



ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY
Center for Jewish Studies
2013-2014 annual newsletter

The Center for Jewish Studies at Arizona State University is enjoying an exciting academic year (2013-2014) and wishes faculty, students and friends of Jewish Studies a very productive and creative 2014. In Spring 2013, Director of Jewish Studies, Hava Tirosch-Samuels on was on sabbatical and Anna Holian functioned as Interim Director. Unfortunately, Hava was hit by a car in mid-March and sustained serious injuries which led to a long hospitalization. Her recovery progresses apace, but she was on medical leave during Fall 2013 while Professor Holian continued to serve as Interim Director of Jewish Studies.

2012-2013 RESEARCH CONFERENCES

To advance its mission, the Center for Jewish Studies has continued to organize research conferences that bring outstanding scholars to campus, create new knowledge and stimulate existing academic discussions.

The Judaism, Science and Medicine Group (JSMG) held its annual meeting, devoted to two main themes: "Evolution and Traditional Religions" and "The Obesity Epidemic: A Multi-Disciplinary Examination" (September 9-10, 2012). Craig Palmer (University of Missouri-Columbia); Richard Sosis (University of Connecticut); Jonathan K. Crane (Emory University); Rabbi Benjamin Samuels (Boston); and Adam Cohen (Arizona State University) presented papers in the sessions on the first day. Jonathan K. Crane (Emory University); Jonathan Schofer (Reed College); Renee Englen-Maddox (Northwestern University); Karin Eli (Oxford University); and Jason Robert (Arizona State University) presented papers on the second day.

Revival of Jewish Studies in Eastern Europe

In collaboration with The Melikian Center: Russian, Eurasian & East European Studies, the Center for Jewish Studies has launched formal relations with the Institute of Jewish Studies at Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland (November 8-9, 2012). In addition to scholars from Jagiellonian University and ASU, the symposium featured scholars from Tulane University, Touro College and Portland State University. The proceedings will be published in *Scripta Judaica Cracoviensa*, edited by Edward Dąbrowa, the head of the Department of Jewish Studies.

2012-2013 GUEST LECTURES

Lecture Series on Jewish Philosophy

The Grossman Chair in Jewish Studies, held by Norbert Samuelson, sponsored a lecture series, "**Jewish Philosophy Crossing Boundaries**," to explore the scope, content and challenges for Jewish philosophy in the 21st century.

- **Aaron Hughes**, *University of Rochester* | "Transgressing Boundaries Jewish Philosophy in Crisis" | October 18, 2012
- **Bruce Rosenstock**, *University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign* | "Bioengineering God: Oskar Goldberg and German Science" | February 7, 2013

Environmentalism

A delegation from Ben Gurion University of the Negev in Beer Sheba, Israel visited ASU to explore research collaboration. Alon Tal, *Ben Gurion University* delivered two public lectures:

- "**Greening the Desert: Israel's Strategy to Combat Desertification**" | October 22, 2012
- "**Sustainability and Equity in a Desert Environment: The Case of Israel**" | October 23, 2012

Holocaust Research

- **Alan Rosen**, *Holocaust scholar from Israel* | "**The Wonder of Their Voices: The History and Meaning of Interviewing Holocaust Survivors**" | October 31, 2012
- Building on the 2011 "Memory and Countermemory: For an Open Future" conference, Martin Matustik organized a workshop of academic presentations and a public lecture: **Michael Rothberg**, *University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign* | "**What Does It Mean to Inherit the Past? Migrant Archives of Holocaust Remembrance**" | November 8, 2012

2012-2013 COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Center for Jewish Studies promotes knowledge about Jewish civilization by offering adult education courses, public lectures, artistic programs. These activities are done in collaboration with Jewish organizations.

Jewish Studies Scholar-in-Residence

Zvi Gitelman (University of Michigan) was Albert & Liese Eckstein Scholar-in-Residence. His presentation, "**Can Israel Be Both a Democratic and Jewish State?**" was held at the Arizona Jewish Historical Society. In addition, Professor Gitelman met with Jewish Studies faculty for a research luncheon (February 25, 2013).

Congregation Beth El Scholar-in-Residence Program

In collaboration with Congregation Beth El, Phoenix, the Center for Jewish Studies sponsored a series of lectures by Fred Asteen (San Francisco State University).

- "**Cities, Writings and Readerships: Social History and Jewish Sectarianism in the Early Centuries of Islam**" | November 1, 2012
- "**Karaite Judaism: A Jewish Alternative to Rabbis and the Talmud, from the Middle Ages to the Present**" | November 2, 2012
- "**Judaism and Islam: Roots, Relationships and Perceptions**" | November 3, 2012

Panel Discussion

In collaboration with Valley Beit Midrash, the Center organized a panel on "**Jews and Political Power**" with ASU faculty: Patrick Kenney; Donald Critchlow; and Amit Ron, moderated by Hava Tirosh-Samuelson (November 14, 2012).

Concert

Continuing to collaborate with The OREL Foundation (Los Angeles), the Center for Jewish Studies organized a unique musical event at The Desert Botanical Garden: "**Cultivating the Repertoire: Music in the Garden.**" The program featured Quartet Sabaku, performing music by Jewish composers who perished in the Holocaust. | April 17, 2013

Certificate in Adult Jewish Learning

The Center for Jewish Studies launched a new program of adult Jewish learning, offering mini-courses (eight sessions) in October-November, 2012.

- **Dr. Lawrence Bell**, *Arizona Jewish Historical Society* | "Jewish History & Identity in Modern Times"
- **Dr. Marc Krell**, *Temple Beth Shalom of the East Valley* | "Facing Futility: Examining Jewish End-of-Life Choices"

Film Series

The Center for Jewish Studies featured a film series that examines complex Jewish identities in contemporary Poland:

- "**The Moon is Jewish**" | September, 19, 2012
- "**The Miracle of Purim**" | November 19, 2012

Social Action

The Center for Jewish Studies co-sponsored, organized and hosted "Community Building Initiative," (May 5, 2013) a workshop that brought together 14 organizations to stimulate and enhance Jewish life in the East Valley.

2013-2014 RESEARCH CONFERENCES

- The annual meeting of **The Judaism, Science and Medicine Group (JSMG)** took place this fall at ASU, and focused on "Religion, Science, and Sociality: Emergence Theory and Religion" (October 6-7, 2013). Robert Neville (Boston University); Matt Rosano (Southern Louisiana University); Kalman Bland (Duke University); and Yair Lior (Boston University) were among the invited speakers.
- An international research conference "**The Musicals World of Polish Jews, 1920-1960: Identity, Politics and Culture,**" brought outstanding scholars to campus, including Antony Polonsky (Brandeis University); Katarzyna Naliwajek-Mazurek (University of Warsaw); Bret Werb (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum); and Joel Rubin (University of Virginia). Focusing on Jewish-Polish musicians, this conference built on previous work of the Center for Jewish Studies to recover, study and perform Jewish music that was suppressed by the Third Reich. The conference concluded with a performance by the ARC Ensemble of the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto, Canada.

2013-2014 GUEST LECTURES

Harold and Jean Grossman Lectures in Jewish Thought

- **Claire Katz**, *Texas A&M* | "Education after Auschwitz: Levinas's Crisis of Humanism" | October 23, 2013
- **Joseph Cohen**, *St. John's College* | "Miracle and Belief: Issues Regarding Naturalism and Supernaturalism" | November 20, 2013
- **Miriam Levin**, *Case Western Reserve University* | "Missionary Science for Women: What Were They Thinking?" | February 26, 2014
- **Bradley Shavit Artson**, *American Jewish University* | "Renewing Creation: Philosophical Ripples in Evolutionary Theory for Jewish Theology" | March 26, 2014

Biblical Scholarship

- **James Charlesworth** | "The Dead Sea Scrolls and the Bible" | October 22, 2013

Holocaust Research

- **Richard Freund** | "The Hidden Holocaust: New Research on Excavation at an Extermination Camp" | November 1, 2013

2013-2014 COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Albert and Liese Eckstein Scholar-in-Residence

- **Hasia Diner**, *New York University* | "Coming to Arizona: The Jewish Presence in the Southwest" | February 10, 2014

Congregation Beth El Scholar-in-Residence Program

- **Lenn Goodman**, *Vanderbilt University* | two lectures on creation and evolution | February 27-28, 2014

Adult Jewish Learning

- **Emily Garber** | "From Eastern Europe to United States: Our Wandering Jewish Ancestors" | October, 2013
- **Dr. Lawrence Bell** | "Jewish History and Identity in the Modern World" | October, 2013

The Center for Jewish Studies faculty and staff thank you for your support of Jewish Studies and wish you a very happy and healthy new year.

2013

OCT 6-7

conference

Judaism, Science & Medicine Annual Meeting**Religion, Science and Sociality: Emergence Theory and Religion**

University Club | ASU Tempe campus | 425 East University Drive, Tempe

OCT 8

panel discussion

True Stories and Tall Tales in the Old West: The Earp's à la Bitter Herbs

7-9 p.m. | Arizona Jewish Historical Society | 122 East Culver Street, Phoenix

presented by ASU Libraries with support from the Center for Jewish Studies

Bruce Dinges, Director of Publications, Arizona Historical Society

Ann Kirschner, City University of New York

Eduardo Pagán, Arizona State University

OCT 9

lecture

The French Government Tackles the Jewish Question Outright: Vichy-France, the German Occupying Power and the Beginning of "Jewish Policy" in Summer and Autumn 1940

Dr. Michael Mayer, Akademie für Politische Bildung

4:30 p.m. | Lattie F. Coor Hall, room 4403

sponsored by the Center for Jewish Studies and the Faculty of History in the School of Historical, Philosophical & Religious Studies

OCT 14

adult education course

From Eastern Europe to the United States – Our Wandering Jewish Ancestors

Emily Garber, Instructor

Mondays, 1-3 p.m. | Arizona Jewish Historical Society | 122 East Culver Street, Phoenix

OCT 16

adult education

Jewish History and Identity in Modern Times

Larry Bell, instructor

Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-noon | Arizona Jewish Historical Society | 122 East Culver Street, Phoenix

OCT 22

lecture

The Dead Sea Scrolls and the Bible

James H. Charlesworth, Director and Editor, Princeton Dead Sea Scrolls Project

George L. Collord Professor of New Testament Language and Literature

7 p.m. | Lattie F. Coor Hall, room 170

OCT 23

lecture

Harold and Jean Grossman Lecture in Jewish Thought**Education After Auschwitz: Levinas's Crisis of Humanism**

Claire Katz, Texas A&M

4:30 p.m. | Lattie F. Coor Hall, room 4401

NOV 1

lecture

Hidden Holocaust: New Research on Excavations at an Extermination Camp

Richard Freund

10:30 a.m. | Lattie F. Coor Hall, room 4403

NOV 3

community symposium

On the Cutting Edge ... Jewish Women's Symposium

Valley of the Sun Jewish Community Center | 12701 North Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale

pre-registration required | for additional information: 480-634-8050 or jewished@bjephoenix.org

NOV 3

performance in commemoration of Kristallnacht

Martin Sherman's Rose | presented by Barbara Mehl Goldman

2 p.m. | Beth El Congregation

co-sponsored by Beth El Congregation and Arizona Jewish Historical Society

NOV 17-18

conference

The Musical Worlds of Polish Jews, 1920-1960: Identity, Politics and Culture

University Club | 425 East University Drive, Tempe

consponsored by Friends of Jewish Studies; Irving & Miriam Lowe Professor of Modern Judaism; Robert and Shoshana Tancer; Melikian Center: Russian, Eurasian & East European Studies; School of Historical Philosophical & Religious Studies; Herberger Institute for Design & the Arts: School of Music; The OREL Foundation

NOV 20

concert

Poles Apart: Chamber Music from the Garden of Exile

featuring The ARC Ensemble of The Royal Conservatory, Toronto

7:30 p.m. | Katzin Concert Hall | 50 Gammage Parkway, Tempe

No reservation required.

This concert is made possible by The OREL Foundation.

NOV 20

lecture

Harold and Jean Grossman Lecture in Jewish Thought

Miracles and Belief: A Consideration to Issues regarding Naturalism and Supernaturalism

Joseph Cohen, St. John's College

4:30 p.m. | Lattie F. Coor Hall, room 4401

2014

NOV 21

lecture

Building a Comparative Genocide Museum in Chandler, Arizona

Steve Tepper, CEO, East Valley Jewish Community Center

4:30 p.m. | Lattie F. Coor Hall, room 4403

sponsored by The School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies and the IHR Research Cluster "Never Again? – Never Before? Comparative Genocide in a Chandler Museum"

FEB 10

lecture

Albert & Liese Eckstein Scholar-in-Residence

Coming to Arizona: The Jewish Presence in the Southwest

Hasia Diner, Skirball Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies, New York University

10:30 a.m. | Lattie F. Coor Hall, room 4403

and 7 p.m. | Arizona Jewish Historical Society | 122 East Culver Street, Phoenix

FEB 26

lecture

Harold and Jean Grossman Lecture in Jewish Thought

Missionary Science for Women: What Were They Thinking?

Miriam Levin, Case Western Reserve University

4:30 p.m. | Lattie F. Coor Hall, room 4401

MAR 26

lecture

Harold and Jean Grossman Lecture in Jewish Thought

Renewing Creation: Philosophical Ripples in Evolutionary Theory for Jewish Theology

Bradley Artson, American Jewish University

4:30 p.m. | Lattie F. Coor Hall, room 4401

APR 28

annual student recognition event

Jewish Studies Celebrates Our Outstanding Students



Center for Jewish Studies events.



Arizona State University events involving Jewish Studies faculty



Arizona State University and Community events supported by the Center for Jewish Studies

**Events are free and open to all unless otherwise stated. Event details are subject to change.
visit jewishstudies.asu.edu/events for current information**

JEWES AND POLITICAL POWER

JEWISH INFLUENCE ON POLITICS AND POLICY | JEWS AND THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION | JUDAISM AND DEMOCRACY: THE PROBLEM OF POWER

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOEL ZOLONDEK



In collaboration with Valley Beit Midrash, the center organized a panel with ASU faculty: Patrick Kenney; Donald Critchlow; and Amit Ron, moderated by Hava Tirosh-Samuelson. November 14, 2012.

CULTIVATING THE REPERTOIRE: MUSIC IN THE GARDEN

ROBERT ELIAS

The OREL Foundation

On April 17, 2013, the Center for Jewish Studies, with The OREL Foundation, co-sponsored a special event at the Desert Botanical Garden, featuring a performance by Quartet Sabaku and commentary by Robert Elias, President of The OREL Foundation. The sold-out evening was made possible through the dedicated efforts of Center for Jewish Studies supporters Robert and Shoshana Tancer.

The Center for Jewish Studies has assumed a leading role in introducing the Phoenix community to lesser-known gems of classical music written by primarily Jewish composers who were denied their opportunity to earn a place in the repertory as a result of the Nazi regime and the additional cultural upheavals that followed in the wake of World War II. Since partnering with the Phoenix Symphony for its "Rediscovered Masters" series three years ago, the Center has sponsored several concerts and, in March 2012, an international conference on the music of Viktor Ullmann and Erwin Schulhoff.

The program on April 17 featured String Quartet Number 3 by Viktor Ullmann (1899-1944) and "Improvisation, Variations and Finale on a Theme by Mozart" by Hans Gal (1890-1987). Also on the program were "Two Movements for String Quartet," an early work by American composer Aaron Copland—one of the most successful composers of the 20th century—whose name would likely be unknown today had his parents not immigrated to America from Russia (changing the family from Kaplan in the process) several years before he was born in Brooklyn in 1900. The importance of time, place and luck in the fortunes of the three composers on the program—especially the impact of Nazi policies in Europe from 1933 to 1945—was emphasized as part of the concert discussion.



CREATING A “LIVING CENTER”: BUILDING JEWISH COMMUNITY IN THE EAST VALLEY

MARC KRELL

On Sunday May 5, 2013, the ASU Center for Jewish Studies partnered with Temple Beth Sholom of the East Valley (TBS-EV) and the Jewish Community Association (JCA) of Greater Phoenix to host the East Valley Jewish Community Building Initiative, an event that brought together 14 different organizations with over 60 community members for an afternoon of dialogue about the importance of strengthening Jewish communal involvement in the East Valley.

Dr. Marc Krell, former Religious School Director and Community Program Coordinator for TBS-EV, who conceived and helped organize the program, welcomed everyone by referring to the words of the 20th century German Jewish theologian and community leader Martin Buber who argued that true community is not only based on shared feelings of solidarity, but rather emerges organically out of the combination of a “reciprocal relationship to a single living center” and a “living reciprocal relationship to one another.” Dr. Krell asserted that the community members gathered at ASU were creating the “living center” of Jewish life in the East Valley which would serve as the gravitational force for communal reciprocity and vitality.

The first speaker, Stuart Wachs, Executive Director and CEO of the JCA, committed the JCA to partnering with the East Valley to build community by no longer focusing on Jewish institutional affiliation, but rather “intentionality,” choosing to do Jewish activities whether they are religious, cultural or social. He argued that just like Apple and Starbucks have created communities of consumers around their products, Jews should build customer interest and satisfaction around Jewish identification efforts, forming the foundation for a new 21st century Jewish community.

Rabbi Darren Kleinberg, former Director of Valley Beit Midrash, then provided a textual foundation for community building from biblical, rabbinic and modern sources, emphasizing the importance of inclusion, equal access to communal services, mutual responsibility and acceptance of communal contributions.

The highlight of the program was the division of the attendees into 5 different working groups to brainstorm strategies of communication, collaboration and programming. The consensus among the groups was to create a permanent East Valley leadership council which would utilize social media to reach out to community members beyond their traditional circles of influence, ultimately planning at least one “expo” event and other cultural activities in public venues which would be attractive to previously unengaged members of the Jewish community.

Steve Tepper, Executive Director of the East Valley Jewish Community Center, concluded the event by reaffirming the important role of the JCA as a community convener to help bring about this type of communication and collaboration, exhorting everyone to work together to implement the constructive proposals outlined at the event. His words have subsequently been followed up by the actions of Lisa Kaplan, the JCA Director of Planning & Organization Relations who is convening a task force of 20 East Valley community members to formulate a three-year plan to create a permanent communal infrastructure with resources to plan and execute meaningful programming for a vibrant and inclusive Jewish community in the East Valley.

SALO WITTMAYER BARON DISSERTATION AWARD IN JEWISH STUDIES



The Center for Jewish Studies is pleased to announce that the inaugural recipient of the Salo Wittmayer Baron Dissertation Award in Jewish Studies, David Koffman, has accepted an assistant professorship in the Department of History at York University in Toronto. Upon tenure, he will become the J. Richard Shiff Chair for the Study of Canadian Jewry.

“I wanted to thank you and your wonderfully supportive institution for helping me along the way. I have very little doubt that your imprimatur on my C.V. contributed greatly to this wonderful achievement.”

Congratulations, David!

Pictured above: Robert Tancer; Hava Tirosh-Samuelsan; Shoshana Tancer; David Koffman; and Hasia Diner

EVOLUTION, RELIGION & JEWISH HEALTH

JONATHAN K. CRANE

Emory University

In September 2012, Hava Tirosh-Samuelson organized another exceptional Judaism, Science & Medicine Group (JSMG) two-day workshop that brought together leading scholars addressing two distinct, yet oddly complementary, themes.

The first day, Sunday, September 9, was devoted to various Judaic responses to evolutionary theory. "Evolution and Traditional Religions" offered papers discussing such fundamental questions as whether and how religions themselves are evolutionarily advantageous, how rituals and magic spur religious evolution, whether the Judaic practice of regular conjugal separation trains male hormones and the import of recent struggles within Orthodoxy of a zoologically inspired rabbi.

The second day, Monday, September 10, honed in on one particular aspect of evolution: obesity—"The Obesity Epidemic: A Multi-Disciplinary Examination." Overweight and obese people have existed in every civilization throughout history. The prevalence of these bodily conditions, however, has skyrocketed in recent decades causing alarm to public health officials, stress on health care providers, increasing anxiety to insurance companies and bewilderment to overly large individuals and their loved ones. Rates of obesity vary, to be sure, yet some Jewish populations witness nearly 60 percent of their members being either overweight or obese. For a variety of reasons, however, Jewish communities and their leaders have been reticent to address these complex issues.

Perhaps the first organized conversation of its kind, the conference papers explored obesity's evolutionary dimensions and Judaism's complicated relationship with it. One paper stressed the point that just as the embodiment issues of obesity are complex, so too are the ways in which we speak about them; the rhetoric of obesity is personally and politically fraught. Another paper ruminated on Judaic attitudes about indulgence, satiety and the ethics of eating. Body image, modesty laws and gender also interact in important if not dangerous ways, especially in certain Jewish communities. A final paper offered theological and midrashic reflections on embodiment, fatness and vulnerability.

It was readily admitted throughout the two-day conference that Judaism's relationship with evolution—both in theory and in the flesh—is complicated and that these papers offered only preliminary insights. There was increasing agreement, however, that much more study and conversation must be had not only amongst academics but also with other scientists, communal and cultural leaders. The health of Jewish collective and individual bodies depend on it.

To join the Judaism, Science & Medicine Group please contact Ilene Singer, Assistant Director of Jewish Studies. 480-965-8094 or Ilene.Singer@asu.edu

2013 JUDAISM, SCIENCE & MEDICINE GROUP

RELIGION, SCIENCE AND SOCIALITY: EMERGENCE THEORY AND RELIGION

Sunday-Monday, October 6-7, 2013

The University Club

Arizona State University

SUNDAY | OCTOBER 6

Session 1

Emergence: Religion as a Superorganism

Shade Shuttters

Arizona State University

Session 2

Sacred Commitments: How Religious Ritual Binds Communities to Sacred Values

Matt Rossano

Southeastern Louisiana University

Session 3

The Emergence of Autonomous Agency at Many Levels

Terrence Deacon

University of California, Berkeley

Session 4

Emergence in Durkheim and Rappaport—the View from Religious Studies

Paul Cassell

Arizona State University

Discussion of the day's presentations

moderator:

Ben Hurlbut

Arizona State University

MONDAY | OCTOBER 7

Session 5

A Few Thoughts about Morphology and Social Emergence: A Case Study

Yair Lior

Boston University

Session 6

Category Mistakes in the Scientific and Unscientific Study of Judaism: Medieval and Modern Perspectives

Kalman Bland

Duke University

Session 7

The Metaphysics of Emergence in Religion

Robert Neville

Boston University

Summary and Discussion

moderator:

Norbert Samuelson | Arizona State University

LIBRARY OF CONTEMPORARY JEWISH PHILOSOPHERS

A SPECIAL PROJECT FROM:

HAVA TIROSH-SAMUELSON

Director of Jewish Studies, Arizona State University

AARON W. HUGHES

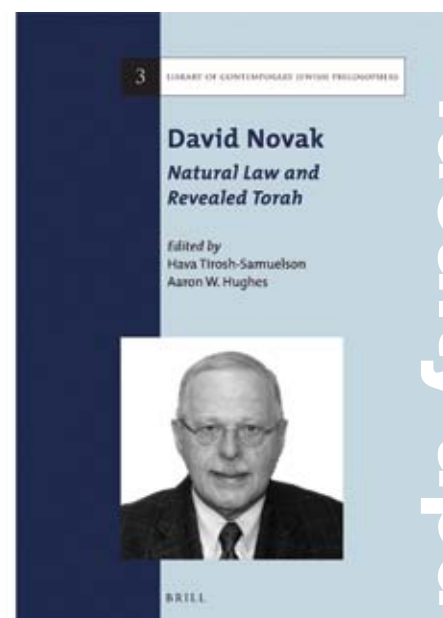
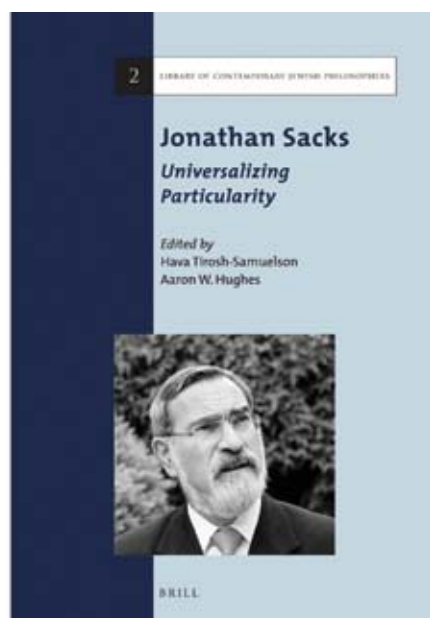
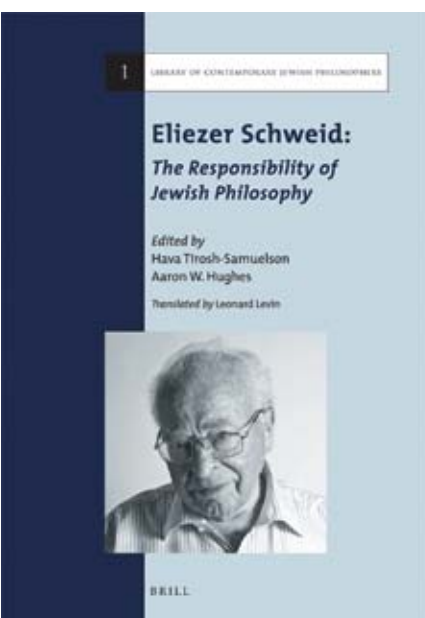
Rochester University

The *Library of Contemporary Jewish Philosophers* showcases outstanding Jewish thinkers who have made lasting contributions to constructive Jewish philosophy in the second half of the 20th century. Each volume is devoted to one particular thinker and is meant to show the thinker's relationship to the Jewish philosophical past and to contemporary Jewish existence. All of the volumes follow the same structure: a bio-bibliographical essay by the editors, four seminal essays by the philosopher, an interview with the editors and a select bibliography of 120 items. Together the volumes in the *Library of Contemporary Jewish Philosophers* will feature the diversity and vitality of contemporary Jewish philosophy, will stimulate discussion on Jewish philosophical response to contemporary challenges, and will chart new paths for Jewish philosophy in the 21st century.

Available in print and electronically, the books in the Library of Contemporary Jewish Philosophers will be ideal for use in diverse educational settings (e.g., college-level courses, rabbinic seminaries, adult Jewish learning and inter-religious dialogue).

The first phase of the project consists of 12 volumes that feature the following people (in alphabetical order): David Blumenthal, J. David Bleich, Eugene Borowitz, Elliot Dorff, David Hartman, Moshe Halbertal, Moshe Idel, David Novak, Judith Plaskow, Norbert Samuelson, Eliezer Schweid and Jonathan Sacks. These thinkers represent the entire denominational spectrum of contemporary Judaism and encompass Jewish philosophical activity in United States, Israel and Europe.

This project has been generously funded, in part, by a grant from the Salo W. and Jeannette M. Baron Foundation.



faculty update

LECTURES IN JEWISH THOUGHT

NORBERT M. SAMUELSON

Harold and Jean Grossman Chair in Jewish Studies
School of Historical, Philosophical & Religious Studies

During the 2012-2013 academic year, the Grossman chair inaugurated an annual lecture series in Jewish thought. The intent is to use these lectures to introduce the academic community (faculty, students, community friends) to the qualitatively best of Jewish thought in a wide diversity of academic disciplines and interests. In 2012-2013 the chair hosted two lectures, both dealing with the general theme of "Philosophy Crossing Boundaries." The first lecture (October 18) was delivered by Aaron Hughes (a medieval Jewish and Islamic intellectual historian at Rochester University) on the topic, "Transgressing Boundaries: Jewish Philosophy in Crisis." The second lecture (February 7) was delivered by Bruce Rosenstock (a modern European intellectual historian at the University of Illinois) on the topic "Oskar Goldberg and German Science." Both lectures were well attended and enthusiastically received, especially by ASU students who were at the same time taking courses in Jewish Philosophy, Judaism and the Sciences and in Historical Perspectives on Philosophy and Religion.

The second year of this annual series began with two lectures in the fall, 2013 on "Judaism and Philosophy" and continues with two lectures in spring, 2014 on "Judaism and the Sciences." As was the case last year, the individual scholars invited to speak are among the very best academics in their fields and the topics they will introduce reflect the very best of contemporary scholarship in their respective very different specialties in Jewish religious and secular thought. The fall lectures focused on Judaism and Philosophy. On October 23, Claire Katz (Texas A&M) will speak about "Education after Auschwitz: Emmanuel Levinas' Crisis of Humanism." On November 20, Joseph Cohen (St. John's College) will discuss "Miracles and Belief: A Consideration of Issues regarding Naturalism and Supernaturalism. The spring lectures focus on Judaism and the Sciences. On February 26, Miriam Levin (Case Western Reserve University) will speak about "Missionary Science for Women: What Were They Thinking?" On March 26, Bradley Artson (American Jewish University) will discuss "Renewing Creation: Philosophical Ripples in Evolutionary Theory in Jewish Theology."

All four lectures for the 2013-2014 academic year will be held on Thursdays at 4:30 p.m. in Lattie F. Coor Hall, room 4403. Refreshments will be served.

The members of the Academic Planning Committee for the Lectures was drawn from a broad range of ASU schools and departments. The members themselves reflect the diversity of academic disciplines involved with Jewish Studies at its very best academic level. The members are Brad Armendt; Volker Benkert; Stephen Bokenkamp; Linell Cady; Paul Cassell; Eugene Clay; Adam Cohen; Monica Green; Anna Holian (Interim Director of Jewish Studies); Patricia Huntington; Agnes Kefeli; Martin Matustik; Joan McGregor; Michael Mobley; Barry Ritchie; Norbert Samuelson (Grossman Chair of Jewish Studies); and Michael White.

jewishstudies.asu.edu/grossman



REVIVAL OF JEWISH STUDIES IN EASTERN EUROPE

ANNA CICHOSPEK-GAJRAJ

School of Historical, Philosophical & Religious Studies

Last year, Center for Jewish Studies at Arizona State University initiated academic collaboration with the Institute of Jewish Studies at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland.

On November 8-9, 2012, we held a symposium "Revival of Jewish Studies in Eastern Europe" to launch our collaboration. We had great pleasure to host Brian Horowitz from Tulane University, Natalia Aleksion from Touro College and Natan Meir from Portland State University as well as our distinguished guests from Poland, Chair of Jewish Studies in Kraków, Edward Dąbrowa and Head of the Centre for the Study on the History and Culture of Kraków Jews, Edyta Gawron. We were also fortunate to have our ASU colleagues present their own findings (Andrew Reed) and comments (Stephen Batalden, Volker Benkert, Eugene Clay, Anna Cichopek-Gajraj, Mark von Hagen and Anna Holian).

The opening presentations by Brian Horowitz and Natalia Aleksion sketched the historical background for our discussion. Horowitz analyzed the approach of renowned Jewish historian Simon Dubnow toward Jewish nationalism while Aleksion focused on the flourishing Jewish historical scholarship in interwar Poland. Their excellent essays led us to a lively discussion of contemporary Jewish studies in Eastern Europe. Natan Meir and Andrew Reed presented first-rate accounts of Jewish studies in contemporary Ukraine and Russia while Edyta Gawron and Edward Dąbrowa focused on the revival of Jewish studies in Poland generally and Kraków in particular. Comments and discussion followed each essay.

Selected essays with the comments will be published in the forthcoming issue of *Scripta Judaica Cracoviensa*—a periodical of the Institute of Jewish Studies at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków. We continued our discussion about the revival of Jewish Studies in Eastern Europe at the annual Association of Jewish Studies (AJS) meeting in Boston (December 15-17, 2013). We had the great pleasure to add Tatjana Lichtenstein from University of Texas at Austin and Michał Galas from the Jagiellonian University in Kraków to our ongoing debate.

The symposium was made possible by financial support from the Center for Jewish Studies; School of Historical, Philosophical & Religious Studies; and The Melikian Center: Russian, Eurasian & East European Studies.



STUDYING THE GLOBAL SAFE SCHOOLS MOVEMENT

MADELAINE ADELMAN

Justice & Social Inquiry, School of Social Transformation

What does it mean to be a part of a global movement for social change? Over the last decade, a loosely organized global safe schools movement has begun to emerge that addresses anti-LGBT bias and behavior in education systems in a variety of ways. This social justice movement is unique in its reliance on research to guide its strategies and evaluate its impact. It is also unique in that unlike many other social justice movements, organized and vocal religious communities typically stand in opposition to it, framed at times with postcolonial or nationalist rhetoric. Such opposition to the safe schools movement is not only found abroad. Indeed, for over a decade now, as the co-chair of the local chapter of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN), I have observed anti-LGBT bias and behavior in our K-12 school communities, along with many political and religious barriers to addressing it. At the same time, I also have observed, and participated in, effective efforts to create safe, respectful and healthy schools, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity/expression.

Drawing on my domestic experience in the United States safe schools movement, and given my background as an anthropologist, I wanted to analyze how difference—be it religious, political, national, racial/ethnic, or regional—mattered in how advocates around the world organize for change in school communities. I wondered why the safe schools movement emerged at this particular historical moment, and how the movement generated and harnessed research to advance its goals. I was particularly interested in how the relationship between religion and state, and various forms of political and economic inequalities, shaped the goals, activities and success of the movement.

With support from the Arizona State University Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict, Justice & Social Inquiry and the School of Social Transformation, I recently spent a week in Buenos Aires conducting exploratory research that will help me to design a project centered on these concerns. Specifically, I observed and participated in an unprecedented exchange among leaders in the "safe schools movement" that took place this summer at the 15th annual Comparative Education World Congress. Scholars and advocates from Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Cyprus, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, Nigeria, Poland, Slovenia, South Africa and the United States converged to share their experiences and expertise during four coordinated conference panels as well as informal gatherings throughout the week. In addition to these official and unofficial interactions, 15 leaders generously agreed to be interviewed by me about how they got involved in what they described as personally, intellectually and professionally meaningful, and challenging, work.

Building on a prior visit to Israel to identify research sites for a potential case study of the safe schools movement in Israel, a place with a pronounced relationship between religion and state, I was glad to be able to speak with a representative from Hoshen, a non-governmental organization based in Tel Aviv. Hoshen volunteers use a personal storytelling approach to address anti-LGBT bias and behavior in schools and other institutions such as the military. We discussed how the status of LGBT people in Israel is a complex one: affirmative court cases and legislation grant rights to lesbian, gay and bisexual people, but this is often in contrast with people's realities on the ground (and transgender rights remain to be developed). This mix produces a stratified experience of anti-bias LGBT bias and behavior dependent upon one's gender, gender expression, religion, religiosity, sexual orientation, ethnicity, nationality and age. The LGBT movement in Israel has responded to this cultural context in part by forming organizations and/or resources to support specific communities. The Israeli case is one that I hope to research in depth in order to trace the development, practices and experiences of the global safe schools movement.



Madelaine Adelman and Uri Eick, a representative from Hoshen, in Buenos Aires

LEARNING FOR TEACHING: THE 2013 SILBERMAN SEMINAR AT THE UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM

ANNA CICHOSPEK-GAJRAJ

School of Historical, Philosophical & Religious Studies

ERIKA HUGHES

School of Film, Dance and Theatre

From June 3 to June 14, we participated in the 2013 Curt C. and Else Silberman Seminar at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington D.C., “Teaching about the Holocaust: Antisemitism, the ‘Final Solution,’ Jewish Response, and Denial.” Within a truly diverse group of participants based at colleges and universities throughout the country, the two of us from ASU represented history and theatre, while others came from sociology, political science, law and justice studies, social work, literature, art history, anthropology and religious studies. For ten days, we convened from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. to discuss the Holocaust from historical as well as pedagogical perspectives. Our days were filled with an impressive array of lectures, film showings, guided analyses of primary documents, workshops on syllabus construction and guest presentations by a number of historians, a former war crimes investigator and a Holocaust survivor.

This year’s seminar was led by one of the most renowned scholars in Holocaust studies: Christopher Browning, the Frank Porter Graham Distinguished Professor of History at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The celebrated author of *Ordinary Men* left all twenty of us, regardless of background, in awe. What a treat it was to see the master in his element! The depth and breadth of his knowledge was astounding and his passion inspiring. Professor Browning’s leadership of the seminar drew heavily from a number of his personal experiences as a historian of the Holocaust: in the archives, on the witness stand, in a series of high-profile and important debates. Particularly fascinating were his lectures based on his research on the Starachowice labor camp and on his involvement in the Lipstadt-Irving trial as an expert witness for Deborah Lipstadt.



2013 Curt C. and Else Silberman Seminar Participants.
Erika Hughes: second row, third from left. Anna Cichopek-Gajraj: front, far right.

Unsurprisingly, this was also a very intense and personal seminar for all of us, the participants. As such, we would like to share a few individual thoughts about our own distinct experiences at the Museum.

ANNA

The time in the seminar devoted to wartime Polish-Jewish relations left a particularly emotional imprint on me. We saw the documentary *The Legacy of Jedwabne* (2005) by Slawomir Grunberg, which explores the most recent encounters of the local population and Holocaust survivors with each other and with their past. In July 1941, Polish non-Jews killed hundreds of their Polish Jewish neighbors in the small town of Jedwabne in northeast Poland (Jan T. Gross narrates this story in his famous *Neighbors*). The documentary and Gross’ book opened our, at times painful, discussion about the history of Jews in Poland, today’s struggles with memory of the past, about nationalism and ignorance, about shame and guilt, and the ways in which we can use these themes to educate our students and our communities here in the U.S.

ERIKA

The Seminar was also concerned with questions of how best to represent the Holocaust in various pedagogical settings, and used the Museum itself as a site for examination. Discussions about the permanent exhibition, “The Holocaust,” as well as the exhibit for youth, “Remembering the Children: Daniel’s Story,” and an excellent new temporary exhibit, “Some Were Neighbors: Collaboration and Complicity in the Holocaust,” brought up important issues about representation (for example, text versus images, how to deal with survivor testimony in the classroom, etc.) and helped us to reflect on the decisions we make in our own classrooms. While at the Museum I also conducted research for a paper on “Remembering the Children: Daniel’s Story,” which I subsequently presented at the conference of the American Alliance for Theatre & Education conference in Bethesda, Maryland in July. Because this conference brought me back to DC for a second time this summer, I was able to take a group of ASU graduate students on a discussion-based tour of the three museum exhibitions, effectively bridging my time as a Silberman Seminar Fellow with the work I will be doing back in the classroom at ASU.

ASU LIBRARIES' LIAISON WITH JEWISH STUDIES: A RETROSPECTIVE ACCOUNT (2003-2013)

RACHEL LEKET-MOR

Jewish Studies Librarian, ASU Libraries

It was in late 2002 that I was hired to curate the Judaica collection at ASU Libraries. After ten years on the job, and beginning the second decade of my tenure, it's probably about time to review the collection and associated library services developed during this period.

The collection was established in the mid-1990s, with a purchase of a few thousand library materials, including books, print journals, music recordings, films and microfilm sets. Since the early 2000s, materials have been added to the collection at an annual rate of anywhere from a few hundred to several thousand (about 2,000 items have been added so far this year). Over 36,000 physical items are now housed in Hayden Library and other libraries at ASU (for example: music CDs, LPs, sheet music and books related to Jewish music are held at the Music Library; materials related to Judaism, Science and Medicine are held at Noble Science and Engineering Library; synagogue architecture books are available at the Architecture Library).

Library materials are acquired in support of teaching and research at ASU; therefore the Jewish Studies collection is focused on scholarly literature output, literary works and documentary and feature films pertaining to local research interests. Strategic acquisitions in specific areas are made as needed in support of new fields of study, such as Polish-language East-European Jewish Studies or the Hebrew Bible and Judeo-Hellenistic literature. A number of collections were also donated to ASU Libraries throughout the years:

- **Edward and Mae Zipperstein Collection** is named after its donors, who gifted the largest book collection ever given to ASU Libraries. The Collection is particularly strong in Judaism, Biblical Studies, Jewish history, Jewish sermons, history of Zionism and Hebrew. Earlier this year, we learned about the passing of Mr. Zipperstein. *Yehi zikhro barukh.*
- **Norman Drachler Collection** is focused on Jewish education and separation of church and state, the fields of study of Dr. Drachler (1912-2000), who led the Detroit school system as superintendent during the turbulent late 1960s and established the Institute for Educational Leadership at George Washington University and in Stanford University. In addition to materials pertaining to Jewish education, the collection consists of many rarities, including dozens of 17th and 18th religious tracts and pamphlets housed in Special Collections.
- **The Kehillah (Community) Collection** was purchased with funds provided by an anonymous donor. The collection includes hundreds of books, photo albums and pamphlets telling the story of local, national and regional Jewish communities from around the world, including European countries; Muslim lands and the Horn of Africa (Ethiopia, Libya, Egypt, Morocco, Turkey, General North Africa, Arab Lands); the Americas (United States, Canada, Brazil, Argentina, Other Latin America & Caribbean); South- and East-Asia; and Sub-Saharan Africa (South Africa, China, India, other Asian countries).
- **Joe Lockard Collection of American and Postcolonial Literature in Hebrew Translation** was donated by ASU Associate Professor and Jewish Studies affiliate. The scarce 1912 translation of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's *Song of Hiawatha* by Saul Tchernichowsky (*Shirat Hai'ayatah. Odesah: Hotsa'at Moriyah*) is one of the 200 collection books.
- **Marvin Fisher Collection** was donated by another ASU faculty, a professor emeritus and former chair of the Department of English. The collection includes 130 photographs taken before 1930 in Poland (mostly in the towns of Gostynin, Gombin or Kutno). Many of the photos are in the form of postcards that were given to Dr. Fisher's mother, Helena Goldman.
- **Yoram Mor Collection** was donated by a Holocaust survivor who fought in the War of Independence in 1948 and was among the founders of Kibbutz Sede-Boker in Israel. The collection is comprised of maps, tour guides, IDF brochures and Hebrew song booklets. Rare items from this collection are housed in Special Collections.

These named collections are complimented by two distinctive collections of rare materials that users can consult in the Luhrs Reading Room at Hayden Library. Users can request these materials and study them in-house, but due to their brittleness and rarity they cannot be checked out.

EDWARD ZIPPERSTEIN: AUGUST 20, 1921-JUNE 24, 2013 DR. STEVEN ZIPPERSTEIN Stanford University

Edward Zipperstein, whose personal library of 10,000 volumes constitutes the core of the Jewish Studies collection at Arizona State University, died at home in his sleep on June 24, 2013 at the age of 91. A Los Angeles-based CPA, born in Chicago, Zipperstein was a life-long student and while running his accountancy practice he earned a law degree from USC, a doctorate from Hebrew Union College, a Master's in Philosophy at Claremont, and other graduate degrees. He held a Masters in Business Administration from Northwestern and was an ordained Orthodox rabbi. His books include *Business Ethics in Jewish Law* (Ktav, 1983).

Founding President of Young Israel of Los Angeles, Zipperstein greatly enjoyed standing-in for the congregation's rabbis and delivering sermons. Perhaps the single-most impressive section of the library donated to Arizona State is its outstanding array of Jewish sermon literature, among the largest collections of such published material in the United States. Arizona State was selected by the family as the preferred destination for Zipperstein's books because of the university's first-rate Jewish Studies program and also because Zipperstein's grandson, Sam, now 24, a soccer coach and son of Stanford University Jewish historian Steven Zipperstein, was born near the campus in Mesa, Arizona.

The Zipperstein Collection is the largest library donation ever received by Arizona State University.

- **The Yizkor Book Collection** consists of over 250 Holocaust memorial books compiled jointly by survivors of East-European Jewish towns (*shtetls*). These books recount the history of specific towns via interviews, personal memoirs, photos and drawings, usually in more than one language, primarily Yiddish, Hebrew and English. Yizkor books serve as living monuments for those perished and provide rich primary sources for scholars. For more details, see <http://library.lib.asu.edu/search/?SEARCH=SPEC+JYB>
- **The IsraPulp Collection** is a one-of-a-kind research collection and the only repository of Hebrew popular literature outside of Israel. This collection, established in 2004, includes serialized fiction in the form of booklets (some bound), as well as comic books, Westerns, detective stories, science fiction and espionage and adventure stories—all mass-produced for distribution in kiosks and newsstands starting in the 1930s. The now-rare pulps were widely read but never systematically collected in libraries, although they represent facets of Israeli culture as much as canonic literature does. The ASU Libraries is in the process of digitizing the IsraPulp Collection for preservation purposes. <http://libguides.asu.edu/IsraPulp>.

Along with these print-based collections, the ASU Libraries provides its faculty and students with various materials in electronic format. These include electronic journals and e-books, streaming videos and music works and reference resources (encyclopedias, handbooks, etc.). Journal articles may be searched and accessed via subscription-only databases, such as *Index to Jewish Periodicals* or *Jewish Studies Collection*. The ASU Libraries recently purchased permanent access to the *Jewish Studies Archive Collection* of JSTOR, covering scholarly journals dating back to 1889, including the oldest English-language journal in the field of Jewish studies and key publications of the Association for Jewish Studies, Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary, Hebrew Union College, Rabbinical Council of America and the National Association of Professors of Hebrew. *Post-War Europe: Refugees, Exile and Resettlement, 1945-1950* is another significant database that was added in recent years. The primary sources it covers are vital for the study of the Holocaust and its aftermath.

Communicating news about library materials and services was always a priority for me as a liaison librarian. At the beginning of my tenure, I used to e-mail monthly newsletters to faculty and students. The newsletter was replaced with a blog after a few years, and since 2007 I maintain a library guide, available at <http://libguides.asu.edu/js>. The guide helps library users find the relevant resources about Jewish Studies at the ASU Libraries. Additional library guides I maintain for students and faculty relate to Biblical Studies and Holocaust Studies. Since most of the resources listed in these guides are only accessible to ASU affiliates, I also maintain a library guide titled *Learning about the Holocaust* as a public service.

Other public programs that originate from the ASU's Jewish Studies collection and give back to our local Jewish community include library exhibits, lectures, book discussions and presentations. The following list represents some of these events:

- **True Stories and Tall Tales in the Old West: the Earps à la Bitter Herbs.**
Panel discussion with author Ann Kirschner (*Lady at the O.K. Corral: the True Story of Josephine Marcus Earp*); ASU history professor Eduardo Pagán (co-host, PBS's *History Detectives*); and Arizona Historical Society historian Bruce Dinges (Editor-in-Chief, *The Journal of Arizona History*). | October 8, 2013
- **Let's Talk About It: Jewish Literature, Identity and Imagination.**
A scholar-led reading and discussion program for the community, sponsored by the American Library Association and Nextbook. Five monthly meetings led by Dr. Joe Lockard (ASU's Department of English) | 2008
- **Teach Them Diligently to Your Children: Jewish Ritual and Music.**
Exhibit. | March 20–June 20, 2007
- **An Evening With Dr. Ann Kirschner, Author of Sala's Gift.**
A lecture. Hayden Library | March 22, 2007
- **Living with Jewish Books. In honor of Edward and Mae Zipperstein.**
Exhibit. | May 3–August 31, 2004



From the Yoram Mor Collection.

Kirsch, Haim. 1968. *Shirim ve-rikude 'am*. Tel-Aviv, Israel: Negen. Book cover and music arrangement for recorder: "K'sheyavo Shalom" ["When Peace Arrives"]



From the Kehillah Collection.

Foges, Benedikt, and David J. Podiebrad. 1862. *Alterthümer der Prager Josefstadt: Israelitischer Friedhof, Alt-Neu-Schule und andere Synagogen: Mit vierzehn Abbildungen.* Prag: D.J. Podiebrad.

jewishstudies.asu.edu/scholarships

The generosity of our donors enables the Jewish Studies Program to offer a variety of scholarships, fellowships and grants to ASU students at every academic level.

Benjamin Goldberg Scholarship

Cabot Family Scholarship

Great Students Graduate Fellowship

Harold Alpert Memorial Scholarship

Jewish Studies Scholarship Fund

**The Joan Frazer Memorial Award
for Judaism & the Arts**

Morris & Julia Kertzer Scholars

Research, Study & Travel Grant

Schwartz Scholars

**Seymour H. Jacobs Memorial Prize
in Jewish Studies**

Applications for Jewish Studies scholarships, fellowships and grants are accepted on an ongoing basis. Please visit the Jewish Studies website for deadlines, eligibility requirements and forms.

Congratulations to the outstanding 2012-2013 Jewish Studies scholarship and fellowship recipients.

celebrating our outstanding students

At the end of each school year we host a special event honoring the outstanding accomplishments of Jewish Studies award recipients. Enjoy coffee and dessert as the students present their research findings and share their experiences. Free and open to all.

[learn more and reserve your seat online
jewishstudies.asu.edu/students](http://jewishstudies.asu.edu/students)

Tania Cohen

Readjustment Patterns of Holocaust Survivors
Based on Age of Imprisonment
Schwartz Scholar

Joseph McManis

Jewish Political Parties in the Polish Second Republic
1919-1939
Benjamin Goldberg Scholarship

Naomi Telushkin

Writing Projects: novel and screenplay set in Tel Aviv
Cabot Family Scholarship
Great Students Graduate Fellowship

Tyler Kirk

Bury Me in the North: Life After GULAG,
Community Building, and the Formation of Identity
in the Far North, 1945-2012
Cabot Family Scholarship
Great Students Graduate Fellowship
Morris & Julia Kertzer Scholar

Edith Marsiglia

Cultural Expressions as a Product of the Diasporas
of Italian Jews to Argentina and Uruguay
Between 1938 and 1950
Morris & Julia Kertzer Scholar

Andrew Reed

For One's Brothers: Daniil Avraamovich Khvol'son and
the Jewish Question in Russia, 1819-1911
Great Students Graduate Fellowship



2011-2012 presenters, from left to right: Edith Marsiglia; John Rosinbum; Anna Holian, Interim Director of Jewish Studies; Kyle Shearer; Benjamin Beresford

Jewish Studies Celebrates Our Outstanding Students

April 15, 2013

2011-2012 scholarship and fellowship recipients presented their research at a special dessert reception in their honor at the Alumni Lounge in the Memorial Union on ASU's Tempe campus.

Sonia Minuskin Memorial Competition for the Best Undergraduate Research Paper Related to the Holocaust

Mr. Harold Minuskin has generously established the **Sonia Minuskin Memorial Endowment** as a tribute to his mother, Sonia Minuskin's, bravery and tenacity during the Holocaust, and as a commitment to research, teaching and education related to World War II, the Holocaust and study of anti-Semitism.

In the 2012-2013 academic year, the endowment funded a competition for the best undergraduate research paper related to the Holocaust.

First Place

Alexandra Coles

"Rena's Promise: Gender and the Holocaust"

Second Place

Austin Tucker

"Semiotics in Nazi Propaganda"

Third Place

Elizabeth Monnig

"Coping Strategies of Jewish Children Who Suffered the Holocaust"

Honorable Mention

Evelyn Yeung

"Evolution of Holocaust Awareness in the United States"



Sonia Minuskin Memorial Competition for the Best Undergraduate Research Paper Related to the Holocaust winners Evelyn Yeung and Austin Tucker with Anna Holian, Interim Director of Jewish Studies

outstanding students

FIGHTING FOR THE “STEPFATHERLAND”: ANTI-SEMITISM AND THE CENTRALVEREIN (1914-1920)

KYLE SHEARER

Benjamin Goldberg Memorial Scholar

The Centralverein deutscher Staatsbürger jüdischen Glaubens was a big tent organization that aimed to unite the purpose and ideals of the German-Jewish population, so as to further the cause of acceptance and integration into German society. The organization tried to represent the moderate masses and used their some 200,000 supporters to try to deal with anti-semitism in an official bureaucratic fashion. They attempted to work with the government and other official management bodies rather than trying to overthrow or undermine them.

What first directed me to this group was an interest in the German-Jewish individuals who served their country and sacrificed their lives during World War I. I was then steered toward the Zentralarchiv zur Erforschung der Geschichte der Juden in Deutschland, an archive in Heidelberg, Germany. The archive holds some 1,300 pages of documents from 1914-1920: the official complaints and inquiries of the Centralverein (C.V.) concerning wartime anti-semitism at home and on the front to German-Jewish military personnel.



The almost form-letter fashion that the C.V. used to further their organization's mission of integration and deal with specific instances of anti-semitism is clear in their representation of their military members. The official complaints filed by the C.V. always began by introducing their organization and boldly flashing the number of devoted German-Jewish members for which they were speaking. The letters would then go on to describe a spectrum of different issues and instances, from an anti-semitic word being exchanged with a Jewish soldier or a published wanted poster deemed hateful. Along with their sheer numbers the C.V. would frequently use the

“Burgfrieden” or the internal unity of the nation as a leverage point in an attempt to make clear that these smaller matters effect the stability of the nation and the war effort. The Centralveriein's campaign to seek recompense through legitimate bodies of inquiry was met with varied success and failure.

What the Centralverein's work most importantly shows is that prior to the horrors of World War II and the Holocaust, there was a thriving German-Jewish population that fought to be accepted and integrated into the societies they considered themselves to be a part of already and that their struggle begot some gains through the use of legitimate bureaucratic bodies of inquiry. It shows clearly that the state of German-Jewish affairs was on a knife's edge at the beginning of the 20th century and that maybe the events that unfolded after World War I could have done so differently.

ALUMNUS RETROSPECTIVE

ANDREW REED

Department of Religious Education, Brigham Young University

Of the many relations developed during my studies at Arizona State University, the generous support and mentoring I received through the Jewish Studies Center proved absolutely critical at many stages along the way. Although I planned to develop research of interest to the scholars affiliated with the center, I underestimated the extent to which my interests intersected time and time again with supportive colleagues and mentors. The academic field of Jewish Studies was built upon a broad range of intellectual, religious and social projects. Without a broad academic foundation, newcomers to the field often experience a dauntingly steep learning curve. The generous intellectual commitments from ASU Jewish Studies faculty and affiliates provided critical conversations, debates and critiques that helped expand the set of tools that I needed to succeed. Generous Jewish Studies funding provided opportunities to undertake language and research studies in Lithuania and repeated trips to St. Petersburg, Russia. Each successive journey to Eastern Europe provided critical periods of study and research that helped to expand my work through lived experience among the people, places and cultures. As a direct result of some of this work during the summers in Russia, the NSEP/Boren program provided a large grant that provided the opportunity to live in St. Petersburg for seven months, and more importantly, propelled my dissertation writing toward completion.

During my stay in Russia, I engaged with leading theologians, scholars and students who are at the forefront of the effort to rethink relations between Jews and Christians. Using the skills learned from hours of dedicated tutoring by mentors at ASU, many of whom maintain active affiliation with ASU Jewish Studies, my research gravitated toward 19th century Russian Jews and Christians who attempted to find new ways of thinking and talking about the relationship between Jew and Christian, both in their contemporary settings and also by attempting sometimes radical reinterpretations of their long-held theological positions vis-à-vis the other. One of the great discoveries of this research was the understanding that a minority group of scholars launched a very public debate to address how Jews and Christians interacted historically that, at least in their minds, could lead to a renewed interest in building positive bridges of communication and community within the larger Russian Empire.

“One of the great joys of my time at ASU was the frequent opportunity that I had to participate in public lectures about Jews and Judaism, both in the local Jewish community and with non-Jews.”

Andrew Reed

One of the great joys of my time at ASU was the frequent opportunity that I had to participate in public lectures about Jews and Judaism, both in the local Jewish community and with non-Jews. I gained opportunities to work with local rabbis, community leaders and historians who shared a common interest of community building and developing ties with other groups in the area. As a result of some of this work, I was invited to provide a lecture to the Wells Fargo Legal Department as part of their diversity training. Over traditional Russian and Jewish food, we discussed the history of Jews in Arizona and Russia, the problems facing both communities, and examined possible paths. Events like this proved to me the importance of bridging the academic and public worlds—and provided opportunities to explore avenues for doing so. Although the Jewish Studies program is relatively young at ASU, the generous philanthropic grants and committed staff and faculty that gave rise to it are now a model for other universities interested in promoting Jewish Studies once again on the college campus.

Andrew Reed holds degrees from Brigham Young University, the University of Oxford and the University of Cambridge. His dissertation “For One’s Brothers: Daniil Avramovich Khvol’son and the Jewish Question in Russia, 1819-1911” examined the shifting tides of Jewish-Christian relations in the Russian Empire during the 19th century.

photo: Grand Choral Synagogue in St. Petersburg, Russia

Outstanding students

SIXTEENTH WORLD CONGRESS OF JEWISH STUDIES

EDITH MARSIGLIA

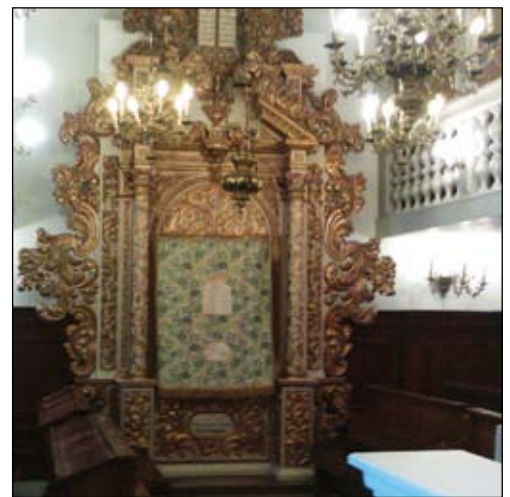
Great Students Graduate Fellow | Jess & Sheila Schwartz Family Foundation Scholar | Morris & Julia Kertzer Scholar

Through the generous support of the Center for Jewish Studies (ASU), I was able to participate in the 16th World Congress of Jewish Studies that took place at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem between July 28 and August 1, 2013. This World Congress is organized every four years by the World Union of Jewish Studies, and it is the largest event in this field of studies. Hundreds of scholars from around the world had the opportunity of presenting their research findings and discussing them with other specialists. The lectures covered a wide range of subjects: The Bible and Its World; History of the Jewish People; Rabbinic Literature; Literatures, Languages, Arts; Modern Hebrew Literature; Folklore and Ethnography; Holocaust Studies; Research and Technology Projects; Section on Latin American Jewry; etc.

I was delighted to participate in the Latin American Section of the Congress that is organized since 1984 by the Association of Latin American Judaism Researchers (AMILAT-Asociación de Investigadores del Judaísmo Latinoamericano). Fifty nine scholars presented their papers during the five days of intense work, among them three graduate students from USA universities. I presented a preview of my ongoing dissertation research on “Cultural Expressions as a Product of the Diasporas of Italian Jews to Argentina and Uruguay between 1938 and 1950”. It was an excellent opportunity for me because I was able to get feedback from very prestigious scholars in the field of Latin American Jewish Studies who were in the audience: Dr. Haim Avni, Dr. Leonardo Senkman, Dr. Margalit Bejarano, Luis Roniger and others. All agreed on the importance of my research because of its significance, originality and potential scholarly contribution. The comments and feedback I received gave me great encouragement to continue with this line of research. They also provided me with valuable suggestions; for example, the prestigious demographer Dr. Sergio DellaPergola shared with me some of his recent published articles with an update on the numbers of Italian Jews in Argentina and other relevant topics.

In addition, I was invited to participate as a panelist in a workshop, coordinated by Dr. Leonardo Senkman, under the title “Between Two Worlds: The Shoah in the Literature and memory of Latin America” that took place at the end of the Congress; it provided me with a further opportunity for discussing relevant topics and for my general academic enrichment.

This experience was highly beneficial to me because I was able to get feedback on my ongoing research from very prestigious scholars in the field of Latin American Jewish Studies, which was very helpful and stimulating for me. Also, I significantly expanded my network of contacts which provides me with additional key informants and advisers on my ongoing research findings. Lastly, it was a wonderful academic and human experience to meet scholars from the prestigious Hebrew University of Jerusalem and, in general, from different countries, and to update my knowledge about the most important research trends on the field of Latin American Jewish Studies around the world. I am very grateful to the Arizona State University’s Center for Jewish Studies for making this marvelous experience possible and for its generous and continuous support and encouragement.



Edith Marsiglia. Original synagogue interior from Conegliano Veneto. Displayed at The Umberto Nahon Museum of Italian Jewish Art in Jerusalem.



The Joan Frazer Memorial Award for Judaism and the Arts is a newly designated scholarship of the Jewish Studies Program at Arizona State University is a fitting tribute to the memory of Joan Frazer, who deeply loved all aspects of the arts. The award promotes many of Joan's personal interests, offers direct financial assistance to students in the arts at ASU and enables student artists to share their work with the Jewish community.

The arts illuminate the past, enrich the present and imagine the future. This award serves the public by nurturing the creative expressions of Jewish university students, supports the cultivation of community connections and spirit and fosters the appreciation of the excellence of our Jewish students' accomplishments.



Award recipient: Jack Schwimmer, saxophone, second from right (with his group).



Award recipient: Elijah Bourque, sculptor, left; with Marilyn and David Frazer.



Quartet performing original piece by award winner Gil Dori, composer.

purpose

This award provides students at Arizona State University with funding to support the creation of original, artistic expressions combining elements of Judaism and the arts. It promotes creativity, thoughtful consideration of Judaica, and encourages students in the arts to become involved in Jewish learning and to showcase their talents in a public presentation.

eligibility & application criteria

Individual and group projects are considered for this award.

Applicants must be undergraduate or graduate students of any major, enrolled at Arizona State University during the entire scholarship process (application through presentation).

Proposed projects must explore a Jewish theme, and any form of artistic expression may be considered, including:

- music performance and composition
- creative writing and journalism
- painting
- sculpture
- photography
- dance
- drama
- architecture and design
- multi-disciplinary projects

full details and application materials available online

jewishstudies.asu.edu/frazer

giving opportunities

Cash is the simplest and easiest gift, and can be given through credit/debit card transactions, cash or personal checks, cashier's checks or money orders made payable to "ASU Foundation."

Transferring **appreciated securities** to ASU may provide tax advantages. If you have held them for more than one year, your gift of securities may result in capital gains and income tax savings.

A **pledge** is a formal statement of your intention to make regular gift payments over a specified period of time — typically three to five years. Each annual payment on your pledge may be eligible for an income tax charitable deduction for that year.

Investing in education makes a positive impact on your community.

\$1000 or more patron

\$500 to \$999 benefactor

\$250 to \$499 sustainer

\$10 to \$249 friend

invest in Jewish Studies, by making your gift of support online at asufoundation.org/jewishstudies

Bequests are a very common way to invest in ASU. You can support the university with a bequest simply by having your attorney insert a few words in your will or revocable trust document. (Note: It is important that you and/or your advisor speak with our Office of Estate and Gift Planning to make certain that the wording accurately expresses your charitable intentions.)

All funds will be deposited with the ASU Foundation for A New American University, a nonprofit organization that exists to support Arizona State University (ASU). Gifts in support of ASU are subject to foundation policies and fees. Your gift may be considered a charitable contribution. Please consult your tax advisor regarding the deductibility of charitable contributions.

Every Center for Jewish Studies and Jewish Studies Program lecture, cultural event, conference, scholarship and success is made possible by generous community members, like you.

Thank you for your support!

LIFETIME FRIENDS

Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Benjamin Goldberg Memorial Trust
Howard & Vicki Cabot
John & Diane Eckstein
Paul & Flo Eckstein
Jean Grossman
Miriam Lowe
Ronald & Nina Lowe
Harold & Arlene Minuskin
Sheila Schwartz
Robert & Shoshana Tancer

PATRONS

John & Diane Eckstein
Paul & Flo Eckstein
David & Marilyn Frazer
Neal Kurn & Sue Yaffe Kurn
Suzanne Parelman
Hershel & Valerie Richter
Howard Weinstein & Susan Katz

BENEFACTORS

Judy Ackerman & Richard Epstein
Anonymous
Edward Chulew
Edward Dubrow
David Kertzer
Miriam Lowe
Donald & Irene Lubin
Herb & Larua Roskind
Morton & Arlene Scult
Hava Tirosh-Samuelson
Barry & Barbara Zemel

SUSTAINERS

David & Virginia Foster
David Kertzer
Ronald & Nina Lowe
Sherman & Andi Minkoff
James & Leona Pomush
Michael Schwimmer
& Jackie Schenkein
Ruth Seidman
Jacob & Lola Shapiro
Sandra Sheinbein
Gerald & Naomi Weiner

FRIENDS

Martin & Shotsy Abramson
Albert Adler
Ilene Blau
Leila Bogan
Lewis J. Brown
Allan Bulman
Marvin Chassin
Joseph Cohen
Florence Edlin
Ronald & Lory Fischler
Marvin Fisher
Jonathan Fox
Jack Friedland
Glenn Friedman
Ira Gaines
Joel & Barbara Gereboff
Leon & Gloria Gildin
Judi Glass
Hirsch Goffman
Norman Goldman
& Barbara Mehl Goldman
David & Naomi Goodell
Mike Gratz
Leonard & Elaine Grobstein
Robert Hardy
Jerome Harris
Jack & Marsha Heller

Howard Hirsch
Frank & Stephanie Jacobson
Stewart Joseph
Elijah Kaminsky
Ruby Kaufman
Lillian Kopp
Robert & Nancy Kravetz
Bernard Levine
Irwin & Norma Malamud
Bruce & Risa Mallin
Arnold Maltz
& Aileen Louik Maltz
Bruce Meyers
William Myers
Sandra Palais
David & Ann Pinkwasser
Jack Poles
Arnold & Elodee Portugal
Stanley Pudnos
Carol Rose
Stacy & Adrienne Rush
Jonathan & Pamela Ruzi
Wolf Safrin
& Jacqueline Sari Safrin
Ira Sarlat
Brian & Susan Schanerman
Francine Schauer
Edith Schneider
Donald & Esther Schon
Ruth Seidman
Carol Shapiro
Stuart Siefer
Gerald Siegel
Howard & Sharona Silverman
Morton & Joan Sitver
Charlene Smith
Errol & Berry Sweet
Jerome & Selma Targovnik
Gene & Cooky Tarkoff
Sondra Weiss
Howard Wernick

Every effort has been made to ensure the inclusion of donors who contributed to the Center for Jewish Studies between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013. If we have mistakenly omitted your name, please contact us immediately and accept our heartfelt gratitude for your generous support as a Friend of Jewish Studies.



ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

Center for Jewish Studies

PO Box 874302, Tempe, AZ 85287-4302

p. 480-727-6906

f. 480-727-2023

jewishstudies.asu.edu

receive news and event reminders jewishstudies.asu.edu/signup

cover art

"Seed"

artist: [Elijah Bourque](#)

This artwork was created with funding awarded through the Joan Frazer Memorial Award in Judaism and the Arts.

Applications are now being accepted for the 2013-2014 Joan Frazer Memorial Award.

jewishstudies.asu.edu/frazer

save the date

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2014

2014 Albert & Liese Eckstein Scholar-in-Residence

Coming to Arizona: The Presence of the Jews in the Southwest

Hasia Diner

Skirball Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies, New York University

7 p.m. | Cutler☆Plotkin Jewish Heritage Center | r.s.v.p. requested



In the great age of Jewish migration, from the 1820s through the 1920s, what brought Jews from Europe to the American Southwest? Despite the vast distances of tens of thousands of miles, across two continents, handfuls of Jews made the decision to cast their lot with region, remote even by American standards. What familial and business magnets drew them to the area and how did their migrations resemble and depart from those of Jews who chose other, more accessible, places?

jewishstudies.asu.edu/eckstein