious Other in Intercultural Exchanges of the 16th-18th Centuries" at Ruhr-Universität, Bochum, in Germany, where she presented a paper, "Did Jews Participate in the Early Modern Conversation About 'Religion'?" In May, Dr. Fishman co-convoked an intercultural workshop at Yale University entitled, "Packaging Medieval Legal Cultures," that brought scholars of medieval Jewish, Islamic and canon law together with graduate students from a number of universities. Her book, *Becoming the People of the Talmud: Oral Torah as Written Tradition in Medieval Jewish Cultures*, was published by the University of Pennsylvania Press.

Nili Gold, Associate Professor of Modern Hebrew Literature and Israel Studies, and Undergraduate Director of the Jewish Studies Program, returned last December from her one-semester sabbatical in Haifa, where she conducted research on the literary image of the city and its unique architecture for her upcoming book. To that end, she also extensively interviewed prominent authors whose work draws on the city. During this time, she also lectured at the graduate program in the Hebrew Literature department of Haifa University. Gold was on the organizing committee of the Association for Israel Studies 2011 Annual Conference and initiated the panel "Mixed Cities: Haifa and its Image," where she delivered the paper "Amichai's Haifa: 1947-1948." She wrote the "Introduction" and "Afterword" for the first English translation of Lea Goldberg's novel *And This is the Light* in addition to editing the translation. Recently, the renowned poet Natan Zach chose her English article "Soul Poems" as one of a handful of articles to be translated into Hebrew and included in the comprehensive critical volume on his oeuvre. After the success of the International Scholars Conference she organized for Amos Oz in 2004, Gold will organize the "International Conference on the Life and Work of Israeli Author Aharon Appelfeld" this fall, in cooperation with Jewish Studies and Kelly Writers House. Finally, she consulted on and participated in a documentary on Yehuda Amichai for Israeli TV (Yehuda Kaveh, director), to be aired this coming year.

Jessica L. Goldberg, Assistant Professor of Medieval History, is a historian of the medieval Mediterranean. The focus of her current work is a comparative analysis of the institutions and geographies of European and Islamic trade in the eleventh- and twelfth-centuries, with a special interest in the sources of the Cairo Geniza. Her first book, *Doing Business in the Medieval Mediterranean: The Cairo Geniza Merchants, Economic Institutions and Geographies of Trade in the Eleventh Century* will be published this year by Cambridge University Press, and she has articles currently under review on the rhetorics of mercantile letters, the economic activities of Jews under medieval Islamic states, and the current state of research on the Cairo Geniza. Goldberg was a member at the Institute of Advanced Studies this past autumn; both there and at Rutgers, she presented work on the epistolary culture of Arab Jews in the middle ages. She presented work on economic institutions and economic geography in a number of forums—including Yale and Binghamton universities, at New York University Abu Dhabi Institute, and the Centre national de la recherche scientifique in Paris. This year, Goldberg will be teaching courses on comparative European and Islamic views of Holy War, a survey of medieval European history, the honors sequence in the History Department, and a graduate seminar on historiographies of the Mediterranean.

Kathryn Hellerstein, Associate Professor of Germanic Languages, served as Undergraduate Director of the Jewish Studies Program from 2001 to December 2010. Last fall she was also Acting Undergraduate Chair of the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures. As Consulting Editor, Hellerstein published special issues of two journals, *Women and Jewish Poetry: Nashim*, 19 and *Yiddish-Modern Jewish Studies, Translations II: Yiddish Verse into English, A Double Issue*, 16:3-4. She published articles: "The Gilgul of a Translation: Kadya Molodowsky's 'Eyl Khanun,'" in *Yiddish-Modern Jewish Studies*, "The Art of Sex

THE HERBERT D. KATZ CENTER FOR ADVANCED JUDAIC STUDIES

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

The participants in the fellowship program on Conversion approached the topic from a wide range of methodological perspectives and offered a variety of case-studies ranging from biblical literature and medieval and early modern Europe to the reality of conversion in southern Italy and Israel. In addition to the weekly Ruth Meltzer Seminars, the fellows met regularly for informal, self-run “shadow” seminars to discuss further methodological issues, theoretical literature, and primary sources. Katz Center fellows helped organize a full-day workshop on the problems of evidence for conversion in history, which was held in December. In May 2011, the Center hosted the seventeenth annual Gruss Colloquium in Judaic Studies, where the fellows and invited guests convened for a two-day conference. The colloquium was made possible through the generous support of **Martin D. Gruss, W’64**. **Theodor Dunkelgrün** (University of Chicago) and **Pawel Maciejko** (Hebrew University) have been appointed the editors of a volume that will include scholarly works from this remarkable year at the Katz Center.



Fourteenth Annual Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Lecture

David Nirenberg (University of Chicago) delivered the Fourteenth Annual Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Lecture, “Converting Canvas: Christian Art’s Struggle with Judaism from the Middle Ages to the Renaissance.” Nirenberg traced the ways that Christianity worked out its own complicated relationship to images, aesthetics, hermeneutics, and the corruptible world through the trope of the Jew. By tracing the depiction of Jews in medieval and early-modern Christian art and literature, he opened up a host of questions about the possibilities, limits, and dangers of visual representation. If, as he argued, Christian artists understood part of their identity to be “Jewish”—grounded in the literal—then the phenomena of “conversion” might be better understood not merely as the crossing of rigid religious boundaries, but instead as the mutable coexistence of aspects or components in the cultural self-image of religious practitioners. 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 Katz Center. It was cosponsored by the Kutchin Seminar Series of the Jewish Studies Program, the Department of History, the Department of Religious Studies, and the Katz Center.

2010–2011 Public Programs

Over eighteen hundred people participated this year in our various public events. In the fall, the Katz Center collaborated with the Kehillah of Lower Merion on a lecture series titled “Conversion, Expulsion, and Return to Judaism: Three Chapters in the History of Sephardic Jewry.” The three lecturers—**Anne Albert** (University of Pennsylvania), **David Ruderman** (University of Pennsylvania), and **Paola Tartakoff** (Rutgers University)—looked at the historical setting leading to the expulsion of Jews from Spain in 1492, and considered how it affected the exiles themselves and subsequent generations. In the spring, Katz Center fellows participated in a series of public lectures which reflected the richness and relevance of the topic of conversion, in the past and present. In their talks, the fellows touched upon many

intriguing topics such as the debate about mixed marriage during the Second Temple period, conversion from Judaism in late medieval Spain, and conversion policies in the State of Israel. Our fellows also participated in a symposium on “Conversion to and from Judaism” at the Center for Jewish History in New York City. The first panel—including stimulating presentations by our fellows **David Satran** (Hebrew University), **Paola Tartakoff** (Rutgers University), and **Fabrizio Lelli** (Università del Salento, Italy)—centered on conversion in Jewish history from the biblical period to the mid-twentieth century. The second panel—featuring WNYC radio personality **Brian Lehrer** and including, among other distinguished participants, our fellow **Ellie Schainker** (Emory University)—presented a range of important voices on conversion in Judaism today and addressed such related topics as intermarriage, denominational debates, and the status of non-Jews in Israel today. From New York to 39th Street in Philadelphia, our programs also extended to Penn Hillel with the aim of facilitating conversations between fellows and Penn undergraduates. **Ayala Eliyahu** (Hebrew University) spoke about the treasures of the Cairo Geniza; **Fabrizio Lelli** (Università del Salento, Italy) shared with the students his passion for Hebrew inscriptions on statues from sixteenth-century Florence; **Sabine Schmidtke** (Freie Universität Berlin) spoke about Judeo-Arabic and religious debates in the medieval Muslim world; and **Claude Stuczynski** (Bar-Ilan University) discussed an apologetic treatise written for conversos in Portuguese.

We thank the hosting synagogues and the Kehillah of Lower Merion for cosponsoring the program in the fall, and **Cheryl Erlick**, (Director of the Kehillah of Lower Merion) for her efforts. The 2011 Penn Lectures in Judaic Studies series were made possible through a generous endowment from the **Harry Stern Family Foundation**, the support of the Auerbach Central Agency for Jewish Education/Jewish Outreach Partnership in partnership with the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia, and the support of the National Museum of American Jewish History. The program in New York City was cosponsored by the American Jewish Historical Society, the Center for Jewish History, Centro Primo Levi, Yeshiva University Museum, and the Katz Center. We thank **Natalia Indrimi** (Centro Primo Levi), **Judith Siegel** (Center for Jewish History), **Jacob Wisse** (Yeshiva University Museum), and especially **Jonathan Karp** (American Jewish Historical Society) for their efforts in mounting this program. The programs at Penn Hillel were cosponsored by Hillel Education, the Orthodox Community at Penn, and the Katz Center. We thank **Dina Bleckman, C’11**, **Michael Rubin, C’12**, and **Rita Wahba, C’12**, for their help organizing the events.



Katz Center Fellows (Spring 2011)

2011–2012 Fellowship Program: Travel Facts, Travel Fictions, and the Performance of Jewish Identity

This year’s fellowship program explores the idea and practice of travel in Jewish history and literature. Travel writing has served a variety of social and ideological functions throughout the ages, from documenting the sights taken in by the tourist to charting travels of dislocation and return, pilgrimage, trade and conquest, and the imaginary journey. Such narratives hold a prominent place in formative Jewish and non-Jewish fictions of identity. The inherent richness and diversity of travel writing makes it a perfect venue for an interdisciplinary approach. By exploring the phenomena from many angles we hope to shed light on the Jewish experience, as observer as well as observed, as rootless as well as home-bound. Travel genres also link Jewish travel to larger historical experiences of globalization, leisure, identity formation, and alienation, both Jewish and non-Jewish.

2011–2012 Public Programs

In spring 2012, fellows will participate in a lecture series on Jewish travel throughout the ages, engaging topics ranging from the depiction of Jewish travel in visual media (photography, film, postcards and advertising), to the interaction of Jewish authors with European and American models of expansion and discovery. The theme of Jewish travel allows one to explore and better understand many issues pertaining to the formation of Jewish identity in the past as well as in the present and we look forward to many intriguing conversations. The 2012 Penn Lectures on Jewish Travel will run from January to April in Greater Philadelphia. For more information, contact Ety Lassman at 215-238-1290, lassman@sas.upenn.edu.

2011–2012 Fellows:**Eitan Bar Yosef**

The African Journey in Israeli Literature and Culture

Ben-Gurion University

Louis Apfelbaum and Hortense Braunstein Apfelbaum Fellowship

Orit Bashkin

Rediscovering Iraq: Jewish Travels in Modern

Babylon, 1921–1951

University of Chicago

Selma Ruben Fellowship

Adam Beaver (S)

Mediterranean Diplomacy and the Legatio

Babylonica (1511)

Princeton University

Albert J. Wood Fellowship

Julia Cohen (S)

Cultural Crossings: Ottoman Jewish Merchants as

Oriental Ambassadors

Vanderbilt University

Maurice Amado Foundation Fellowship

Jackie Feldman (S)

Images of Home in Contemporary American Jewish

Tourism to Israel

Ben-Gurion University

Martin Gruss Fellowship

Erika A. Strauss Teaching Fellowship

Miriam Frenkel (F)

Medieval Travels to India and Jewish Identity

Hebrew University

Ella Darivoff Fellowship

Rose and Henry Zifkin Teaching Fellowship

Elliott Horowitz (F)

Middle Eastern Travels and Biblical Scholarship

Bar-Ilan University

Louis and Bessie Stein Fellowship

Iris Idelson-Shein (F)

Jews, Christians, and Others in Travel Literature of Haskalah

Tel-Aviv University

Samuel T. Lachs Fellowship

Oded Irshai (F)

Earliest Christian Travelers and Pilgrims Reference Books

Hebrew University

Martin Gruss Fellowship

Martin Jacobs

The Islamic World as Depicted in Medieval Jewish

Travel Writings

Washington University

Ruth Meltzer Fellowship

Jack Kugelmass (F)

The Travel Writings of Hayyim Shoshkes

University of Florida

Ellie and Herbert D. Katz Distinguished Fellowship

Joshua Levinson (S)

Travel Narratives in Rabbinic Literature

Hebrew University

Dalck and Rose Feith Family Fellowship

Ora Limor (S)

Ways of Writing: Medieval Pilgrimage Accounts in Context

Open University

Ellie and Herbert D. Katz Distinguished Fellowship

Vered Madar

Yemenite Women's Memoirs: A Journey from

'There' to 'Here'

Hebrew University

Maurice Amado Foundation Fellowship

Limor Mintz-Manor (S)

Between Neighbor and Stranger: Jewish

Ethnographical Writing in the Age of Discovery

Hebrew University

Ivan and Nina Ross Family Fellowship

Chaim Noy (F)

Inscribed Jewish Performances in Visitor Books

Sapir College

Ruth Meltzer Fellowship

Nancy S. and Laurence E. Glick Teaching Fellowship

Nils Roemer (S)

Modern Jewish Travel and Travel Writing

University of Texas, Dallas

Ruth Meltzer Fellowship

Asher Salah

Romanelli's Travelogue as a Model of Modern Jewish Subjectivity

Bezalel Academy of Arts, Israel

Primo Levi Fellowship

Dimitry Shumsky

Zionism as "Travel to Palestine" in the Age of

Empires, 1880–1917

Hebrew University

Charles W. and Sally Rothfeld Fellowship

Anat Zanger (S)

Traveling Shot: A Voyage to Jerusalem in Moving Images

Tel-Aviv University

Rebell Family Fellowship

Adjunct Fellows**Israel Bartal**

Hebrew University

Short Term Fellows**Gershon Bacon**

Bar-Ilan University

Galit Hasan-Rokem

Hebrew University

Ilana Pardes

Hebrew University

Elchanan Reiner

Tel-Aviv University

Zur Shalev

University of Haifa

MEYERHOFF LECTURE IN JEWISH HISTORY

David Nirenberg (University of Chicago) delivered the Fifteenth Annual Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Lecture, "Converting Canvas: Christian Art's Struggle with Judaism from the Middle Ages to the Renaissance." Nirenberg traced the ways that Christianity worked out its own complicated relationship to images, aesthetics, hermeneutics, and the corruptible world through the trope of the Jew. 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 Katz Center. It was cosponsored by the Kutchin Seminar Series of the Jewish Studies Program, the Department of History, the Department of Religious Studies, and the Katz Center.

SILVERS VISITING SCHOLAR IN JEWISH STUDIES

The Fifteenth Annual Silvers Visiting Scholar Program was a panel entitled, "The Challenge of Reading the Bible Today: Can the Bible be read both Critically and Religiously? Jewish, Catholic and

Protestant Perspectives" with Professors **Marc Brettler** (Brandeis University), **Peter Enns** (BioLogos Foundation), **Daniel J. Harrington** (Boston College), and panel moderator **Jeffrey H. Tigay** (University of Pennsylvania). The lecture on



Silvers Visiting Scholar Bible panel on October 25, 2010



Penn professor, Jeffrey H. Tigay, next to Peter Enns (BioLogos Foundation) presenting at the Bible panel.

October 25, 2010, was sponsored by **David, C'71, and Patricia, CW'72, Silvers**, and co-sponsored by the Jewish Studies Program, the Religious Studies department, the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, the Judah Goldin

Fund, and the Program for Research on Religion and Urban Civil Society (PRRUCS).

JOSEPH ALEXANDER COLLOQUIUM

The Twenty-Fifth Annual Joseph Alexander Colloquium was a talk entitled, "Historians of the Jews and the Holocaust: A Discussion with David Engel and Samuel Kassow," by **David Engel** (New York University) and **Samuel Kassow** (Trinity College). These distinguished scholars of Jewish History and the Holocaust discussed how the Holocaust has (or has not) been incorporated into the writing and teaching of Jewish history. Professor **Thomas Childers** (History) offered a response to their dialogue. The lecture on March 30, 2011, was sponsored by the Joseph Alexander Foundation and the **Mackler Family**, and co-sponsored by the Jewish Studies Program, the Department of History, and the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures.



David Engel at podium (far right) giving his talk at the Holocaust panel on March 30, 2011

Upcoming Events

"The International Conference on the Life and Work of Aharon Appelfeld" on Wednesday and Thursday, October 26-27, 2011. Conference begins at 1:30 p.m. at McNeil Center for Early American Studies, 3355 Woodland Walk and ends with a conversation with Aharon Appelfeld at 5:00 p.m. at Claudia Cohen G17, 249 South 36th Street. Most events free and open to the public, but space is limited. For a full schedule: <http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/jwst/appelfeld.htm>

Concert and Lecture by Jascha Nemtsov of Abraham Geiger College, "Composers of the St. Petersburg Society of Jewish Folk Music and their Successors." Monday, November 7, 2011, 5:00 p.m., Bodek Lounge, Houston Hall, 3417 Spruce Street. 26th annual Joseph Alexander Colloquium.

"The People of the Book. The Politics of Writing in Jewish Modernity," with Andreas Kilcher, Professor of Literary and Cultural Studies, ETH Zurich. Thursday, November 10, 2011, 5:00 p.m., Amado Recital Hall, Irvine Auditorium, 3401 Spruce Street.

Discussion of Talya Fishman's new book *Becoming the People of the Talmud: Oral Torah as Written Tradition in Medieval Jewish Cultures*. Wednesday, November 30, 2011, 5:00 p.m., College Hall 209, 3450 Woodland Walk.

"The Second War: North American Fighters in Israel's War of Independence" with Penn Professors Samuel Klausner and Ian Lustick. Tuesday, February 21, 2012, 5:00 p.m., room to be determined. 16th annual Silvers Visiting Scholar Program.

Gruss Visiting Professor in Talmudic Law

In 1987, Mr. Joseph S. Gruss, through a bequest from his wife Caroline’s estate, established the Caroline Zelasnik Gruss and Joseph S. Gruss Chair in Talmudic Civil Law at the University of Pennsylvania Law School. 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 Israeli 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 “The House of Israel Divided: Schisms of Language, Law, and Legitimacy.” 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 2010-2011 academic year:

Screening of *Tea on the Axis of Evil*, with filmmaker **Jean Marie Offenbacher**, co-sponsored by the Middle East Center, Cinema Studies Program, and Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations on October 27, 2010.

“Religious Bodies, Religious Lives,” with **Peter Manseau** (Georgetown University), co-sponsored by the Department of Religious Studies on November 4, 2010.

“The Wound Always Understands The Knife: Jews and Postwar German Theatre,” with **Anat Feinberg**, co-sponsored with the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, and the Theater Arts Program on November 9, 2010.

“Yiddish Theater: Prototypical American Art Form,” with **Nahma Sandrow** (author, avid playwright), co-sponsored by the Gershman Y, and Penn’s Theater Arts Program on January 18, 2011.

“Silence in Heaven: New Approaches to Priestly Ritual,” with **Seth Sanders** (Trinity College), co-sponsored by the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations on January 31, 2011.

“Praying as a Plaintiff,” with **Shalom Holtz** (Yeshiva University), co-sponsored by the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations on February 7, 2011.

“Kaifeng Jewry (11thc.-19thc.): The History of the Community, its Faith, and Practice of Judaism,” with **Xu Xin** (Nanjing University), co-sponsored by the East Asian Center on February 8, 2011.

“The Evolution of the Saul Complex: Revision through Introduction in Judges 19-21, 1 Samuel 1, and 1 Samuel 11” with **Sara Milstein** (New York University), co-sponsored by the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations on February 14, 2011.

“Black Jews in Southern Africa: Genes, History and the Mysterious and Magical Ngoma,” with **Tudor Parfitt** (University of London), co-sponsored by the Annenberg School for Communication, the African Studies Center, Africana Studies, and the Department of Anthropology on February 18, 2011.

“New Jewish Writing,” with **Shahar Bram, Jessica Greenbaum, Bob Perelman, and Rivka Fogel, C’10**, co-sponsored by the Kelly Writers House, *Zeek: a Jewish Journal of Thought and Culture*, and Writers Without Borders, on February 24, 2011,

“Tov lamut be’ad artzenu? -Nation-building and the Hebrew Bible,” with **Jacob Wright** (Emory University), co-sponsored by the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, on February 28, 2011.

“Sing-along: Yiddish - Hebrew - Russian - Dutch,” with **Alexander Botwinik** (University of Pennsylvania), co-sponsored by the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, Penn Hillel, and the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures on March 22, 2011.

Conference on “Mapping Ancient Near Eastern Masculinities,” co-sponsored by the Penn Museum, Mellon Cross-Cultural Diversity Fund, Center for Ancient Studies, University Research Foundation, History of Art, and Babylonian Section on March 25 and 26, 2011.

“Why do American Jews Assume that their Ideals -as Americans, and as Jews- are Compatible?” with **Lila Corwin Berman** (Temple University)

and **Sarah Barringer Gordon** (University of Pennsylvania) and response by **Beth Wenger** (University of Pennsylvania), co-sponsored by the Department of History, and Department of Religious Studies on April 7, 2011.

“The Invention of a Colonial Anachronism: Jews and the Algerian Sahara” with **Sarah Abrevaya Stein** (UCLA), co-sponsored by the Department of History, and the Middle East Center on April 14, 2011.

“Surely these are Saints!” Ephraim of Bonn and the Reinvention of Jewish Martyrology in the Twelfth Century,” with **Yechiel Y. Schur** (University of Pennsylvania) on April 12, 2011.



Penn professor David Stern with Xu Xin of Nanjing University

Conferences

The Jewish Studies Program sponsored three conferences during the past year, each showcasing different dimensions of our program and highlighting our connections across the university and within the larger community:

- On November 12, 2010, Penn’s Jewish Studies Program joined in a conference that marked the opening of the National Museum of American Jewish History. One panel included the four historians who helped to create the core exhibition, including Penn’s Beth Wenger. The other panel featured prominent architects of civic and monumental projects in Philadelphia, and addressed the relationship between designing public spaces and building public identity.
- In December, 2010, to commemorate 100 years of the publication of the *Jewish Quarterly Review* in the United States, the Jewish Studies Program, together with the Hebert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, hosted a conference on “Journals & Jewish Intellectual Life: The *Jewish Quarterly Review* at 100” held at the National Museum of American Jewish History. Leading scholars considered the pioneering role of the *Jewish Quarterly Review* in fostering Jewish scholarship in America and also examined the ways that journals and new media continue to shape Jewish intellectual and cultural life.
- The Jewish Studies Program participated as a co-sponsor of the German department’s April 2011 conference, “Un/Translatable: Across Germanic Languages and Cultures.” This conference, which considered the complex meanings inherent in the process of translation, included leading scholars of Yiddish literature.



(left to right) Beth Wenger (Penn), Warren Hoffman (Gershman Y), Nahma Sandrow, and Sherry N. Rubin (Gershman Y).

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 – Dr. **Bruce Nielsen**, 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 3,625 public service contacts, shelved over 7,650 volumes, administered the circulation of over 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 2010-11 year of research, the Penn Libraries partnered with the Katz Center fellows to produce a beautiful virtual exhibit "Taking Turns: New Perspectives on Jews and Conversion." To view this current exhibit, go to: <http://www.library.upenn.edu/exhibits/cajs/fellows11/> To view past Katz CAJS/Library Web exhibits, go to: <http://www.library.upenn.edu/exhibits/cajs/>

Public program:

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



Participants of 2011 Lehmann Workshop on History of the Jewish Book

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

This year's topic was "Collectors and Collections: Hebrew Manuscripts and Incunabula in Russia." Dr. **Shimon Jakerson**, the Head Researcher at the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts of the Russian Academy of Sciences and Curator of the Judaica collections of the Russian Museum of Ethnography, 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:

\$20 Million Dollar Manuscript Collection Gift!

The Penn Libraries have received a major collection of 280 medieval and renaissance Manuscripts, valued at over \$20 million, from long-time benefactors and Library Board members **Lawrence J. Schoenberg, C'53, WG'57, PAR'93**, and **Barbara Brizdle Schoenberg**. To promote the use of this and other manuscript collections at Penn, the Libraries will create the Schoenberg Institute for Manuscript Studies. The Lawrence J. Schoenberg Collection reflects the passions of its collector—art, science, mathematics and technology—and is utterly unique, comprising early manuscripts in Eastern and Western languages and illuminating the scope of pre-modern knowledge of the physical world in the Christian, Jewish, and Muslim traditions.

15th Century Illuminated Esther Codex

Among the most beautiful of the Hebrew manuscripts in the Schoenberg collection is an early 15th century Book of Esther, which is on display in the Rare Book Room of the Library at the Katz Center. Written in codex form in a fifteenth-century square Italian hand, this text, amounting to sixteen leaves in total, originally formed part of a larger miscellany. The manuscript begins on the recto of the first folio with the conclusion of the Book of Lamentations and Esther begins on the verso. Following Esther there is a single added folio which contains two liturgical poems, Asher Heini (lacking two verses) and Shoshanath Ya'akov, written in a semi-cursive rabbinic Italian hand. Dr. **Bruce Nielsen**, Penn's Judaica Public Services Librarian and Archivist,

after studying the manuscript observed that "while a codex such as this would not fulfill one's obligation to hear Esther read on Purim except by listening to it read from a megillah (scroll), the presence of these two liturgical poems associated with Purim indicates that in its current form the codex was adapted for Purim." Notably, the scribe left space around the text of Esther for the elaborate illumination and decorations which were added at a considerably later time.

The Livornina of 1593

Another extraordinary manuscript in the Schoenberg Collection is an original copy, one of only three known to be extant in the world, of the



The Tuscan Merchant Charter known as the Livornina (1593).

The 'Livornina' granted Jews the right to settle in Livorno and gave them unprecedented protections.

"Livornina," a charter of toleration, enacted on June 10, 1593, by authority of the Medici Grand Duke Ferdinand I to attract foreign merchants to the Tuscan free port of Livorno just south of Pisa. Written on blind-ruled contemporary Italian goatskin, this document is one of the most important landmarks on the path to Jewish legal emancipation in Europe. The 'Livornina' granted Jews the right to settle in Livorno and gave them unprecedented protections, including the right to build a synagogue, to worship freely, the right to own real estate, establish a cemetery, practice medicine, and guarantees of safe passage.

**Prayer book for Simhat Torah,
Cochin, India 1886.**

Gift of the Douer Family.



**New Endowment for Sephardic and Mizrahi
Judaica.**

The Douer Family (Albert Douer, WG'85 PAR'14, Salomon Douer, WG'89, Daniel Douer, WG'95, and Paula Douer, C'95) have created a foundational gift to support the acquisition of Sephardic and particularly Mizrahi Judaica in honor of their parents Elis and Ruth Douer. This endowment has borne immediate fruit. At the recent Kestenbaum and Company auction in New York City on June 23, the Penn Libraries successfully bid on a number of important works, including:

**Hebrew Manuscript Prayer book from Cochin,
India**

This unique, nineteenth-century miniature prayer book, written in blue ink, from Cochin, India, was created for the observance of Simhat Torah. It is bound in gilt leather and stamped with the name of its owner /scribe, Shalom Ezekiel Rahabi, who was a scion of the most prominent Jewish merchant family in Cochin. The text documents a special local custom, on the night following Simhat Torah, for the Jewish women of Cochin to kiss the Torah scrolls. The hazan of the community in turn blesses them with a special blessing, recited four times, for the "imahot" (matriarchs - Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, and Leah).

**Hebrew manuscript 'omer table for the
Portuguese Azore Islands, 1839**

This rare, handwritten 'omer table for counting the harvest days between Passover and Shabu'ot was written in the Portuguese Azore Islands by Solomon Attias in 1839. Attias, the community's rabbi, belonged to a new immigration to the Azores from Morocco that had begun a decade earlier. This

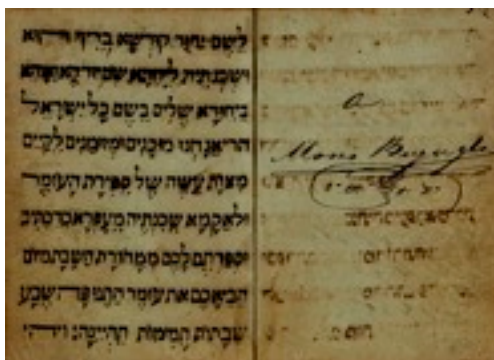
manuscript bears witness, thus, to the resumption of Jewish ritual observance in a land where Judaism had been all been eradicated.

In short, thanks to the Douer Family the Penn libraries have taken a big step forward in building a great collection for the study of Sephardic and Mizrahi culture around the world.

**Penn's Judaica Collections Receive a Spectacular
Gift of French Judaica from the Moldovan Family.**

Joseph T. Moldovan, C'76, and Susan A. Moldovan, C'76, have donated a priceless collection of French Judaica in honor of Dr. Alfred Moldovan, and in memory of Jean Sorkin Moldovan.

The Moldovan collection consists of nearly 100 documents, spanning the 16th through 19th centuries, and encompasses the major areas of Franco-Jewish settlement, both Sephardic and Ashkenazic, including the South of France in places like Aix, Avignon, Bayonne, Bordeaux, and northeastern cities and towns like Colmar, Metz, Paris, Strasbourg, Verdun, and Versailles. In terms of formats, there are three manuscripts from the 16th century, dozens of printed pamphlets, as well as broadsides and other illustrative works. In geographic scope, there is a transatlantic dimension to the collection in that it not only covers matters touching on the social, economic, legal and political life of Jews in France but also contains documents about export trade disputes involving French colonial Martinique and Haiti. The collection is particularly rich in its coverage of the process of legal emancipation of the Jews in Revolutionary France, from the time preceding the debates in the National Assembly through the convening of the Sanhedrin and the institution of the Consistoire system of national religious authorities. The collection as a whole has been described as being "of infinite importance in regard to the history of the Jews in France and many items are of great rarity."



The 'Omer Table, Azore Islands, 1839.
Acquired thanks to the Elis and Ruth Douer Endowment in support of Sephardic culture.



**Announcement in 1788 by the
Royal Society of Sciences and Arts
of Metz of the winner of the essay
contest answering the question
"Are there means of making Jews
more useful and happier in
France?" (Metz: Printed by Mme Vve
Antoine et fils, 1788)**

Gift of Joseph T. Moldovan and Susan A. Moldovan, members of the Class of '76, in honor of Alfred Moldovan, MD, and in memory of Jean Sorkin Moldovan.

We are enormously grateful and deeply honored by the ongoing support of Arnold Kaplan and the Deanne and Arnold Kaplan Foundation for making it possible for the Penn Libraries to acquire two 16th century Mexican Inquisition manuscripts as well as a beautiful copy of the Plantation Acts of 1739. The latter provided for the naturalization of colonists in the New World under British rule, including Jews and Quakers, who were not required to swear the oath of faith (Videlicet). In addition, the Kaplans made a generous contribution to the purchase of three critical pamphlets debating the Jew Bill of 1753. These documents will become part of the growing Arnold and Deanne Kaplan Collection of Early American Judaica at the Penn Libraries. Notably, when taken together the Penn Libraries' acquisition of the Schoenberg Livornina, the Kaplan Plantation Acts and the 1753 Jew Bill pamphlets, and the Moldovan documents of Franco Judaica comprise an exceptional collection of primary historical sources for studying the history of and teaching about Jewish political emancipation.

We are thrilled to announce that Paola and Bertrand Lazard have donated a substantial collection of books and postcards related to the Holy Land. These highly significant materials are now in the process of being cataloged and substantially

strengthen our holdings of print and illustrated materials about the Land of Israel. The collection will be known as the “Paola and Bertrand Lazard Holy Land Collection.”

Penn’s Judaica Collections have received two substantial endowments from the board of the Katz Center. We heartily thank **Mark Zucker, C’83, W’83**, for an acquisitions endowment and for a special gift to help us streamline the processing of one of our collections. Thanks to an anonymous donor we have received a substantial endowment which will support the acquisition of rare and special Judaica materials for the Library at the Katz Center. Such anonymous gifts reflect the highest degree of Jewish philanthropy and we are most grateful!

Penn’s Judaica Collections have received new gifts to support acquisitions from **Henry Frommer, W’64, PAR’07**, to the **Barney and Eleanor Frommer Memorial Fund**, and from **Gilbert Mathews, W’70, PAR’04**. Thank you all for your substantial contributions in support of our mission of teaching and research!

Special Projects

Thanks to the exceptional generosity of the Jesselson and Kaplan foundations, the Penn Libraries have received funding to complete the first American Genizah Project: the **Isaac Leeser Collection**. The Leeser collection project, our first American Genizah project, was originally funded in 2006 with a generous start-up gift from **Erik Gershwind, W’93**, and **Jackie Gershwind and Stacey Bennett, C’95**, and **Michael Bennett**. In recognition of the multiple, significant contributions of the Jesselson and Kaplan families, the American Genizah Project has been named in their honor: The Jesselson Family-Deanne and Arnold Kaplan Foundation American Genizah Project.

Herbert and Sheila Weiner have made a generous gift in memory of their father **Marvin Weiner, W’38**, to support the transcription of the Italian letters in the collection of Sabato Morais, an Italian-born American Jewish religious leader perhaps best known as the principal founder of the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York City in 1886. **Gioia Milano** was hired to carry out this transcription work and in the process discovered a number of highly significant letters, including correspondence, inter alia, from Elijah Benamozegh, the chief rabbi of Livorno. Notably, Marvin Weiner had faithfully served on the board of Dropsie College during a critical time in the institution’s history. He was the chairman of the board’s Library committee, and played a critical role in the College’s transformation into what is today the Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies. He took a particular interest in the life and work of Sabato Morais, and so it is most meaningful and appropriate that the family should make this gift in his memory.

In the Fall of 2009, the Penn Libraries received the Lenkin Family Collection of Photography. Its outstanding holdings include early, historical images of the Holy Land. **Louise Strauss, C’82**, who has been volunteering at the Penn libraries for the past two years, has catalogued over 90% of the Lenkin collection of what has turned out to be 5,000 photographs, including 800 reproductions. 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.

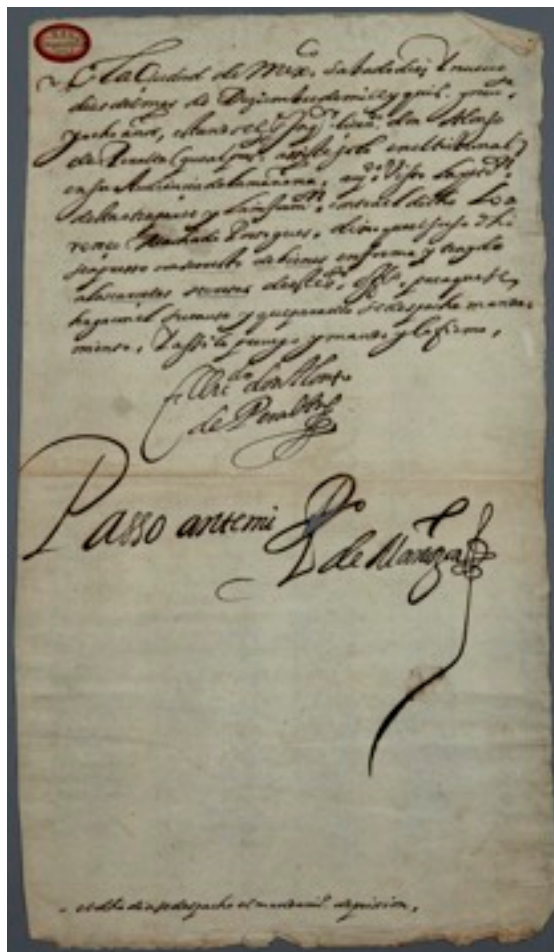
Thanks to another volunteer, **Dr. David Cook**, a retired Penn professor of neurology, the copy-cataloging of our inaccessible Hebrew Titles project collection – consisting of approximately 5,000 volumes of Hebrew imprints dating from the second half of the 19th century - continues.

Departure - Ruth Rin:

In January of 2011, the Penn Libraries hosted a retirement celebration for **Ruth Rin**. As a tribute to her, we reprint here the announcement of her departure which **Beth Picknally Camden**, the Bernard Goldstein Director of the Penn Libraries’ Information Processing Center, wrote:

“Ruth joined the Penn Library’s Original Cataloging Department in 1974. For nine years, she was cataloger of English, French and Italian materials; during this time she also worked part-time at the reference desk. Since 1983, Ruth has been the Hebraica cataloging librarian. She also served as the Hebraica bibliographer for 17 years. Prior to her years at Penn, Ruth worked as a Hebraica librarian at Temple, Harvard and Brandeis. Ruth is passionate about Hebraica

cataloging and making these specialized materials accessible to the students and scholars who use them. She has developed guides and provided training to help students learn search techniques for finding Hebrew language materials in the catalog. For many years, she served on the Association of Jewish Libraries Cataloging Committee. Currently, she contributes to the national Name Authority Cooperative (NACO) Hebraica funnel project. Outside the library, Ruth has taught Hebrew at the University of Wisconsin and at Penn. She is a writer and has published several translations. Additionally, she volunteers as a reader for visually impaired students. Ruth’s dedication to her work and her Hebrew language expertise will be missed.”



Mexican Inquisition document, dated December 19, 1598.
Gift of Arnold and Deanne Kaplan.

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; Donald (Chipkin) Berkman; 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; Center for Jewish History; Roger Chartier; Petr Charvat; Albert Gleaves Cohen; Alma Orlovitz 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; Albert Douer WG'85 PAR'14, Salomon Douer, WG'89, Daniel Douer, WG'95, and Paula Douer, C'95; Yvonne Edels; Alfred H. Eidlisz; Michael E. Eigen, C'57; Mohamed El-Hawary; Murad El-Kodsi; Jeremy-Stuart de Fishberg; Aviva Espiedra; 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; Henry Frommer, W'64, PAR'07; Michal Galas; Simon Geissbuhler; Marvin Gendelman; 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; Mark Glickman; Andrew Gluck; Andrew K. Gold; Yosef Goldman; Allen and Adele Gottfried, PAR'06; Michael Graves; Helaine Shoag Greenberg, 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; Wilma Heston; Irwin Hochberg; Eric Hoffman, GR'78 L'84; Irving Horn; John R. Hose; Thomas Jefferson Foundation, Inc.; Institute for Contemporary Art; Seth Jerchow; 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; Stephen Lehmann; 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; 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; 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; Jonathan V. Plaut; Jerry and Ellen Prince, G'74; Hilda Pring; Jackie Ranston; Rose Rechnic; Frieda Reider; Yosel Moses Reuben; Ruth Rin, CW'66, CGS'04; Evelyn Ringold; Barry S. Robbins, PAR'00, PAR'02; Lena Roos; Faye S. Rosenthal, CW'71; Jack Roth; Yosel Moses Rubin; David Ruderman; Eliahu and Henia Sela Saldinger; Victor D. Sanua; Lois Satalof; Arkadius Scheinker; Avi Schmidman; Lawrence J. Schoenberg, C'53, WG'57, PAR'93, and Barbara Brizdle Schoenberg; Peter Schulman, W'83; Dr. Yechiel Y. Schur; Prof. Robert Seltzer; Shalom Club at Lake Ridge, Toms River, New Jersey; Moshe A. Shaltiel-Gracian;

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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; Mirosława Bulat; Stephen Burnett; Javier Castano; Alan D. Crown; Yaacov Deutsch; Aron Dotan; Harold Allen Drake; Theodor Dunkelgrun; Glenn Dynner; Jacob Elbaum; David Engel; Anat Feinberg; Shmuel Feiner; Paula Fredriksen; Shamma Friedman; Seymour Gitin; Sylvie Anne Goldberg; Anthony Grafton; Paul Grendler; Alessandro Guetta; Joseph Hacker; Orna Has; Galit Hasan-Rokenm; 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; Robert 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



Port of Jaffa. Photographed by L. Fiorillo. Lenkin Family Collection.

Bonnie Shapiro-Klincovstein; Morris Shelanski; Harvey Sheldon; Esther Shernoff; Avi Shmidman; Adele Silver; Francine and Marvin Silverstein; Margie Singer; Flor Siperstein, GEN'97, GR'00; Serena S. Skwersky; Nahman Sternfeld; Robert St. George; Eric L. Stern; Harry Stern; Ione Apfelbaum Strauss, CW'54, PAR'82, in honor of Erika A.

Soloveitchik; David Stern; Sarah Stroumsa; Claude Stuczynski; Adam Teller; Stephen Tinney; Smadar Tirosh-Heyd; Chava Turniansky; Veerle Vanden Daelen; Joann Weinberg; Liliane Weissberg; Carsten Wilke; Marcin Wodzinski; Israel Yuval; Mordechai Zalkin; Ziony Zevit.

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 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 fifth-year student **Konstanze Kunst** (History), third-year student **Akhmad Sahal** (Religious Studies), second-year students **Sonia Gollance** (German), **David Zvi Kalman** (NELC), and **Tamara Morsel** (History). Kunst is working in the field of medieval and early modern Jewish history; Sahal, the relationship of secularism to religion in Jewish culture; Gollance, modern German-Jewish and Yiddish literature; Kalman, issues of jurisprudence within the Jewish and Islamic legal traditions; and Morsel, the intersection of Jewish law and thought.

This year we are pleased to welcome a new Falk fellow to Penn:

Ari Gordon will be working in the department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations where he will focus on Muslim-Jewish relations during the formative period of Islam through exploration of shared ritual and narrative.



Ari Gordon, Falk fellow

Graduate Student News

Rebecca Cutler, a Benjamin Franklin fellow in the Department of History, is completing her dissertation on the transnational politics of American Jewish medical work in the post-World War II era. This past year Cutler held a research fellowship at the Center for Humanities at Wesleyan University in Connecticut.

During the past year **Benjamin Fisher** held a fellowship from the Doris Quinn Foundation and completed his dissertation, "The Centering of the Bible in Seventeenth-Century Amsterdam: Jewish Religion, Culture, and Scholarship." His research focuses on ex-converso approaches to studying the Hebrew Bible and New Testament, and the movement of the Bible toward the center of Jewish education, culture, and rabbinic scholarship in Amsterdam. Fisher received his Ph.D. in August, and accepted a tenure-track assistant professorship at Towson University in the Department of History and the Judaic Studies Program.

Marc Herman, Benjamin Franklin fellow and Wexner Graduate fellow, is a second year student in Religious Studies focusing on Jews in the Islamic world in the medieval period. He is a fellow at the

Cardozo Law School Center for Jewish Law this year.

David Zvi Kalman has just completed his first year at Penn as a Falk fellow. He recently returned from a summer of FLAS language study in Cairo. This coming year, in addition to his continued studies in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, he will be a Graduate fellow at the Center for Jewish Law and Contemporary Civilization at the Cardozo School of Law.

Judah Kraut, continues to work towards his doctoral degree in Bible and ancient Near Eastern Studies. His article, "The Birds and the Babes: the Structure and Meaning of Psalm 8," appeared in the Winter 2010 volume of *Jewish Quarterly Review*. Another article, "Deciphering the Shema: Staircase Parallelism and the Syntax of Deuteronomy 6:4," is being published by *Vetus Testamentum* in the summer of 2011. This fall, he is assisting in teaching a course in Biblical Hebrew at Princeton University.

Last year **Konstanze Kunst**, a Falk fellow, conducted research in Prague and Oxford for her dissertation, "Jewish Printing in Prague and the Mobility of Jewish Books and their Makers to and from the Habsburg Metropolis in the Second Half of the Seventeenth Century." Kunst will continue her research this year in Germany, Prague, Oxford and Jerusalem. She was awarded an SAS

Dissertation Research Fellowship, a Brenner Research Award from Penn's Jewish Studies Program, and a CLIR Mellon Fellowship for Dissertation Research in Original Sources.

Alexandra Rothstein is a doctoral student in Rabbinic literature, exploring the relationships between later Rabbinic and Islamic narrative traditions. Her dissertation examines stories about lesser known Biblical figures as they are expanded and transformed by later scholars. In particular, she is interested in adaptive, polemical, and subversive uses of the shared traditions.

Akhmad Sahal is a Falk fellow in the Religious Studies department. He presented a paper comparing Isaac Breuer's notion of the Torah-State and Rashid Rida's conception of the caliphate state at the annual international conference of Association for Israel Studies at Brandeis University this June. In addition, he also participated in a workshop on Asian imperial formations at University of Washington, Seattle, last summer.

Yehuda Seif, a William Penn fellow, completed his eighth year in the Religious Studies department, specializing in medieval Ashkenazic Jewry and focusing on "Charity and Poor Law in Medieval Ashkenaz." In 2010-11, he was also a fellow at The Center for Jewish Law and Contemporary

Civilization at Yeshiva University's Cardozo School of Law, and he recently worked as a Senior Program Officer for the Tikvah Fund, a foundation dedicated to promoting Jewish excellence through ideas.

Gabriella Skwara, a Benjamin Franklin fellow, completed her sixth year in the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures. For the past two academic years she served as the resident director of the New England College Consortium Program in Salzburg, where she taught 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."

Life After Graduate School

Every year in this newsletter we include short updates from all our current graduate students. But our graduate 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:

Spencer Allen kept busy during the 2010-2011 academic year. He presented a paper at the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting in Atlanta last November entitled, "Assur and Enlil: Typology and Assyrian Theology," and a paper at the Southwest Commission on Religious Studies Annual Meeting in Dallas last March entitled, "'The Many Wives of the Holy Men of God': An Examination of Tony Alamo's Brand of Biblical Exegesis." He will be presenting another paper on Tony Alamo, an Arkansas/Texas-area cult leader currently in federal prison, and his twisted methods of biblical interpretation at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting in San Francisco this November entitled, "Tony Alamo and his New Testament Brand of Christian Polygyny." In April, Allen defended his dissertation, "The Splintered Divine: A Study of Ishtar, Baal, and Yahweh Divine Names and Divine Multiplicity in the Ancient Near East." He attended Penn's graduation at Franklin Field on May 16 and married Laura Smith at the University Museum on May 20.

Cornelia Aust, a former Benjamin Franklin fellow in the Department of History, who completed her dissertation titled, "Commercial Cosmopolitans: Networks of Jewish Merchants between Warsaw and Amsterdam, 1750-1820," in May, spent the past year as a postdoctoral fellow at the Martin Buber Society of Fellows at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. There she began working on her first 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. She will stay in Jerusalem for another year to continue this work, teach a course on diaspora networks and ethnic economies at Hebrew University, and begin working on a new project.

This past January, she and her husband, Johannes, welcomed their daughter, Selma Naomi.

Andrew Berns, defended his dissertation, "The Natural Philosophy of the Biblical World: Jewish and Christian Physicians in Late Renaissance Italy" in April. In the 2011-2012 academic year he will take up a post as Viterbi Visiting Professor of Mediterranean Jewish Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles. This past summer he conducted research in Italy and participated in a workshop on the Basel Talmud in Oxford.

Jennifer Glaser is an Assistant Professor of English and Comparative Literature and an affiliate faculty member in Judaic Studies and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at the University of Cincinnati. At present, she is completing a manuscript titled *Exceptional Differences: Race and the Postwar Jewish American Literary Imagination*. She has published or has publications forthcoming in a number of venues, including *PMLA*, *MELUS*, *Prooftexts*, *Literature Compass*, *Safundi*, the *American Jewish Archives Journal*, a book of essays about Philip Roth from Continuum, and an anthology of essays from Random House. She attended the AAJR Junior Faculty in Jewish Studies workshop at Penn in May and attended a Posen seminar in secular Jewish literatures this summer at Hampshire College.

Tammy Jacobowitz successfully defended her dissertation entitled, "Leviticus Rabbah and the Spiritualization of the Laws of Impurity" in October, and graduated in May. She was named a Tikvah Scholar at NYU for 2010-2011, and is currently on the Judaic Studies faculty at the SAR High School in Riverdale, New York.

Debra Kaplan holds the Dr. Pinkhos Churgin Memorial Chair in Jewish History at Yeshiva University, where she was recently promoted to Associate Professor. Her book, *Beyond Expulsion: Jews, Christians, and Reformation Strasbourg* was published by Stanford University Press in 2011. Kaplan is working on various projects concerning charity, community, and gender in the Holy Roman Empire during the 16th-18th centuries. She is currently the Associate Chair for Jewish History in the Department of Jewish Studies at Yeshiva College, and serves on the advisory board of the Early Modern Workshop and on the Academic Advisory Council for the Center for Jewish History.

Ellie Schainker, GSAS '10, was the Golub Family fellow at the Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies this past year, and is now the Arthur Blank Family Foundation Assistant Professor of Jewish Studies and History at Emory University. Schainker spent her time at the Katz Center working on a manuscript entitled, "Jewish Conversion in an Imperial Context: Confessional Choice and Multiple Baptisms in Nineteenth-Century Russia." She gave public lectures on the history of conversion in Eastern Europe and its ties to contemporary conversion politics in the Jewish world to audiences at the Katz Center, National Museum of American

Jewish History, Center for Jewish History and to rabbis and communal leaders in the Philadelphia area. This winter, in addition to teaching new courses, she will take part in an international conference on "Space and Conversion: Institutions, Urban Stages and Interiority" at the Scuola Normale Superiore in Pisa, Italy.

Adam Shear (PhD, History, 2003) is Associate Professor of Religious Studies and Director of the Jewish Studies Program at the University of Pittsburgh. This fall, Penn Press will publish *The Hebrew Book in Early Modern Italy*, a book that he co-edited with Joseph R. Hacker. This volume originated in the Katz Center's research group on Jewish Material Texts in 2005-2006. He continues for the third year as co-convenor of the Lillian Goldman Scholar's Working Group on the Jewish Book at the Center for Jewish History in New York.

David Shyovitz, a Falk fellow and former Wexner Graduate fellow, completed his PhD in History in the spring of 2011, and is currently Assistant Professor of Medieval Jewish History at Northwestern University. His dissertation examined conceptions of the natural world and the human body among Jews in medieval Ashkenaz.

Kerry Wallach, a former Falk fellow, received her Ph.D. in Germanic Languages and Literatures in May 2011, with a dissertation entitled "Observable Type: Jewish Women and the Jewish Press in Weimar Germany." During the academic year 2010-2011, she presented her research at the German Studies Association annual conference as part of a cluster of panels on "Jews and the Transnational Public Sphere," at the University of London; at a conference on Jews in popular culture at the Jewish Museum in Berlin; and at the German Historical Institute in Washington DC, where she also held a short-term postdoctoral fellowship in the summer. Additionally, she greatly enjoyed teaching a course on Jewish women in film as part of the Jewish Gender and Women's Studies Program at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York. Her forthcoming publications include an essay on Central European Jewish women for *The Wiley-Blackwell History of Jews and Judaism*, and a book chapter on Jewish beauty queens. In August 2011, Kerry was delighted to join the faculty of Gettysburg College as an Assistant Professor in the Department of German, where she will offer courses that will be cross-listed with Gettysburg's new Judaic Studies minor.

Susan Zeelander, a visiting scholar in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, presented papers at the Society of Biblical Literature in Atlanta last fall, and in London this summer. In November, in San Diego she will present, "Closural Conventions in Narratives in the Book of Numbers," in a panel in memory of Jacob Milgrom. Her book, *Closure in Short Biblical Narratives*, was published last spring by Brill as part of its Biblical Interpretation Series. She continues to teach adult education classes in area synagogues.

ABOUT OUR FACULTY continued from p. 7

in Yiddish Poems: Celia Dropkin and Her Contemporaries," in *Modern Jewish Literatures: Intersections and Boundaries*, (University of Pennsylvania Press), and "Thoughts on Yiddish and Bridges," with Lawrence Rosenwald, in the final issue of *Bridges*, 16, 1. Her translations of poems and her own poems appeared, too. She presented papers at the American Literary Translators Association Convention, and the Association for Jewish Studies (AJS), and organized and chaired a panel at AJS on "The Place of Yiddish in the Academy." Her lectures included two on women Yiddish poets at the University of California San Diego and the Sumpf lecture at Stanford University, as well as a talk on "China in New York's Yiddish Translations," at Penn's Un/Translatables Conference. Hellerstein continues to serve as Coordinator of the Yiddish Studies Literature Section for the Annual Conventions of the AJS, on the Executive Committee of the Yiddish Discussion Group for the Modern Language Association, as poetry editor of two journals, *Kerem* and *Nashim: A Journal of Jewish Women's Studies and Gender Issues*, and on the Editorial Advisory Boards for *Nashim*, *Yiddish*, and *Studies in American Jewish Literature*. She was finalist judge for a national Yiddish poetry translation contest, sponsored by the California Institute for Yiddish Culture and Language and the International Association of Yiddish Clubs. In January, Hellerstein was awarded a School of Arts and Sciences Language Teaching Innovation Grant to develop digital cultural materials for the Yiddish courses' Blackboard sites, working with Sonia Gollance, doctoral student in Germanic Languages and Literatures and Falk fellow.

Arthur Kiron, Schottenstein-Jesselson Curator of Judaica Collections, served as the acting coordinator of the Penn Libraries' Area Studies group, as a member of the Libraries' Collections Development Council, as the interim Hebraica cataloger, on five search committees, and organized the 2010-11 Libraries-Katz Center web-exhibit (on Conversion). He was the co-convenor of a historic conference, "From Access to Integration: Digital Technologies and the Study of Jewish History," held at the Center for Jewish History in New York City in conjunction with their tenth anniversary celebrations and also served on the advisory board of a number of external committees and organizations, such as the editorial board of Judaica Librarianship, the Board of Directors of the American Veterans of Israel Legacy (AVIL - Machal), and the academic advisory council of the Center for Jewish History. Kiron delivered a number of public presentations during this last year including the opening session of the Fall 2010 History of Materials Texts workshop, gave a paper at the 100th Anniversary conference on the *Jewish Quarterly Review*, and participated in alumni events in Chicago and Los Angeles.

Samuel Klausner, Professor Emeritus of Sociology, presented a paper at the 2010 meetings of the Eastern Sociological Society entitled "Sociology and

Biblical Interpretation." He delivered a paper entitled "A Sociologist Considers Religious Conversion" at the opening symposium for the year of the Katz Center for Advanced Jewish Studies. At the December meetings of the Association for Jewish Studies he presented his work on "American and Canadian Soldiers in Israel's War of Independence." In January, at a symposium at the American Jewish Historical Society, he spoke of "Machal: Clandestine, Improvised and Disobedient but Battle Worthy." He has a Review Essay on Heilman and Friedman's biography of Menachem Mendel Schneerson entitled "Der Lubotcher Rebbe: Messiah? A Jewish St. Augustine?" in *Contemporary Sociology*.

Ian Lustick is the Bess W. Heyman Professor of Political Science. In November 2010, he made a research trip to Israel, interviewing officials in various ministries and government offices, settlers in the West Bank, Arabs in the Galilee, and many others. He also delivered two lectures, one to the International Relations department at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and another at the Truman Institute. His article, "Israel's Migration Balance: Demography, Politics, and Ideology," is appearing in the inaugural issue of the new journal of the Association for Israel Studies, the *Israel Studies Review*. This year Lustick supervised the honors theses of both seniors who graduated with honors in the Modern Middle East major. His new course, offered this spring, involved a systematic comparison of Israel and Iran focused on political mythology, the politics of modernization, religion and revolution, and war and the state. In the fall he is offering "International Relations of the Middle East" as an investigation of Arab-Israeli relations, focused on 1948 to the present.

Benjamin Nathans, the Ronald S. Lauder Endowed Term Associate Professor of History, published several articles and essays on human rights and the Soviet dissident movement, including "Soviet Rights-Talk in the Post-Stalin Era," in the edited volume *Human Rights in the Twentieth Century* and "The Wild Desire to Leave" (on the refusenik movement) in *The Nation*. The Hebrew edition of his book *Beyond the Pale: The Jewish Encounter with Late Imperial Russia* is due out next year. During the academic year 2010-11, Nathans presented his work at Columbia, Duke, the University of Virginia, the University of Bremen (Germany), and the YIVO Institute, among other venues. One of his recent talks, "The Dissident's Dilemma: Human Rights, the Cold War, and Soviet History," can be viewed on YouTube. In spring 2011, Nathans was appointed to the Advisory Council of the Andrei Sakharov Foundation. He continues to serve 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 is M. Mark and Esther K. Watkins Assistant Professor in the Humanities and part of the core faculty of the Department of Religious Studies. Her activities this year included

giving talks related to her book-project on the Pseudo-Clementines and "Jewish-Christianity" at Université François Rabelais de Tours, Yale University, Princeton University, Penn's Classical Studies Colloquium, and the Penn Museum. She also presented papers on Second Temple Judaism and its afterlives at conferences at the Hebrew University's Orion Center for the Study of the Dead Sea Scrolls and at NYU's Institute for the Study of the Ancient World. Publications that appeared in 2010-2011, included articles in *Studies in Religion/Sciences Religieuses* and various edited volumes. She also oversaw the arrangements for the Philadelphia Seminar on Christian Origins graduate conference, "Beyond Scare Quotes: Words and Things in the Study of Ancient Judaism and Christianity," which was held at the Penn Museum in April, and organized by Religious Studies doctoral students, Phil Fackler and Phil Webster. In spring 2011, she was an adjunct fellow at the Katz Center. She continues to serve as one of the Program Unit Chairs of the *Society of Biblical Literature* Hellenistic Judaism section and as a member of the editorial board of Mohr Siebeck's book series *Texts and Studies in Ancient Judaism*. Beginning this fall, she will be a College House Fellow at Penn's Stouffer College House.

David B. Ruderman, Joseph Meyerhoff Professor of Jewish History and Director of the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, served in the summer of 2010 as Scaliger Fellow, University of Leiden and this past spring as German Transatlantic Program Fellow at the American Academy of Berlin. He won the National Jewish Book Award in the category of history for his book *Early Modern Jewry: A New Cultural History* (Princeton, 2010). He published essays this past year in the *Jewish Quarterly Review*, *Der Tagesspiegel*, and *The Jewish Week Literary Supplement*. Besides lecturing at the American Academy, he gave the Fritz Bamberger Memorial Lecture at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York, the Maccabean Lecture at Kings College, London, and the Emil Fackenheim Memorial Lecture at the University of Potsdam, in Potsdam, Germany. He spoke at the Center for Jewish History in New York, Princeton University, the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia, the Jewish Book Fair in London, the Central European University in Budapest, and the University of Halle, in Halle, Germany. He also gave keynote addresses at conferences at the University of Antwerp and the University of Frankfurt. A special session of the Association for Jewish Studies was devoted to a discussion of his recent book. He completed his seventeenth year as Ella Darivoff Director of the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies.

Yechiel Y. Schur is Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of History and the Klatt Family Director for Public Programs at the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies. Last fall, he taught a freshman seminar on Dreams in Jewish

Cultures and Traditions. His article, "When the Grave was Searched, the Bones of the Deceased were not Found: Corporeal Revenants in Medieval Ashkenaz," will appear soon in the proceedings from an international conference, "Death, Burial and Mourning Liturgy in the Ashkenazi Communities." Last spring, Schur presented a paper entitled, "'Surely these are Saints!' Ephraim of Bonn and the Reinvention of Jewish Martyrology in the Twelfth Century," at the work-in-progress seminar of the Jewish Studies Program, which he is currently preparing for publication.

Larry Silver, is the Farquhar Professor of Art History at Penn. A specialist in European old master paintings and prints, he taught formerly at Berkeley and Northwestern. His co-authored book, *Jewish Art: A Modern History* (Reaktion Press, 2011; with Samantha Baskind) has just appeared this summer, and with Baskind, he has written a state of the field of modern Jewish art history for the *Jewish Quarterly Review* (in press for fall 2011), "Looking Jewish." He also co-authored a recent book, *Rembrandt's Faith* (Penn State U. Press, 2009; with Shelley Perlove), which includes the artist's relation to the Amsterdam Sephardic Jewish community and to the Hebrew Bible, and their essay accompanies the catalogue to a 2011 Philadelphia Museum exhibition, *Rembrandt and the Face of Jesus*. He was an Associate Fellow at the Katz Center during the recent year on Secularism, and he is scheduled to teach a class at Penn on Jewish Art in spring 2012.

Jonathan Steinberg, Walter H. Annenberg Professor of History, published *Bismarck, A Life* with Oxford University Press (February 2011 in the United Kingdom and April 2011 in the USA). Henry Kissinger reviewed it as the lead review in *The New York Times Book Review* on April 3, 2011. It was short-listed for the BBC Samuel Johnson Prize for Non-Fiction for 2011. He gave the annual Pears Institute Lecture at Birkbeck College, University of London, in May, with the title, "Bismarck, Anti-Semitism and the Tragedy of German Jewry," and he gave the 11th Annual Biderman Lecture in the Program in Judaic Studies at Princeton University, entitled "How Does One Know Who's a Jew?" in March.

David M. Stern, Moritz and Josephine Berg Professor of Classical Hebrew Literature, published *The Washington Haggadah: A Fifteenth Century Manuscript from the Library of Congress* (Belknap Press of Harvard University Press) for which he wrote a lengthy introduction and did a scholarly translation of the Haggadah's text. To celebrate the book's publication, Stern spoke at a special ceremony at the Library of Congress in Washington D.C. and at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. Both lectures can be viewed on the web at www.loc.gov and on YouTube. In addition, Stern delivered lectures at Brandeis University, UCLA, the Center for Jewish History in New York City, Stanford University, and at Yad Ben-Zvi and Hebrew University in Jerusalem (at an international midrash conference which he helped organize). Stern continued to serve on the Executive

Committee of the American Academy for Jewish Research and chaired its nominations committee. In May, Stern co-directed a national "Workshop for Junior Faculty in Jewish Studies" co-sponsored by the AAJR and Penn's Jewish Studies Program. For the eleventh year he also served as the co-director of the Manfred R. Lehmann Master Workshop in the History of the Jewish Book. During the academic year 2011-12, Stern will be on leave as the Beatrice Shepherd Blane Fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Studies at Harvard University.

Jeffrey H. Tigay, A.M. Ellis Professor of Hebrew and Semitic Languages and Literatures, retired in December, 2010, after close to 40 years on the faculty. He is now devoting most of his scholarly efforts to various longstanding projects, chief among them the completion of the revised Hebrew version of his 1996 commentary on Deuteronomy, which will be published in the Israeli commentary series *Mikra le-Yisrael* in 2012. He recently completed an article on "The Role of the Elders in the Laws of Deuteronomy" that will appear shortly in *Tablet and Torah: Mesopotamia and the Biblical World: Studies in Honor of Barry L. Eichler* and an article "The Torah Scroll and God's Presence" that will appear in a forthcoming Festschrift in honor of Adele Berlin (University of Maryland), and a Foreword to the forthcoming reprint of Moshe Greenberg's *Understanding Exodus*. In the summer of 2010, Tigay was one of the speakers at a program at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in memory of Moshe Greenberg, who was his teacher and his predecessor at Penn. During the fall Tigay moderated a panel sponsored by the Jewish Studies Program's Silvers Visiting Scholar Program. The panel was entitled "The Challenge of Reading the Bible Today: Can the Bible be read both Critically and Religiously? Jewish, Catholic and Protestant Perspectives." The papers will be published by Oxford University Press. He also spoke about the methods of Bible translation and differences between various translations in the seminar on "Communication and the Bible," by Profs. Elihu Katz and Sharrona Pearl. In the spring he presented a series of public lectures at Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El in Wynnewood, PA, and he also spoke for the Jewish Studies' Bassini Internship Program reflecting on his personal relationship to teaching and the Bible and on his years teaching at Penn.

Liliane Weissberg is the Christopher H. Browne Distinguished Professor in Arts and Sciences. She was named Freud-Fulbright Visiting Scholar in spring 2011, and spent the semester writing a book on Sigmund Freud in Freud's former apartment in Vienna. She was also a visiting professor at the Institut für Zeitgeschichte at the Universität Wien. In addition to writing and publishing on Freud and his work, Weissberg also published essays on Hannah Arendt, nineteenth-century fashion and hysteria, Alexander Mitscherlich, Karl Löwith and Friedrich Schiller, and she presented papers in Lisbon, Portugal; Cambridge, England; Fribourg, Switzerland; the Villa Vigoni, Italy; Vienna, Graz, and Bad Aussee, Austria; Berlin and Munich,

Germany; Warsaw, Poland; as well as the University of Pennsylvania, Michigan State, Wayne State University, New York University, and Oakland, Ca. Her book, *Affinität wider Willen? Hannah Arendt, Theodor W. Adorno und die Frankfurter Schule* is due to appear in September 2011, and the anthology *Picture This! Writing with Photography* (with Karen Beckman) will appear in winter 2011. Weissberg was also involved in several exhibitions. She wrote the lead article for the exhibition on *Preussens Eros, Preussens Museen. Frauenbilder aus Brandenburg-Preußen* (Potsdam, Germany, Fall 2010), and organized the exhibition *The Wolfman Paints!*, featuring the art work of Freud's former patient Sergius Pankejeff in Philadelphia in late 2011. She is currently preparing an exhibition and publication on the relationship between Gershom Scholem and his publisher Siegfried Unseld for the *Deutsches Literaturarchiv Marbach*. Weissberg was named the Franz Rosenzweig Visiting Professor in Jewish Philosophy 2012 at the Universität Gesamthochschule Kassel.

Beth S. Wenger is Professor of History and Director of the Jewish Studies Program. Her most recent book, *History Lessons: The Creation of American Jewish Heritage*, was published by Princeton University Press in 2010. Penn's History and Religious Studies departments, along with the Jewish Studies Program, sponsored a forum about the book in April of 2011. Wenger's essay, "Constructing Manhood in American Jewish Culture," appeared in the anthology, *Gender and Jewish History: Culture, Religion, and Politics*, published by Indiana University Press in 2010. Her article, "Inventing American Jewry," introduces the most recent volume of the *Journal of Jewish Communal Service*. She also contributed an essay to *Dreams of Freedom*, the catalogue published in conjunction with the new exhibition at the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia. Wenger serves as one of four historians who helped to create the museum's core exhibition; she presented a paper at the opening symposium for the museum in November 2010, and continues to work closely with the institution. Wenger delivered several public lectures this past year, including presentations at Yale and Duke Universities, as well as conference papers at Montreal's Concordia University, the Association for Jewish Studies Conference, and the Biennial Scholars' Conference on American Jewish History. She continues to speak widely within the community, delivering the opening plenum at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association conference, offering presentations to the Council of American Jewish Museums, the Jewish Funders Network, and the National Museum of American Jewish History. Wenger was elected Chair of the Academic Council of the American Jewish Historical Society. Wenger also serves as a Distinguished Lecturer of the Organization of American Historians and on the Board of the Association for Jewish Studies. She received a grant from the Penn Undergraduate Research Mentoring Program as well as a publication grant for *History Lessons* from the Lucius N. Littauer Foundation.

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