

Jewish Studies @ PENN

Fall 2012

Greetings

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



Jewish Studies Program News

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



Faculty News
Page 7

Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies

Page 8

2011–2012 Special Events and Programs

Silvers Scholar
Alexander Colloquium
Kutchin Seminars
Page 10

Penn's Judaica Library News

Page 12



Graduate Students

Falk Fellowship
Judah Goldin Seminars
Student News
Alumni News
Page 15

Upcoming Events

Page 17

Recent Gifts

Page 20

Jewish Studies at the University of Pennsylvania

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



"Torah Scroll of the Messiah"
Gift of Rabbi Ezekiel N. and Margaret Musleah



GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR,

Jewish Studies Program

The coming year will be a bittersweet one for me. As I look forward to another exciting year in the Jewish Studies Program, I am preparing for the end of my term as director. I will be stepping down from my position at the conclusion of the 2012-13 academic year. It has been my privilege to lead and serve this program for seven years. I am pleased to leave the program in good hands, with Professor Talya Fishman assuming the role of director in the summer of 2013.

The primary reason that I have chosen to conclude my term is that I have already begun serving as Chair of Penn's History Department. Taking a position as chair of such a large department is a pivotal decision for any faculty member, but it has particular resonance for me as a Jewish historian. In my courses, I regularly teach about those nineteenth and early twentieth-century scholars who longed to be accepted as academics and to teach Jewish history in universities. Just a few generations ago, even in the United States, it would have been inconceivable for a specialist in Jewish history to chair a department of history in a leading university. As I begin my term as chair, I cannot help but reflect on the distance that the field of Jewish Studies has traveled.

In the pages of this newsletter, you will read about the exciting programs that we organized last year, highlighted by a two-day conference focusing on the life and work of the acclaimed Israeli author Aharon Appelfeld. Appelfeld attended the conference, read from his writing, and took part in a public discussion about his life and career. To hear Appelfeld's conversation with Professor Nili Gold, go to: <http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/jwst/appelfeld/>

The year ahead promises an equally compelling array of activities. In November, we will welcome Professor Jeffrey Shandler for the Alexander Colloquium to present his new work on the many reproductions of Anne Frank's diary. And in March, Gal Beckerman will come to campus as our Silvers

Visiting Scholar to discuss the Soviet Jewry movement as we mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the march on Washington when more than 250,000 people protested the plight of Soviet Jewry.

Our 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 I enter my seventh and final year as director of the Jewish Studies Program, my greatest sense of achievement has come from our efforts to create a dialogue that connects Jewish Studies with other areas in the humanities, to bring together different constituencies, and to use scholarship to grapple with the important issues of the day. I look forward to another year of pursuing these goals together with our students and faculty.

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
Chair, History Department
Director, Jewish Studies Program

Cover image caption continued:

"Torah Scroll of the Messiah." This ornately encased Torah scroll was handwritten by Hakham Rav Mordecai Shindookh (1770-1852), a scribe and a prominent representative of the Baghdadi Jewish community in Calcutta. Hakham Shindookh specially created this visionary, diminutive Torah scroll in 1820 with the expectation that the Messiah would soon use it during his travels throughout the world. Gift of Rabbi Ezekiel N. and Margaret Musleah.



GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR,

Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies

I write this upon my return from the first international summer school for graduate students sponsored jointly by the Katz Center and the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. This began as a suggestion I made to Professor Menahem Ben Sasson many years ago before he became president of the Hebrew University. Soon after stepping into his new job, he contacted me to refresh the initiative. I asked my dear friend and former Katz fellow, Israel Yuval of Hebrew University, to serve with me as co-director. With his enthusiastic approval, we were soon launched.

The idea of the school is simple: to bring together the best graduate students from Israel, Europe, and North America in their first three years of study—to meet each other, to learn with some of the world's best scholars and teachers of Jewish civilization, and to create an academic network similar to what we have done for the last nineteen years with young postdoctoral and senior scholars. This was hardly the first time such a seminar had been created. I had personally been involved in creating and directing the Rothschild summer school at the Hebrew University as well as the seminars run by the American Academy for Jewish Research. What is different about this initiative is the intentional mixture of students from all over the world, the full fellowships they receive—thus attracting the very best—and the joint initiative between Israel and the Diaspora, and between two great academic institutions of Jewish learning.

We gathered at the entrance to the Hebrew University this past July—twenty-four students (10 Israelis, 10 Americans, and 4 Europeans) plus six faculty (the two directors, Richard Cohen [Hebrew University], Ada Rappaport-Albert [University College London], Marina Rustow [Johns Hopkins University], and Shaye Gafni [Hebrew University]). We boarded a bus to Ma'agan Vacation Village on the southern tip of the Kinneret where we spent five

days in seminars, both formal and informal, and trips through the Galilee led by academic guides. The theme of “mingled identities” engaged us throughout this week and well into the next, when we moved to Tel Aviv, and finally to Jerusalem for the last three days. In Jerusalem we toured the Israel Museum, the Mount of Olives, the Supreme Court, all with specialists as teachers, and participated in focused seminars led by additional faculty. We closed with a summation of our deliberations and a festive banquet.

For me and for the participants (based on their written evaluations) this was a truly special occasion for all involved. The faculty spent almost all their time with the students and we learned from each other. The students were extraordinarily bright, inquisitive, and appreciative of all we could offer. Most of all we were shaping a new community of scholars and establishing personal relationships and global networks that we hope will last them throughout their careers.

I am already working with my staff on next year's summer school, on the theme of Jewish education, which will take place in July 2013 in Philadelphia and New York City. While some of the students will return, we expect many new students as well as four additional faculty members who will join me and Israel Yuval. We will take full advantage of the cultural resources of Philadelphia and New York and will meet with some of the leading figures involved in Jewish education. We are especially thankful to board members Julie and Marc Platt who have generously sponsored this seminar. We look forward to another rich pedagogic experience as the Katz Center continues to shape scholarly communities to meet the needs of this generation as well as the next.

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

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

Editor: Christine Walsh

Assistant Editors: Beth Wenger and Rebecca Stern

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

ABOUT OUR STUDENTS

Graduation

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

One senior completed the Jewish Studies Program's Interdisciplinary Minor: **Chanah Dulin**.

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

One senior completed the Jewish Studies Program's Jewish History Concentration in the Department of History: **Rebecca Freedman**.

One senior completed the Jewish Studies Program's Judaism Concentration in the Department of Religious Studies: **Rebecca Scholl**.



Tali Arbit, C'12, presenting her thesis on the Free Library Bible at our annual undergraduate student research presentation in April

Undergraduate Student Research

On April 26, 2012, we held an event attended by students and faculty where students who had written senior theses or research papers presented their findings. The six students below were majors in history, political science, religious studies, and Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, but all wrote on Jewish Studies topics and were advised by Jewish Studies Program faculty:

"The Free Library Bible, its Decoration and its History: A Case Study in 15th Century Spanish Hebrew Bibles" by **Tali Arbit**

"Rethinking the Six Day War: an Analysis of Counterfactual Explanations" by **Limor Bordoley**

"Sir Moses Montefiore: Philanthropy in Jerusalem as a Catalyst for Development of the Yishuv in the pre-Zionist era of Jewish Palestine" by **Rebecca Freedman**

"Language as a Sword: Dysphemism in the Biblical Polemic against Idolatry" by **Michael Rubin**

"Samuel S. Mayerberg: The Religious Road To Social Justice" by **Rachel Schonwetter**

"Passover and the Mekhilta: A Case Study in the Building of Rabbinic Judaism" by **Isaac Setton**

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 **Daniel J. Gromer**.

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 **Derek M. Selig**.

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 religious thought through the Middle Ages. The recipient was **Tali Arbit**.

In addition, JSP has established the **Judah Goldin Memorial Prize for Excellence in Advanced Hebrew Studies**. The award was given to **Chanah Dulin**.

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 last year was given to co-winners: **Tali Arbit** and **Michael Rubin**.

Additionally, **Rachel Schonwetter** received an honorable mention award. We are deeply grateful to the Goldin family.



Michael Rubin, C'12, giving his thesis presentation in April

STUDENT RESEARCH AWARDS

Phillip E. Goldfein Awards in Jewish Studies

The Jewish Studies Program mourns the loss of **Phillip E. Goldfein** who died last year at the age of 98. We remember him as a generous supporter not only of our program, but also of the English Department and the Penn Libraries. His dedication to Jewish education lives on in the Goldfein Awards that we give to our students to conduct research in Jewish Studies.

The **Phillip E. Goldfein Awards in Jewish Studies**, supported by a generous gift from **Robert, C'63** and **Phillip, 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 Student:
David Zvi Kalman for participation in a symposium in Berkeley, CA

Undergraduate Students:
Leanne Gale for research in Israel
Kelsey Matevish for studying at Tel Aviv University
Arielle Herzberg for research in Israel

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:
Raha Rafii for participation in symposium in Berkeley, CA
Marc Herman for participation in symposium in Berkeley, CA

Undergraduate Student:
Eliezer Peltz for research in Israel



"Abrahams Wohnung" ["Abraham's House"]. Illustration of the patriarch Abraham hosting three guests depicted in early modern northern European garb. This scene of hospitality and sociability (based on Genesis 18:1-10) is found in the The Zucker Holy Land Travel Manuscript but was copied from Matthias Merian's *Icones Biblicae* (Frankfurt, ca. 1525-1530). This identification was made by Dr. Alfred Moldovan who has devoted over forty years of research to this manuscript, which was given to the Penn Libraries as a gift of Mr. Benjamin Zucker in honor of his dear friend Dr. Moldovan.

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY

Internships

For sixteen years, Penn students have gained hands-on experience in Jewish history by serving as interns at the National Museum of American Jewish History on Independence Mall (NMAJH) — coordinated by **Beth Wenger**. Students study artifacts and prepare background for exhibitions. They receive Independent Study credit, either in the Department of History or in the Jewish Studies Program. Three undergraduates — **Rachel Baker Mann**, **Tamar Karpuj**, and **Adin Pearl** — participated in the internship program at the museum last year. Beginning last summer, Penn's Center for Undergraduate Research and Fellowships (CURF) also sponsored a paid summer internship at the National Museum of American Jewish History as part of its internship programs in the humanities. Undergraduates **Serena Covkin** and **Erica Shockley** served as museum interns in the summer of 2012.

Here's what several of last year's interns had to say:

Adin Pearl, C'13 — The internship at NMAJH was highly rewarding. I gained professional experience through working alongside the staff in the office while simultaneously satiating my own academic passion for modern Jewish history. The museum is beautiful and informative, one that I recommend to all those living in, or visiting, Philadelphia. Sometimes when I needed a break from the computer I would wander through the exhibits and soak in both the information and the aesthetics. The people I worked with were friendly, grateful for my assistance, and willing to answer all my inquiries about how the museum functions, both in the big picture and in day-to-day activities. I am especially

grateful that an artifact at the museum gave me the inspiration to write my undergraduate thesis about the American Jews who volunteered to fight against fascism during the Spanish Civil War in the late 1930's.

Rachel Baker Mann, C'12 — I enjoyed interning at NMAJH very much. The hands on work was a great complement to my history courses at Penn, and I very much appreciated that Penn accepted the internship as course credit. My favorite part about working at the NMAJH is knowing that the work I did for the museum is now on display in the "Only In America" exhibit, and that through my internship I contributed to the museum's collection and historical record.

Tamar Karpuj, C'13 — My internship at the NMAJH was truly enriching. Not only was I able to research a variety of topics that were later utilized for exhibitions, but I also gained invaluable curatorial experience. I believe that this internship was a wonderful addition to my academic experience at Penn.

Serena Covkin, C'14 — I was given a wide variety of tasks that introduced me to the many functions that a curatorial department performs. Most exciting was watching the museum's first major special exhibition, "To Bigotry No Sanction: George Washington & Religious Freedom," come to life. I helped edit the exhibition catalog and text panels, assemble the artifact labels, and distribute promotional materials. After the exhibition opened, I continued to be involved, regularly checking the temperature and humidity levels of the artifact cases, and monitoring the exhibition's interactive display, in which visitors wrote letters to President Obama, just as the Newport Jewish community wrote to President Washington after his inauguration. I was given the opportunity to work closely with the artifacts in the museum's collection — I cataloged photographs, conducted condition reports, and helped pack a nurse's uniform from World War II for storage. I particularly enjoyed researching Jewish sources about sky and water for an upcoming art installation, and conducting visitor

surveys about their experience of the fourth floor gallery. I have a much better understanding of the inner workings of a museum, and a greater appreciation for the rich history of Jews in America.

Erica Shockley, C'12 — The majority of my assignments were related to cataloging books and artifacts with a database called PastPerfect. I also briefly handled artifacts such as a World War II military jacket and a Sophie Tucker record, and assisted with writing detailed condition reports, where I made careful note of general wear, tears, stains, and the like for conservation purposes. I was also assigned several small research projects—the most exciting of which included learning about iPhone apps for various museums. I thoroughly enjoyed reading about the burgeoning technology that is changing the way visitors experience museums and learning.

Lecture Series

We have begun a new collaboration with the National Museum of American Jewish History, thanks to a gift by the **Arlene and Stanley Ginsburg Family Foundation**. The series is designed to draw connections between key themes in American Jewish history and broader dimensions of American history and culture. We will run two events each year, jointly sponsored by Penn's Jewish Studies Program and the Museum.

The first event was a panel discussion, "Getting Ahead: Immigrants, Business, and Ethnic Identity" on February 9, held at the NMAJH. Panelists: **Hasia Diner** (New York University), **Jennifer Lee** (University of California, Irvine), and **Diane Vecchio** (Furman University) explored the diverse immigrant experiences of Italians, Jews,



Jennifer Lee

Koreans, and others, in a comparative context, with moderator: **Beth Wenger** (Penn). Another event focusing on religion and politics will take place this fall.

JEWISH STUDIES INTERNSHIPS

The Jewish Studies Program continues to sponsor its Jewish Studies Internship program. This program, supported by a gift from **Emilio, C'71**, and **Reina C'72/71 Bassini**, is designed to encourage students to explore aspects of Jewish Studies outside the classroom. Under the direction of the Undergraduate Director, **Nili Gold**, and graduate student coordinator, **Tammie Wanta**, students initiated, organized and produced the following events during the academic year.

Michael Rubin, Kim Gordon and Becca Lefkoe brought ketubah artist, Professor **Ethan Rotenberg**, to speak on "Otiyot Meshunot: The Variety of Unusual Letters in Penn's Antique Ashkenazic Torah Scroll."

Michael Rubin, Kim Gordon and Becca Lefkoe also organized an hour-long tour of the University of Pennsylvania Museum with Professor **Richard Zettler** (Penn).

Alexis Mayer and Josh Tycko organized a tour at the National Museum of American Jewish History led by Professor **Beth S. Wenger** (Penn), one of the four historians who helped to craft the core exhibition.

JEWISH LANGUAGES AT PENN

Hebrew

The Modern Hebrew Language Program (MHLP) 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,



Prof. Nili Gold's fall 2012 Hebrew Literature class

which are used for Hebrew language study at a growing number of institutions throughout North America as well as in Latin America, Europe, and even Israel. Engel and her staff continue to constantly 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. An exciting new addition to the MHLP faculty is **Ibrahim Miari**, an accomplished instructor of Hebrew and Arabic at Boston College and at Boston's Maimonides Jewish High School. He will be replacing **Nechama Sataty**, who has retired after 36 years of service at Penn. Miari brings special expertise in the use of drama as a language-teaching tool. We are delighted to welcome him to the program.

Yiddish

Since 1993, Penn has offered regular courses in Yiddish language and courses in translation, on Jewish American literature, Yiddish writing in Eastern Europe, women writers, Jewish film and literature, and issues of cultural translation. Last year, both beginning and intermediate Yiddish classes were offered, all taught by **Alexander Botwinik**, while **Kathryn Hellerstein** was on leave at Harvard University. Botwinik led the Yiddish students in a Yiddish sing-along and performance of songs and poetry in March, and invited students to a lecture on Yiddish by Professor **Rakhmiel Peltz** at Drexel University. In addition, students attended two sessions on Yiddish songs and culture led by **Bob Freedman** in the Robert and Molly Freedman Jewish Music Archive at Penn.

Ladino

For the last six 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.

FACULTY ARRIVALS

Julia Wilker joined the Jewish Studies faculty last summer as Assistant Professor in the Department of Classical Studies and taught a graduate seminar on Jews in the Greco-Roman World in the spring. In 2011-2012 she presented papers at Temple University and at a conference on local elites in ancient empires in Cologne, Germany. Publications



Professor Julia Wilker

that appeared in 2011-2012 include articles on Josephus and the Herodians in the Jewish War in *The Jewish War against Rome* (Brill), the identity of pro-Roman Jews in *Jewish Identity and Politics between the Maccabees and Bar Kokhba* (Brill), and proselytism in Rome in *Athen, Rom, Jerusalem. Normentransfers in der Alten Welt* (Pustet). She is about to finish a project on non-priestly elites in Judaea (1st century BCE - 1st century CE) and a contribution to the *Handbuch zur Septuaginta* on the political history of Judaea in Hellenistic and Roman times. One of her current projects focuses on the role of women in the Hasmonean dynasty, especially in comparison to other Hellenistic dynasties.

FACULTY AWARDS AND HONORS

Talya Fishman's book, *Becoming the People of the Talmud: Oral Torah as Written Tradition in Medieval Jewish Cultures* won the 2011 National Jewish Book Award for Scholarship.

Larry Silver won a Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching.

Benjamin Nathans received a Guggenheim Fellowship.

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 eighth 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, email kedmajournal@gmail.com.

ABOUT OUR FACULTY

Joseph Benatov, Lecturer in Foreign Languages, teaches Hebrew. During the 2011-12 academic year, he taught intermediate and advanced classes. He also gave a series of guest lectures on the history of Jews in Bulgaria to participants in Kivunim, a gap-year academic program in Israel. Benatov also spoke at the United Nations on the history of Bulgarian Jews during the Holocaust. His article on the subject is forthcoming from Nebraska University Press.

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, is the director of a new independent Jewish community choir, and coordinates the annual choral youth *Zimria* (song festival) sponsored by United Synagogue. For the past couple of years, he has been very busy arranging concerts featuring music by his father, David Botwinik, following the publication of his 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. In July, Botwinik traveled together with his father, his son and other relatives to Vilnius, Lithuania to witness his father's return to his hometown after more than 70 years. This past spring, Botwinik led a fun event at Penn Hillel: a Yiddish sing-along, together with a musical performance by his beginning and intermediate Yiddish students.

Michael Carasik, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Biblical Hebrew, continues to teach Biblical Hebrew at Penn and at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. This past year, he published the entry on "Miqr'a'ot Gedolot" in the *Oxford Dictionary of the Jewish Religion*, and the entries on "Bible: Wisdom Literature," "Ecclesiastes," "Job," and "Proverbs" in the *Cambridge Dictionary of Judaism and Jewish Culture*. He completed the manuscript of *The Bible's Many Voices*, to be published in 2013 by the University of Nebraska Press under its new Jewish Publication Society imprint, and expects the Deuteronomy volume of *The Commentators' Bible*, his English translation of the traditional commentaries of the *Miqr'a'ot Gedolot*, to follow shortly. Carasik also published an essay on his *Commentators' Bible* project in the "Notes from the Field" column of *Iggeret*, the newsletter of the National Association of Professors of Hebrew (*Iggeret* 83, Fall 2011). His podcast, "Torah Talk" (<http://torahtalk.michaelcarasik.com>) became a weekly feature of the online *Jewish Ideas Daily*, to which he continues to contribute columns as well.

Natalie B. Dohrmann is Associate Director of the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, and teaches in the departments of Religious Studies, History, and the Jewish Studies Program. She is also the Executive Editor of the *Jewish Quarterly Review*. This spring *Poetics of Power: Jews, Christians, and the Roman Empire*, edited by Natalie B. Dohrmann and Annette Yoshiko Reed will come out from Penn Press, in which Dohrmann has a piece called, "Law and Imperial Idioms: Rabbinic Legalism in a Roman World."

Ronit Engel is Senior Lecturer in Foreign Languages and Coordinator of the Modern Hebrew Language Program (MHLP). Engel kicked off the 2011-12 academic year for the Penn Language Center by offering its signature demonstration "shock class" for new language instructors. She showed the forty assembled language teachers how it is possible to teach the first lessons in a new language—including listening, speaking, reading, and writing in a new alphabet—without resorting to even a word in English. She continued to develop this theme in her ongoing project to adapt Hebrew-language textbooks written in Israel for university students and new immigrants to the North American university environment. Engel lectured on this project at the conference of the National Association of Professors of Hebrew (NAPH) held in June 2012 at the University of California, Los Angeles, and is working on an article on the subject. Her work with NAPH led to her appointment to the association's Committee on Pedagogy. Finally, during the year she spearheaded

the worldwide search for a new member of the MHLP faculty—a search that reached successful culmination with the appointment of Ibrahim Miari to the Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations department.

Talya Fishman continues to serve as Associate Professor in the Department of Religious Studies. Her book, *Becoming the People of the Talmud: Oral Torah as Written Tradition in Medieval Jewish Cultures*, published by the University of Pennsylvania Press in 2011, won the Nahum M. Sarna Award for Scholarship, National Jewish Book Council. This book was the subject of discussion at the Scholars Working Group on the Jewish Book, Center for Jewish History in New York, and at the Jewish Studies Program of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. Her article, "Claims About Mishna in the Epistle of Sherira Gaon: Islamic Theology and Jewish History" was published in *Border Crossings: Interreligious Interaction and the Exchange of Ideas in the Islamic Middle Ages* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2012), and "Guarding Oral Transmission: Within and Between Cultures," was published in *Oral Tradition* 25. She was a presenter and participant in the Colloquium on "Oral Transmission of Sacred Literature in Judaism and Islam," held at Georgetown University in the fall, and offered the concluding remarks at a conference on "Legal Heterodoxy in Islamic and Jewish History: Late Antique and Medieval Transformations," held at the University of California, Berkeley in the spring. Fishman also convened a cross-cultural workshop at the University of Pennsylvania, entitled "Packaging Legal Traditions in Late Antique and Medieval Cultures." She delivered a talk at Charles University, Prague, entitled, "The Sense of Torah: Memory and Contemplation in Jewish Culture of Late Medieval Spain," and had the privilege of meeting with academicians and students interested in Jewish Studies while lecturing at two Chinese universities. She spoke on the topic, "Defining Judaism: The Inevitability of Category Errors" at Renmin University, Beijing, and at the Institute of Jewish Studies of Nanjing University.

Nili R. Gold, Associate Professor of Modern Hebrew Literature and Israel Studies, and Undergraduate Director of Jewish Studies, continues to work on her upcoming book on Haifa, its literary image and architecture. In June, she presented a new chapter from this book at the Association for Israel Studies 2012 annual conference, "Converging Roads and Memories in Haifa." Another chapter, "Portrait of Haifa in 1948: The Poet, The Bay and The Mountain," was recently published in *Israel Studies*. She was also invited to an international scholars conference at Heidelberg University in Germany this summer, where she delivered the lecture on the poet Natan Zach, "Mother Tongue and Mother Land." This past year, Gold was appointed by the Quality Assessment Division of the Israel Council of Higher Education to serve on the six-person international committee evaluating the departments of Hebrew Literature in the five major Israeli universities. Continuing her mission to bring the giants of contemporary Hebrew literature to Penn, in October, she organized the "International Scholars Conference on the Life and Work of Aharon Appelfeld," with the support of the Jewish Studies Program and Kelly Writers House. It was as successful as the 2004 conference she organized for Amos Oz, with lectures by scholars from all over the world and culminated with "Aharon Appelfeld in Conversation with Nili Gold." Gold has solicited and compiled articles by the participating Appelfeld scholars, to be published in the Forum dedicated to Appelfeld in the *Jewish Quarterly Review*. An active member of Penn's Cinema Studies Program (CINE), she hosted Eran Kolirin, the prizewinning Israeli director of *The Band's Visit*. Working with CINE, she is organizing the second Penn Middle East Film Festival, November 1-4, in conjunction with Penn's Middle East Center, the Jewish Studies Program, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations, and the Philadelphia Jewish Film Festival.

Jessica L. Goldberg is a historian of the medieval Mediterranean. She teaches courses about medieval European and Mediterranean history, the historiography of the Mediterranean in general, pre-modern economic history, and comparative European and Islamic conceptions and history of holy war. The focus of her current research lies in comparing 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, *Trade and Institutions in the Medieval Mediterranean: The Geniza merchants*

THE HERBERT D. KATZ CENTER FOR ADVANCED JUDAIC STUDIES

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

A vibrant international group of historians, literary critics, film scholars, and anthropologists gathered last year at the Katz Center to study the idea and practice of travel in Jewish history and literature. The fellows worked on themes that ranged from third-century traveling rabbis to tourism in twenty-first-century Israel, and their geographic focus stretched from the US to India, and from Europe to Africa. The fellows shared their work during the Ruth Meltzer Seminars, the winter workshop "Intersections: Jews and Travel," and at the year's grand finale, the Gruss Colloquium "Jews and Journeys." In addition to doing their own research, the fellows studied with board members and graduate students, and offered public lectures throughout Greater Philadelphia. **Orit Bashkin** (University of Chicago), **Adam Beaver** (Princeton University), and **Joshua Levinson** (Hebrew University) have been appointed the editors of a volume, which will bear witness to the groundbreaking work accomplished through the course of the fellowship year. The 18th Annual Gruss Colloquium in Judaic Studies was made possible through the generous support of **Martin D. Gruss, W'64**.



Panelists at the Gruss Colloquium. r to l: Ellen Kennedy, Nils Roemer, Elliott Horowitz, Asher Salah, Eitan Bar-Yosef, and Galit Hasan-Rokem

Inauguration of Summer School for Graduate Students in Jewish Studies

In July 2012, the summer school for graduate students in Jewish studies was officially opened. This partnership between the Katz Center and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem was established in order to enable doctoral students in Jewish studies to realize the importance of "structures of learning that transcend their own institutions." This past summer, twenty-five talented students from Israel, the United States, and Europe gathered for ten days in Jerusalem and by the Sea of Galilee for seminars designed around the theme of mingled identities. In addition to teaching sessions led by an international group of outstanding faculty, the students toured significant sites of cultural mingling, such as: the city of Safed, ancient synagogues in the Galilee, Tel Aviv, and the Israeli Parliament. Next summer, the Katz Center will host the program in Philadelphia, and the theme will be Jewish education, broadly conceived. The summer school is jointly directed by **David Ruderman** (Penn) and **Israel Yuval** (Hebrew University). The 2012 program was sponsored by the Hebrew University. The program in 2013 is sponsored by our longstanding supporters **Julie and Marc Platt**. We thank the Platts for their enormous generosity.



Elhanan Reiner and Yoram Bilu lead a guided tour.

15th Annual Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Lecture

An impressive audience attended **Jane Caplan's** lecture "'Jetzt Judenfrei' (now free of Jews) Being a Tourist in Nazi-Occupied Poland." An expert on the history of Nazi Germany at the University of Oxford, Caplan discussed a travel book on the General Government region of Nazi-occupied Poland. Issued in 1943 by the well-known publisher Karl Baedeker, the volume was indistinguishable in format from the rest of the series, but this particular volume was sponsored and introduced by the infamous Nazi Governor General Hans Frank. The book was intended to provide German visitors to the region with the usual tourist information on accommodations, sight-seeing etc., and, in addition, to fulfill Frank's political agenda: to showcase his semi-autonomous fiefdom as an outpost of age-old German culture and a harbinger

of the Nazi new order in the east. Caplan discussed how the publication of a seemingly innocent tourist handbook was related to the project of racial imperialism pursued by Frank and the Nazi regime in this region. 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 Jewish Studies Program, the Department of History, Political Theory Workshop, and the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures.

2011–2012 Public Programs

We continue to be committed to the creation of exciting and meaningful public programs in Philadelphia and beyond. Over three-hundred people attended the fall lecture series on interreligious dialogue and conflict, in which **Miriam Frenkel** (Hebrew University), **Iris Idelson-Shein** (Tel-Aviv University), and **Oded Irshai** (Hebrew University) offered unique historical perspectives on Jewish-Christian-Muslim relations from late-antique and medieval Egypt to early modern Europe. In the spring, over six-hundred people attended the lecture series on Jewish Travel Throughout the Ages. Our programs extended to Penn Hillel with a series of conversations with Penn undergraduates. **Orit Bashkin** (University of Chicago) told the relatively unknown history of Iraqi Jews during the first half of the twentieth century; **Vered Madar** (Hebrew University) analyzed the songs that Yemenite Jewish women sing at the birth of a child; and **Asher Salah** (Bezalel Academy of Arts, Israel) discussed the representation of Jews in Italian Cinema. Finally, in collaboration with the Board of Rabbis of Greater Philadelphia we arranged special seminars for local rabbis. **Chaim Noy** (Sapir College, Israel) spoke about the commemorative site Ammunition Hill in Jerusalem and **Joshua Levinson** (Hebrew University) discussed the ancient rabbi as a traveler.

We thank **Rabbi David Ackerman** (Beth Am Israel), **Dr. Philip A. Cunningham** (Institute for Jewish-Catholic Relations, Saint Joseph's University), and **Rabbi David Straus** (Main Line Reform Temple) for cosponsoring the program in the fall. The 2012 Penn Lectures in Judaic Studies series were made possible through a generous endowment from the Harry Stern Family Foundation, the hosting sites, and the support of the National Museum of American Jewish History. The programs at Penn Hillel were cosponsored by Hillel Education, the Orthodox Community at Penn, and the Katz Center. We thank **Meir Dardashti, C'13**, **Michael Rubin, C'12**, and **Rita Wahba, C'12**, for their help organizing the events. The programs for rabbis were supported by the VAAD: Board of Rabbis of Greater Philadelphia. We thank the President of the VAAD, **Rabbi Elisa Goldberg**, and the hosting rabbis, **Rabbi David Straus** (Main Line Reform Temple) and **Rabbi Joshua Waxman** (Or Hadash), for their hospitality and other contributions to the program.

2012–2013 Fellowship Program: Institutionalization, Innovation, and Conflict in 13th-Century Judaism: A Comparative View

This year's fellowship program brings together scholars of Jewish, Christian, and Islamic social and intellectual history with the aim of developing a more integrated account of Europe and the Mediterranean basin in the 13th century. Major attention will be paid to the way that material and social changes contributed to the creation of new kinds of political and religious institutions and also to the formation of new intellectual horizons and religious concepts. We will also consider the era's intellectual ferment and criticism of established norms, both within the framework of traditional religious boundaries and beyond. Diverse phenomena such as the appearance of Kabbalah and the institutionalization of Sufi brotherhoods, the creation of new philosophically-oriented scientific cultures, the rise of universities, the establishment of mendicant orders, the evolution of Halakhah, and the creation of the Inquisition shall be considered, not only as isolated phenomena but in their mutual interrelations.

2012–2013 Public Programs

The fellowship program on thirteenth-century Judaism presents an exceptional opportunity to explore the historical origins of important contemporary modern issues such as the Jewish curriculum, the tension between Jewish thought and practice (rationalism vs. mysticism), and anti-Semitism. Developing last fall's theme, now in medieval robes, we will host a mini-series in fall 2012 on thirteenth-century encounters between Jews, Christians, and Muslims. In the spring, the lecture series will reflect the range and richness of our fellows' own expertise. Lectures will touch on a broad array of topics from blood libels to Kabbalah, from philosophy to the everyday lives of Jews, Christians, and Muslims who often shared the same urban space. For more information, please contact Etty Lassman at 215-238-1290, lassman@sas.upenn.edu.

2012–2013 Fellows:**Esperanza Alfonso (S)**

Instituto de Lenguas y Culturas del Mediterráneo y del Próximo Oriente (Madrid)

Selma Ruben Fellowship

The Hebrew Bible and the Vernacular in Thirteenth-Century Castile

Elisheva Baumgarten (F)

Bar-Ilan University

Rose and Henry Zifkin Teaching Fellowship

Family Matters: A Social History of Jewish Marriage in Christian Europe

Piero Capelli

Università Ca' Foscari Venezia (Italy)

Primo Levi Fellowship

Jewish-Christian Polemics: The Talmud and Rabbinic Literature as a Sign of Inner-Jewish Dissent

Rita Copeland (S)

University of Pennsylvania

Ruth Meltzer Fellowship

Aristotle's Rhetoric and Theories of the Emotions in the Thirteenth Century

Jamal Elias (S)

University of Pennsylvania

Ruth Meltzer Fellowship

Religion, Culture and the Rise of the Ottomans

Judah Galinsky (F)

Bar-Ilan University

Charles W. and Sally Rothfeld Fellowship

Thirteenth-century Halakhic Literature in Northern France and Christian Spain

Elisabeth Hollender (S)

Goethe-Universität (Germany)

Nancy S. and Laurence E. Glick Teaching Fellowship

The "Sephardicization" of Hebrew Poetry in Thirteenth-Century Ashkenaz and Byzantium

Kati Ihnat

Queen Mary, University of London

Ioan and Nina Ross Family Fellowship

The Wrath of Mary: Jews in the Medieval Cult of the Virgin

Ruth Karras (F)

University of Minnesota

Golub Family Fellowship

Warfare and Masculinities in Medieval Europe

Ehud Krinis

Hebrew University

Dalck and Rose Feith Family Fellowship

Ismā'īlī-Shī'ī Literature and Thirteenth-Century Spanish Kabbalah

Charles Manekin (S)

University of Maryland

Ellie and Herbert D. Katz Distinguished Fellowship

Aristotelian Logic and Jewish Thought in Thirteenth-Century Spain

Katelyn Mesler

Northwestern University

Erika A. Strauss Teaching Fellowship

Medieval Jewish Encounter with Christian Magic in Thirteenth-Century Europe

Sarah Pearce

New York University

Louis Apfelbaum and Hortense Braunstein Apfelbaum Fellowship

In the Language of All Nations: Invention of the Arabic Translator in Thirteenth-Century Castile and Provence

Rami Reiner (S)

Ben-Gurion University

Samuel T. Lachs Fellowship

Influence of the French Tosafists on the German Pietists

Yossef Schwartz (F)

Tel-Aviv University

Martin Gruss Fellowship

The Social Framework of Thirteenth-Century Latin-to-Hebrew Translation Movements

Uri Shachar

The University of Chicago

Ella Darivoff Fellowship

Pious Belligerence among Jewish, Christian and Muslim Authors in the Crusading Near East

Rebecca Winer

Villanova University

Maurice Amado Foundation Fellowship

Mothers and Childcare in the Medieval Crown of Aragon and Kingdom of Majorca

Elliot Wolfson (F)

New York University

Ellie and Herbert D. Katz Distinguished Fellowship

Incarnation in the Mystical Hermeneutics of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam

Luke Yarbrough (F)

Princeton University

Albert J. Wood Fellowship

Exclusion as Definition: Situating the Tajrid sayf al-himma in its Transregional Context

Adjunct Fellows**Mordechai Cohen**

Yeshiva University

Warren Harvey

Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Ephraim Kanarfogel

Yeshiva University

Sharon Koren

Hebrew Union College, New York

Marina Rustow

Johns Hopkins University

Michael Shmidman

Touro College

Short-term Fellows**Jeremy Cohen**

Tel Aviv University

Olivia Remie Constable

University of Notre Dame

Alexander Fidora

Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

Chaim Hames

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

John Tolan

Université de Nantes (France)



Jane Caplan (University of Oxford)



L to R: Penn professors Nili Gold, Ian Lustick, Sam Klausner, and Beth Wenger



Jascha Nemtsov (Abraham Geiger College)

MEYERHOFF LECTURE IN JEWISH HISTORY

The Fifteenth Annual Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Lecture in Jewish History was entitled “*Jetzt judenfrei* (now free of Jews): Being a tourist in Nazi-occupied Poland,” with **Jane Caplan** (University of Oxford) The Meyerhoff lecture took place on April 18, and was co-sponsored by the Jewish Studies Program, the Departments of History and Germanic Languages & Literatures, Penn Political Theory Workshop, and the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies.

The Meyerhoff Lecture was established in 1997 through the generosity of a gift from the **Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Foundation** to honor the appointment of the late **Herbert Katz, W’51**, as the chair of the Board of CAJS. Herb and Ellie Katz have been among the most devoted supporters of Jewish Studies at Penn. Their gifts include the Joseph Meyerhoff Chair in Modern Jewish History, the Katz Family Term Chair in American Jewish History, and the Herbert D. Katz Distinguished Fellowship at the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies.

SILVERS VISITING SCHOLAR IN JEWISH STUDIES

The Sixteenth Annual Silvers Visiting Scholar Program was a talk on “The Second War: North American Fighters in Israel’s War of Independence” by **Samuel Klausner**, with a response by **Ian Lustick** (University of Pennsylvania). *MACHAL*, the Hebrew acronym for *mitnadvei hutz laAretz* or “volunteers from abroad,” consisted of about 3,500 men and women from over 40 countries who volunteered to fight for Israel in the 1948 War of Independence. Klausner, Professor Emeritus of Sociology at Penn and a “machalnik” himself, discussed the history of Machal, the backgrounds of the volunteers, and the role of foreign volunteers and assistance in the 1948 War. The lecture on February 21, was co-sponsored by the Jewish Studies Program.

The Silvers Visiting Scholar Program, endowed by **Patricia, CW’72 and David, C’71 Silvers**, was established to bring distinguished scholars to

campus to interact with students and other members of the university community.

JOSEPH ALEXANDER COLLOQUIUM

The Twenty-Sixth Annual Joseph Alexander Colloquium was a program entitled “Composers of the St. Petersburg Society of Jewish Folk Music and their Successors,” by **Jascha Nemtsov** (Abraham Geiger College) on November 7. Nemtsov discussed the innovations of Jewish cultural Renaissance of the early 20th century in Europe and their background in musical traditions, interlaced with a piano concert. The event was sponsored by the Joseph Alexander Foundation and the Mackler Family, and co-sponsored by the Jewish Studies Program, Slavic Languages and Literatures, and the Department of Music.

The Joseph Alexander Colloquium, Penn’s oldest endowed lecture in Jewish Studies, is supported through the generosity of the **Joseph Alexander Foundation** and the **Mackler Family**.



Aharon Appelfeld with Nili Gold

The International Conference on the Life and Work of Israeli Author Aharon Appelfeld

On October 26-27, 2011, JSP organized a major conference, “The International Conference on the Life and Work of Israeli Author Aharon Appelfeld.” The conference was jointly sponsored by Ben Gurion University of the Negev in Israel, where Appelfeld is Professor of Hebrew Literature. It brought together 17 leading scholars of Jewish and Israeli literature from the Middle East, Europe, and North America. These internationally-renowned scholars in the fields of literature, history, religion and Holocaust studies, came to Penn to honor Aharon Appelfeld and discuss his work. Appelfeld himself attended the sessions and commented on them during his public conversation with Nili Gold on the final evening of the conference. His participation was a rare opportunity for the university and other communities to engage with him directly as he spoke about his writing. On campus, the initiative was led by the Jewish Studies Program and Kelly Writers House, along with several other

departments and programs. This conference was a major event on the Penn campus, widely covered in the press, and it should be noted that Appelfeld’s trip to the U.S. was not part of a national tour; the sole reason for his visit to this country was at Nili Gold’s invitation to be a part of this conference. Papers by many of the conference participants will be published in a special forum dedicated to Appelfeld in a forthcoming issue of *The Jewish Quarterly Review*.



Appelfeld receiving a standing ovation

Gross Visiting Professor in Talmudic Law

In 1987, Mr. Joseph S. Gruss, through a bequest from his wife Caroline's estate, established the Caroline Zelasnik Gruss and Joseph S. Gruss Chair in Talmudic Civil Law at the University of Pennsylvania Law School. Since then, nearly every year, the Gruss Chair has brought a distinguished scholar specializing in some area of Jewish law to the Penn Law School. Past chair holders include Professors Haym Soloveitchik, Aaron Kirschenbaum, Moshe Halbertal, 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 Lecture on the subject of "Is it a Sin to Accidentally Sin: Mistake and Error in Rabbinic Law." The Gruss Lecture last year was held at the National Museum of American Jewish History.

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 2011-2012 academic year:

"From Eleanor Roosevelt to Qaddafi: An Insider's Account of the Rise and Fall of Human Rights at the U.N.," with **Hillel Neuer** (Executive Director of the United Nations Watch), co-sponsored by Penn Friends of Israel and the International Affairs Association on September 25, 2011.



(from L to R) Talya Fishman, Harvey Goldberg, Ephraim Kanarfogel, and Joseph Lowry on November 30.

Screening of award-winning documentary "My So-Called Enemy," with discussion with Emmy-winning filmmaker **Lisa Gossels**, co-sponsored by the School of Social Policy and Practice on October 17, 2011.

Lecture and Screening: "Ruth Gruber: A Centenary Celebration," with **Ruth Gruber** on her centenary, co-sponsored by the National Museum of American Jewish History and The National Center for Jewish Film on October 23, 2011.

Screening: "Between Two Worlds: The American Jewish Culture Wars," discussion with directors **Alan Snitow** and **Deborah Kaufman**, and moderated by **Ian Lustick** (University of Pennsylvania), co-sponsored by Jewish Voice for Peace at Penn, and the Departments of Cinema Studies and English on October 24, 2011.



Hebrew teachers Josef Benatov and Ronit Engel at College Palooza on April 16.

Modernity," with **Andreas Kilcher** (ETH Zurich), co-sponsored by the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, in commemoration of Kristallnacht on November 10, 2011.

Panel discussion of Talya Fishman's new book: *Becoming the People of the Talmud: Oral Torah as Written Tradition in Medieval Jewish Culture*, with **Harvey E. Goldberg** (Hebrew University), **Ephraim Kanarfogel** (Yeshiva University), **Joseph E. Lowry** (University of Pennsylvania), and Chair: **David B. Ruderman** (University of Pennsylvania), with comments by the author: **Talya Fishman** (University of Pennsylvania), co-sponsored by the Religious Studies department on November 30, 2011.

"Solar Deities and Natural Theology: Overlapping Perspectives on a Biblical Psalm," with **Benjamin Sommer** (Jewish Theological Seminary), co-sponsored by the Religious Studies and Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations departments, and by the Center for Ancient Studies and the Program in Folklore and Folklife on January 19, 2012.

"Is There a Plausible Future for Israel that is also "Positive?," a Faculty Works-In-Progress Seminar with **Ian Lustick** (University of Pennsylvania) on February 2, 2012.

"Minority Reports: Representing Social Identity in (New) Media," a graduate student conference with keynote speaker: **Martha Helfer** (Rutgers University) speaking on "Germany Under the Sign of the Jew," co-sponsored by the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, Annenberg School for Communication, and Department of Comparative Literature and Literary Theory on February 24, 2012.

"And Here, She Is Shadow: Translating Leah Goldberg into English," with **Annie Kantar** (Poet-translator) on February 28, 2012.

"Holy Land on the Baltic: The Gustaf Dalman Collection in Greifswald," with **Daniel Stein Kokin** (University of Greifswald, Germany), co-sponsored by the Penn Libraries on March 15, 2012.

"Is the Academic Study of Judaism Talmud Torah? Reflections of a 15th Century Italian Rabbi," with

"The People of the Book. The Politics of Writing in Jewish

David Ruderman (University of Pennsylvania), co-sponsored by the Orthodox Jewish Community at Penn on March 19, 2012.

"Yiddish sing-along and a musical performance by Yiddish students from the University of Pennsylvania," led by **Alexander Botwinik** (University of Pennsylvania), co-sponsored by the Department of Germanic Languages & Literatures, and Penn Hillel on March 20, 2012.

"Yiddish Break at UPenn," an annual event at which young Yiddish speakers and enthusiasts meet for a weekend to experience Yiddish language and culture, co-sponsored by *Yugntruf* on March 23-25, 2012.

"The People and the Book: Print and the Transformation of Jewish Culture," with **David Ruderman** (University of Pennsylvania), co-sponsored the School of Arts and Sciences on March 28, 2012.

"New Perspectives on and from Middle Eastern Jewry," a roundtable discussion with panelists **Orit Bashkin** (University of Chicago), **Julia Cohen** (Vanderbilt University), and **Vered Madar** (Hebrew University), co-sponsored by the Middle East Center at Penn on March 29, 2012.



(from L to R): Orit Baskin, Julia Cohen and Vered Madar at Middle East panel on March 29.

"When the Rebbe Met the Tsar: Hasidic Leaders Struggling with the Authorities," with **David Assaf** (Tel Aviv University), co-

sponsored by the Committee on Folklore on April 3, 2012.

"Reflexivity, Midrash, and the Rabbinic Self (uncensored)," with **Dina Stein** (University of Haifa), co-sponsored by the Jewish Studies Program Kutchin Seminar Series, and the Committee on Folklore on April 10, 2012.

"Sirens in the Synagogue: Echoes of Classical and Christian Voices in the Midrash," with **Galit Hasan-Rokem** (Hebrew University), co-sponsored by the Graduate Committee on Folklore and the Department of Religious Studies on April 17, 2012.

15th Annual Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Lecture on "Jetzt judenfrei (now free of Jews): Being a tourist in Nazi-occupied Poland," with **Jane Caplan** (University of Oxford), co-sponsored by the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, Department of History, Penn Political Theory Workshop, and Germanic Languages & Literatures on April 18, 2012.

"Synagogues of Prague," with **Arno Parik** (Jewish Museum in Prague), co-sponsored by the Slavic Department on April 19, 2012.

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 over 2,100 public service contacts, shelved almost 9,000 volumes, administered the circulation of over 500 rare items, and filled hundreds of Faculty Express, Inter-Campus and Inter-Library Loan (ILL) transactions.

New Katz CAJS/Library Web Exhibit!

To mark the conclusion of the 2011-12 year of research, the Penn Libraries partnered with the Katz Center fellows to produce a beautiful virtual exhibit "Jews & Journeys: Travel and the Performance of Jewish Identity." To view this current exhibit, go to: <http://www.library.upenn.edu/exhibits/cajs/fellows12/> To view past Katz CAJS/Library Web exhibits, go to: <http://www.library.upenn.edu/exhibits/cajs/>

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

On May 20 and 21, 2012, the Penn Libraries joined with the Jewish Studies Program and the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies to host the twelfth annual Manfred R. Lehmann Memorial Master Workshop on the History of the Jewish Book. This year's topic was Jewish Book Art in the late Middle Ages. Dr. **Katrin Kogman-Appel** (Ben-



Attendees of the 2012 Lehmann Workshop on the History of the Jewish Book

Gurion University of the Negev) 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.

Shoah Foundation Visual History Testimonies licensed by the University of Pennsylvania

http://guides.library.upenn.edu/content.php?pid=292757&search_terms=shoah

Established in 1994 by **Steven Spielberg** to collect and preserve the testimonies of survivors and other witnesses to the Holocaust, the USC Shoah Foundation Institute maintains one of the largest video digital libraries in the world: nearly 52,000 video testimonies in 32 languages and from 56 countries. The Institute is part of the **Dana and David Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences at the University of Southern California**; its mission is to overcome prejudice, intolerance, and bigotry—and the suffering they cause—through the educational use of the Institute's visual history testimonies.

Penn's participation with the Visual History Archive (VHA), was initiated by President **Amy Gutmann** and is supported jointly on an ongoing basis by the Penn Libraries, the Annenberg School for Communication and Penn Information Systems & Computing. Significantly, Dr. **Bruce Nielsen** played a critical role developing the Shoah Visual History Testimonies website.

There are approximately 3000 testimonies immediately available in the Penn cache. They can be grouped as follows:

- A core group of testimonies distributed by the VHA as being representative of the entire collection (277 testimonies).
- All available Pennsylvania survivor testimonies as of January 25, 2012 (613 testimonies). This includes both people who were interviewed in Pennsylvania and people born in Pennsylvania.
- A collection of diverse non-Jewish survivor testimonies.
- A collection of English language testimonies by Hasidic Jews.
- Survivor testimonies representing many of the languages available in the Archive.
- Several English language testimonies of Jewish survivors living in Europe (Italian survivors speaking in English, for example).
- Survivor testimonies providing access to examples from many of

the regions and countries in Europe, North Africa and the Near East represented in the VHA collection.

- Testimonies from a diverse range of ghettos and camps; political prisons; slave labor, concentration and extermination camps.
- Selection of testimonies from witnesses who themselves were not survivors of genocide, including prosecutors, liberators, and rescuers.

New Judaica Treasure at the Library at the Katz Center!

In the fall of 2011, the Penn Libraries received an extraordinary gift from **Rabbi Ezekiel N. and Margaret Musleah**: an exquisite, luminous Sefer Torah (Pentateuch scroll) which had been kept and cherished by their family for over six generations. Both Rabbi and Margaret Musleah were born in Calcutta to distinguished Jewish families that trace their origins to a continuous line of rabbinical scholars from Baghdad, one of the most important and oldest centers of Jewish learning in the world. Rabbi Musleah received his rabbinical ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in 1952, and then returned to Calcutta to serve at Maghen David Synagogue. In 1964 he moved with his family to Philadelphia to become the religious leader of the Spanish and Portuguese Congregation Mikveh Israel. He is the author of numerous books about the history of Indian Jewry, including *On the Banks of the Ganga*, and most recently has served at Congregation Beth Zion-Beth Israel, also in Center City Philadelphia. Margaret Musleah is a direct descendant of Mordecai Shindookh, the *sofer* (scribe) of the family's Sefer Torah.

The Sefer Torah is a handwritten document, measuring 10.5 (height) x 597 inches when unrolled (approximately 50 feet in length). The Holy Writ is inscribed in 226 columns, each of which contains 51 lines, written in a Baghdadi square hand. The writing surface consists of luminous vellum made from the skin of a "Ben Pakua" (a surviving fetus within an animal that was ritually slaughtered). The silver *tik* (case) in which this Sefer Torah is held bears a Hebrew inscription that records the precise date when the writing of the scroll was completed—in the month of Sivan 5580 (May-June 1820), the same year during which the Shindookh family moved from Baghdad to Calcutta. This is noteworthy because Torah scrolls, unlike Hebrew codices, do not contain colophons, thus it is quite unusual to find such a precise dating of a Torah scroll. (A photo of this Torah scroll appears on the cover of this newsletter.)

The Musleah donation also includes a library of over 1,200 scholarly books, periodicals, printed pamphlets, handwritten documents, and artifacts. The topics of the pamphlets range in time from Masada to the Holocaust, and address subjects as varied as medical ethics, Conservative Judaism,

Jewish education and tributes to individual Jewish leaders. Among the artifacts are photographic portraits of Rabbi Musleah's predecessors at Congregation Mikveh Israel: the Rev. Sabato Morais and Rabbi Leon Elmaleh.

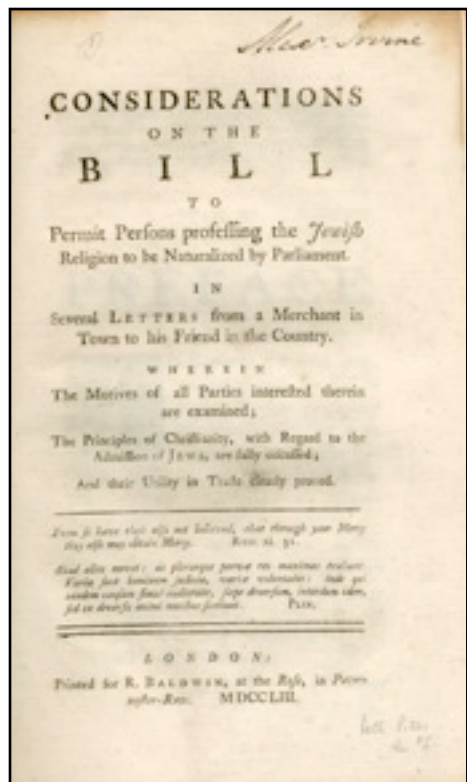
Penn's Judaica collections also have been enriched by the donation of a unique early modern Swiss Holy Land travel manuscript donated by **Benjamin Zucker**, a precious gems dealer, avant-garde author, and distinguished collector and philanthropist, in honor of his dear friend, **Alfred Moldovan**.

Decades ago, Dr. Moldovan, a WWII veteran, electrical engineer, family doctor in East Harlem for over fifty years, civil rights activist, founding member of the Medical Committee for Human Rights, and founder of the Harry Friedman Society for Judaica Collectors, encouraged Benjamin Zucker, to purchase this manuscript. At the time, little was known about it, where it came from, who wrote it, when it was written, and where it was written. Dr. Moldovan and Mr. Zucker, in the course of their long friendship, continued to return to the manuscript to try to decipher its secrets. Dr. Moldovan contacted eminent scholars from around the world, including the late Prof. **Ze'ev Vilnay**, a specialist in Holy Land historical geography who received his doctorate from Dropsie College in Philadelphia. Vilnay speculated that the manuscript was copied from a printed source but wasn't able to say which one. Dr. Moldovan, himself a collector of antique maps of the Holy Land, reasoned that the illustrations, particularly the map sections of the Holy Land, might be based on recognizable sources. Dr. Moldovan dreamed of being able to stitch together the individual map illustrations, numbering about eighty-five, to see if together as a composite map they might reveal their origins. The Penn Libraries partnered with Mr. Zucker and Dr. Moldovan to unravel the mysteries. Thanks to the dedicated work of **Anna Baechtold**, a visiting scholar from the University of Bern, Switzerland, working in tandem with a number of exceptionally talented Penn Libraries staff members, particularly **Dennis Mullen** and **John Pollack**, many of these mysteries have been solved, a composite digital map was created, and work continues on the project. To see the manuscript and read more about this story of "detection in the collections" go to: <http://sceti.library.upenn.edu/zucker/>

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 some of the most precious, formative documents of colonial Jewish history in the Atlantic world.

For example, the Kaplan Foundation made it possible for us to purchase a number of original, 18th century pamphlets documenting the notorious "Jew Bill" in England over the extension of naturalization to its Jewish inhabitants. Among the pamphlets we acquired are the first edition of *Philo-Patrie Considerations on the Bill* to permit persons

professing the the Jewish religion to be naturalized by Parliament, London, 1753; the second edition of Jonas Hanway's *A Review of the Proposed Naturalization of the Jews*; Being An Attempt at a dispassionate Enquiry into the Present State of the Case, *With Some Reflexions on General Naturalization*, London, Sold by J. Waugh 1753. These were purchased from **Jonathan Fishburn, of Fishburn Books** in Golders Green, London. From Carmen D. Valentine of American Historical Manuscripts in



Considerations on the Bill to permit persons professing the Jewish religion to be naturalized by Parliament. In several letters from a merchant in town to his friend in the country. Printed in London in 1753. Also known as "Philo-Patrie" this is one of only two pamphlets printed in favor of the proposed naturalization bill. Acquired thanks to the generosity of Arnold and Deanne Kaplan and now part of the Arnold and Deanne Kaplan Collection of Early American Judaica at the Penn Libraries.

Philadelphia we purchased, again thanks to the Kaplan Foundation, a colonial North American Jewish business ledger whose handwritten logs were entered in Montreal, Quebec just before the American Revolution between June 6, 1774 and February 8, 1776. The ledger belonged David Salisbury Franks, formerly of Philadelphia, and the records detail his extensive trade relationships as well as expenses relating to his imprisonment for supporting the Revolution.

Thanks to the Kaplan Foundation we were able to bid successfully at the **Kestenbaum & Company** auction house in New York City on the first edition of one of the two earliest Hebrew grammars printed in North America prior to the American Revolution. This volume, bound in its original calf-backed, marbled boards, was printed in Boston by R. and S.

Draper in 1763. Its author, Samuel Sewall, was a former student of the Livorno-born, Jewish convert Judah Monis who was the first Hebrew instructor at Harvard College. Sewall's grammar is particularly rare due in part to the fact that in 1807 Harvard students burned all the Hebrew grammars they could find at the College in protest over compulsory Hebrew classes and even sought to destroy the Hebrew fonts used in their printing.

And thanks, yet again, to the Kaplan Foundation; we purchased from Michael Buehler at Boston Rare Maps, two of the earliest maps in colonial North America to mark the presence of Jewish synagogues. The first, a fold-out engraved map of the "Plan of New-York," is found in John Hinton, *The Universal Magazine of Knowledge and Pleasure*, vols. 58 and 59 (January-December 1776), plus supplements and indices. The second is a detailed map of Newport, Rhode Island, surveyed by Charles Blaskowitz and printed in London on September 1, 1777 by William Faden. On the map's legend appears Newport's Touro synagogue.

All of these unique and invaluable acquisitions will become part of the growing **Arnold and Deanne Kaplan Collection of Early American Judaica** at the Penn Libraries.

Special Projects

Significant progress has been made on the first **Jesselson Family-Deanne and Arnold Kaplan Foundation American Genizah Project** – the Isaac Leeser correspondence and publication – which is on schedule for completion by the end of December 2012. We have been successful in hiring **Michael Overgard**, who has cataloged all Leeser correspondence into MARC, and who has worked closely with Backstage Library Works to encode all Leeser transcriptions in TEI (an XML-based text encoding). Overgard has developed a prototype historical map for interactive, graphic presentations of the Leeser material, and has worked closely with **Chris Lipa** and the Schoenberg Center for Electronic Text and Image (SCETI) staff to scan the Leeser's monthly periodical the *Occident and American Jewish Advocate* and related Leeser publications. The Penn Libraries have partnered with the **National Library of Israel** and the Historical Jewish Press project, directed by Professor **Yaron Tsur** (Tel Aviv University) and managed by **Chezkie Kasnett** at the National Library of Israel in Jerusalem to make the *Occident* immediately available on-line. To visit the site, see: <http://www.jpress.org.il/publications/OCC-en.asp>

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, a visiting Italian-Jewish graduate student from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, 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. Weiner 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.

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. Eidlitz; 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; David Geffen; 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; Deane and Arnold Kaplan Foundation; Michael Kaplan; I. Milton Karabell; 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; Edward J. Lenkin, C'71, PAR'12; 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; 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; Yechiel Schur; Robert Seltzer; Shalom Club at Lake Ridge, Toms River, New Jersey; Moshe A. Shaltiel-Gracian; 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. Strauss; Paul A. Tanker; Yirmiyahu Ahron Taub; Selig A. Tauenblatt; Neville Teller; Mr. and Mrs. D. Stephen Toback, PAR'88, PAR'95; Fortunee Franchetti Treves; Irvin Ungar; Isosif I. Vaisman; Wout Jac. Van Bekkum; Marvin Verman, GAR'06; Saul Vinero; Yeshayau Vinograd; Naomi Vogelmann-Goldfeld; Temira Volcany; Friedrich Vollhardt; Bert Vorcheimer; Kevin and Christine, CGS'00, Walsh; Lewis Wechsler; Bella Hass Weinberg; Herbert and Sheila Weiner; Marvin Weiner, W'38; Meier Weisblum; Yitschok Weisblum; George H. Weiss; Ruth Westheimer; Norma R. Weiser; Falk Wiesemann; Anita J. Willens; Stephen M. Wind, C'00; Lynne Winters; Bob Wolloch; Helene Wolloch; Gerald Wolpe, PAR'78, PAR'81; Albert J. Wood; Ele Wood, CGS'65, G'78; Leonard Wood; Dan Wyman; Sharon Yannay; YIVO Institute for Jewish Research; Gilbert Young; Roza Zaks; Joseph Zernik; Susan Zeelander; Michael Zinman; Benjamin Zucker. Mark Zucker, C'83, W'83.

Maryland; Jewish Publication Society of America; Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America; Maxine Kalina; Deane and Arnold Kaplan Foundation; Michael Kaplan; I. Milton Karabell; 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; Edward J. Lenkin, C'71, PAR'12; 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; 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; Yechiel Schur; Robert Seltzer; Shalom Club at Lake Ridge, Toms River, New Jersey; Moshe A. Shaltiel-Gracian; 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. Strauss; Paul A. Tanker; Yirmiyahu Ahron Taub; Selig A. Tauenblatt; Neville Teller; Mr. and Mrs. D. Stephen Toback, PAR'88, PAR'95; Fortunee Franchetti Treves; Irvin Ungar; Isosif I. Vaisman; Wout Jac. Van Bekkum; Marvin Verman, GAR'06; Saul Vinero; Yeshayau Vinograd; Naomi Vogelmann-Goldfeld; Temira Volcany; Friedrich Vollhardt; Bert Vorcheimer; Kevin and Christine, CGS'00, Walsh; Lewis Wechsler; Bella Hass Weinberg; Herbert and Sheila Weiner; Marvin Weiner, W'38; Meier Weisblum; Yitschok Weisblum; George H. Weiss; Ruth Westheimer; Norma R. Weiser; Falk Wiesemann; Anita J. Willens; Stephen M. Wind, C'00; Lynne Winters; Bob Wolloch; Helene Wolloch; Gerald Wolpe, PAR'78, PAR'81; Albert J. Wood; Ele Wood, CGS'65, G'78; Leonard Wood; Dan Wyman; Sharon Yannay; YIVO Institute for Jewish Research; Gilbert Young; Roza Zaks; Joseph Zernik; Susan Zeelander; Michael Zinman; Benjamin Zucker. Mark Zucker, C'83, W'83.

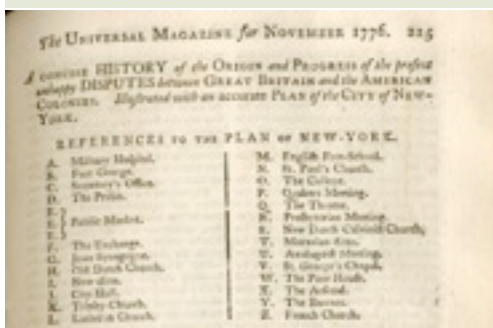


New York City Map and Legend

“Plan of New-York,” is found in John Hinton, *The Universal Magazine of Knowledge and Pleasure*, vols. 58 and 59 (January-December 1776), pp. 214-215.

The legend on page 215 identifies the site of the first synagogue in New York City.

Acquired thanks to the generosity of Arnold and Deanne Kaplan and now part of the Arnold and Deanne Kaplan Collection of Early American Judaica at the Penn Libraries.



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 Grenlder; Alessandro Guetta; Joseph Hacker; Orna Has; Galit Hasan-Rokem; Elliott Horowitz; Adiel Kadari; Tamar Kadari; Marion Kant; Barbara Kirschenblatt-Gimblett; Samuel Z. Klauzner; Michael Kramer; Sara Japhet; Ruth Kartun-Blum; Robert Kraft; Daniel Lasker; Fabrizio Lelli; Lee I. Levine; Gideon Libson; Berahyahu Lifshitz; Ora Limor; Yehiel Limor; Vered Madar; Aharon Maman; Rachel Manekin; Robert G. Ousterhout; Richard Popkin; Riv-Elle Prell; Stefan Reif; Rachel Rojanski; Dalit Rom-Shiloni; Alan Rosen; Tovah Rosen; Moshe Rosman; Shalom Sabar; Asher Salah; Christoph Schulte; Gerson Shaked; Jeffrey Shandler; Adam Shear; Daniel Sheerin; Jeffrey Shoulson; Marcos Silber; Mark S. Smith; Haym Soloveitchik; David Stern; Sarah Stroumsa; Claude Stuczynski; Adam Teller; Stephen Tinney; Smadar Tirosch-Heyd; Chava Turmiansky; 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

Our graduate programs, though small and highly selective, 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.

Graduate Symposium in Jewish Studies

On April 22, 2012, graduate students **Nina Cohen** (History) and **David Zvi Kalman** (NELC) convened a day-long conference that showcased the work of Jewish Studies graduate students at the University of Pennsylvania. Drawing from a broad spectrum of student research in several different departments, this conference highlighted the diverse approaches and methods in the field of Jewish Studies. A wide range of students and faculty attended this lively interdisciplinary symposium.

The Falk Fellowship

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

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

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

Current Falk Fellows in the Jewish Studies Program are fourth-year student **Akhmad Sahal** (Religious Studies), third-year students **Sonia Gollance** (German), **David Zvi Kalman** (NELC), and **Tamara Morsel-Eisenberg** (History), and second-year student **Ari Gordon** (NELC).

Sahal is working on the relationship of secularism to religion in Jewish culture; Gollance is working on German-Jewish and Yiddish literature in the modern period, with particular emphasis on questions of gender; Kalman is working on issues of jurisprudence within the Jewish and Islamic legal traditions; Morsel-Eisenberg, the intersection of Jewish law and thought; and Gordon, Muslim-Jewish relations during the formative period of Islam through exploration of shared ritual and narrative.

This year we are pleased to welcome one new Falk Fellow to Penn:

Tom Tearney will be working in the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures and will concentrate on 20th century German and Yiddish literature and poetry in Central Europe and the Americas through a comparative approach.

Graduate Student News

Rebecca Cutler is a doctoral student in the Department of History exploring the intersections of medicine and modern Jewish history. She is currently completing her dissertation on the transnational politics of American Jewish medical work in the post-World War II era. This past year Cutler, along with her husband Robert Kalmar and big brother Nisim also welcomed their daughter Chava into the family.

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

David Zvi Kalman, currently a Falk fellow, has just completed his second year in the Near Eastern

Languages & Civilizations department, as well as a fellow at the Cardozo Law School Center for Jewish Law. He is focusing on the development of Jewish and Islamic law in the early Islamic period. Together with Nina Cohen, he organized this year's Jewish Studies interdisciplinary graduate conference. He is currently completing *Adashot*, a book project, which will be published by Ktav in 2013.

In the previous academic year **Konstanze Kunst** conducted research in Germany, Prague, Oxford and Jerusalem for her dissertation titled "Between Locality and Mobility: The Culture of the Jewish

Book in Prague within the Seventeenth-Century Topography of Jewish Printing in Ashkenaz." Kunst has been awarded a Benjamin Franklin History Dissertation Fellowship for the 2012-2013 academic year in which she will finish her dissertation.

Judah Kraut successfully completed his final exams and has begun work on his dissertation towards a doctoral degree in Bible and ancient Near Eastern literature. His article, "Deciphering the Shema:

Staircase Parallelism and the Syntax of Deuteronomy 6:4," appeared in Volume 61 of *Vetus Testamentum*. He returns this academic year as a Lecturer in Biblical Hebrew at Princeton University.

Tamara Morsel-Eisenberg, a Benjamin Franklin fellow and a Falk fellow, has completed her second year as a graduate student at Penn. During this year she both taught sections and graded for undergraduate courses (History of the Modern Middle East and Modern Jewish History) and attended graduate courses. This year, Morsel-Eisenberg has written on the Boyle lectures and the religious significance of the scientific revolution, as well as on Rabbi Jacob Emden's approach to halakha and mysticism. She is currently working on two projects, one on religion and medicine in Early Modern responsa and another on the printing of Rabbi Jacob Emden's books. She attended the joint Katz CAJS-Mandel School for Advanced Study summer program in Israel in July.

Akhmad Sahal is a Falk fellow in the Religious Studies department. His doctoral research focuses on the responses of religious scholars towards the complex relationships of the religious law and the nation-state in Egypt and in the Land of Israel in the early twentieth century. While in Indonesia during the past fall, he conducted preliminary research in the Jakarta-based Freedom Institute.

Yehuda Seif, a William Penn fellow, completed his ninth year in the Religious Studies department, specializing in medieval Ashkenazic Jewry and



Tom Tearney, Falk fellow

focusing on “Charity and Poor Law in Medieval Ashkenaz.” He has also received a dissertation grant from Targum Shlishi. In addition to his graduate work, Seif teaches a course integrating English literature and Jewish philosophy at Kohelet Yeshiva High School as part of the Tikvah High School Scholars Program.

Life After Graduate School

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

Cornelia Aust (PhD, History, 2010) is beginning her third year as a postdoctoral fellow of the Martin Buber Society of Fellows at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. There she continues to work on her book manuscript on the economic, social, and cultural lives of the Jewish mercantile elite in eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century Central and East Central Europe and its trans-regional connections. She also began to put together a new research project, which will deal with Jewish appearances and their perception in seventeenth- to nineteenth-century Central and East Central Europe. In April she organized a workshop at the Hebrew University entitled “Appearance and Distinction. Images and Self-Images of Jews.”

Andrew Berns received his PhD in 2011. During the 2011-2012 academic year he was Viterbi Visiting Professor of Mediterranean Jewish Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles. In the 2012-2013 academic year he will be the Melville J. Kahn Fellow at Villa I Tatti: The Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies. In the fall of 2013 he will take up a post as Assistant Professor of History at the University of South Carolina.

Benjamin Fisher, a former Benjamin Franklin Fellow, received his PhD from the Department of History in August, 2011, and is Assistant Professor of Medieval and Early Modern Jewish History at Towson University. In addition to teaching undergraduate and graduate courses, during the past year he presented his research at the Society of Biblical Literature annual meeting. He is currently working on a monograph studying the role of Bible study in the intellectual, cultural, and educational activities of Spanish and Portuguese Jews in seventeenth-century Amsterdam.

Jennifer Glaser is an Assistant Professor in the English department at the University of Cincinnati and affiliate faculty in Judaic studies and Women's studies. This academic year, she will be a Frankel fellow at the University of Michigan. There, she will work on completing her manuscript, “Exceptional

Differences: Race, Chosenness, and the Jewish American Literary Imagination.”

Debra Kaplan (PhD History, 2003) is Associate Professor of Jewish History at Yeshiva University, where she holds the Dr. Pinkhos Churgin Memorial Chair, and is the Associate Chair for Jewish History. Her book, *Beyond Expulsion*, was published by Stanford University Press in 2011. Kaplan is currently working on a monograph about charity and Jewish communal life in the Holy Roman Empire between the sixteenth and eighteenth centuries. She is on the Academic Advisory Council at the Center for Jewish History, where she also serves as liaison to the Yeshiva University Museum.

Ellie Schainker, GSAS’10, CAJS Fellow 2010-2011, joined the Emory faculty this past fall as the Arthur Blank Family Foundation Assistant Professor of Jewish Studies and History. Schainker has been working on a book manuscript entitled, “Jewish Conversion in an Imperial Context: Confessional Choice and Multiple Baptisms in Nineteenth-Century Russia.” In connection with this project, she gave conference papers at the Scuola Normale Superiore in Pisa, Italy, and the Association of Jewish Studies convention in Washington D.C. This year, Schainker will deliver papers at the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies convention in New Orleans and an international symposium on small town life in Eastern Europe at the University of Illinois. This summer, she and her husband celebrated the birth of their third child, Alexander Hayim.

Adam Shear (PhD, History, 2003) is Associate Professor of Religious Studies and Director of the Jewish Studies Program at the University of Pittsburgh. Last year, Penn Press published *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 to focus his attention on the history of the Jewish book as co-convenor of the Lillian Goldman Scholar’s Working Group on the Jewish Book at the Center for Jewish History in New York; in spring 2013, he will be a Faculty Fellow at the Pitt Humanities Center, working on a book on the impact of print on the transmission of classical and medieval texts. He is also making a foray into American Jewish history this year, coordinating a series of public programs on the Jewish community of Squirrel Hill, Pittsburgh in the context of American Jewish history and Pittsburgh urban history, as a result of a grant from the Legacy Heritage Jewish Studies Project, administered by the Association for Jewish Studies.

David Shyovitz (PhD, History, 2011), is Assistant Professor of History at Northwestern University, where he holds a joint appointment at the Crown Center for Jewish Studies. His research focuses on medieval Jewish cultural and intellectual history, and he is currently completing a book project on attitudes toward nature and the supernatural

among medieval Jews and Christians. During the 2011-12 year, he presented papers at the University of Cambridge, at Tel Aviv University, and at the AJS annual meeting in Washington, DC.

Kerry Wallach (PhD Germanic Languages and Literatures, 2011) is Assistant Professor of German Studies at Gettysburg College, where she also organizes Judaic Studies lectures and events. During the past year, she presented papers at the 24th Annual Klutznick-Harris Symposium: “Fashioning Jews: Clothing, Culture, Commerce” in Omaha, NE, and at a conference on literary and cinematic representations of consumerism at the Literaturhaus Berlin. In Berlin, she also participated in the first of several workshops of the Seminar for Postdoctoral Students of German-Jewish and Central-European Jewish History, organized by the Leo Baeck Institutes in Jerusalem and Germany.

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

Video Tour: A Tour Through the Jewish Book

A video lecture, A Tour Through the Jewish Book, led by David Stern, Moritz and Josephine Berg Professor of Classical Hebrew Literature, will soon be available to be viewed on the Penn Library YouTube channel, <http://www.youtube.com/user/pennlibraries>. The tour is based on “Chosen: Philadelphia’s Great Hebraica,” an exhibit curated by Stern at the Rosenbach Museum & Library in 2007, and narrates the history of the Jewish book from antiquity until the modern period through valuable manuscripts and early printed books from Penn’s Judaica collections as well as those of other Philadelphia institutions. Stern is not yet Simon Schama or Sister Wendy, but the video tour is extraordinarily informative and entertaining, and so far as we know, the only one like it in the world.



Map of Newport, Rhode Island, surveyed by Charles Blaskowitz and printed in London on September 1, 1777 by William Faden. On the map's legend appears Newport's Touro synagogue. Acquired thanks to the generosity of Arnold and Deanne Kaplan and now part of the Arnold and Deanne Kaplan Collection of Early American Judaica at the Penn Libraries.

U P C O M I N G E V E N T S

Upcoming Events

"The Beginnings of Midrash: Evidence from the Dead Sea Scrolls"

Tuesday, October 16, 5:00 p.m., Class of '55 (room 241), Van Pelt-Dietrich Library Center, 3420 Walnut Street

James Kugel, Professor of Bible Emeritus at Harvard University and Professor of Bible at Bar-Ilan University in Israel, is one of the world's foremost scholars of Biblical and early post-Biblical literature.

"Religion & Politics: Faith, Democracy, and American Public Life" Wednesday, October 17, 6:30 p.m., National Museum of American Jewish History

Since the founding of the Republic, Americans have struggled with the relationship between religion and public life, a complex issue particularly apparent in this fraught presidential election year. A distinguished panel moderated by **Jane Eisner**, Editor-In-Chief of *The Jewish Daily Forward*, will tackle this timely subject, exploring the intersections between religion and politics in American life. **John J. DiIulio**, University of Pennsylvania; **E.J. Dionne, Jr.**, *The Washington Post*; and **Sarah Barringer Gordon**, University of Pennsylvania. Free for NMAJH members and Penn students & faculty with valid ID, \$8 Non-members. For tickets: <http://nmajh.org/publicprograms/#religion&politics>

Screening of *Oma & Bella* with Director: Alexa Karolinski (76 min, 2012, Germany)

Tuesday, October 30, 7:00 p.m., Ibrahim Theater of the International House 3701 Chestnut Street

Oma & Bella is an intimate glimpse into the world of Regina Karolinski (Oma) and Bella Katz, two friends who live together in Berlin. Having survived the Holocaust and then stayed in Germany after the war, it is through the food they cook together that they remember their childhoods, maintain a bond to each other and answer questions of heritage, memory and identity. For more information on the film, see link: <http://omabella.com/>

Screening of *Footnote* with Panel Discussion (103 min, 2011, Israel)

Thursday, November 1, 7:00 p.m., 200 College Hall, 3450 Woodland Walk

Eliezer and Uriel Shkolnik are father and son as well as rival professors in Talmudic Studies. When both men learn that Eliezer will be lauded for his work, their complicated relationship reaches a new peak. *Footnote* is the opening film at the New Middle East Cinema festival running November 1 to 4, 2012.

27th Annual Joseph Alexander Colloquium: "Anne Frank: From Diary to Book" with Jeffrey Shandler (Rutgers University)

Thursday, November 8, 5:00 p.m., Benjamin Franklin Room, Houston Hall, 3417 Spruce Street

Before Anne Frank's diary became one of the world's most widely read books, it was a private manuscript. The book that millions of readers know as *The Diary of a Young Girl* has a complicated history of writing, rewriting, and editing by several hands. Each edition presents the diary anew, with different introductions, explanatory material, and cover art. At the same time, Anne Frank's original diary, in its plaid notebook, has become a treasured icon, commemorated in museum exhibitions, films, even architecture. Exploring these many transformations of the diary shed light on how Anne Frank's life and work have become fixtures of public culture throughout the world. **Jeffrey Shandler** is Professor of Jewish Studies at Rutgers University. His most recent book is *Anne Frank Unbound: Media, Imagination, Memory*.

17th Annual Silvers Visiting Scholar Program: "When They Come for Us, We'll Be Gone: The Epic Struggle to Save Soviet Jewry"

Tuesday, March 19, 7:00 p.m., 2nd Floor Auditorium, Penn Hillel, Steinhardt Hall, 215 South 39th St.

In December 1987, more than 250,000 people marched on Washington to protest the plight of Soviet Jewry. On the 25th anniversary of this largest gathering ever for a Jewish cause, **Gal Beckerman**, author of *When They Come for Us, We'll Be Gone: The Epic Struggle to Save Soviet Jewry*, will reflect on the history and long-term impact of the Soviet Jewry movement. Beckerman is the opinion editor at *The Forward*.

ABOUT OUR FACULTY continued from p. 7

and their Business World, was published this year by Cambridge University Press (Studies in Economic History, 2012). Three of her articles also appeared in print: "Choosing and Enforcing Business relationships in the Eleventh-century Mediterranean: re-examining the 'Maghribi traders,'" *Past & Present*, 215 no. 2 (2012), "The Use and Abuse of the Geniza Mercantile Letter," *Journal of Medieval History* 38 no. 2 (2012), and "On reading Goitein's A Mediterranean Society: a view from economic history," *Mediterranean Historical Review* 26 (2011). Goldberg was awarded a 2012 Charles V. Ryskamp Fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies to pursue her research on practical and imagined geographies of traders from medieval Genoa and Cairo. This year, she is also a member at the School of Social Sciences at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, NJ for the theme year "Economics and Politics."

During her year of leave as a Visiting Research Fellow at the Center for Jewish Studies at Harvard University, **Kathryn Hellerstein**, Associate Professor of Germanic Languages, was granted tenure at Penn. Her book, *A Question of Tradition: Women Poets in Yiddish*, is forthcoming from Stanford University Press. Her article, "The Act of Translating in Cynthia Ozick's 'Envy; or, Yiddish in America'" appeared in the Winter 2012 issue of *Studies in American Jewish Literature*. Another article, "Against 'Girl-Songs': Gender and Sex in a Yiddish Modernist Journal," appeared in *Leket: Jiddistik heute* (Dusseldorf University Press), September 2012. Hellerstein presented a number of lectures, including "Modern and Contemporary Jewish Literature," at Northeastern University, "Against 'Girl Songs': Gender and Sex in a Yiddish Modernist Journal," at the Association for Jewish Studies Conference in Washington, D.C., "China in New York's Yiddish Translations: Modernist Adaptation and Appropriation," at the Center of Jewish Studies Shanghai, Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences in China, at the Department of Comparative Literatures and Translation, City University of Hong Kong, and at the Modern Jewish Worlds Workshop at Harvard University. In addition, she delivered the Jacob Pat Memorial Lecture at Harvard University entitled, "Can a Woman Poet Write in Yiddish After the Holocaust? Kadya Molodowsky and Malka Heifetz Tussman in 1945," and "Yiddish Chinoiserie: China in Modernist Yiddish Culture," at Eshkolot, Moscow.

Arthur Kiron, the Schottenstein-Jesselson Curator of Judaica Collections and Adjunct Assistant Professor of History, served as the co-convenor of the first international conference on building global, integrated digital access to Judaica collections. The conference was held at the Center for Jewish History, in NYC, in November 2011. He delivered two public lectures on behalf of the Penn Libraries, at the University Museum as part of an Orrery Society event about the Zucker Holy Land Manuscript project, and an alumni event lecture in February at the home of Edward Lenkin for the

Mid-Atlantic Regional Advisory Board about the Lenkin Family Collection of Photography. He delivered the annual Parents' Weekend tour in the fall of Penn's rare Judaica collections, and organized this year's annual Katz Center-Library Web exhibition, "Jews and Journeys; Travel and the Performance of Jewish Identity." Kiron published "Impressions of HIDA," in *Atti del Convegno internazionale di Studi per il bicentenario della morte di CHIDA Rav Haim Yossef Azulai* (Belforte and Co., 2012); and "A Renaissance of Jewish Readers in Victorian Philadelphia" in *Jewish Renaissance and Revival in America*. Edited by Eitan P. Fishbane and Jonathan D. Sarna (Brandeis University Press, 2011). He serves on a number of academic and communal boards, such as the National Museum of American Jewish History, the Rabat Genizah Project, the Center for Jewish History, the Editorial Board of the Association of Jewish Libraries, the Board of Directors of the American Veterans of Israel Legacy Corporation, the International Academic Advisory Board for Sephardic Studies/Livorno, Italy, and the Academic Advisory Board of the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies.

Ian Lustick is the Bess W. Heyman Professor of Political Science. In June, he made a research trip to Israel. In Haifa he presented a paper to the annual conference of the Association for Israel Studies on Zionism as a theoretical anachronism and Israeli confusion about events in the Middle East. Among other activities, he investigated the impact of rocket attacks on Sderot, observed the Gaza-Israel border and the no-man's land created within Gaza by the IDF, inspected conditions and social dynamics among illegal African immigrants in Tel-Aviv, and observed the dynamics of demonstrations and military responses in connection with demolition orders issued against the West Bank village of Susiya. This year Lustick supervised the honors thesis of Limor Bordoley, C'12, on counterfactual analysis of the June 1967 war. This thesis won the Rose Award for outstanding research achievement by an undergraduate. In the spring he taught Politics in the Contemporary Middle East as a lecture course on the Arab-Israeli Conflict. A slightly adjusted version of this course will be offered in the spring of 2013. Lustick co-authored the lead article this summer in the journal *Middle East Policy* with Gregory Gause evaluating the Obama administration's response to a rapidly changing Middle East.

Benjamin Nathans, the Ronald S. Lauder Endowed Term Associate Professor of History, published several articles on human rights and the Soviet dissident movement, including "The Disenchantment of Socialism: Soviet Dissidents, Human Rights, and the New Global Morality" in an edited volume in German, and "Thawed Selves: A Commentary on the Soviet First Person" in the journal *Kritika*. His essays appeared in *The Nation*, *The Jewish Review of Books*, and *Ab Imperio*. During the academic year 2011-12, Nathans presented his

work at the YIVO Institute and at the Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies, among other venues. The Museum of Russian-Jewish History, for which Nathans has served as historical consultant since 2008, is due to open in Moscow this November. During academic year 2012-13, he is on leave thanks to a Guggenheim fellowship.

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. Publications that appeared in 2011-2012, included articles in *Hebrew Union College Annual* and various edited volumes, and entries in *The Cambridge Dictionary of Jewish History, Religion, and Culture* and *Oxford Bibliographies Online*. Her activities this year included giving talks at the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting and at a conference on "Early Judaism and Slavonic Pseudepigrapha in Israel," as well as public lectures at the Penn Museum and the Franklin Institute. 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*. She is also a Faculty Fellow at Penn's Stouffer College House and is serving this year as the Acting Director of Penn's Center for Ancient Studies. She will be on leave in fall 2012 to finish her book on demons, angels, and writing in ancient Judaism.

David B. Ruderman, the Joseph Meyerhoff Professor of Modern Jewish History and the Ella Darivoff Director of the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, published several new essays and a review this past year in *Frühneuzeitliche Ghettos in Europa in Vergleich*, (eds. Fritz Backhaus, Gisela Engel, Gundula Grebner, Robert Liberles); in *Oxford Bibliographies Online*, and in the *American Historical Review*. He lectured widely in the United States and Europe. He engaged in dialogues with Anthony Grafton at a forum sponsored by the UCLA History Department and Jewish Studies program, and with Matthias Lehmann before the history department of UC Irvine. At Penn, he presented a paper before the Material Texts Seminar and participated in a public lecture series sponsored by the History department. He offered concluding remarks at the Early Modern Jewish Workshop at Brown University and lectured at the Graduate Center of CUNY. In May and June, he spoke at the University of Zurich twice, the University of Basel, the Centro Tedesco di Studi Veneziani, Venice, Italy, and gave the keynote address at an International Conference on Jewish Culture in Eighteenth Century Europe at the University of Düsseldorf, Germany. He served as Gastprofessur in Wissenschaft und Judentum at the Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule (ETH) in Zurich in May-June, 2012; as a visiting professor at the University of Frankfurt in late June, 2012; and as Co-Founder and Co-Director [with Yisrael Yuval] of the first International Summer School for Graduate Studies

in Jewish Studies co-sponsored by the Hebrew University and the Katz Center in July, 2012. While teaching at ETH, he organized a two-day workshop on Kabbalah and Science in Modern Jewish Culture. He also completed his eighteenth year as Darivoff Director of the Katz Center.

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 year, he offered a freshman seminar on Dreams in Jewish Culture and Tradition and was the managing editor of a volume titled *Studies in Medieval Jewish Intellectual and Social History* (Brill, 2012). His current research projects include co-writing the entry "Medieval Jewish History" for *Oxford Bibliographies Online* for which he received the Lucius N. Littauer Foundation Grant from the Jewish Studies Program. In addition, he is writing an article on the cult of relics in medieval Ashkenaz, based on a lecture presented at the last AJS Annual Conference.

Larry Silver, Farquhar Professor of Art History, was awarded one of Penn's Lindback Teaching Awards in spring 2012. He gave a keynote address, "War is Hell: Visualizing Warfare as Social Injustice" at Ben Gurion University for an art history conference on Art and Social Justice. Last fall, his review essay (with Samantha Baskind) "Looking Jewish: The State of Research on Modern Jewish Art," appeared in the *Jewish Quarterly Review*, and he is a contributor to the art history entries in Judith R. Baskin, *The Cambridge Dictionary of Judaism and Jewish Culture* (Cambridge University Press, 2011). His proposed new undergraduate survey lecture class on Jewish Art has been postponed from spring 2013 to the 2013-14 academic year.

Jonathan Steinberg, Walter H. Annenberg Professor of History, lectured on "Bismarck, Anti-Semitism and the Tragedy of German Jewry," on October 27, at Yale University and in an altered form as the 54th Annual Leo Baeck Memorial Lecture on December 15, at the Leo Baeck Institute in New York City. On January 24, at the Gershan YMHA on Broad Street, he gave a lecture "Primo Levi and the Jews of Italy" for the Italian Consulate General to mark the *Giorno della Memoria* for Holocaust victims. For the Mamaroneck and Larchmont, NY branch of UJA, he gave a lecture called "Hitler: Man and Myth" on February 7. The German edition of *Bismarck: A Life* (Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2011) will be published on October 5, 2012, by Propylaen-Verlag, Berlin, branch of Ullstein Verlag.

David Stern, Moritz and Josephine Berg Professor of Classical Hebrew Literature, was on leave this past academic year as the Beatrice Shepherd Blane Fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Studies at Harvard University where he worked on a history of the Jewish book. In December, Stern was a visiting professor in the Glazer Institute of Jewish Studies at Nanjing University in the People's Republic of China where he taught a two-week course on Rabbinic Judaism to fifteen graduate and

undergraduate students. In June, Stern continued his international career teaching Jewish Studies in communist or formerly communist countries by teaching a mini-course on the history of Jewish books in the Eshkolot program in Moscow, Russia. In May, Stern also lectured at an international conference on "The Hebrew Book in the Western Mediterranean: 13th to 16th Centuries" at the Centro de Ciencias Humanas y Sociales, CSIC – Biblioteca Nacional de España in Madrid. In addition, Stern delivered the Eberhard L. Faber Class of 1915 Memorial Lecture at Princeton University; the opening lecture for an exhibit of the Steven Durschlag Haggadah Collection at the University of Chicago, and lectures at the Radcliffe Institute, the History of the Book Seminar at Harvard, and Harvard Hillel, as well as other talks at synagogues in the Boston area. During the year, Stern completed several articles, and published "The Rabbinic Bible in its Sixteenth Century Context" in *The Hebrew Book in Early Modern Italy*; "Midrash and Parables in the New Testament" in *The Jewish New Testament*; "Una introducción a la historia de la Biblia hebrea en Sefarad" and "The Hebrew Bible in Sepharad: An Introduction" in *Biblias de Sefarad/ Bibles of Sepharad*; "The Hebrew Bible in the Middle Ages," in *Jewish Studies Internet Journal*; and "The Brutality of Repentance" in *Keren*. Stern continued to serve on the Executive Committee of the American Academy for Jewish Research and chaired its nominations committee. He also served on the Academic Advisory Board for the Lucius N. Littauer Foundation, and for the twelfth year, as co-director of the Manfred Lehmann Master Workshop in the History of the Jewish Book.

Liliane Weissberg is the Christopher H. Browne Distinguished Professor in Arts and Sciences. During the summer 2011, she was a Freud Fulbright Fellow at the Sigmund Freud Museum and Privatstiftung in Vienna, Austria, and taught as a Visiting Professor of History at the University of Vienna. In the spring, she was Franz Rosenzweig Visiting Professor in Jewish Philosophy at the University of Kassel, Germany. She also taught at the summer programs of the University of Graz at Bad Aussee, Austria, and Schloss Leibnitz. During the academic year, she presented papers at conferences and universities in the United States, Germany, Canada, and Austria. Weissberg published an anthology entitled *Affinitaet wider Willen? Hannah Arendt, Theodor W. Adorno und die Frankfurter Schule* (Frankfurt/M: Campus, 2011), and edited a book with Karen Beckman, *Writing with Photography*, forthcoming with the University of Minnesota Press this fall. She has published articles on Hannah Arendt, Lazarus Bendavid, Claude Lanzmann, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Sigmund Freud, Alexander Mitscherlich, and contributed to the catalogue of an exhibition on DP camps at the Jewish Museum in Munich. She is currently preparing two exhibitions; one on the correspondence between Sigfried Unseld and Gershom Scholem at the Deutsches Literaturarchiv in Marbach, which will be accompanied by a publication, and one for the Jewish Museum in

Frankfurt am Main: "Reiche Juden: Eine Vorstellung." This exhibition will be accompanied by a catalogue also; it will travel to the Jewish Museums in Berlin and Vienna in the coming years. In early 2012, Weissberg was appointed Director of Research for German-Jewish Studies at the Suhrkamp Kolleg at the DLA Marbach.

Beth S. Wenger is Professor of History and Director of the Jewish Studies Program. In July 2012, she also became Chair of Penn's History department. Wenger's most recent book, *History Lessons: The Creation of American Jewish Heritage*, will be issued in paperback by Princeton University Press in 2012. Her article, "Inventing American Jewry," introduces the Winter/Spring 2011 issue of the *Journal of Jewish Communal Service*. She also has a forthcoming essay, "American Jewish Immigrants and the Invention of Europe," to be published in the anthology *History, Memory, and Jewish Identity*, and a forthcoming book review in *Studies in Contemporary Jewry*. Wenger delivered several public lectures and conference papers this past year, including presentations at the Association for Jewish Studies conference, Duke, Concordia, and Yeshiva Universities, as well as the College of William & Mary. She was co-chair with Jeffrey Shandler of the 2012 conference, "Beyond Boundaries: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Studying American Jews," the biennial Scholars Conference in American Jewish History sponsored by the American Jewish Historical Society. Wenger holds a number of administrative positions in the field of Jewish history, including Chair of the Academic Council of the American Jewish Historical Society and Co-Chair of the Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship Committee of the Foundation for Jewish Culture. Wenger also serves as a Distinguished Lecturer of the Organization of American Historians and on the Academic Advisory Board of the Center for Jewish History. She continues her role as consultant to the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia.

Julia Wilker joined the faculty last summer as Assistant Professor in the Department of Classical Studies and taught a graduate seminar on Jews in the Greco-Roman World last spring. In 2011-2012 she presented papers at Temple University and at a conference on local elites in ancient empires in Cologne, Germany. Publications that appeared in 2011-2012 include "Josephus, the Herodians and the Jewish War" (*The Jewish War against Rome*, Brill), "'God is with Italy now'. Pro-Roman Jews in the First Century CE" (*Jewish Identity and Politics between the Maccabees and Bar Kokhba*, Brill), and "'...und machten diese zu einem Teil der ihren.' Zur Motivation und Akzeptanz römischer Proselyten und Gottesfürchtiger" (*Athen, Rom, Jerusalem. Normentransfers in der Alten Welt*, Pustet). She is about to finish a project on non-priestly elites in Judea (1st century BCE - 1st century CE) and one of her current projects focuses on the role of women in the Hasmonean dynasty, especially in comparison to other Hellenistic dynasties.

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

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

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



Become a fan of the Jewish Studies Program on Facebook. Receive event information and invitations, and read the latest news from the JSP. On Facebook, go to The University of Pennsylvania Jewish Studies Program.

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

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

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

R E C E N T G I F T S

In Appreciation

Jewish Studies Program Donors July 1, 2011-June 30, 2012

Adam T. Brenner, W'01
Gregory F. Brenner, W'99
Jason M. Brenner, W'05
Raymond B. and Ruth Brenner, parents, *in memory of Fred Oppenheimer, Sylvia Brenner, Martin Fisher*
Charlotte Yiddish Institute
Edward J. Falk, W'66
Annette Freund
Mr. and Mrs. Albert D. Friedberg
Stanley and Arlene Ginsburg Family Foundation
Rabbi Nason S. Goldstein, C'64, *in honor of Dr. Jeffrey Tigay*
Melvin Kutchin, C'50
Manfred and Anne Lehmann Foundation
Sara Anne Lehmann Estate of Ruth Meltzer
Benjamin L. Newton, C'07
David S. Newton, WG'81, parent

Shandling & Landsman, LLP., *in memory of Phillip E. Goldfein*

Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies Donors July 1, 2011-June 30, 2012

Dean Stewart Adler, W'79, L83, and Susanna E. Lachs, CW'74, ASC'76, parents, *in honor of Sheila Allen*
David Altshuler, *in honor of Sheila Allen and Dr. David B. Ruderman*
Barbara S. Berkowitz, ED'51, and Edwin J. Berkowitz, C'49
Sheilah Chaskalson, *in honor of Ellie Katz and Tom Katz's birthdays*
Josephine Cohen, C'
Betsy Marks Darivoff, C'79, and Philip M. Darivoff, W'79, WG'85, parents, and the Darivoff Family Foundation, *in honor of Sheila Allen*

Avi Y. Decter, *in memory of Mrs. Anna Katz Decter*
The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.
Susan G. Goldstein, C'88 and Evan D. Goldstein, parents
Cindy Rabin Golub, W'76, and Bennett W. Golub, parents, *in honor of David Ruderman*
Adele Aron Greenspun, ED'60, and Bertram Greenspun, RES'72, parents
Leslie Wohlman Himmel, CW'75, parent, *in honor of Sheila Allen*
David and Barbara B. Hirschhorn Foundation
Fred M. Horne, W'52
The Jesselson Family
Arnold and Deanne Kaplan
Carole Weinheim Karsch, ED'59, GED'78, and Samuel H. Karsch, W'56, L'59, parents
Eleanor Meyerhoff Katz, parent, and the Eleanor M. & Herbert D. Katz Foundation, *in honor of Sheila Allen*
Enid Krasner

Rabbi William I. Kuhn, W'69, and Congregation Rodeph Shalom, *in honor of Sheila Allen*
Lloyd F. Lampell, G'66, in honor of Chabad
Philip B. Lindy, W'52
Gilbert L. Mathews, W'70, parent
Audrey Stein Merves, CW'56, and Stanley Merves, parents, and the Louis and Bessie Stein Foundation #2, *in honor of Sheila Allen*
Iris Newman, CGS'07
Albert M. Perlstein, W'57, GGS'96, and Arlene Gerberg Perlstein, CW'59, parents, *in honor of Sheila Allen*
Julie Beren Platt, C'79, and Marc E. Platt, C'79, parents, *in honor of Sheila Allen*
David H. Posluns, W'82 and Felicia Carol Posluns, WG'86, parents
Arthur L. Rebell, W'62, and Susan Rebell, parent
Alan M. Rothenberg

David B. Ruderman, *in honor of Sheila Allen*
The Jay and Jeanie Schottenstein Family
Alan Shuch, WG'75, parent, *in honor of Sheila Allen*
Ione Apfelbaum Strauss, CW'54, parent, *in honor of Sheila Allen*
Louise A. Strauss, C'82, *in honor of Sheila Allen*
Deborah Feith Tye, parent, *in honor of Sheila Allen*
Estate of Louis Vederman
Deborah and Kenneth Vogelstein, parents
Herbert and Sheila Weiner, *in memory of Marvin Weiner*
Eloise Larrea Wood, CGS'65, G'78, *in honor of Sheila Allen*
Arthur M. Wrubel, W'87
Barbara and Walter Zifkin, parent, *in honor of Sheila Allen*
Mark S. Zucker, C'83, W'83, parent, *in honor of Sheila Allen*