

# Jewish Studies @ PENN

THE JEWISH STUDIES NEWSLETTER

Fall 2007



This bi-lingual Hebrew-Marathi haggadah was printed in the Indian city of Poonah by Vital Sakharam Agnitory in 1874. Depicted here for the first time are the local customs and costumes of the Bene Israel preparing for the festival of Passover. Purchased at the Kestenbaum & Co. auction in March of 2007, thanks to the generosity of Ruth and Raymond Brenner and the Brenner Family Fund for Jewish Studies in honor of Gregory Brenner, W'99; Adam Brenner, W'01; Jason Brenner, W'05

## *Jewish Studies at the University of Pennsylvania*

Penn, through its Jewish Studies Program and the 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 ten 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 Center for Advanced Judaic Studies (CAJS) 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 CAJS fellows teach courses at Penn, and both graduate students and University faculty participate in the Center's weekly seminars. The 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 Center for Advanced Judaic Studies make Penn one of the most rich and exciting communities for Jewish scholarship and intellectual life in the world.

## *Table of Contents*

Greetings from the Director, JSP .....	2	2006-2007 Special Events and Programs .....	10
Greetings from the Director, CAJS .....	3	Penn's Judaica Library News .....	12
Jewish Studies Program News .....	4	About Our Students .....	14
Faculty News .....	7	Recent Gifts .....	20
Center for Advanced Judaic Studies .....	8		

Jewish Studies

# Jewish Studies Program

## GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR, JEWISH STUDIES PROGRAM

After a year of scholarly leave in 2006-2007, I am returning to my full-time duties as Director of the Jewish Studies Program. It is a pleasure to rejoin the dynamic group of faculty and students working in Jewish Studies at Penn. I am deeply grateful to Jonathan Steinberg who assumed the duties of Acting Director during my leave. We all thank him for his generosity and for overseeing a highly successful year.

During my leave, I completed a book titled *The Jewish Americans: Three Centuries of Jewish Voices in America*. This book will serve as a companion volume to the PBS documentary, *The Jewish Americans*, to be broadcast in January 2008. I also had the opportunity to devote full-time attention to my manuscript, "History Lessons: The Invention of American Jewish History," which is approaching completion. It was wonderful to apply all my energies to scholarship this past year, but I am eager to be back on campus, to resume teaching, and to participate in the many Jewish Studies programs at Penn.

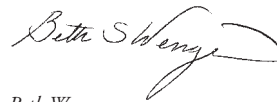
Last year was a particularly dynamic year for the Jewish Studies Program. In November 2006, we sponsored a conference on "Jews in France: Crisis and Continuity," to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the exoneration of Alfred Dreyfus. A standing-room only audience gathered to hear an international group of scholars from a variety of fields (political science, history, literature, journalism) reflect on the place of Jews in France and attempt to put the recent rise in anti-Semitic violence into historical perspective.

The Jewish Studies Program also co-sponsored an exhibition titled, "CHOSEN!: Philadelphia's Great Hebraica," at Philadelphia's Rosenbach Museum. Our own Professor David Stern curated the exhibition, which brought together Hebrew manuscripts from across the city, some of them previously unknown and never before exhibited.

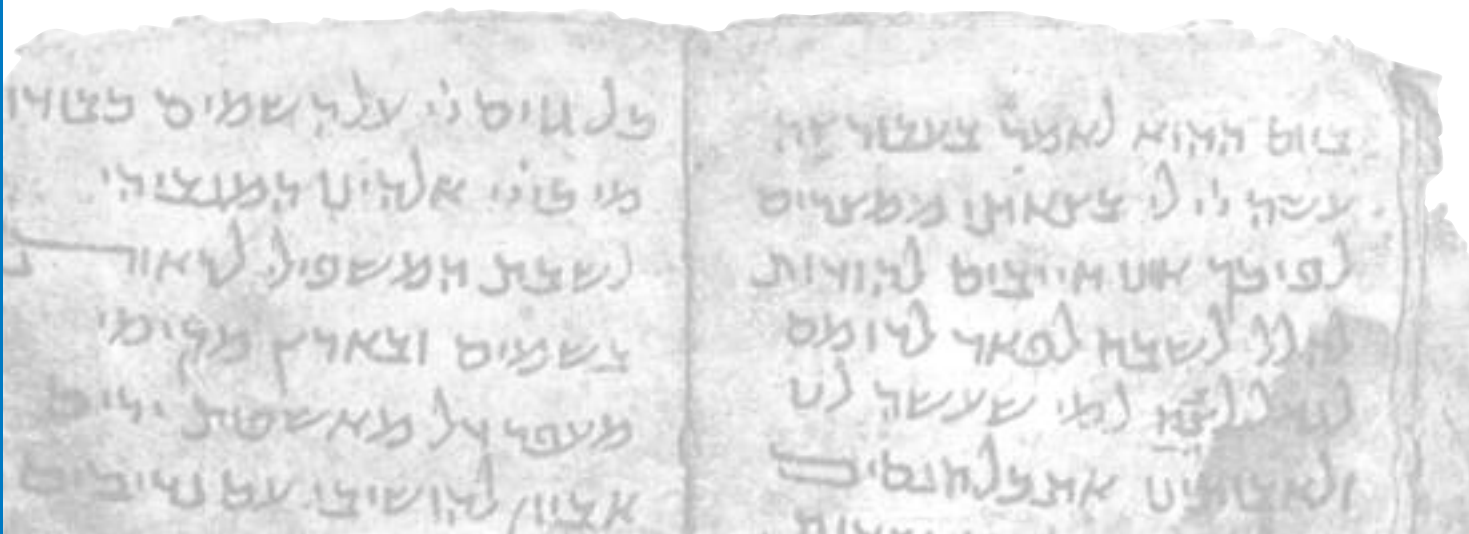
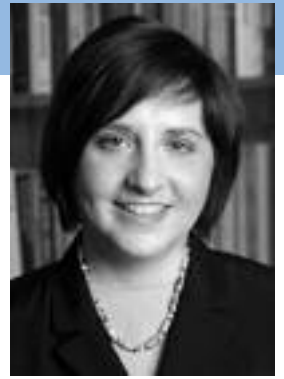
This year promises to be an equally exciting year for Jewish Studies on campus. We are planning another major conference on German Jewish culture that you will read more about in this newsletter. We have already scheduled a host of visiting lectures and programs. Our graduate students will again lead their own colloquium where they present their work-in-progress, and our undergraduate interns will plan programs organized around their intellectual and cultural interests.

Please visit our website (<http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/jwst/>) to find our full calendar of events each year and feel free to join us anytime!

As always, we thank the dedicated supporters of Jewish Studies at Penn whose generosity enables our program to flourish. I hope 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 Wenger  
Katz Family Chair in American  
Jewish History  
Associate Professor of History  
Director, Jewish Studies Program



# Center for Advanced Judaic Studies



## GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR ADVANCED JUDAIC STUDIES

Throughout the past year CAJS explored the historical interactions between Judaism, Islam, and Christianity during the middle ages and early modern periods. The scholars who came from around the world were specialists in Judeo-Arabic literature, biblical exegesis, philosophy, mysticism, science, and social and cultural history. Their explorations focused on the past, not on the present, but there was a contemporary dimension to all of their deliberations. In studying the past, the topics historians deem important to study are surely linked in some way to our own world and to our present concerns. Thus when ten scholars joined together each week outside the formal seminars to read a Judeo-Arabic text by the 10th century Jewish philosopher of Baghdad, Saadia Gaon, they were reflecting on a past undoubtedly studied in contrast to the gruesome realities of the present.

What was impressive about this year was the participation of several scholars personally connected to Penn's Islamic studies program. The Middle East Center itself helped sponsor the year. Several members of its faculty regularly attended the seminars and two professors who teach Islam and the Mediterranean at Penn, from the Departments of Religious Studies and History, were fellows themselves. Moreover, given the wealth of talent on the part of the fellows, several of these professors initiated a special course in Judeo-Arabic attended by graduate students and faculty who wanted to gain an introduction to this special dialect of the Arabic language. Other graduate students participated in our regular modular course where they study in private tutorials with scholars of CAJS. This too was a major success. We are blessed at Penn with two fine faculties in Judaic and Islamic studies who appreciate each other and work closely in a collegial and collaborative manner. This year The Center again proved to be a major catalyst in allowing scholars and their students to talk with each other, crossing lines of disciplines, cultural perspectives, and even political views.

We are intent on crossing new boundaries in this year's group as well, bringing together scholars of rabbinic Judaism, of Jewish and Christian history in late antiquity, of New Testament, and of Roman and Byzantine history under one roof. In rethinking the origins of Christianity and Judaism in the first centuries of the Common Era

and in linking classical with Jewish and Christian studies, we consider for the first time at CAJS a seminal period in the history of world civilization. Our group is highly talented, diverse in its perspectives and disciplines, and eager to shape a new discourse in this field.

This past year we succeeded, through the great efforts of Dr. Elsie Stern, to translate the esoteric scholarship of our fellows into a robust program of lectures, seminars, and clergy institutes that non-scholars could understand and appreciate. Two of our most exciting programs dealt with the provocative subject: "What rabbis need to know about Islam." We shall create similar learning opportunities this year as we focus on the shared histories and divergent paths of Judaism and Christianity.

It is with mixed feelings that I bid farewell to Dr. Elsie Stern, our Assistant Director of Public Programs, who is leaving us to teach Bible at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Philadelphia. I am happy that she is finally able to do what she loves the most, teaching Biblical texts to students studying for the rabbinate, but her departure is a great loss to CAJS. Her dynamic and creative presence has added immensely to the image and educational impact of CAJS in the larger community, both in Philadelphia and beyond. We are deeply indebted to her for enriching the lives of our fellows, our board members who worked closely with her, and the larger community of educators and students she touched.

We are very pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Cynthia Saltzman to fill the position vacated by Elsie. Dr. Saltzman, an anthropologist by training, brings a wealth of experience in adult education and in community work both as a professional and volunteer to this job. I am sure she will serve The Center with much dedication and enthusiasm. I look forward to working with her as we begin this exciting year.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "David Ruderman".

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

---

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

Editor: Christine Walsh

Assistant Editor: Beth Wenger

We are grateful to Michelle and Peter, C'81/WG'85, Roth for their ongoing sponsorship of this newsletter.

# Jewish Studies Program News

## JS GRADUATE STUDENT ACTIVITIES

### Graduate Student Colloquium

The newly revived Jewish Studies Graduate Student Colloquium had an exciting year. Co-coordinators **Jennifer Glaser** (Comparative Literature) and **Rebecca Cutler** (History) focused their restructuring of the Colloquium on creating community for graduate students within Jewish Studies and benefiting from the inherently interdisciplinary nature of the field by stimulating discussion between students across disciplines at Penn. Based on the approach taken by the Penn Ethnohistory workshop, each Colloquium session featured a presenter and a respondent from a different discipline who stimulated discussion about the presenter's work. The informal atmosphere of the meetings provided graduate students with a chance to showcase their dissertation work and conference papers before a friendly crowd of participants from both inside and outside their field of inquiry. This year's program:

**Joann Sfar**, acclaimed French Jewish graphic novelist, spoke on his new book, *Klezmer: Tales of the Wild East*, followed by a klezmer performance featuring musicians: Noah Davidovich, Rachel Lemisch, Jason Rosenblatt, Ilana Sherer and Susan Watts. Co-sponsored by Bindlestiff Books, Congregation Leyv Ha'ir, Kol Tzedek West Philadelphia Synagogue, and Youngish and Yiddish.

**Joshua Perelman**, post-doctoral fellow at the National Museum of American Jewish History and the University of Pennsylvania presented a work entitled, "'I'm the everybody who's nobody, I'm the nobody who's everybody': Modern Dance, the Popular Front, and American Jewish Identity."

**Robert Goldberg**, Respondent

Participation in the series was high and plans for the future of the Colloquium include not only more informal interdisciplinary meetings meant to give graduate students a chance to present their work, but also lectures and readings presented by outside scholars and a graduate student-organized conference.

For more information about the colloquium, please contact Jennifer Glaser at [jglaser@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:jglaser@sas.upenn.edu), Rebecca Cutler at [rcutler@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:rcutler@sas.upenn.edu) or Conny Aust at [austc@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:austc@sas.upenn.edu).

### Judah Goldin Graduate Student Seminar

Initiated in January 2000 by Professor Jeffrey Tigay, and named after late professor of Postbiblical Hebrew literature and long-time faculty member Judah Goldin, the Goldin Seminar consists of a series of lectures,

presented throughout the academic year, in Biblical studies and related fields. Coordinated and delivered by graduate students, the Seminar was chaired last year by Yehuda Kraut.

The following papers were delivered at the Seminar last year:

**Josh Jeffers**  
(University of Pennsylvania, NELC)  
"The Assyrian Reliefs: Sennacherib's Third Campaign"

**Yehuda Kraut**  
(University of Pennsylvania, NELC)  
"The Birds and the Babes: the Structure and Meaning of Psalm 8"



Yehuda Kraut delivering his paper to the Judah Goldin Seminar

**Stephen Kim**  
(University of Pennsylvania, NELC)  
"Thoru-Ilu, the Fertility God of Ugarit"

**Naftali Cohen**  
(University of Pennsylvania, NELC)  
"The Earliest Rabbis and Their Claim for Authority: An Analysis of the Ritual Narrative Genre in the Mishnah"

**Stephen Kim**  
(University of Pennsylvania, NELC)  
"Traveling Gods in Ancient Syria-Palestine"

**V. Kerry Inman**  
(University of Pennsylvania, NELC)  
"Text Criticism of the Hebrew Bible and the Ancient and Immediate Versions"

**Karen Sonik**  
(University of Pennsylvania, AAMW)  
"The Dragon-Green, the Luminous, the Dark, the Serpent-Haunted Sea: Tikva Frymer-Kensky's Non-Domesticated Woman"

## 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 and a graduate student coordinator, **Kerry Wallach**, a number of students initiated, organized, and produced the following events during the past academic year:

In January 2007, **Lisi Drezde**, **Emily Belfer**, and **Dina Beizer** organized a program with Rabbi **Leonard Gordon**, "Coming Out of the Closet: Homosexuality in the Conservative Movement." Rabbi Gordon spoke to an audience of 45 to 50 students about the history of the debate and answered questions at various points during the talk.

In April 2007, **Lisi Drezde**, **Yael Landman**, and **Joe Scherban** organized a talk by **Charles Manekin** (University of Maryland) on "Maimonides and Bible: How Judaism's greatest philosopher interpreted the Bible."

In April 2007, **Kate Wallis** and **Yuri Castano** organized a talk with **Rabbi Jacobs** (Rabbi in Residence, Jewish Funds for Justice) on "Social Reform Through Jewish Eyes: Discussion of Jewish Definitions of Poverty."

In March 2007, **Rob Golder** organized a talk by **David Stern** (University of Pennsylvania) on "Rewriting the Haggadah: Unkosher or Contemporary?"

In the 2007-2008 academic year, graduate student **Kerry Wallach** continues in her role as graduate student coordinator.

In addition to sponsoring the Jewish Studies Internships, the Bassini Fund also supports the Bassini Dinners—our continuing and very successful program for student-faculty dinners (or lunches) in Jewish Studies. Each semester, we supplement the President's Fund and provide support for every faculty member to share meals with students. This program has proven enormously valuable in fostering faculty-student interaction outside the classroom.

## THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY

The University of Pennsylvania Jewish Studies Program and the National Museum of American Jewish History (NMAJH) have been collaborating for four years on a Postdoctoral Fellowship. The joint project has been an enormous success, benefiting both institutions and strengthening ties between them. **Josh Perelman**, the current fellow, teaches American Jewish History at the University and serves the NMAJH as its Deputy Director and Museum Historian. A historian who describes the relationship between public culture, politics, and the integration of American Jews into American society during the first half of

the twentieth century, Perelman has had significant experience developing public programming, research agendas, and exhibitions.

The deepening connection between the Museum and Penn comes at an especially important time. Construction has begun on its new home, directly across from the Liberty Bell, two blocks south of the National Constitution Center, and one block north of the birthplace of American liberty, Independence Hall. The Museum held a grand ceremonial groundbreaking at the end of September and is now proceeding with the construction of a landmark building designed by internationally acclaimed architects Polshek Partners. “Connecting the University of Pennsylvania and the National Museum of American Jewish History offers Penn students an exciting opportunity to help translate what they study in the classroom to life. As interns at the Museum, they explore the history of American Jews and participate in the life of a major public institution,” said Perelman, who is deeply involved in the Museum’s development of world-class core exhibition for its new building.

Student interns from Penn have played a central role in the Museum’s life for more than ten years. Now, they play an even more prominent role, helping the Museum to prepare for its new home and researching exciting stories that will be told in the new building. Penn interns work in the museum’s collection, conduct historical research, and help develop content for the new core exhibition. During the 2006-2007 school year, interns used objects from the Museum’s collection to explore important topics in American Jewish life. **Josh Diskin** provided important background research on Jewish summer camps, **Sarah Waxman** explored her family’s unique role in the American garment industry, and **Amy Shilane** offered a gender analysis of Jewish women’s roles in families in Colonial and Early America. Likewise, **Kacey Bayles** did research in Philadelphia and New York on the subject of the impact of urban space on immigrant lives in major cities throughout America.

Beginning in the fall of 2007, a new group of interns began working at the Museum. They included **Jessica Staller** and **Melanie Forman**, who helped the Museum identify objects from the recently acquired Peter H. Schweitzer Collection of Jewish Americana that it would use in its future core exhibition. As the Museum’s new home literally grows on Independence Mall, it looks forward to heightening its collaboration with Penn and its students.

## STUDENT RESEARCH

Undergraduate student research continues to be one of JSP’s priorities. Last year a number of students in Jewish Studies wrote senior thesis projects on Jewish topics. Thanks to the generous support of **Phillip, C’34**, and **Robert, C’63**,

**Goldfein** and **Raymond** and **Ruth Brenner, PAR’99/01/05**, JSP annually awards some \$10,000 to support student research projects. Among the theses and projects supported last year was **Sarah Breger’s** senior honors thesis entitled “Sentenced to Marriage: Chained Women in Wartime.”

## JEWISH EDUCATION UPDATES

In 2006-2007, JSP sponsored a course in Jewish education, Teaching Jewish Texts, taught by Dr. **Karen Reiss-Medwed**, at the time Adjunct Professor of Education at the Jewish Theological Seminary. The course—which combines both pedagogy and content—focused on the teaching of TaNaKh and Talmud. This spring the course will be offered through the Graduate School of Education and taught by Dr. Karen Reiss-Medwed, now appointed Director of the newly formed track in Religious Education in the Teacher Education Preparation program at the Graduate School of Education, and coordinator of the Jewish Education section in this new track.

This course in Jewish education has been made possible through the generous gifts of **Jeffrey Schwarz (W’80, MBA’81)** and from the **Lindenbaum Family** (parents of **Abigail, C’97**).

Penn graduate students participated in various teaching venues. **Linda Meiberg** taught two semesters of modern Hebrew to adults through Gratz College at Beth Zion-Beth Israel synagogue. **Kerry Wallach** taught Intermediate German and served as a teaching assistant for Simon Richter’s course The Devil’s Pact in Literature, Film, and Music. **Julie Lieber** taught at the University of Denver in their Judaic Studies and History programs. **Tammy Jacobowitz** taught Rabbis for Me’ah and lectured in communities in the NY and NJ area. She also taught at the Yeshivat Chovevei Torah Bible conference in Teaneck, NJ, and led an intensive mini-course for the AJU in Los Angeles on the pedagogy of Bible and Midrash. **Matthew Rutz** taught three sections of Ian Lustick’s course, International Politics of the Middle East. **Susan Zeelander** taught a course on how the Torah conveys its ethical and moral teachings in the Adult Education Institute at Tiferet Bet Israel in Blue Bell, PA. **Sigrid Peterson** taught a class on the Syriac language and literature at Penn.

**Jacob Cytryn, C’04**, has just been awarded a Wexner Graduate Fellowship in Jewish Studies. Cytryn is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Jewish Studies and Education at Brandeis University. He also holds an M.A. in Talmud and Rabbis from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. While at Penn Cytryn majored in Classics but spent most of his time examining the ways that the literature of the 20th century attempted to respond to that era’s profound tragedies, especially the Holocaust. Congratulations to Jacob as he pursues his studies at Brandeis University.

## GRUSS VISITING PROFESSOR IN TALMUDIC LAW

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

This past fall, **Dr. Yair Lorberbaum**, Law School professor at Bar Ilan University in Jerusalem, served as the Gruss Professor. Lorberbaum taught a course in the Law School on the Image of God in Rabbinic Literature and delivered the Gruss Lectures. The lectures focused on the subject of “The Image of God in Classical Judaism in Biblical Literature and Talmudic Literature.” The lectures were widely attended.

## HEBREW

This year the Modern Hebrew Language Program (MHLP) was privileged to host two of Israel’s best known and most widely read authors, **Orly Castel-Bloom** (named by the New York Times as one of the most influential women in contemporary Israeli society) and **Etgar Keret** (named by the same newspaper in 2006 as one of the world’s 50 most important writers). What was special about their visit to Penn was that they were able to meet with students in their classes and discuss their works with them in Hebrew. Giving students a real functional command of Hebrew, including immediate access to the best of contemporary Israeli culture, is one of MHLP’s primary goals, and judging by our Israeli visitors’ enthusiasm, we are succeeding. The Program also works closely with other units of the University, including the Penn Language Center, the Middle East Center, and the Jewish Studies Program, to make certain that Hebrew and Israel are well represented in their activities.

## YIDDISH

Penn continues to offer regular courses in Yiddish language, as well as literature courses in translation, on Jewish American literature, Yiddish writing in Eastern Europe, women writers, and issues of cultural translation. The Ruth Meltzer Senior Lecturer in Yiddish, Kathryn Hellerstein, and instructor, Alexander Botwinik, assigned their students projects utilizing the **Robert and Molly Freedman Jewish Music Archives** at Penn. Botwinik also led two Yiddish zingeray (sing-alongs). In 2005-2006, Hellerstein also enriched the classroom experience by

introducing students to Yiddish culture with a walking tour of historical Jewish Philadelphia. In that same year, students in the Yiddish Language Program also benefited from a roundtable discussion on current trends in scholarship on Eastern European Jewry, featuring CAJS fellows (Profs. Chava Turniansky, Moshe Rosman, and Iris Parush). In Spring 2007, the students in Hellerstein's Women and Jewish Literature class enjoyed a lecture on Jewish song and women's culture in Libya, Italy, Spain, and Poland, by Italian ethnomusicologist and singer, **Miriam Meghnagi**, who also performed in the annual **Freedman Jewish Music Concert**.

Thanks to a generous annual gift from the **Charlotte Yiddish Institute**, in Spring 2006, Hellerstein's second semester Yiddish language students devised a class project to conduct ethnographic interviews in Yiddish of five native Yiddish speakers whom they invited to Penn, including a Hasidic rabbi, two educators, and two grandparents, to learn about the role that Yiddish plays in their lives. The videotaped interviews will become a resource for future classes. The students in Spring 2007 did Yiddish song projects and Yiddish web projects.

With an SAS Language Teaching Innovation Grant Hellerstein and German Department graduate student **Gabriella Skwara** are digitizing pedagogical material for the teaching of first-year Yiddish.

The 2007 Yiddish Book Prizes went to **Daniel Atkins, Aaron Blacksberg, Daniel Ludmir, Drew Feith Tye, Zachary Wainer, and Benjamin Zachs**. The 2007 Workmen's Circle Prize was given to **Marissa Steinberg, C'08**.

The Jewish Studies Program is grateful for a grant from the **Forward Foundation** that helped fund the teaching of Intermediate Yiddish in 2006-2007. We welcome contributions to the Yiddish program that will provide continued support to Yiddish instruction.

## ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

### Professor Barry Eichler Retires

After forty years of distinguished service, Professor **Barry Eichler** will retire from Penn in December 2007. A professor of Assyriology in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations (NELC), Eichler has also served as Curator-in-Charge of the Babylonian Tablet Collection of the University Museum. Professor Eichler is a scholar of extraordinary range who has written influential books and articles on the Ancient Near East, all reflecting



Prof. Barry Eichler in the NELC office

his mastery of language and ability to draw on textual, archaeological, anthropological and legal evidence. Barry Eichler played a pivotal role in the founding of Penn's Jewish Studies Program. He chaired the committee that led to the establishment of the Program and served as its first director in 1982—a post he held for thirteen years. A gifted teacher, he has inspired scores of Penn undergraduates, offering a range of courses in Mesopotamian languages and literatures, Biblical studies, and Jewish law and ethics. During his tenure at Penn, Eichler has trained the scholars of the next generation, serving on thirty-five dissertation committees. We owe a great debt to Barry—for his role in founding the Jewish Studies Program, for his years of dedicated service, and for his collegiality. We will miss him and wish him well as he moves on to future pursuits.

**Seth Jerchow** accepted a position at the University of Florida to become head of the Isser and Rae Price Library of Judaica at the University of Florida George A. Smathers Libraries. It is a faculty position, tenure track, and he will be working with Area Studies, Special Collections, and the Center for Jewish Studies at UF, directed by Jack Kugelmass, a former fellow at CAJS.

**Elsie Stern** has left CAJS to assume a position as Assistant Professor of Bible at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College where she is teaching courses in biblical civilization and literature as well as some courses in rabbinic Judaism.

## FACULTY AWARDS AND HONORS

**Dan Ben-Amos** received the 2006 National Jewish Book Award in the Sephardic Culture category and was a finalist in the scholarship category.

**Nili Gold**, Assistant Professor of Modern Hebrew Literature in NELC, received a Lucius Littauer Faculty Research Award to work on her book on Yehuda Amichai.

**Robert Kraft** was elected President of the Society of Biblical Literature for 2006. His address entitled, "Para-mania: Beside, Before, and Beyond Bible Studies," appeared in *JBL* 126 (2007) 5-27.

**Thomas Weber**, a visiting professor in the Department of History, recently received a research fellowship from the Holocaust Education Foundation to carry out research on the Henryk Ross Collection of Holocaust Photography and was elected a Member of the Institute of Advanced Study in Princeton for the 2007-08 academic year.

**Kathryn Hellerstein**, Ruth Meltzer Senior Lecturer in Yiddish and Jewish Studies, received a renewal of a Penn SAS Language Teaching Innovation Grant.

It is with great sadness that the Jewish Studies Program and the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies acknowledge the passing of **Herbert D. Katz**, Wharton alumnus, class of 1951, on September 23, 2007. Herb together with his wife Eleanor Meyerhoff Katz established the Joseph Meyerhoff Professorship in Modern Jewish History, the Katz Family Term Chair in American Jewish history, and the Herb and Ellie Katz Distinguished Fellowship at CAJS. Herb joined the CAJS board of Overseers in 1994 and served as its chairman from 1996-2003. During those years he played a critical role in building the institution and in guaranteeing its future as the foremost center of its kind. He was equally committed to Penn's modern Jewish history program and established the foundation for a dynamic pedagogic program for both undergraduate and graduate students. In November 2001, Herb received a University of Pennsylvania Alumni Award of Merit for his remarkable service to Penn.

Upon his retirement, Herb's friends and family established the Herb Katz publications fund at CAJS which supports the journal and books emanating from CAJS. He will be remembered by the many people he touched for his enormous contribution to Jewish Studies at the University of Pennsylvania.

# About Our Faculty

**Dan Ben-Amos**, Professor of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations and Folklore, won a National Jewish Book Award for his *Folktales of the Jews. Volume 1: Tales from the Sephardic Dispersion*. Edited with commentary (Dov Noy, Consulting Editor) by The Jewish Publication Society. It was a winner in the Sephardic Culture category and a finalist in the Scholarship category. This past spring his *Folktales of the Jews Vol. 2: Tales from Eastern Europe* (Dov Noy, Consulting Editor) was published by The Jewish Publication Society. Also in the spring, the 26th Inter-University Meeting for Folklore Research included a special session for discussing his award-winning book. Ben-Amos' article, "The European Fairy Tale Tradition: Between Orality and Literacy" appeared in *ISFNR Newsletter* no. 2 (2007), 17. An Albanian translation of Ben-Amos' article "The Concepts of Genre in Folklore," *Studia Fennica, Review of Finnish Linguistics and Ethnology*, 20 (1976): 30-43, appeared as "Koncepti I zhanreve në folklore" (217-240) in *Folkloristikë: koncepte moderne*. Eds. Përzgjedhi deh Përktheu and Arbnoza Dushi. Pejë, Kosovë: Dukagjini.

**Alexander (Sender) Botwinik** is a Yiddish lecturer at the University of Pennsylvania. In addition to teaching Yiddish, Alexander teaches music and choir at Har Zion Temple, and music at the Kaiserman JCC. Alexander has been recording and will be directing the music for a documentary film, which is being produced by the Judaic Studies Program of Drexel University. In addition, Alexander has been awarded a grant from the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture to prepare his father's musical compositions for publication.

**Michael Carasik**, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Biblical Hebrew has begun teaching Biblical Hebrew at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College as well as at Penn. He is currently working on the Leviticus volume of "The Commentators' Bible," his English translation of the traditional commentaries of the "Miqra'ot Gedolot." In addition to book reviews, his current publications include an article on "Syntactic Double Translation in the Targumim" in the volume *Aramaic Studies in Judaism and Early Christianity* (forthcoming from Eisenbrauns) and "Transcending the Boundary of Death: Ecclesiastes through a Nabokovian Lens," in *Biblical Interpretation*. Carasik is active in the Gershman Y Congregation in Center City and is vice president of the Center City Eruv Corporation.

**Natalie B. Dohrmann** is Executive Editor of the *Jewish Quarterly Review*, Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Religious Studies, and a member of the Jewish Studies Program faculty. She has just returned from a yearlong sabbatical in Rome, where she continued to edit the journal and work on the emergence of rabbinic law in the context of Roman imperial law. She will be giving a paper on the material at a conference on "Sanctified Violence in Ancient Mediterranean Religions: Discourse, Ritual, Community" at the University of

Minnesota in October. The volume *Jewish Biblical Interpretation and Cultural Exchange*, co-edited with David Stern, will come out next spring from the University of Pennsylvania Press. Dohrmann is on the steering committees of the Law, Religion, and Culture Group at the AAR, and of the History and Literature of Rabbinic Judaism section at the Society of Biblical Literature.

**Barry L. Eichler**, founder of the Jewish Studies Program at the University of Pennsylvania, is an Associate Professor of Assyriology in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization and Curator-in-charge of the Babylonian Tablet Collection of the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. He also is a visiting professor in the Bible Department of the Bernard Revel Graduate School of Yeshiva University where he lectures on the Bible and its ancient Near Eastern contexts. His major research interests focus on cultural inter-relationships between biblical and ancient Near Eastern civilizations, with primary interest in the field of ancient law. His recent publications include: "Cuneiform Studies at Penn: From Hilprecht to Leichty," *If a Man Builds a Joyful House: Assyriological Studies in Honor of Erle Verdun Leichty* (Cuneiform Monographs 31). Eds. A. Guinan et al, Leiden: Brill, 2006, pp. 87-109; "Exodus 21: 2-25: Some Methodological Considerations," *Shalom Paul Festschrift* (in press); "Law and Morality in Ancient Near Eastern Thought" in *Ethics, Politics and Democracy: From Primitive Principles to Prospective Practices* edited by Jose V. Cipurut (Cambridge: MIT Press, 2008 publication date); and "Restatement in the Laws of Hammurabi" submitted to an edited volume. He is also completing a teaching grammar of the Akkadian language, *Introduction to Akkadian*. His other major area of interest is Sumerian literature and lexicography, which is related directly to the NEH funded *Pennsylvania Sumerian Dictionary* project. In the summer edition of *Expedition*, he was featured in "Meet the Curator."

**Ronit Engel** was the first recipient of the Lecturer Teaching Relief Award of Penn's School of Arts and Sciences. She will use the award to prepare an innovative, graduated course of readings from the Hebrew newspaper and periodical press, to be used for preparing students to become proficient in this central medium of Israeli culture and to ease their transition to reading academic non-fictional texts. Also, together with other members of the National Association of Professors of Hebrew (NAPH), she has become actively involved in a research group devoted to identifying the features of modern Israeli Hebrew that are most difficult for English-speakers to master and exploring pedagogical strategies for overcoming the difficulties. This past summer Engel played an active role in the NAPH conference in Sydney, Australia, and took part in workshops on teaching university-level Hebrew at Tel Aviv University.

**Alan Filreis**, Kelly Professor of English, Faculty Director of the Kelly Writers House, and Director

of the Center for Programs in Contemporary Writing, has finished a new book about the anticommunist attack on modernism in the 1950s which treats, among others, many relatively obscure radical Jewish-American poets. For many years he has taught his course on "Representations of the Holocaust in Literature and Film," and has hosted a number of workshops and talks about the Holocaust, including a month-long online discussion group with Penn alumni on Jon Avner's film *Uprising*, about the Warsaw Ghetto revolt. One of his interests is Holocaust survival testimony. He is very active with the new West Philadelphia synagogue, Kol Tzedek.

**Talya Fishman**, Associate Professor of Religious Studies, spent Fall 2006 (the second half of a Guggenheim Fellowship leave) and Summer 2007 working on her book entitled, "Becoming the People of the Talmud: Transmission and Formation of Medieval Rabbinic Culture." While teaching in Spring 2007, she attended the weekly seminars on "Jews and Christians Under Sultans and Caliphs" at Penn's Center for Advanced Judaic Studies. She also lectured on "Jewish Christian Relations in the European Middle Ages" at Drexel University, on "Approaches to Maimonides" at Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El, and on "Preserving the Orality of 'Oral Torah' after the Inscription of Talmud," at the University of Pennsylvania's History of the Book Seminar. Fishman will be giving a paper on "The Computational Prayer Practice of Medieval Jewish Pietists" at the American Academy of Religion Annual Conference in San Diego this November, and, in January 2008, she will participate in a conference at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem on "Science and Philosophy in Ashkenazi Culture: Rejection, Toleration and Accommodation." Fishman is now the Graduate Chair of Penn's Religious Studies department and she continues to serve on several boards, including the Advisory Board of Princeton University's Program in Jewish Studies.

**Nili R. Gold**, Assistant Professor of Modern Hebrew Literature and Israel Studies, is teaching two courses this fall. The first course is addressing the Holocaust in Israeli Literature and Film in translation (NELC159). The second course examines literature in the original Hebrew and the role of literature in forging national identity (HEBR 259). Gold has just completed an English language book on the Israeli poet Yehuda Amichai. Brandeis University/The University Press of New England will publish the book in 2008. In addition, over the past academic year, she served as the co-organizer of the campus visit of internationally acclaimed Israeli author and filmmaker, Etgar Keret. During winter break, she presented a paper on "Dahlia Ravikovitch's 'Delight'" at the annual meeting of the

(continued on page 18)

# Center for Advanced Judaic Studies

## 2006-07: JEWISH, CHRISTIAN, AND MUSLIM LIFE UNDER CALIPHS AND SULTANS

In 2006-07, for the first time, Arabic was the *lingua franca* at the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies (CAJS) and it was about time! From the 7th to the 13th centuries, more than 90% of the world's Jews lived under Muslim rule. Despite this fact, Judeo-Arabic culture has received relatively little attention in both the academic and the public spheres. Last year's fellowship program, which was co-sponsored by Penn's Middle East Center, was designed both to address this situation within Jewish Studies and also to provide an opportunity for scholars of Judeo-Arabic culture to engage with experts in other fields of Islamic history and culture. Over the course of the year, twenty scholars from the US, Israel and Europe were resident fellows at the Center. Most of these specialized in areas of Judeo-Arabic culture while others focused on other aspects of Islamic civilization. The CAJS fellows researched, wrote and engaged in conversation not only with each other, but also with prominent scholars of Islam from Penn and beyond about topics ranging from science to poetry, history to theology, linguistics to sociology. They also shared their knowledge and insights with Penn students, with the CAJS board and visitors, and with the hundreds of interested learners who attended our 2007 Penn lectures in Judaic Studies.

### 13th Annual Gruss Colloquium in Jewish Studies

The culmination of the fellowship year was the conference, "Religious Communities in Islamic Empires," which took place on April 30 to May 2 on the Penn campus. CAJS fellows, along with other major scholars of Islam and Judeo-Arabic culture, met to share papers and engage in lively discussion about culture, economics and politics in the Islamic imperial context. The conference provided an amazing opportunity for CAJS fellows to share their most recent work with scholars who explore related subjects in Islamic culture and history. Two 2006-07 CAJS fellows, **David Freidenreich** and **Miriam Goldstein**, have already begun editing a volume of essays derived from papers delivered at the conference. The Gruss Colloquium is made possible through the generous support of **Martin D. Gruss, W'64**.

### Meyerhoff Lecture in Jewish History

On January 24, Prof. **Haggai Ben-Shammai**, Professor Emeritus in the Department of Arabic at Hebrew University, presented the tenth annual Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Lecture in Jewish History. Professor Ben-Shammai is one of the world's leading scholars of Judeo-Arabic culture and Karaism and has trained and mentored a generation of scholars in these fields. For this year's Meyerhoff lecture, Prof. Ben-Shammai led a text study entitled "Defining the Karaites: Between Self-Perception and Scholarly Evaluation" in which participants not only explored questions of Karaite identity and self-definition but also had the opportunity to learn from a true master of the field of Judeo-Arabic history and culture. The annual Meyerhoff lecture was established by the **Joseph Meyerhoff Memorial Trusts** in 1997 to honor the appointment of **Herbert D. Katz, W'51** as the chair of the Board of Overseers of CAJS and to honor the generosity and service of **Herbert D. Katz** and **Eleanor Meyerhoff Katz** to Penn's History Program and CAJS.

### 2006-07 Public Programs

Last year's fellowship topic generated enormous interest in the wider Jewish community. The CAJS local lecture series, *Jewish Life Under Caliphs and Sultans* drew huge audiences to programs on introductory topics such as "What Jews Should Know about Islam" and more specific programs on Judeo-Arabic Biblical interpretation, Maimonides, and the policy of early Muslim rulers toward their non-Muslim subjects. CAJS also offered a three-part mini-course on Judeo-Arabic language, literature, and philosophy and their lasting impact on Jewish culture. Through these programs, participants not only learned vital information about Islam and the history of Jewish-Islamic relations, but also became aware of how much of Judaism today is a product of the rich cultural exchange between Jews and Muslims that occurred during the centuries when the majority of the world's Jews lived under Muslim rule. In addition to these public programs, CAJS also embarked on a new initiative to educate rabbis and other Jewish professionals about recent developments in Jewish Studies. Last year, CAJS offered a two-part program on Islam for local professionals and a one-day seminar on new developments in Jewish Studies for rabbis and educators from across New England and the mid-Atlantic regions. These programs were very successful and CAJS looks forward to making continuing education for Jewish professionals a major part of its public programs.

### 2007 Publications

Several new books are forthcoming in the Jewish Cultures and Contexts Series from the University of Pennsylvania Press. Some of these are recently published. Among them:

A volume by our own **David Ruderman**, Joseph Meyerhoff Professor of Modern Jewish History and Ella Darivoff Director of the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies: *Connecting the Covenants: Judaism and the Search for Christian Identity in Eighteenth-Century England* (June 2007).

Two volumes collecting the cutting edge research from past fellowship years:

*The Art of Being Jewish in Modern Times* by **Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett** and **Jonathan Karp**, editors (September 2007)

*Culture Front: Representing Jews in Eastern Europe* by **Benjamin Nathans** and **Gabriella Safran**, editors (December 2007) and

*The Censor, the Editor, and the Text: The Catholic Church and the Shaping of the Jewish Canon in the Sixteenth Century* by **Amnon Raz-Krakotzkin** (Jackie Feldman, translator; July 2007).

*The Insight of Unbelievers: Nicholas of Lyra and Christian Reading of Jewish Text in the Later Middle Ages* by **Deeana Copeland Klepper** (February 2007)

*Yigal Allon, Native Son: A Biography* by **Anita Shapira** (Evelyn Abel, translator; December 2007)

*Rites and Passages: The Beginnings of Modern Jewish Culture in France, 1650-1860* by **Jay R. Berkovitz** (paperback edition, July 2007)

As this impressive list of titles shows, the series continues to flourish, publishing works by exciting scholars about topics across the fields and eras of Jewish history and culture.

The *Jewish Quarterly Review* (JQR) continues to attract many submissions as well as great talent to special issues and forums. Online access has proven an important resource for scholars, drawing many readers not only to more current issues of JQR, but also to the over 100 years of archived articles, reviews, and notes. Look for us online at Project Muse and JSTOR. We have many strong issues in the hopper, including a special forum this fall (JQR 97.4) that explores the legacy of Yosef Hayim Yerushalmi's *Zakhor: Jewish History and Jewish Memory*, twenty-five years after it originally was published.

- William Adler  
Christians in the Court of Abgar the Great  
North Carolina State University  
*Charles W. and Sally Rothfeld Fellowship*
- Doron Bar (F)  
Rural Churches/Synagogues in Late  
Antiquity Palestine  
Hebrew University  
*Weiner Family Term Fellowship*
- Beth Berkowitz  
Identity in Jewish Reading: Leviticus 18:3  
and the “Laws of the Gentiles”  
Jewish Theological Seminary/NY  
*Louis Apfelbaum and  
Hortense Apfelbaum Fellowship*
- Ra’anan Boustan  
Representations of Rome in Late Antiquity  
Jewish Literature  
University of California/L.A.  
*Maurice Amado Foundation Fellowship*
- Hannah Cotton (S)  
Inscriptions of the Ustinow Collection  
from Turkish Palestine  
Hebrew University  
*Albert J. Wood Fellowship*
- Paula Fredriksen (S)  
Christian Anti-Judaism in Visigothic and  
Byzantine Empires  
Boston University  
*Selma Ruben Term Fellowship*
- Campbell Grey (F)  
Charity to Strangers, Conversion, and Late  
Antiquity Urban Communities  
University of Pennsylvania  
*Moses Aaron Dropsie Term Fellowship*
- Yuval Harari (S)  
Power in Context: Early Jewish Magic and its  
Social, Political, and Intercultural Matrix  
Ben-Gurion University  
*Primo Levi Fellowship*  
*Nancy S. and Laurence E. Glick Teaching Fellowship*
- Marc Hirshman (F)  
Aggada in Caesarea: Stratifying Aggadic Midrash  
Hebrew University  
*Erika A. Strauss Teaching Fellowship*  
*Ivan and Nina Ross Family Term Fellowship*
- Oded Irshai (S)  
Jews, Christians, and the End of Mediterranean  
Antiquity: West and East  
Hebrew University  
*Golub Family Fellowship*  
*Rose and Henry Zifkin Teaching Fellowship*
- Hayim Lapin  
Rabbis as Provincial: Rabbinic Movement  
in Palestine  
University of Maryland  
*Primo Levi Fellowship*
- Lee Levine (F)  
History, Art, and Identity in Late Antiquity  
Hebrew University  
*Ella Darivoff Term Fellowship*
- Joshua Levinson (S)  
Border Transgression: Travel Narratives  
Hebrew University in Rabbinic Literature  
*Rebell Family Term Fellowship*
- Ophir Münz-Manor (F)  
The Sacred Muse: Poetic Dialogues in  
Late Antiquity  
Brown University  
*David and Penina Zoller Term Fellowship*
- Hindy Najman (S)  
Prophetic Ends: Destruction and Revelation in  
Ancient Judaism  
University of Toronto  
*Ruth Meltzer Distinguished Fellowship*
- Annette Reed  
“Jewish-Christianity” and the History of Late  
Antique Judaism  
University of Pennsylvania  
*Dalck and Rose Feith Family Fellowship*
- John Reeves (F)  
Reception and Reconfiguration of Jewish Lore in  
Early Islamic Traditions  
Univ. of North Carolina/Charlotte  
*Ruth Meltzer Distinguished Fellowship*
- Seth Schwartz  
Were the Ancient Jews a Mediterranean Society?  
Jewish Theological Seminary/NY  
*Ellie and Herbert D. Katz Distinguished Fellowship*
- Hagith Sivan  
Jews of the Latin West  
University of Kansas  
*Martin Gruss Fellowship*
- Rina Talgam  
Jewish Art Among Gentile Art of Late Antiquity:  
A Cultural Exchange  
Hebrew University  
*Louis and Bessie Stein Fellowship*

ADJUNCT FELLOWS

- John Gager  
Princeton University
- Maxine Grossman  
University of Maryland
- Robert Kraft  
University of Pennsylvania

- Ross Kraemer  
Brown University

- David Stern  
University of Pennsylvania

SHORT-TERM FELLOWS

- Yaakov Elman  
Yeshiva University

- Hillel Newman  
University of Haifa

**2007-08 AT CAJS: JEWISH AND OTHER  
IMPERIAL CULTURES IN LATE ANTIQUITY:  
LITERARY, SOCIAL AND MATERIAL HISTORIES.**

For the first time in its history, CAJS has convened a year on one of the most fascinating and formative periods of Jewish history—late antiquity. In the past several years, scholars of Judaism have been seeing what has long been thought of as the “rabbinic period” as a time marked by many forms of Jewish practice and expression and deep engagement with Roman and later Roman-Christian cultures. This year’s scholars come to the Center with expertise in Roman law and culture, early Christianity and all aspects of Judaism in late antiquity, including art and architecture, prayer and magic, literature, politics and sociology. Through their research, writing and vigorous conversations, this year’s scholars are beginning to forge new understandings of the identity, character and status of the Jewish communities in late Antiquity and the relationships between Jews, Christians and other minority and majority groups in the Roman Empire.

**2007-08 Public Programs:**

Late antiquity is undeniably one of the most formative periods in the creation of Jewish religion and culture. Many of the texts, practices and ideas that are central to Jewish practice today were born or developed in this period. In addition, the early centuries of the common era mark the first chapters in the relationship between Jews and Christians. This year’s public programs will provide unique opportunities for members of the wider Philadelphia area community as well as Jewish professionals from around the country, to learn about the most current research on these crucial topics from dynamic and engaging scholars. The 2008 Penn Lectures in Judaic Studies will run from February to May in Philadelphia and the surrounding Pennsylvania and South Jersey suburbs. We will also offer a three-session mini-course in May at CAJS. The mini-course offers interested learners a chance to learn from current fellows in a more interactive and sustained setting. In addition to the programs in Philadelphia, the Center will also sponsor programs by current fellows at synagogues around the country. If you would like more information about our public programs, please contact Dr. **Cynthia Saltzman** at 215-238-1290 x507 or consult our website at: [www.cajs.upenn.edu](http://www.cajs.upenn.edu).

# 2006-2007 Special Events and Programs

## MEYERHOFF LECTURE IN JEWISH HISTORY

The Eleventh Annual Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Lecture in Jewish History was a lecture entitled "Defining the Karaites: Between Self-Perception and Scholarly Evaluation," with **Haggai Ben-Shammai** (Department of Arabic, Hebrew University), on January 24, 2007. The event was co-sponsored by the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, the History Department, and the Middle East Center.

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 Herb Katz, W'51, as 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.

## SILVERS VISITING SCHOLAR IN JEWISH STUDIES

On April 12, 2007, Italian singer, **Miriam Meghnagi**, accompanied by **Giovanni Seneca**, performed "Mediterranean Dialogues." The concert was co-sponsored with the University of Pennsylvania Library Robert and Molly Freedman Jewish Music Concert, the Middle East Center, the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, the Music Department and the Center for Italian Studies. Ms. Meghnagi also visited Kathryn Hellerstein's course on Women and Jewish Literature.

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

## JOSEPH ALEXANDER COLLOQUIUM

On October 18, 2006, **Elisabeth Young-Bruhl**, a psychoanalyst in Manhattan and faculty at the Columbia Center for Psychoanalytic Training and Research, delivered a lecture on "Why Arendt Matters." The lecture was co-sponsored with the Alice Paul Center for Research on Women, Gender, and Sexuality, Department of History, and Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures.

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

## KUTCHIN SEMINARS IN JEWISH STUDIES

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

The Jewish Studies Program mourns the loss of Mitzi Kutchin, wife of Mel Kutchin, who passed away in August. Mel and Mitzi have been generous supporters of Jewish Studies at Penn for many years. With their help, we have created the Jewish Studies Kutchin Faculty Seminar Series, which brings leading scholars to campus throughout the academic year. We send our condolences to the entire Kutchin family.

"Symposium in Honor of Joshua A. Fishman's Eightieth Birthday," co-sponsored with Multilingual Matters, the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education, Penn Language Center, Department of Linguistics, and the Judaic Studies Program of Drexel University, on September 10, 2006.

"A History of the Latvian Jewry: An Insider's Account," with **Peter Krupnikov** (University der Bundeswehr, Munchen), co-sponsored with the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, on September 27, 2006.

"Shmooze with the editor of The Modern Jewish Girls' Guide to Guilt," with **Ruth Ellenson**, co-sponsored with Penn Hillel, on October 11, 2006.

"The Image of God in Classical Judaism - Biblical Literature," with **Yair Lorberbaum** (Bar Ilan University and fellow, Institute for Advanced Study at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem), co-sponsored by The Law School's Caroline Zelaznik Gruss and Joseph S. Gruss Lectures in Talmudic Civil Law, on October 17, 2007.

"The Image of God in Classical Judaism - Talmudic Literature," with **Yair Lorberbaum** (Bar Ilan University and fellow, Institute for Advanced Study at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem), co-sponsored by The Law School's Caroline Zelaznik Gruss and Joseph S. Gruss Lectures in Talmudic Civil Law, on October 23, 2006.

"The Dynamics of Ladino Literature, 16th-20th Centuries," with **Olga Borovaya** (Stanford University), co-sponsored with the Departments of Spanish and French, on November 3, 2006.

Conference on "Jews in France: Crisis and Continuity," with **Vicki Caron** (Cornell

University), **Lawrence Kritzman** (Dartmouth College), **Scott Lerner** (Franklin and Marshall College), **Jonathan Steinberg** (University of Pennsylvania), **Patrick Weil** (Centre d'Histoire Sociale du XXe siecle / Universite Paris I - Pantheon-Sorbonne) and **Nicolas Weill** (Le Monde), co-sponsored with the University Library, the Departments of History and Romance Languages, and the Dean's Office, on November 5, 2006.

"Pius XII, the Second World War, and the Jews" (In commemoration of Kristallnacht, The Night of the Broken Glass), with **Stewart A. Stehlin** (New York University), co-sponsored with the Departments of History and German, on November 9, 2006.



Professors Jonathan Steinberg and Stewart Stehlin

Yiddish Sing-along, with **Alexander Botwinik** (University of Pennsylvania), co-sponsored with the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, and Hillel, on November 9, 2006.

"Celebrating the State: Sephardim and the Uses of 'lo Argentino' in Intra-Community Politics," with **Adriana Brodsky** (St. Mary's College of Maryland), co-sponsored with the Latin American and Latino Studies Program, on November 15, 2006.

"Translating Hebrew Fiction: Haim Sabato & S. Yizhar," with Yaacob Dweck (University of Pennsylvania) and **Nicholas de Lange** (Cambridge University), co-sponsored by the Kelly Writers House, on December 7, 2006.

"Who Was a Jew? Controversies over Jewish Identity from Ancient to Modern Times" and "Who Wrote the Bible, Orthodoxy and Biblical Criticism," with **Lawrence Schiffman** (NYU), co-sponsored with Hillel's Orthodox Community, on January 19 and 20, 2007.

"Choose All that Apply: A Discussion of the History of Jewish Denominationalism in America," with **Jonathan Sarna** (Brandeis University), co-sponsored with Penn Hillel, on February 20, 2007.



Prof. Liliane Weissberg recruits a new student at Falafel Fest

“Sunshine, Blossoms and Blood: H.N. Bialik In His Time, A Literary Biography,” with **Sara Feinstein**, on February 22, 2007.

“Community in Modernity - The Independent Order B’nai B’rith, 1843-1914,” with **Cornelia Wilhelm** (Rutgers University), on March 1, 2007.

“Dropsie College Centenary,” with **Arthur Kiron** (University of Pennsylvania), co-sponsored with the University Library and the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, on March 15, 2007.



Prof. Bob Kraft with CAJS board member, Ele Wood, after Dropsie College Centenary lecture

“Yiddish Sing-along,” with **Alexander Botwinik** (University of Pennsylvania), co-sponsored with the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, and Hillel, on March 22, 2007.

“The Image of the Jews and Judaism in the Latter Part of 20th Century Iran,” with **Rivka Orly Rahimiyan** (Ben-Gurion University), on March 22, 2007.

“CHOSEN!: Philadelphia’s Great Hebraica,” with **David Stern** (University of Pennsylvania), co-sponsored with The Rosenbach Library and Museum, on March 28, 2007.

“The Past and the Future of the Memory of the Holocaust in Poland,” with **Joanna Michlic** (the Richard Stockton College), on March 29, 2007.



Prof. Joanna Michlic (right) with Prof. Ronit Engel

“Hoshanna! Hebrew Music of the High Baroque,” a concert by Philadelphia Baroque Orchestra *Tempesta di Mare* and a talk by **Israel Adler** (Hebrew University), co-sponsored with the Department of Religious Studies, The Philadelphia Music Project, an Artistic Initiative of The Pew Charitable Trusts, administered by The University of the Arts, The National Endowment for the Arts, and The Pennsylvania Humanities Council, on March 31, 2007.

“History, Politics, and Public Debate: The Making of the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe in Berlin,” with **Sibylle Quack** (New York University), co-sponsored with the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, on April 11, 2007.

“From Redaction Criticism to Intertextuality: Daniel 7 and the Son of Man,” with **Daniel Boyarin** (University of California at Berkeley), co-sponsored with the Philadelphia Seminar on Christian Origins, and the Penn Humanities Forum, on April 12, 2007.

“The Dreyfus Affair and Contemporary Anti-Semitism,” with **Paula E. Hyman** (Yale University), and **Yael Perl Ruiz** (great-granddaughter of Alfred Dreyfus), co-sponsored with the Lorraine Beitler Collection Advisory Committee, on April 19, 2007.

## COMING ATTRACTIONS

### A Conference on “*Becoming Modern: The German-Jewish Experience*”

Sunday, March 30, 2008

In a recent book, Yuri Slezkine described the twentieth century as a “Jewish Age”—to be modern would essentially mean to be a Jew. In German historical and cultural studies, this linkage has long been made—only in reference to the last years of the German monarchy and the time of the Weimar Republic. Indeed, what has become known as “modern” German culture—reflected in literature, music, and the visual arts and in a multitude of public media—has been more often than not assigned to Jewish authorship or Jewish subjects. But what do authorship and subject mean in this case? Do we locate the German-Jewish experience as the driving force of this new “modernity,” or is our understanding of this experience the result of this new “modern” world?

A group of scholars, drawn from the United States and abroad, will explore the relationship of “modernity” and the German-Jewish experience in a day-long symposium that will be open to the general public. The symposium will be accompanied by a musical event, and an exhibition in Penn’s rare book division, Van Pelt Library.

**Liliane Weissberg** is organizing this conference, with the assistance of graduate students **Gabriella Skwara** and **Kerry Wallach**

# Library News

## JUDAICA AT PENN'S LIBRARIES

The Judaica collections at Penn—located at the Van Pelt Library, at the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies Library, at the Fisher Fine Arts Library and at the University Museum—continue to grow as an integrated unit within the University library system under the management of **Arthur Kiron**, Schotteinstein-Jesselson Curator of Judaica Collections. The Library staff of the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies – **Judith Leifer**, who oversees the Inter-Library Loan program for the Fellows, **Seth Jerchower**, the CAJS Public Services Librarian, and **Josef Gulka**, who supervises circulation – once again received positive reviews from this past year's research Fellows. Overall, the CAJS library received nearly 2,000 public service contacts, shelved nearly 5,000 volumes, produced over 530 digital images, administered the circulation of over 300 rare items, received over 850 inter-library loan requests and had a remarkable average turn-around time of two days for filled requests. To mark the conclusion of the 2007 CAJS seminar year, **Seth Jerchower**, in collaboration with CAJS Fellows, designed, edited and mounted a beautiful virtual exhibit based on the year's research theme, CAJS Fellows' 2006-07 web-exhibit "Religious Communities in Islamic Empires," <http://www.library.upenn.edu/exhibits/cajs/fellows07/>

## NEW PENN JUDAICA HOMEPAGE

The entirety of Penn Judaica is now accessible via a new web presence located within the Library's Area Studies group. Check-it out at: <http://www.library.upenn.edu/collections/judaical>.

## NEW PENN JUDAICA FAQ LAUNCHED!

Thanks to the efforts of **Seth Jerchower**, a new Judaic Studies FAQ was launched on December 27, 2006. If you have a question, try finding an answer at: <http://faq.library.upenn.edu/>

## COLLECTIONS DEVELOPMENT

Penn's Judaica collections received over \$200,000 in pledges, grants, and gifts in kind during the last year. Among the most exciting new acquisitions was a rare edition of Wolf Ehrenfried Reitzenstein's *Der vollkommene Pferde-Kenner*, printed in Uffenheim by John Simon Meyer in 1764. This beautifully illustrated guide to the horse trade features 29 engraved plates and a special appendix of "decoded" Yiddish words and phrases used by Jewish horse-dealers which have been

transliterated in Gothic letters and translated into German. We extend our deep thanks and appreciation to Penn Library Board of Overseer **Gilbert Mathews, W'65**, for making it possible to acquire this unique treasure for the Penn Library from **Michael Landy Fine Art and Rare Books** in New York City.

We received three newly endowed Judaica book funds, totaling \$120,000: The **Albert J. Wood Judaica Book Fund**; the **Gershwind-Bennett Families Judaica Book Fund**; and the **Barney and Eleanor Frommer Judaica Book Fund**, established by Mr. **Henry Frommer, W'64**, in memory of his parents. These endowed Judaica funds will support the acquisition of books, manuscripts, and other materials for the Judaica collections at Penn in perpetuity.

We are especially grateful to Penn Library Board Overseer **Erik Gershwind, W'93**, as well as **Jackie Gershwind**, and **Stacey Bennett, C'95**, and **Michael Bennett** for their substantial gifts, including an endowed book fund as well as start-up funding for the **American Genizah Project** and for this year's **Robert and Molly Freedman Jewish concert program**.

Among the noteworthy Judaica collections donated this past year has been the **Arnold Levin Haggadah Collection**, containing over 1,800 19th and 20th century haggadot. To learn more about this marvelous collection, given by **Shirley Levin** in memory of her husband **Arnold Levin**, see: <http://www.library.upenn.edu/cajs/Levin-Haggadot.html>

We received anonymous cash gifts towards the purchase of original **Isaac Leeser** manuscript material at auction, including the original school notebooks of Leeser before he emigrated to the United States. We are extremely grateful to our anonymous benefactor for arranging these precious gifts.

We also received a \$10,000 grant from Penn's **Program for Research on Religion and Urban Civil Society (PRRUCS)** to develop phase II of the project "Integrating Information Technologies with the Humanistic Study of Religion and Urban Civil Society in the Middle East," to address pre-modern urban societies in the Middle East. The Curator of Judaica worked in conjunction with Penn faculty members **Heather Sharkey**, **Joseph Lowry**, and **Jamal Elias**, and **William Kopycki** (Middle East Bibliographer), **David McKnight**, Curator of Digital Collections, and **Dennis Mullen**, the library's web-designer at the **Schoenberg Center for Electronic Text and Image** to realize the second phase of this project.

The Jewish Studies Program continues to contribute money towards special purchases, including a recent gift received from **Ruth**

and **Raymond Brenner** and the **Brenner Family Fund for Jewish Studies** in honor of **Gregory Brenner, W'99**, **Adam Brenner, W'01**, **Jason Brenner, W'05**, for the purchase at auction of a copy of **Poonah Haggadah**, a rare, highly sought-after *haggadah shel pesah* printed in the Indian city of Poonah by Vital Sakharam Agnitory in 1874. It contains perhaps the first example of local illustrations of the performance of the Passover service. The JSP also devoted a portion of a generous gift from **Annette Freund** towards the purchase at auction of *Hibur ma'asiyot meha-midrashot veba-agadot*, an early modern collection of Jewish folktales printed in Verona by Francesco dei Rossi in 1647. Thanks also to **Daniel Kestenbaum** and the **Kestenbaum auction house** for all the times the hammer dropped on Penn's bid!

**David Cook, M.D.**, a senior associate, gave a gift subscription, in honor of **Prof. Jeffrey Tigay**, to **Ma'agarim**, The Online Database of the Historical Dictionary of the Hebrew Language. Utilizing the best witnesses from the most reliable transmissions, the site's nine-million-word corpus draws upon some 4,300 Hebrew sources from the classic rabbinic period (2nd century BCE) through the geonic period (11th century CE).

## PUBLIC PROGRAMS

This past March 2007 marked the hundredth anniversary of the chartering of the **Dropsie College for Hebrew and Cognate Learning**, the first state-accredited institution in the world to offer doctoral degrees in Judaic Studies. To honor this occasion, the Penn Library partnered with **Jonathan Steinberg** and the Jewish Studies Program to organize a centenary program, featuring a lecture and reception.

The Library received \$15,000 from a number of sources, including a substantial gift to support public programs from the **Gershwind-Bennett families**, as well as the Middle East Center, Jewish Studies Program, Silvers Visiting Lectureship, Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, the Music Department, Center for Italian Studies, and the Institute for Italian Culture in Washington, D.C. to organize the **8th Robert and Molly Freedman Jewish Concert program**. The concert, entitled "Mediterranean Dialogues," was held at the Harold Prince Theatre, Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, Thursday evening, April 12, 2007. This unique musical event featured **Miriam Meghnagi**, a Libyan-born, Italian Jewish singer and ethnomusicologist, accompanied by Maestro **Giovanni Seneca**, of the Ancona Conservatory. Meghnagi also gave two class presentations during her stay at Penn. The Freedman event featured a gala, pre-concert



Group of scholars at the 2007 Lehmann Workshop

dinner for board members and invited guests at the University Museum Lower Egyptian Gallery.

On May 13 and 14, 2007, the Library joined with the Jewish Studies Program and the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies to host the seventh annual **Manfred R. Lehmann Memorial Master Workshop** on the history of the Jewish book. This year's topic was the importance of the Cairo Genizah for the study of the Jewish Book. Professor **Stefan Reif**, emeritus professor and director of the **Taylor-Schechter Genizah Unit at Cambridge University**, led sessions. As has been customary, the Lehmann workshop, held at the CAJS, 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**, and the **University of Pennsylvania Research Foundation**, and **Andrew H. Cohn, Esq., C'66**, for additional funding.

## GRANT PROJECTS

The **American Genizah Project**, funded with a generous start-up gift from **Erik Gershwind, W'93**, and **Jackie Gershwind**, and **Stacey Bennett, C'95**, and **Michael Bennett**, is a consortium of public institutions and private collectors who are working together to locate, catalog, transcribe, and digitize some of the most important, founding documents of American Jewish history.

The Penn Library received a phase II grant from the **Penn Program for Research on Religion and Urban Civil Society (PRRUCS)** to extend its project, "Integrating Information Technologies with the Humanistic Study of Religion and Urban Civil Society in the Middle East," to include the pre-modern Islamic world. The dynamic new site can be viewed on-line at: <http://www.library.upenn.edu/research/prruc/index.html>

The Penn Library's pilot project with the **Taylor-Schechter Genizah Unit at the Cambridge University Library**, the **Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America** in New York City, Prof. **Ezra Chwat** at the **Institute for Microfilmed Hebrew Manuscripts** in Jerusalem, and Ms. **Heidi Lerner** at the **Stanford University**

**Library**, has now been completed. All the scanning and cataloging of Penn's fragments as well as a sampling of matching fragments located the CUL and at the JTSAL have been loaded. The results may be viewed on-line at: <http://sceti.library.upenn.edu/genizah/index.cfm> The Penn-Cambridge Cairo Genizah project, whose subject matter was a major focus of this year's CAJS Fellowship program, is now expanding to include transcription work to be contributed by CAJS Adjunct Fellow **Mark Cohen's** Princeton University Genizah Transcription Project and the Friedberg Genizah Project in Jerusalem, whose leaders, **Menahem Ben Sasson** and **Haggai Ben Shammai** were CAJS Fellows this year.

## NEWS FLASH: CAJS LIBRARY DISCOVERY!

CAJS Fellow **Haggai Ben Shammai** discovered in the CAJS Library in the personal papers collection of Dropsie professor **Henry Malter** his unpublished critical edition of Yehudah Ibn Tibbon's Hebrew translation of *Saadia Gaon's Judeo-Arabic Sefer Emunot ve-de'ot* ("Book of Beliefs and Opinions"). Plans are now underway to scan Malter's manuscript for further study and prepare a published edition. For more information, see the discussion by Prof. **Ben Shammai** in his contribution to this year's webexhibit: <http://www.library.upenn.edu/exhibits/cajs/fellows07/cajs2007.html>

## DEPARTURES: SETH JERCHOWER

**Seth Jerchow**, Public Services (and most recently and additionally Judaic Research and Instructional Services) Librarian at the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies Library since March 1, 2000, has accepted the position of Curator of the Price Library Judaica Collection at the University of Florida, Gainesville. Seth's contributions to the development of the "Penn Judaica" program at the University of Pennsylvania Libraries have been of exceptional significance. His work on the Penn-Cambridge Cairo Genizah project has been nothing short of historic in importance. Seth

helped to realize our Genizah project's proof of concept: namely to link digital images of fragments to their cataloging metadata in order to provide on-line access to fragments physically dispersed around the world. During his tenure at the CAJS Library, Seth also designed and edited seven years of CAJS Fellows' web-exhibits and co-curated two of his own, including a marvelous physical exhibition honoring the 800th anniversary of the birth of Petrarch, and another about the history of Rabbinic Lexicography, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the death of Marcus Jastrow, the father of American rabbinic dictionary making. We congratulate Seth on his appointment and wish him continued success in his career.

## IN MEMORIAM

Members of the American Genizah Project and Penn Judaica join in mourning the death of **Leah Levitz Fishbane**. Leah died of a brain tumor on March 1, 2007. Leah was married to Professor **Eitan Fishbane**, and was the mother of a four-year-old daughter Aderet Fishbane. A graduate student of Professor **Jonathan Sarna** at Brandeis University, Leah specialized in 19th century American Jewish history. In the course of her work on the Leeser pilot project, she made significant contributions to the development of our cataloging template and was always a joy to work with her. Leah was transcribing the Leeser letters in the Kaplan collection in the days before her tragic death. Leah's participation in our project will not be forgotten and her memory will remain for a blessing.

## THANK YOU!

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

Jean S. Adelman; American Jewish Archives; Aviva Astrinsky; Beki L. Bahar; Adina Bar-El; Nira Bartal; Miriam and Ben-Zion Barlev; Hakan Bengtsson; Stacey and Michael Bennett; Terri Binder and Joseph Koschitzki; Howard A. Blum; Ann Bonn and Helen Weindling; Ruth and Raymond Brenner and the Brenner Family Fund for Jewish Studies in honor of Gregory Brenner, W'99, Adam Brenner, W'01, Jason Brenner, W'05; Petr Charvat; Alma Orlovitz Cohen, FA'44; Boris Cohen, Dov ha-Cohen; Martin Cohen; Andrew H. Cohn, Esq., C'66; Gloria Cohn; Julie L. Coleman; David G. Cook; Flora Campos Cornfield; Alon Dahan; Muhammad A. Dandamayev; Avi Decter; Yvonne Edels; Alfred H. Eidlitz; Michael E. Eigen, C'57; Jeremy-Stuart de Fishberg; Sara Feinstein; Sandra Fifer; Pamela Foa; Megan Foley; John L. Frank; Robert and Molly Freedman; Jack and Naomi Friedman; Annette Freund; Michal Galas; Gilad J. Gevanyahu; Erik

(continued on page 17)

# About Our Students

## UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

Six students graduated in May 2007 with majors or minors in the different Jewish Studies departmental tracks.

- One senior completed the Jewish Studies Program's Interdisciplinary Major: **Rachel Adler**
- Two seniors completed a major in the Jewish History Concentration in the Department of History: **Sarah Breger** and **Miriam Nogradi**
- Two seniors completed the Jewish Studies Program's Interdisciplinary Minor: **Elana Hoffman** and **Brett Levi**
- One senior completed a minor in the Hebraica/Judaica Concentration in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations: **Aliza Boim**

## PRIZES AND HONORS

The **Philip E. Goldfein Scholarship Award in Jewish Studies**, which is supported by a generous gift from **Robert, C'63**, and **Phillip, C'34, Goldfein**, is awarded to both undergraduates and graduate students to support research projects and unusual academic experiences. This past year's awards went to undergraduates: **Rachel Adler** and **Jessica Swiatlo**.

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 **David B. Kriesman**.

The **Workmen's Circle/Arbeiter Ring Prize 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. This year's prize was awarded to **Marissa Steinberg**.

The **Raymond and Ruth Brenner Grants in Jewish Studies**, designated for special opportunities in Judaic Studies, were awarded to graduate students: **Andrew Berns**, **Todd Carmody**, **Yaacob Dweck**, **Dana Hercbergs** and **Jonathan Seif**. This award was established through the generosity of **Raymond and Ruth Brenner and their family** (parents of **Jason, W'05**, **Adam, W'01**, and **Gregory, W'99**, Brenner). From the Language Study Support Fund, **Kerry Wallach** received funds for Yiddish language study at YIVO.



Sarah Breger (major), Brett Levi (minor) and Aliza Boim (minor) pose for photo on graduation day.

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. Last year's recipient went to graduate student **V. Kerry Inman**, for "The Importance of Mitochondrial and Y-Chromosome DNA for Middle-East Studies."

Thanks to a \$10,000 endowment gift last winter by **Dr. Rosaline Goldin** and **Ms. Julia Goldin** of Bala Cynwyd, JSP was able to create the **Samuel and Esther Goldin Endowment Award Fund** to benefit an outstanding student majoring or minoring in Jewish studies at the University of Pennsylvania. This year's award went to **Sarah Breger**, a senior major in History with a Jewish History concentration.

In addition, JSP has established the **Judah Goldin Memorial Prize for Excellence in Advanced Hebrew Studies** (replaces the The B'nai Zion Award). This year's award was given to **Dorit J. Price-Levine**.



Students on Locust Walk get free falafel and course rosters.

## GRADUATE STUDIES IN JEWISH STUDIES AT PENN

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

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

## THE FALK FELLOWSHIP

The JSP administers the **Margaret Schoenfeld Falk Fellowship**, the only graduate fellowship "owned" and controlled by Jewish Studies. 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 and persuading them to come to Penn. 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. Current Falk Fellows are first-year **Konstanze Kunst** (History), fourth-year student **Kerry Wallach** (Germanic Languages), and

third-year **David Shyovitz** (History). Kunst is working in the field of medieval and early modern Jewish history, Wallach is studying modern German-Jewish and Hebrew literatures, and Shyovitz early modern Jewish history.

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. This was the genesis of the Falk Fellowship, which, over the years, turned from one to two fellowships. At present, JSP is able to award Falk fellowships every two out of three years.

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 educate and produce the scholars and teachers of tomorrow. As the following portraits of our graduate students will tell you, the Falk fellowship has been a major boon for Jewish Studies at Penn. We owe an enormous debt of gratitude to Ed Falk for his generosity!

## LIFE AFTER GRADUATE SCHOOL

Every year in this newsletter we include short updates from all our current grad students, and we do so in this issue as well. 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.

**Shawn Zelig Aster** taught Northwest Semitic Inscriptions and Prophetic Reactions to Assyrian Imperialism (a graduate class) in the Department of Bible at Haifa University in the fall semester. He also served as teaching assistant for Elementary Akkadian at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. In the spring semester, he taught a new course entitled Literary Reactions to Conquest and International Conflict in the Hebrew Bible and in the Ancient Near East to students from the Bible, Political Science, and History Departments at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. This summer, he taught The Books of the Bible in the Institute for the Study of the Bible and Its World, at the Rothberg International School of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and served as coordinator of the Institute.

**Shalom Holtz** is Assistant Professor of Bible at Yeshiva University, where he has taught Introduction to Bible, Hosea and Amos, and History of the Ancient Near East. His doctoral dissertation and several articles have been accepted for publication. He also serves as a consultant to the Neo-Babylonian Trial Proceedings Project, a project funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

**Debra Kaplan** is currently in her third year as Assistant Professor of Jewish Studies at Yeshiva College. This summer, she taught a course on medieval Jewish women and family at the Bernard Revel Graduate School. Prof. Kaplan's recent publications include two articles about Jewish self-texts, an article about confessionalization and the Jews, and an article on Alsatian Jews and the imperial legal system in the Holy Roman Empire. She is completing her work on Jewish-Christian relations in Strasbourg during the Protestant Reformation.

**Rebecca Kobrin** is an assistant professor in Columbia University's history department.



Konstanze Kunst, newest Falk Fellow

**Susan Marks**, Religious Studies 2003 Ph.D., is the Klingenstein Assistant Professor of Judaic Studies at New College of Florida, the Honors College of the state of Florida. This past year she presented a paper entitled "Bourdieu's Response to Van Gennepe: Implications for Roman Period Jewish Betrothal" at The Rites of Passage of the Life Cycle in Antiquity Symposium, Getty Villa, Malibu. In addition, she was selected to participate in the Wabash Center Teaching and Learning Workshop for Pre-Tenure Faculty at Colleges and Universities. Her article, "Women in Early Judaism: Twenty-five Years of Research and Reenvisioning," will appear in the February 2008 issue of *Currents in Biblical Research*.

**Kevin McGeough** continues to teach archaeology, history, and liberal education at the University of Lethbridge in Canada. In the fall, Kevin is teaching courses on the archaeology of Ancient Israel, the problem of genocide, and a course designed to help students transition from high school to university learning. Peeters Press will publish his second book, *Exchange Relationships at Ugarit, Volume 1*, this fall. The second volume is currently in preparation. Kevin is also editor of two volumes (covering the period from 4000-1000 BCE) in the ABC-CLIO Encyclopedia of World History, due out this fall. Last fall, a paper of his on the Book of Exodus (based on a paper written in Jeffrey Tigay's seminar) was published in the journal *Biblica*. His current research program attempts to understand the role of antiquities in modern political contexts; he is the recipient of a ULRF grant to study the interaction between museum, cultural resource management, nationalism, and post-colonial discourse. Last February, Kevin became engaged to Dr. Elizabeth Galway, a professor of English literature at the University of Lethbridge. The two plan on marrying in the summer of 2008 although no date is yet set.

**Adam Shear** (PhD, History, 2003) is an Assistant Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Pittsburgh, where he teaches courses on medieval and modern Jewish history, Jewish-Christian relations, introduction to western religions, and graduate courses on historiography and the history of the book. He was the English-language editor for the recently published translation of *The Historical Writings of Joseph of Rosheim*, ed. Chava Fraenkel-Goldschmidt, trans. Naomi Schendowich (Brill, 2006). He is working on the revisions for a book on the reception of Judah Halevi's Book of the Kuzari, which will be published next year, and is co-editing, with Joseph Hacker, a volume on the history of the Jewish book that grew out of the 2005-2006 CAJS fellowship group. He is also working on a project on the transmission of medieval philosophical texts in Renaissance Italy and the impact of print. He will finish his term as co-chair for the Modern Judaism Works in Progress Group at the annual meeting of the Association for Jewish Studies in December 2007. In March 2007, he and his wife welcomed their third child.

**Andrea Weiss**, Assistant Professor of Bible at the Hebrew Union College-Institute of Religion in New York, is Associate Editor of *The Torah: A Women's Commentary*, which will be published by the URJ Press this fall. Her research on *Figurative Language in Biblical Prose Narrative: Metaphor in the Book of Samuel* was published by Brill (Supplements to Vetus Testamentum, 2006), and she wrote an article on biblical poetry in the revised *Encyclopaedia Judaica*.

**Michael James Williams** received his Ph.D. from AMES in 1999 with a dissertation entitled "Deception in Genesis: An Investigation into the Morality of a Unique Biblical Phenomenon," that explored the significance, interrelatedness, and implications of the frequent accounts of deception in the narratives of Genesis. Since graduating, Michael has been appointed Professor of Old Testament at Calvin Theological Seminary in Grand Rapids, MI, where he teaches courses on ancient Near Eastern and biblical languages and texts. He has also lectured in Kenya, Ukraine, and Poland, and published two books, *Deception in Genesis: An Investigation into the Morality of a Unique Biblical Phenomenon* and *The Prophet and His Message: Reading Old Testament Prophecy Today*.

## GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

**Spencer Allen**, a former William Penn fellow, has begun working on his dissertation, which explores the relationship between deities and their

# About Our Students

associated epithets. Last fall, he served as the teaching assistant for David Stern's Ancient Interpretation of the Bible. This year he is a Critical Writing Fellow, teaching the freshman writing seminar entitled "The Bible in Rock'n'Roll."

**Conny Aust** is a fourth year Benjamin Franklin fellow in the History department, specializing in Jewish History in Central and Eastern Europe. She passed her comprehensive exams last fall, and spent the academic year 2006-07 in Europe doing research in various European archives (e.g. in Warsaw, Gdansk, Berlin, Leipzig, Amsterdam) for her dissertation "Between Amsterdam and Riga: Networks of Jewish Merchants in Warsaw 1750-1815." An International Dissertation Research Fellowship by the Social Science Research Council and a Doctoral Scholarship from the Memorial Foundation supported this research for Jewish Culture. In the summer, she took part in the International Forum of Young Scholars on East European Jewry in London.

**Andrew Berns**, a Benjamin Franklin fellow, recently finished his third year of coursework in the History department, specializing in early modern Jewish and European history, with a focused interest in 16th-century intellectual history. He passed his comprehensive exams in May 2007. This past summer he spent time in Italy and Israel conducting preliminary dissertation research.

**Francesca Bregoli**, a former Benjamin Franklin fellow in History, is completing her dissertation "Mediterranean Enlightenment: Jewish Culture in Livorno, 1737-1790." This fall she moved to England where she accepted a two-year Junior Research Fellowship at the Oriental Institute and the Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies of the University of Oxford. This past spring Francesca lectured on Jewish-Christian relations at synagogues in Penn Valley and Havertown. She also presented her research at SUNY Binghamton and the Viterbi Symposium on Italian Jewish Studies at UCLA. Her article, "Jewish Scholarship, Science, and the Republic of Letters: Joseph Attias in Eighteenth-Century Livorno," is scheduled to appear by the end of the year in *ALEPH* 7 (2007).

**Naftali Cohn**, a former Falk fellow and sixth year student in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, has been appointed Assistant Professor of Late Antique Judaism in the Department of Religion at Concordia University in Montreal, Quebec. This year his courses include the Hebrew Bible, Ancient Judaism, and a graduate course on the Talmud. Cohn is in the final stages of writing and revising his dissertation, "Imagining Jerusalem: Ritual Narratives in the Mishnah," which he will defend in the fall semester.

**Rebecca Cutler**, a Benjamin Franklin fellow in the History department, is continuing her fourth year of graduate studies specializing in modern Jewish history. This fall she will take her comprehensive exams and begin to work on her dissertation, which examines the medical activities of American Jews in the post-World War II era. To support her research, Rebecca received a Marcus Center fellowship from the American Jewish Archives.

**Yaacob Dweck** completed his fourth year as a Wexner Graduate fellow in Jewish History. This past year he has spent researching his dissertation, a study of Ari Nohem, Leon Modena's polemic against Kabbalah. Over the course of the summer, he traveled to the United Kingdom and Jerusalem to pursue his research. In addition he presented a paper on "Maimonides, Modena and Ari Nohem" at the European Association for Jewish Studies Colloquium at Wolfson College, Oxford. Toby Press published his English translation of Haim Sabato's novel, *The Dawning of the Day*, last winter.

**Benjamin Fisher**, a Benjamin Franklin fellow, specializes in early modern European Jewish history. He finished his third year of coursework in the History department, and in the fall semester he was a teaching assistant for medieval and early modern Jewish history. In the summer he participated

in the dissertation proposal workshop and traveled to Amsterdam for preliminary dissertation research on Sephardic biblical scholarship.

**Jennifer Glaser** is a sixth year student in Comparative Literature, working on a dissertation about race and Jewish American literature. Over the past year, she has taught a writing seminar called "American Transformations" about ethnic American memoir and the self-help ethos as part of her Critical Writing Fellowship. In recognition of her teaching work (particularly in Women's Studies), Jennifer has received a 2006-07 SAS Dean's Award for Distinguished Teaching. In the fall, in addition to going on the job market, she is teaching two courses in the Women's Studies program at Penn. During the past year, Jennifer has had work accepted for the summer issue of the academic journal *MELUS (Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States)*, Philadelphia magazine, and the New York Times, as well as in an anthology of essays from Random House. She has presented papers at the MLA conference and the Society for the Study of American Women Writers, acted as a respondent for the literature panel at NYU's postwar Jewish Women conference, been a visiting writer at Ohio State University's English and Creative Writing program, and worked on the organizing committee for Penn's first grad student conference on Women, Gender, and Sexuality. Along with Rebecca Cutler, she has also co-coordinated Penn's Jewish Studies Colloquium.

**Moriah Simon Hazani** is a third year Benjamin Franklin fellow in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, focusing on rabbinic literature. In her second year she took classes, served as a teacher assistant at the university and taught as an adjunct instructor at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. This past summer she continued her study of Greek language and participated in a summer school in Jerusalem titled "Defining Heresy," as well as spending time in Israel with her family.

**Tammy Jacobowitz** is currently writing her dissertation on Leviticus Rabbah, which explores the rabbinic discourse of the body, illness, and sexuality. She teaches Rabbinics for Me'ah and lectures in communities in the NY and NJ area. In the winter, she was a scholar-in-residence at the Keshet Israel synagogue in Georgetown. Over the summer, she taught at the Yeshivat Chovevei Torah Bible conference in Teaneck, NJ. She also taught an intensive mini-course for the AJU in Los Angeles on the pedagogy of Bible and Midrash. In June, she attended the AAJR seminar for advanced graduate students. In the spring, Tammy and her husband, Ronnie Perelis, welcomed their third child into the family, Batsheva Rachel.

**Julie Lieber** currently lives in Denver, Colorado and will be teaching at the University of Denver in their History and Judaic Studies programs this year. She will also be completing her Ph.D. this year on Jewish women and gender in turn of the century Vienna.

**Linda Meiberg** is currently writing her dissertation entitled "Figural Motifs on Philistine Pottery and Their Connections with The Aegean World" in the Interdisciplinary Graduate Group of Art and Archaeology of the Mediterranean World. For the past year she has been teaching modern Hebrew through Gratz College and working as a Research Assistant for the Center for Ancient Studies at Penn. Linda has recently been awarded the Samuel H. Kress Travelling Fellowship and will be spending the 2007-08 academic year at the Albright Institute for Archaeological Research in Jerusalem and at the American School of Classical Studies in Athens completing her dissertation research. Over the summer, Linda will continue excavating at Tell es-Safi in Israel with the team from Bar Ilan University.

**Anne Oravetz Albert** expects to complete her dissertation, on Sephardi political thought in seventeenth-century Amsterdam, this year. After having taught a course on Jewish political thought in the History department last year, her work this year will be supported by a Doris Quinn Fellowship from the School of Arts and Sciences, and a Dissertation Grant from the Foundation for Jewish Culture (formerly the National Foundation for Jewish Culture).

**Matthew Rutz**, a former William Penn and Louis J. Kolb fellow, is working to finish his dissertation. This past year he published articles in the *Journal of Cuneiform Studies* and *Nouvelles Assyriologiques Brèves et Utilitaires*. He also presented aspects of his dissertation research at the 217th Meeting of the American Oriental Society in San Antonio. During the spring semester Matthew was a Graduate Teaching Fellow for Ian Lustick's course JWST 253 International Politics of the Middle East.

**Ellie Schainker**, a Benjamin Franklin fellow, continues to work on her dissertation entitled, "Imperial Hybrids: Russian-Jewish Converts in the Nineteenth Century." This past year, Schainker received a Hadassah-Brandeis Institute research award and a SAS Dissertation Research Fellowship. She spent the spring in Israel conducting archival research. Looking ahead, Schainker has received a YIVO fellowship and Center for Jewish History fellowship for the 2007-08 academic year.

From Spring 2006 through Spring 2007 **Gabriella Skwara** has been working together with Dr. Kathryn Hellerstein on a pilot project to digitize audio, visual, and spiraled web interactive materials for first year Yiddish (YDSH 101 and 102). The project aims to bring modern technology into the Yiddish curriculum, thus providing students with an enhanced means of learning and practicing the language. The digital materials, which are accessed through the Blackboard site, contain various forms of vocabulary and grammar review and practice. They also offer students the opportunity to apply their skills through Yiddish film clips and musical selections along with various web realia of the Yiddish speaking world. An SAS Teaching Innovations Grant funds the project. Gabriella is a second-year doctoral student in the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures. In 2005-06, Gabriella studied Yiddish language at Penn and at YIVO, with a JSP Brenner Research Award.

**Yehuda Seif**, a William Penn fellow, completed his fourth year in the Religious Studies department, specializing in medieval Ashkenazic Jewry. Last year, he

worked on his dissertation proposal on the topic of Charity in Medieval Ashkenaz. This summer, Seif studied intensive Latin at Penn, and then did archival research in Jerusalem with the help of a Goldfein research award. He will spend this year completing his qualifying exams and working on his dissertation.

**David Shyovitz**, a Falk fellow and Wexner Graduate fellow, is in his third year in the History department, focusing on medieval and early modern Jewish history. This year, he will be preparing for his comprehensive exams, serving as a TA in the History department, and, in the fall, teaching a course on the thought of Moses Maimonides at the Drisha Institute for Jewish Education in New York.

**Kerry Wallach**, a Max Kade fellow, Falk fellow, and currently a Benjamin Franklin fellow, completed her third year of coursework in the German Department, focusing on German-Jewish literature. Last year she taught Intermediate German and served as a teaching assistant for The Devil's Pact in Literature, Film, and Music. She presented papers at a number of conferences, including Women in German, German-Jewish Women Writers 1900-1938 at the University of London, and at a conference commemorating Mascha Kaléko's 100th birthday in New York. She was awarded the 2007 Penn Prize for Excellence in Teaching by Graduate Students, and she is also the 2007 recipient of the Arthur M. Daemmrich and Alfred Guenther Memorial Prize for Excellence in German Studies. This past summer she studied Yiddish at YIVO/NYU.

**Susan Zeelander**, a student in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, is working on her dissertation on literary aspects of biblical narratives. During the academic year she also teaches Adult Education courses at synagogues in the area. This year she will be teaching aspects of narratives in Genesis, at Tiferet Bet Israel, Blue Bell, PA.

---

---

---

---

## LIBRARY NEWS *(continued from page 13)*

and Jackie Gershwind, Howard M. Girsh; Joann S. Girsh; Andrew Gluck; Allen and Adele Gottfried; Helaine Shoag Greenberg; Adele and Bertram Greenspan; Guido Guastalla; Silvia Guastalla; Gail Morrison-Hall; Marjorie Hassen; Leonard Hayflick; Marvin Heller; Richard Henriquez; Alice Herman; Bruna Herzfeld; Eric Hoffman, GR'78, L'84; Irving Horn; John R. Hose; Thomas Jefferson Foundation, Inc.; Seth Jerchow; Jewish Publication Society of America; Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America; Maxine Kalina; Michael Kaplan; Deborah Karp; Melvin Kates; Jeffrey Keil W'65, Murad El-Kodsi; Yaacov Kotlicki; Norman Kransdorf; Judith Korman Langsfeld CW'67; Eric M. Lankin, W'78; Eric Laupot; Judith Leifer; Marvin Lessen; Walter A. Levy, G'73; Lenora M. and John E. Link; Long Island Association of Jewish Libraries; Jack Lunzer; Jane Moskowitz Mack; Barbara Magalnick; Mona Magnis; Paul David Mandel; Eugene Mark; Yaakov Mashiah; Gilbert Mathews, W'70; Barbara Matt; Selly Mizrahi; Eleanor Chana Mlotek; Tamara Morgenstern; Musée d'art et d'histoire du Judaïsme; Ezekiel N. and Margaret Musleah; National Museum of American Jewish History; Iris Newman; Jeffrey I. Pasek, L'76; Penn Program for

Research on Religion and Urban Civil Society (PRRUCS); Seymour Piwoz; Jerry and Ellen Prince, G'74; Hilda Pring; Rose Rechnic; Frieda Reider; Ruth Rin; Evelyn Ringold; Barry S. Robbins; Lena Roos; Faye S. Rosenthal, CW'71; Jack Roth; David Ruderman; Victor D. Sanua; Lois Satalof; Peter Schulman; Robert Seltzer; Shalom Club at Lake Ridge, Toms River, New Jersey; Moshe A. Shaltiel-Gracian; Morris Shelanski; Harvey Sheldon; Adele Silver; Francine and Marvin Silverstein; Flor Siperstein; Eric L. Stern; Harry Stern; Ione Apfelbaum Strauss in honor of Erika A. Strauss; Paul A. Tanker; Yirmiyahu Ahron Taub; Selig A. Tauenblatt; Stephen D. Toback; Fortune Franchetti Treves; Iosif I. Vaisman; Wout Jac. Van Bekkum; Marvin Verman; Saul Viener; Naomi Vogelmann-Goldfeld; Temira Volcanyi; Bert Vorcheimer; Christine Walsh; Kevin Walsh; Lewis Wechsler; Meier Weisblum; Yitschok Weisblum; George H. Weiss; Falk Wiesemann; Ruth Westheimer; Norma R. Weiser; Anita J. Willens; Stephen M. Wind, C'00; Gerald Wolpe; Albert J. Wood; Ele Wood; Leonard Wood; Dan Wyman; YIVO Institute for Jewish Research; Gilbert Young; Roza Zaks; Joseph Zernik.

**The following CAJS Fellows and guests have donated copies of their scholarship to the CAJS**

**Library collection:** Michela Andreatta; Elisheva Baumgarten; Adina Bar-El; Hamutal Bar-Yosef; Israel Bartal; Malachi Beit-Arie; Dan Ben-Amos; Yaron Ben-Naeh; Shlomo Berger; Adele Berlin; Mirosława Bulat; Stephen Burnett; Alan D. Crown; Yaacov Deutsch; Aron Dotan; Harold Allen Drake; Jacob Elbaum; David Engel; Shamma Friedman; Seymour Gitin; Sylvie Anne Goldberg; Paul Grendler; Alessandro Guetta; Joseph Hacker; Orna Has; Galit Hasan-Rokem; Elliott Horowitz; Adiel Kadari; Tamar Kadari; Marion Kant; Barbara Kirschenblatt-Gimblett; Samuel Z. Klauzner; Michael Kramer; Daniel Lasker; Sara Japhet; Ruth Kartun-Blum; Fabrizio Lelli; Gideon Libson; Berahyahu Lifshitz; Ora Limor; Yehiel Limor; Aharon Maman; Rachel Manekin; Richard Popkin; Riv-Ellen Prell; Stefan Reif; Shalom Sabar; Dalit Rom-Shiloni; Alan Rosen; Moshe Rosman; Tovah Rosen; Gerson Shaked; Jeffrey Shoulson; Daniel Sheerin; Marcos Silber; Mark S. Smith; Haym Soloveitchik; Adam Teller; Smadar Tirosh-Heyd; Chava Turniansky; Israel Yuval; Mordechai Zalkin; Ziony Zevit.

# About Our Faculty (continued from page 7)

Association for Jewish Studies in San Diego. This September, she participated in a scholars' conference at Stanford University in honor of the Israeli Iraqi author Sami Michael. At that conference, she presented a paper entitled "The Image of Haifa in the Novel 'Trumpet in the Wadi.'" Gold's recent publications include "The Topography of the City and the Body: Yehudit Katzir's Haifa" in *Hebrew Studies*, Vol. XLVII, 281-294 and "The Child, the Messiah and the Yearnings" in *Festschrift in Honor of Dan Miron*, Hannan Hever, ed. (Jerusalem: Mosad Bialik), 735-746 (in Hebrew). She has also been invited to deliver a lecture at Tulane University in January 2008.

**Kathryn Hellerstein**, the Ruth Meltzer Senior Lecturer in Yiddish and Jewish Studies, continues to serve as Undergraduate Director of the Jewish Studies Program. In the spring, she was awarded a continuation of her Penn SAS Language Teaching Innovation Grant to develop on-line pedagogical materials for teaching Yiddish. In 2006, Hellerstein was first place winner of the California Institute for Yiddish Culture and Language annual poetry translation contest. Her recent publications include "Beyond the Purim Shpil: Reinventing the Scroll of Esther in Modern Yiddish Poetry," in *Jews and the Creation of Modern Jewish Culture in Eastern Europe*, eds. Gabriella Safran and Ben Nathans, University of Pennsylvania Press; "Ruth Speaks in Yiddish Poems: Roza Yakubovitch and Itzik Manger," in *Scrolls of Love: Reading Ruth and the Song of Songs*, eds. Peter Hawkins and Lesleigh Cushing, Fordham University Press; and "Moyshe-Leyb Halperns Kunst" in the Yiddish weekly *Forverts*. Her translations from the Yiddish and her own poems appeared in *Prairie Schooner*. Hellerstein presented academic lectures at the Symposium on Modern Yiddish Literature at the Menasseh ben Israel Institute, the University of Amsterdam and Franklin and Marshall College. She chaired a panel on Yiddish Poetry and Song at the Association for Jewish Studies Convention in San Diego, where she also continues to serve as Coordinator of the Yiddish Literature Section. She is poetry editor of *Kerem* and on the Editorial Advisory Board for *Nashim: A Journal of Jewish Women's Studies and Gender Issues*, and also for the journal *Yiddish*. She serves on the Jewish Publication Society's National Council and the Academic Advisory Committee for Hadassah Research Institute on Jewish Women.

**Arthur Kiron**, Schotteinstein-Jesselson Curator of Judaica Collections and Adjunct Assistant Professor of History, reviewed "Hebrew Printing in America, 1735-1926," in *Judaica Librarianship* vol. 13 (2007); delivered

the 100th anniversary address marking the founding of Dropsie College, on March 15; presented the "American Genizah Project," at the 42nd Annual Association of Jewish Libraries Convention, Monday, June 18, and a paper on "Chartism and the Jews" at a conference at Birkbeck College, University of London, on July 10. He organized the Robert and Molly Freedman Jewish Concert program, "Mediterranean Dialogues, featuring Miriam Meghnagi, a Libyan-born, Italian Jewish singer and ethnomusicologist, accompanied by Maestro Giovanni Seneca, at the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, on April 12. Among the grant projects he directed was phase two of a Middle East studies initiative funded by the University of Pennsylvania's Program for Research on Religion and Urban Civil Society (PRRUCS), the ongoing Penn-Cambridge Genizah partnership, and the "American Genizah project." In the spring, he served on the Penn Library's Digitization Selection Criteria Committee.

**Robert Kraft**, Emeritus Professor of Religious Studies, continues to teach an advanced graduate seminar each term. During the current academic year he is offering a study of Greco-Roman Realia—inscriptions, papyri, coins, art, archaeology, architecture, etc. (including various visiting experts). He continues to pursue the long-range projects that include describing and digitizing the University's papyri collections (as part of the Advanced Papyrological Information System [APIS] project) and creating electronic files for the textual variants in the manuscripts of Greek Jewish scriptures (as part of the Computer Assisted Tools for Septuagint/Scriptural Studies [CATSS] project). Details of these and other activities may be found on his web page at <http://lccat.sas.upenn.edu/rs/nak/kraft.html>, including descriptions of the project to update and expand on M. R. James' *Lost Apocrypha of the Old Testament* (1920), and a sister project to update the English edition of Harnack's *Mission and Expansion of Early Christianity* (1908, 1924 German). As a follow-up to his November 2006 presidential address on "Paranoia: Beside, Before, and Beyond 'Bible Studies'" at the annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature (now available in the *Journal of Biblical Literature* for March 2007 as well as online), Bob gave two lectures at the University of Toronto in April. In the summer he participated in a conference in Tuscany, Italy, on the books of Jubilees and Enoch, and also presented a paper to the international papyrology congress in Ann Arbor, MI on the hundreds of papyri sold on eBay during the past two years.

**Ian S. Lustick**, Bess W. Heyman Professor in the Political Science department, visited Israel this spring where he lectured on various topics at the Hebrew University, Tel-Aviv University, and Bar-Ilan University. At the 2007 annual meeting of the Association for Israel Studies in Ra'aana, he presented a paper entitled "Leaving the Middle East: Israel and 'haBotz haMizrach Tichoni.'" Lustick's most recent books are *Trapped in the War on Terror and Exile and Return: Predicaments of Palestinians and Jews*, edited with Ann M. Lesch. At a recent conference at the University of Exeter, in England, on "A Rights-Based Solution to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict," he presented a paper entitled "One State Not Two? A Cruel Examination of the Two-States-Are-Impossible Argument for a Single State in Palestine/the Land of Israel."

**Benjamin Nathans** was appointed the Ronald S. Lauder Endowed Term Associate Professor of History. Together with Prof. Gabriella Safran (Stanford U.), he edited *Culture Front: Representing Jews in Eastern Europe*, based on a yearlong seminar at Penn's CAJS and forthcoming with Penn Press. His tribute to his late graduate school advisor appeared as "In and Out of Class: Reginald Zelnik as Teacher and Mentor," in *Perils of Pankratova. Some Stories from the Annals of Soviet Historiography: A Memorial Volume* (Seattle, 2005). Nathans contributed encyclopedia entries for *Europe Since 1914: Encyclopedia of the Age of War and Reconstruction and the Encyclopedia of Jewish Culture in the Era of Modernization and Secularization* [Hebrew], and presented work at Penn Law School, the University of Bremen (Germany), and Denver University, where he gave a series of master classes in the "Rimon" program and the John C. Livingston Memorial Lecture in the history department. His book *Beyond the Pale: The Jewish Encounter with Late Imperial Russia* is currently being translated into Hebrew. Nathans will be on leave during 2007-08.

**Josh Perelman** is a postdoctoral fellow of American Jewish History at the University of Pennsylvania. He also serves as the Deputy Director and Museum historian at the National Museum of American Jewish History. Perelman is currently working on a manuscript entitled "Choreographing Identity, Modern Dance and American Jewish Life, 1924-1954."

**David B. Ruderman** served as Sackler University Scholar of The Mortimer and Raymond Sackler Institute of Advanced Studies, Tel Aviv University beginning a three-year term, 2007-09 [one month each year]. He also served as visiting professor of Jewish studies at the University of Amsterdam in the spring of 2007. He published a new book entitled *Connecting the Covenants: Judaism and*

*the Search for Christian Identity in Eighteenth Century England* (University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, PA., June, 2007). He also published "Mezcla de identidades: judíos, cristianos y las cambiantes nociones del otro en la Europa de la era moderna temprana," *Europa, America y el Mundo: Tiempos Historicos*, ed. Roger Chartier and Antonio Feros (Madrid/Barcelona, 2006); "A History of Jewish Engagement: Doctors/Healers in the Jewish Tradition," *Healing and the Jewish Imagination*, ed. William Cutter (Woodstock, Vermont, 2007) and "The Impact of Early Modern Jewish Thought on the Eighteenth Century: A Challenge to the Notion of the Sephardic Mystique," in *Resianne Fontaine, Andrea Schatz, and Irene Zwiep*, eds., *Sepharad in Ashkenaz: Medieval Knowledge and Eighteenth-Century Enlightened Discourse* (Amsterdam, 2007). He gave lectures this past year at the University of Miami, the Hebrew University, Tel Aviv University, University of Haifa, University of Amsterdam, University of Potsdam, Abraham Geiger College in Berlin, and delivered a three part lecture series at the University of Antwerp.

**Jonathan Steinberg** acted as chair of the Jewish Studies Program in the academic year 2006-07, while Beth Wenger took a sabbatical. Nothing utterly disastrous occurred. His lecture, "Switzerland the Jews" has been accepted for publication in the Leo Baeck Yearbook. He and Dr. Marion Kant gave a third version of the lecture course "Secular Judaism and Secular Jews: Lives and Choices" at the Gershman Y and he presented several films at the Jewish Film Festival of Philadelphia.

**David Stern**, Ruth Meltzer Professor of Classical Hebrew Literature, returned to teaching after a year on sabbatical and medical leave. During the past year, he completed co-editing (with Natalie Dohrmann) *Jewish Biblical Interpretation and Cultural Exchange*, to be published by the University of Pennsylvania Press in the coming year, and includes a chapter he wrote entitled "Comparative Exegesis and the Ancient Interpretation of the Song of Songs." He also curated a major exhibition at Philadelphia's Rosenbach Museum & Library entitled "Chosen: Philadelphia's Great Hebraica," consisting of some sixty books and scrolls that Stern discovered and identified in Philadelphia public collections including many volumes from the University of Pennsylvania's libraries, and wrote the illustrated catalogue for the exhibit which traces the history of the Jewish book from the 10th until the 11th century. In January, Stern delivered the Frank Talmadge Memorial Lecture at the Fisher Library of the University of Toronto, and in June, the Leeser Rosenthal/Juda Palachi Memorial Lecture at the Bibliotheca Rosenthaliana at the University of Amsterdam. In February, Stern served as a visiting scholar at the Medieval Institute at the University of Notre Dame, and also lectured during the year at Columbia University, Tulane University, and New College in Sarasota, Florida.

He also served as co-director of the Early Career Faculty Workshop sponsored by the American Academy for Jewish Research at the University of Michigan, and taught for the Meah Program in their inaugural season in Cherry Hill, NJ. At Penn, he continued directing the Manfred Lehmann Master Workshop in the History of the Jewish Book; and also continued working with the Graduate School of Education on their masters program in Jewish day school education, among other things serving on the search committee for a director of the program.

**Jeffrey Tigay**, A.M. Ellis Professor of Hebrew and Semitic Languages and Literatures, is currently revising his 1996 commentary on Deuteronomy, which is being translated into Hebrew for the Israeli commentary series *Mikra le-Yisrael*, and is co-editing a Festschrift, *Birkat Shalom: Studies in the Bible, Ancient Near Eastern Literature and Post-biblical Judaism presented to Shalom M. Paul on the Occasion of his Seventieth Birthday*. His article "The Priestly Reminder Stones and Ancient Near Eastern Votive Practices" will shortly be published in a Festschrift for the Israeli scholar Sara Japhet, being published in Israel, and his article "'The Voice of the Lord Causes Hinds to Calve' (Psalm 29:9)" will be published in *Birkat Shalom*. His appreciation of the scholarly achievements of the late Tikva Frymer-Kensky was published in *AJS Perspectives. The Magazine of the Association for Jewish Studies, Spring 2007*; a Hebrew version will be published in *Shnaton: An Annual for Biblical and Ancient Near Eastern Studies*. He is working on two multi-year projects: a full-length Hebrew commentary on Exodus, for the *Mikra Le-Yisrael* series, and the first volume (on the Biblical period) of *The Posen Library of Jewish Culture and Civilization: Anthology of Primary Sources, Documents, Texts, and Artifacts*, a ten-volume series being published by Yale University Press. In February he served as a scholar-in-residence at Congregation Ohev Shalom in Wallingford, PA, lecturing and teaching about "Archaeology and the Exodus," "The Book of Exodus and the Origins of the Passover Seder," and "The Song at the Sea (Shirat HaYam) in Exodus 15."

**Liliane Weissberg**, the Christopher H. Browne Distinguished Professor in the Humanities, was the Kurt David Bruehl Professor in Jewish Studies at the Universitaet Graz in Austria in the spring semester. Also in the spring, Weissberg delivered the Rodig Lecture in German Studies at Rutgers University, and the commencement address at the Hochschule für Jüdische Studien in Heidelberg. In the past academic year, she published essays on Heinrich Heine, Arthur Schnitzler, Jewish Studies in Germany, and Germanistik at the Humboldt Universität Berlin. She presented papers at the universities of Bristol, Sussex, Oxford, Graz, Salzburg, Vienna, Potsdam, Munich, and the Technische Universität Berlin, as well as Penn. Weissberg also spoke at the Jewish Museum in

Frankfurt am Main, the Leo Baeck Institute London, the Sigmund Freud Museum and Foundation in Vienna, the YIVO and Leo Baeck Institutes in New York, the Bnei Brith Loge in Frankfurt am Main, as well as the local Philadelphia Lantern Theater, and participated in conferences in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Berlin. She was interviewed for the Graz university paper on her work, and was interviewed, and co-wrote, a feature on Hannah Arendt for National Public Radio.

**Beth S. Wenger**, the Katz Family Term Chair and Associate Professor in American Jewish History, was on scholarly leave during the 2006-07 academic year, thanks to a fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies. Wenger's latest book, *The Jewish Americans: Three Centuries of Jewish Voices in America*, will be published by Doubleday Press in October 2007. The book is a companion volume to PBS documentary titled *The Jewish Americans* that will be broadcast in January 2008; Wenger served as an historical advisor for the film. She is also completing her next book, "History Lessons: The Invention of American Jewish Heritage," which will be published by Princeton University Press. Wenger's article, "Making American Civilization Jewish: Mordecai Kaplan's Civic Religion" appeared in the Winter 2006 issue of the journal *Jewish Social Studies*. She has two articles that will be published during the current year: "Performing Citizenship: Jewish Celebrations of the Nation" will be included in the forthcoming *Columbia History of Judaism in America* (Columbia University Press, 2007) and "War Stories: Jewish Patriotism on Parade" is part of a new anthology titled *Imagining the American Jewish Community* (University of New England Press, 2007). Wenger delivered several lectures and participated in various panels during the past year, including at the Association of Jewish Studies conference, the American Council of Learned Societies/Association of American Universities convocation, the Brooklyn Public Library, as well as many other venues. Wenger serves on the Academic Boards of the Association for Jewish Studies (AJS) and the Center for Jewish History in New York. She is also a member of the Executive Committee of the American Jewish Historical Society's Academic Council. She continues to serve as an historical consultant for the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia.

# Recent Gifts

## RECENT GIFTS

### Jewish Studies Program Donors July 1, 2006-June 30, 2007

Emilio Bassini, C'71, WG'73, and Reina Marin Bassini, CW'72, GEd'72, parents  
Michael A. Carasik  
Edward J. Falk, W'66  
Mr. and Mrs. Albert D. Friedberg and the Friedberg Mercantile Group  
Annette Freund  
Rabbi Louis Kaplan, ED'49, GEd'50, parent  
Harry Kosansky, CGS'07  
Manfred and Anne Lehmann Foundation  
David H. Marion, W'60, L'63  
Audrey Stein Merves, CW'56, and Stanley Merves, parents, and the Louis and Bessie Stein Foundation #2  
Peter E. Roth, C'81, WG'85, and Michelle Roth and the Michelle and Peter Roth Charitable Foundation  
**Center for Advanced Judaic Studies Donors  
July 1, 2006-June 30, 2007**  
Dean Stewart Adler, W'79, L83, and Susanna E. Lachs, CW'74, ASC'76  
Ira Albeck  
Ralph D. Amado, professor of physics emeritus, and the Maurice Amado Foundation  
Jack Alvin Belz, parent  
Belz Foundation  
Edwin J. Berkowitz, C'49, and Barbara S. Berkowitz, ED'51  
Carol B. Blank, *in memory of Albert J. Wood*  
Barbara Cantor, *in memory of Albert J. Wood*  
Jonathan Z. Cohen, C'92, and Julia Bennett Pershan, WG'01  
Josephine Cohen, a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania  
Betsy Marks Darivoff, C'79, and Philip M. Darivoff, W'79, WG'85, parents, and the Darivoff Family Foundation, *in memory of Lucille Ruderman*  
Jodi S. Dashe, C'88

Avrom I. Dofit, W'60  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dubin, *in memory of Albert J. Wood*  
Maris Ekert, *in memory of Lucille Ruderman*  
Sara Feinstein, *in memory of Albert J. Wood*  
Mr. and Mrs. I. Fliegelman, *in memory of Albert J. Wood*  
Linda Goldner, CGS'04, *in memory of Albert J. Wood*  
Cynthia Rabin Golub, W'76  
Estate of Sally T. Gordon  
Joan Griff, *in memory of Albert J. Wood*  
Andrew J. and Jan B. Groveman, parents  
Michael J. Halpern, W'83  
Libby S. Harwitz, *in memory of Albert J. Wood*  
Alan Horowitz and Terry Bragin Horowitz, *in memory of Albert J. Wood*  
Marc Howard and Susan B. Howard, *in memory of Albert J. Wood*  
Mr. and Mrs. Alan Isen and the Alan and Sondra Isen Foundation, *in memory of Albert J. Wood*  
The Jesselson Family  
Eleanor Meyerhoff Katz, Herbert D. Katz, W'51, parents, and the Eleanor M. & Herbert D. Katz Foundation  
Herbert D. Katz, W'51, *in memory of Albert J. Wood*  
Samuel H. Karsch, W'56, L'59, and Carole Weinheim Karsch, ED'59, GEd'78, CGS'07  
Thomas O. Katz, W'79, and Elissa E. Katz, C'79  
Judith Zucker Kinderman, CW'68, *in memory of Albert J. Wood*  
Bradford R. Klatt and Robin Friedman Klatt, parents  
Jean-Marie Knealey, *in memory of Lucille Ruderman*  
Mark Kohn, *in memory of Albert J. Wood*  
Lillian Kosloff, *in memory of Albert J. Wood*  
Lloyd F. Lampell, *in memory of Michael Ben Avraham Halevi V'*  
Philip B. Lindy, W'52, and Annabel F. Lindy  
Arthur S. Loring, *in honor of David Mack*  
Joseph and Harvey Meyeroff Family Charitable Foundation

Rebecca Meyeroff Philanthropic Fund  
Janice Korman Marx, CW'47, GEd' 68, *in memory of Albert J. Wood*  
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew P. McTish  
Audrey Stein Merves, CW'56, and Stanley Merves, parents  
Marilyn S. Meyerson, *in memory of Albert J. Wood*  
Mr. and Mrs. Allen Newman, *in memory of Albert J. Wood*  
Albert M. Perlstein, W'57, GGs'96, and Arlene G. Perlstein, CW'59  
Julie Beren Platt, C'79 and Marc E. Platt, C'79, parents  
Arnold B. Porges, D'59, *in memory of Albert J. Wood*  
Brad A. Prutkin, C'95  
Arthur L. Rebell, W'62  
Ryda Dwarys Rose, CW'50, GRd'71  
Robert J. Rosoff, C'78  
Ivan Ross, W'83, and Nina Ross  
Amy Bright Ruben, C'82, and Richard Ruben  
Selma Rubin Foundation  
The Jay and Jeanie Schottenstein Family  
Sisters in Partnership, *in memory of Albert J. Wood*  
Louis and Bessie Stein Foundation #2  
Mr. and Mrs. Donald R. Silberg, *in memory of Albert J. Wood*  
Elizabeth G. Sterling, *in memory of Albert J. Wood*  
Ione Apfelbaum Strauss, CW'54, parent  
Andrew and Erna Finci Viterbi  
Michael D. and Sharon Weiner, parents  
Nelson M. Wolf, C'64, and Rochelle Hirshey Wolf, G'81  
Estate of Albert J. Wood  
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Zifkin, *in memory of Lucille Ruderman*  
Eric Zoller, C'98, L'01

*If you, too, would like to support Jewish Studies at Penn, please contact the School of Arts and Sciences Office of External Affairs at (215) 898-5262.*

## 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@ccat.sas.upenn.edu](mailto:jsp-info@ccat.sas.upenn.edu)



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