As we begin another academic year and look back on the two busy years behind us, I can say with gratitude and some pride that the study of Jewish culture is thriving at Stanford University.

The vitality of the program was especially visible at the impressive conference we hosted last winter in celebration of my colleagues Steven Zipperstein and Aron Rodrigue as they completed 25 productive years at Stanford. These pillars of the Jewish Studies program have trained an entire generation of Jewish historians who now teach at prominent universities across the country. Many divisions of the university, including the President’s office, supported the conference, which demonstrated how much Steven and Aron’s work is appreciated at Stanford.

Over the last two years, political issues concerning Jews in America and around the globe have become more heated on campuses across the country, including Stanford. Our faculty members have been involved in a variety of ways in the ongoing effort to infuse these discussions and activities with greater sophistication. Our work in this arena is facilitated by the Center’s unique affiliation and wonderful working relationship with the Center for Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity. Together with CCSRE we put together an amazing set of presentations and lectures concerned with contemporary American Jewish life this past year. A summary of that series is featured in this newsletter.

I believe that academic Jewish studies ought to serve as a custodian of Jewish culture both through library collections and through continued engagement with the great works of Jewish scholars and authors. Our mandate further includes the promotion of Jewish literature and art by supporting its production. In line with this mission, we have held a Jewish short story contest for undergraduate students for the past two years. It has been a phenomenal success and has yielded some impressive student work. In the year ahead, one of the Taube Center’s main themes will be “Jewish Engagement with the Arts: Word, Image, and Performance.” In addition to visits from a variety of writers, we will also be supporting performances of Jewish-inflected pieces.

This focus reflects the continued expansion of our intellectual community as we connect with faculty in a range of programs and departments whose work is devoted to Jewish culture. Traditionally, Jewish studies has been anchored in history, religious studies, and literature departments. Our program is very strong in these areas, and we have added two new colleagues from literature departments to our community: Nancy Ruttenberg of the English department, who teaches a course on the Jewish novel, and Marie-Pierre Ulloa of the French and Italian department, who works on North-African (Maghrebi) literature and culture. I am also very excited to welcome two colleagues to the Center’s affiliated faculty who expand the horizons of Jewish studies: Janice Ross of the Theatre and Performance Studies Department and Anna Schultz of the music department.

Finally, I would be remiss if I failed to emphasize that none of this would be possible without the hard work of our wonderful staff members: Linda Huynh, who continues to manage our office masterfully, and now Nicole Bridges, our news, events, and finance coordinator. As every Jewish studies visitor to Stanford will attest, they are wonderful to work with. We are also deeply grateful to our donor community, which enables our work by supporting us financially, occupying seats on our Advisory Board, and attending our events.

With good wishes for a wonderful year ahead, shanah tovah, a gut gebentsht yohr, anyada buena, ein gutes, neues Jahr,

Charlotte Elisheva Fonrobert
Director (2014–present)
Taube Center for Jewish Studies at Stanford University
It is with great pride and a sense of accomplishment that we devote much of this newsletter to a single event: the conference held in January in celebration of two of the stellar senior faculty members at the Taube Center for Jewish Studies. For more than twenty-five years, Aron Rodrigue and Steven Zipperstein, both renowned scholars of Jewish history, have not only published outstanding research but have also nurtured a cadre of young scholars who have assumed and are assuming positions at leading universities across the nation.

In little more than a generation, the Taube Center for Jewish Studies has created an innovative and varied program of studies supported by a superb library and a wealth of archival resources. The Taube Center promotes research and scholarship; engages Stanford students in the study of Jewish history, culture, languages, and literatures; and shares the fruits of its labor with scholars and Jews both in the Bay Area and beyond. The future of Jewish studies at Stanford offers a multitude of exciting opportunities that we aim to explore as we pursue our mission of making Jewish studies an acknowledged part of the academy and of life generally.

Sincerely,

Tad Taube
Chair, Advisory Board
Taube Center for Jewish Studies at Stanford University

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In early April of this year, we collaborated with the Center for Jewish Studies at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley and the Taube Philanthropies to bring Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett to the Bay Area, university professor and professor of performance studies at New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts. BKG, as she is affectionately referred to by friends, colleagues, and fans, came to present her work as curator for the celebrated new POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw that officially opened in October 2015, to much public and critical acclaim. As an academic and museum star, who also has Polish cultural roots (her parents were born in Poland), she was appointed Head of the Academic Team to develop the core exhibit of the museum in 2006. During her presentation on our campus, she took the large audience on a virtual tour through the museum’s eight galleries accompanied by her commentaries. In addition, she conducted a fascinating master seminar for graduate students in the Theater and Performance Studies Program and Jewish Studies, entitled Theater of History: What Performance Studies Can Offer Museums. In the seminar, she invited students to think about museum exhibits, such as POLIN’s core exhibit, as a form of theater.
Each academic year yields an array of exciting experiences and discoveries for our Judaica and Hebraica librarians, and 2015–2016 was certainly no exception. Among the year’s highlights were the Stanford University Libraries’ contribution to the anniversary celebrations of Hillel@Stanford: at the beginning of 2016, a small exhibit of photographs and ephemera from the University Archives documenting the early years of Hillel was put up in Green Library. Josh Schneider, Assistant University Archivist, and Shelley S. Hébert, Chair of Hillel’s Half-Century Anniversary, co-curated the exhibit.

On April 1, 2016, Zachary M. Baker, Reinhard Family Curator of Judaica and Hebraica Collections, led a well-attended tour showcasing some of the library’s Judaica treasures from the Department of Special Collections. Inspired by Hillel’s commissioning of a new Torah scroll generously funded by Shelley S. Hébert, the library tour focused on scribal traditions in Judaism and included old manuscripts, rare religious imprints, contemporary artists’ books, photographs, and ketubbot by living artists. In this digital age, Stanford’s librarians are witness to the emerging mystique of textual artifacts on paper (a.k.a., books and manuscripts!). Visitors often remark upon the thrill they experience turning the pages of a centuries-old Chumash, Siddur, or classical rabbinical commentary.

And speaking of physical and the virtual objects, the title of the Third Conference of Judaica Collection Curators was “Material Books and Virtual Collections.” Zachary Baker represented Stanford at the three-day conference in July 2016. The conference, which took place at the National Library of Israel in Jerusalem, afforded a superb opportunity to exchange views with librarians, museum professionals, academics, independent scholars, and collectors from Israel, Europe, and North America. While in Israel, Zachary also visited several of the Stanford Library’s key suppliers—Israeli booksellers and auctioneers.

One of these vendors, Kedem Auctions, Ltd., facilitated the library’s 2014 acquisition of 20,000 to 30,000 photographs from the files of Lahiton, a defunct magazine—an extraordinary trove of Israeli popular culture from the 1960s to 1980s. Anna Levia, the library’s Assistant Curator of Judaica and Hebraica Collections, has spent the past eighteen months putting the photographs in order, and in June 2016 she presented about the Lahiton archive at the annual conference of the Association of Jewish Libraries in Charleston, SC. This photograph of Barbra Streisand, taken during one of her visits to Israel, shows the singer, actress, and director holding up an issue of the magazine that featured her in its cover story.

By Zachary M. Baker
Reinhard Family Curator of Judaica and Hebraica Collections
Assistant University Librarian for Collection Development, Humanities & Social Sciences

In fall 2015, Stanford assumed leadership of the Berman Jewish Policy Archive (now known as the BJPA@Stanford). It is the largest freely-accessible archive of research on North American Jews in the world. It attracts approximately 200,000 visits per year from people all over the world seeking up-to-date data information about contemporary Jewish life. The user-base consists largely of researchers and Jewish communal professionals who utilize the site to inform their policy, practice and perspective on Jewish life worldwide.

By Ari Y. Kelman
CJJJC Update

This year, the Colloquium on Jews, Judaism, and Jewish Culture (CJJJC) hosted three colloquia, one per quarter. Each panel featured a group of interdisciplinary presentations by graduate students affiliated with Jewish Studies and an energetic response by a Taube Center faculty member. As usual, the grad students of Jewish studies delighted and needled audiences with original work that developed and challenged contemporary scholarly trends in their respective fields.

The fall colloquium, entitled “Israel: Two Research Perspectives,” featured Gilat Bachar from Stanford Law and Jonah Hassenfeld from the School of Education. Professor Steve Zipperstein of the History department responded. Gilat’s presentation, “When Lawyers Go to War: A Study of the Role of Lawyers in Palestinians’ Civil Litigation against Israel,” was an empirical study of civil lawsuits brought against the State of Israel, in Israeli courts, by Palestinians and foreign nationals for injuries resulting from the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict. Jonah’s, “Heritage Travel and Historical Narrative: American Day School Students Tell the History of Israel,” explored how fourteen Jewish day school students’ narratives of the history of Israel changed after traveling to Israel on a three-week school trip.

The winter colloquium explored “Jewish Double Consciousness” with presentations by Daniella Farah from History, Jeremiah Lockwood from the School of Education, and Ziva R. Hassenfeld from the School of Education. Professor Aron Rodrigue from the history department responded. Daniella’s paper, “‘Citizen, Speak Turkish!’: Turkey’s Language Campaign and Its Jewish Targets,” discussed a nationalistic and assimilationist Turkish language campaign that was active in Turkey in the 1920s and 1930s. Jeremiah’s, “Fragility and Strength—Cantors and Identity Maintenance in a Fragile Musical Culture,” was a case study of two contemporary cantors active in New York City, Yanky Lemmer and Aaron Schwartz, who exemplify cantorial sound aesthetics and are holdouts of a style of prayer performance that is atypical in contemporary American synagogues. Ziva’s paper, “How to Read the Bible: Activity Systems in Liberal and Orthodox Hebrew Bible Classrooms,” challenged the assumption that Orthodox schools tend to be authoritative while liberal schools tend to encourage students to find their own meaning in religious texts, finding instead that religious ideology and pedagogy don’t necessarily align.

The final colloquium, held in the spring quarter, was themed “Jews at the Margins.” It featured presentations by Joshua Meyers from History, Shoshana Olidort from Comparative Literature, and Alexander Marcus from Religious Studies with Professor Gabriella Safran of the Slavic department responding. In “The Great Socialist Storm,” Joshua unfolded his research on the spring of 1917 in Russia, when the Bund, which for years had adapted to Tsarist repression by operating in secret, was forced to reconstitute itself quickly as a conventional political party. Shoshana gave a paper on “Translation as Transformation: How Isaac Bashevis Singer reinvented himself as an American author” that traced Singer’s transformation from a struggling immigrant writer working in a “dying” language to a Nobel Laureate with an international following; she argued that the very qualities that brought Singer international acclaim were what made the Yiddishists shun Bashevis and his work. Finally, Alexander’s colorful presentation “‘This is as People Say’: The Rhetoric of Common Sense in the Babylonian Talmud” employed Clifford Geertz’ conception of “Common Sense as a Cultural System” to analyze Aramaic adages in the Babylonian Talmud as key elements within Babylonian rabbinic discourse.

The CJJJC is deeply grateful to the graduate students who shared their work, the faculty who volunteered their time, and the many attendees who electrified the discussions following the presentations. We are also indebted to the Taube Center for Jewish Studies for their generous support of the program. Special thanks go to Linda Huynh, who coordinated logistics for the colloquium series, and Ari Kelman, who served as a faculty supervisor. Annie Atura of the English department served as the series coordinator.
During the 2015–16 academic year, the Taube Center for Jewish Studies and the Center for Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity (CCSRE) collaborated to host a speaker series about how race and religion intersect in studies of Jewish identity. Race and religion are often considered separately in academia, with “race scholars” teaching in race and ethnicity studies programs or departments and “religion scholars” teaching in religious or global studies programs or departments. This unique lecture series created a space in which both kinds of scholars and students, as well as those who do work at the intersection of these topics, could come together on the Stanford campus. This series was also particularly timely as political conversations heated up both on and off campus, including those focused on the Israel-Palestine conflict and student demands for colleges and universities to divest from Israel.

The collaboration grew out of a three-year initiative, jointly administered by the Taube Center and CCSRE and sponsored by the Office of the President, on religious and ethnic conflict and coexistence in the U.S. and around the globe. The initiative’s goals were to improve understanding of religious and ethnic conflict, promote fresh thinking about intergroup relations, and inspire collaboration among units on campus. The lecture series, called “Between Race and Religion: Contemporary American Jewish Life,” was a capstone to this successful initiative, reflecting ongoing efforts to ensure that these conversations and collaborations continued on campus and remained vibrant.

The intent of the series, designed by Ari Kelman (Education) and Steven Zipperstein (History) together with Charlotte Fonrobert (Religious Studies), was to shed light on the complexities of present-day American Jewish life and to do so in conversation with colleagues and graduate students across the full expanse of race, ethnic, and religious studies. Topics chosen for discussion cut to the heart of current tensions in Jewish life, including the relationship between Jews and African-Americans in the civil rights era and beyond, Israel in the American Jewish imagination, and Jews in the economy of the inner city. The series featured several leading specialists on American Jewish life and paired them with faculty respondents from CCSRE. The series featured historian (and Stanford Jewish Studies alum) Tony Michels, now Mosse Professor at the University of Wisconsin, Madison; historian Lila Corwin Berman of Temple University; well-known sociologist Steven M. Cohen of Hebrew Union College; religious studies scholar Shaul Magid of Indiana University; a large public forum with Harvard political scientist Robert Putnam; and a screening of Little White Lie and discussion with filmmaker Lacey Schwartz. Faculty respondents from CCSRE included historian Allyson Hobbs and sociologist Tomás Jiménez.

By MarYam Hamedani
October 8, 2015 — **Re-Thinking American Jewish Zionist Identity** with Shaul Magid, Professor of Jewish Studies and Religious Studies and The Jay and Jeannie Schottenstein Chair in Jewish Studies at Indiana University Bloomington, in conversation with Amir Eshel, Edward Clark Crossett Professor of Humanistic Studies, Stanford University.

From its very beginnings, Zionism has played a significant role in American Judaism although until the 1940s most American Jews probably did not consider themselves Zionists. Since 1967, Zionism has played an increasingly formidable role in the Jewish community. Today it is arguably the very standard of defining legitimate “Jewishness.” In Israel, post-Zionism has emerged among individuals who no longer support the Zionist narrative of Israel’s beginnings, yet remain wed to their lives in Israel. In America, there is no equivalent to post-Zionism. American Jews for whom Zionism, or support of Israel, is not a central part of their Jewish identity have no easily operable framework to articulate their Jewish identity. Shaul Magid explores the hazards of Zionism’s hegemony among American Jews and suggest possible alternatives. In short, can there be an American Jewish alternative to Zionism that is not anti-Zionist?

October 28, 2015 — **Little White Lie: A Film about Dual Identity and Family Secrets** with Lacey Schwartz, an American filmmaker, in conversation with Allyson Hobbs, Assistant Professor of American History at Stanford University.

*Little White Lie* tells Lacey Schwartz’s story of growing up in a typical middle-class Jewish household in Woodstock, NY, with loving parents and a strong sense of her Jewish identity — that is until she discovers that her biological father is actually a black man with whom her mother had an affair. Lacey discovers that answering those questions means understanding her parents’ stories as well as her own.

What defines our identity, our family of origin or the family that raises us? How do we come to terms with the sins and mistakes of our parents? Lacey discovers that answering those questions means understanding her parents’ own stories as well as her own. She pieces together her family history and the story of her dual identity using home videos, archival footage, interviews, and episodes from her own life. *Little White Lie* is a personal documentary about the legacy of family secrets, denial, and redemption.

November 11, 2015 — **American Jews and Their Urban Crises** with Lila Corwin Berman, Associate Professor of History; Murray Friedman Chair of American Jewish History; and Director of the Feinstein Center for American Jewish History at Temple University, in conversation with Michael Kahan, Associate Director of the Program on Urban Studies and Senior Lecturer in Urban Studies. Co-sponsored by the Program on Urban Studies.

In modern times, Jews emerged as consummate urban dwellers. After World War II, as American Jews migrated away from cities embroiled in so-called urban crises, they experienced a simultaneous Jewish urban crises. Who were Jews apart from their urbanism? And how would they remake their relationship to urban spaces, people, and ideals? Drawing upon her extensive research on Detroit, Lila Corwin Berman argues that contrary to the history of white flight, the story of postwar Jewish migration away from cities is one of enduring—and tension-filled—urban entanglement, marked by the politics of privatization.
January 14, 2016 – The Shrinking Jewish Middle and The End of Jewish Exceptionalism with Steven M. Cohen, Research Professor of Jewish Social Policy, Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion in New York, in conversation with Tomás Jiménez, Associate Professor of Sociology and Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity, Stanford University. Co-sponsored by the Stanford Humanities Center.

Jews are the one major American group that can be characterized as both ethnic and religious. In both ways, Jews have been exceptional. Of all white European ethnic groups, Jews have been the most socially cohesive and institutionally organized. Of all liberal religious movements, Jews have exhibited unusually high rates of religious involvement at home and in the community. Yet recent socio-demographic trends point to the decline of the Jewish Middle, populated by non-Orthodox Jews who are ethnically attached and religiously engaged. The ethnic and religious exceptionality of American Jewry may soon be no more.

How Religion Divides and Unites Americans...

March 13, 2016 – How Religion Divides And Unites Americans...And Why It’s Basically Good For The Jews with Robert Putnam, Peter and Isabel Malkin Professor of Public Policy, Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government, in conversation with Jane Shaw, Dean for Religious Life and Professor of Religious Studies at Stanford University. Co-sponsored by the Humanities Center.

There exists a great puzzle of religion in the United States: America is unusually religious, unusually diverse religiously, and yet unusually tolerant. In most countries, intense religiosity combined with stark religious differences equals wars, violence, and civil disorder. Why have we not torn ourselves apart along the religious fault lines that have increasingly come to divide us? In his upcoming lecture, Robert Putnam will draw on three of the most comprehensive surveys ever conducted of religion and public life in America to examine the complex interaction of religion, politics, and social movements over the past half-century and how this specifically impacts Jewish life. He will offer a nuanced balance sheet of how religion both contributes to and detracts from the vibrancy and stability of American democracy.
HEBREW & ISRAEL @STANFORD

Coordinator: Vered Karti Shemtov, Comparative Literature

The Hebrew@Stanford Project is devoted to promoting the study of Hebrew and Israeli culture at Stanford. It is affiliated with the Taube Center for Jewish Studies and the Division of Literatures, Cultures, and Languages. The project works in collaboration with other schools, departments, and centers on campus. Hebrew@Stanford reaches out to the community outside of Stanford in order to enrich the local study of Hebrew and Israeli culture, to share resources, and to create connections between Stanford and the Bay Area at large. Hebrew@Stanford’s online materials, publications, and international activists have earned Stanford a reputation as one of the most important venues outside of Israel for the study of Hebrew and Israeli culture. The Project is supported by funds from the Taube Center for Jewish Studies and by additional grants. Its Project Coordinator is Dr. Vered Shemtov, Senior Lecturer in Comparative Literature.

The project includes:
- Course promotion
- An academic minor
- Academic support and opportunities for graduate students
- Lectures and events for students, faculty, and the greater community
- A multimedia program
- Post-docs and visiting scholars
- Conferences
- An academic journal

"Reflections on the Other"
Conferences
The Department of Comparative Literature (DLCL) and the Taube Center for Jewish Studies co-hosted a conference on “Prophetic Imaginings: Aesthetics, Ethics, Hermeneutics” this year. The conference was organized and chaired by Amir Eshel (Stanford) together with Ilana Pardes (Hebrew University) and Russell Berman (Stanford). The conference focused on prophecy in Hebrew texts and beyond and took place at Stanford on May 9–10, 2016. Speakers included Robert Alter (UC Berkeley), Galit Hasan-Rokem (Hebrew University), and Vivian Liska (University of Antwerp, Belgium).

Courses and cultural enrichment events
Author in Residence and Creative Writing Lecturer: Maya Arad
Stanford is fortunate to be one of few universities to host a visiting author on a regular basis. Arad is well known in Israel and has published more than seven bestselling books. Dr. Arad played a part in a number of the creative writing initiatives at the Taube Center and at Hebrew@Stanford; she participated in judging the Koret award for best work written in Hebrew and the Taube Center’s short story competition, offered creative writing sessions, and partook in our annual Hebrew storytelling event. Arad also represents Stanford in the community and around the world through her public readings and her conversations about writing Hebrew literature in California. This year, Maya Arad visited classes to talk about her novels and short stories and to work with students on their own creative projects.

Language training
In 2014–15, the Stanford Language Center offered workshops for language teachers; they were granted two full days of instruction by ACTFL professors. Thanks to Professor Elizabeth Bernhardt, Stanford offered specialized training in Hebrew alongside French, German, Spanish, and other major languages. Hebrew was one of few minor languages represented. We opened the workshop to teachers at middle and high schools. The Stanford Language Center also created a SOPI for Hebrew; it is now one of the only online proficiency tests available for the language.

Graduate students
With the generous support of the DLCL and especially Amir Eshel, and with funding from the DLCL and the Taube Center, Comparative Literature accepted two new students who focus on Hebrew in 2014–15. We are proud to announce that six students who are interested in Hebrew literature are currently working toward a Ph.D. at—or have recently graduated with a Ph.D. from—the DLCL. These students teach Hebrew and Hebrew literature, participate in campus activities and workshops, and help to incorporate studies of Hebrew into larger conversations in the humanities. Stanford is one of few universities outside Israel to boast more than one Hebrew literature faculty member in its Department of Comparative Literature.

Hebrew Literature and Israeli Culture Reading Group
This research group includes around 15 faculty and graduate students devoted to discussing scholarly works in the field. This is an active and popular forum for exchanging ideas and promoting research on Hebrew and Israeli literature and culture. Over the past two years, the group has hosted sessions with Professor Lital Levy (Princeton), Ilana Pardes (Hebrew University), Yael Neeman (independent author), Professor Chana Kronfield (UC Berkley), Robert Alter (UC Berkeley), Asaf Gavron (independent author), Amos Gitai (French/Israeli director), and many other notable scholars. In addition, the group serves as a space for faculty and students from Stanford to present their works in progress. Dr. Giddon Ticotsky served as coordinator for the past two years.

The Hebrew Language Storytelling Competition
Two years ago we launched an event that we are hoping to turn into an annual tradition. Once a year, all of our Hebrew language students assemble for a storytelling competition. Students from local schools are also invited to attend. Each student presents a 3–5 minute story from which our judges (this year, Giddon Ticotsky, Maya Arad, and the poet Erez Podolsky) choose a winner. Our first competition was devoted to stories about endings; this year’s was entitled “A Different Place.” The event serves as an opportunity for students at different levels of proficiency and from different classes to meet one another and to show off the skills they developed during the academic year.

Visiting scholars and post-docs
Dr. Asa Maron, Sociology Department and Hebrew@Stanford (2015–16)
Dr. Keren Mock, Hebrew@Stanford
Dr. Giddon Ticotsky, Comparative Literature and Hebrew@Stanford (2014–16)

Hebrew language and literature ongoing project
Multimedia online program for the study of Hebrew language and culture supported by Newhouse Funds
The highlight of our program over the last two years has been the establishment of *Dibur Literary Journal*. *Dibur* is a peer-reviewed academic journal dedicated to Hebrew, Jewish, and comparative literature. The goal of the journal is to promote global conversations around contemporary attitudes towards literature, ethnicity, nation, identity, language, and culture. We wanted to create a space for scholars from Israel, Europe, and the United States to discuss a wide range of academic issues. We hope to bring Hebrew literature to a wider audience and to make it a more integral part of the humanities in general. Whereas Hebrew journals typically distribute hundreds of copies, *Dibur*’s first issue, which was published online, generated over 18,000 page views and counting.

*Dibur* in Hebrew means “speech,” “discussion,” or (colloquially) “understanding.” The journal is part of the open-access movement in academic publishing and is hosted by Stanford’s *Arcade*, a “digital salon.”

We are grateful to Jewish Studies, the DLCL, the Dean of the School of Humanities and Sciences, the Israel Institute, Stanford University, the Taube Center for Jewish Studies, and Mr. Stuart R. Epstein for their generous support of *Dibur*.

### Past Issues:

**Issue 1, Fall 2015:** “Spoken Word, Written Word: Rethinking The Representation of Speech In Literature”
Contributors: Marjorie Perloff, Renana Keydar, Jahan Ramazani, Roy Greenwald, Hans Ulrich Gumbrecht, Naomi Seidman, Russell Berman, Uri S. Cohen and Zali Gurevitch

**Issue 2, Spring 2016:** “Form”  
*In Memoriam of Prof. Benjamin Harshav*  
Contributors: Lucy Alford, Jonathan Culler, Na’amah Rokem, Lilach Lachman, Vincent Barletta, Hannan Hever, Caroline Levine, Thomas Pavel and Chana Kronfeld

### Upcoming Issues:

**Issue 3, Fall 2016:** “French Thought, Hebrew Thought”  
With a special interview of Julia Kristeva by Keren Mock

**Issue 4, Spring 2017:** “The Long Poem”  
Guest Editors: Uri S. Cohen and Michael B. Golston in collaboration with Columbia University

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Visit us at [http://arcade.stanford.edu/dibur_page/about-journal](http://arcade.stanford.edu/dibur_page/about-journal) to read our content and to learn more.
African and Middle Eastern Program: Jewish Languages
First-Year Hebrew. Autumn, Winter (Porat, G.), Spring (Porat, G.; Shemtov, V.)
Second-Year Hebrew. Autumn, Winter (Porat, G.), Spring (Shemtov, V.)
Hebrew Forum. Winter (Shemtov, V.)
First-Year Yiddish. Autumn, Winter, Spring (Levitow, J.)
Biblical Hebrew. Autumn, Winter (Porat, G.)

Classics
Biblical Greek. Winter (Melzer, A.), Spring (Tewksbury, I.)

Comparative Literature
Zionism and the Novel. Winter (Berman, R.)
Reflection on the Other: The Jew and the Arab in Literature. Winter (Elbaz, E.; Shemtov, V.)
The Short Story - Short Stories from Israel and From the Jewish World. Spring (Shemtov, V.)

English
Knowing God: Learning Religion in Popular Culture. Spring (Kelman, A.)

Feminist Gender and Sexuality Studies
Rereading Judaism in Light of Feminism. Spring (Karlin-Neumann, P.)

French
Literature and Society in African and the Caribbean. Winter (Ulloa, M.)

History
Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict. Autumn (Beinin, J.)
Talking About Jews. Winter (Beinin, J.; Zipperstein, S.)
Germany and the World Wars. Winter (Sheffer, E.)
Genocide and Humanitarian Intervention. Winter (Patenaude, B.)
A History of Jews in Russia: An Introduction. Winter (Meyers, J.)
Graduate Colloquium in Modern Jewish History. Winter (Zipperstein, S.)
Jews in the Contemporary World: Faith and Ethnicity, Visibility and Vulnerability. Spring (Zipperstein, S.)
The Holocaust and Its Aftermath. Spring (Rupnow, D.)
Research Seminar in Middle East History. Spring (Yaycioğlu, A.)

International Policy Studies
Religion and Politics: A Threat to Democracy? Autumn (Carmon, A.)

Religious Studies
Readings in Talmudic Literature. Autumn, Spring (Fonrobert, C.)
Sex and Gender in Judaism and Christianity. Winter (Fonrobert, C.)
Everyone Eats: Food, Religion and Culture. Spring (Fonrobert, C.)

Slavic
The Yiddish Story. Winter (Safran, G.)

For more information about Jewish Studies courses, please visit our website:
http://jewishstudies.stanford.edu/course-list-1
Endowed Lectures
2014–2015

October 15, 2014

The Aaron-Roland Endowed Lecture


November 3, 2014

The Clara Sumpf Yiddish Lecture Series

Anna Shternshis, Al and Malka Green Associate Professor of Yiddish Studies at University of Toronto: Red Star Over the Shtetl: Nostalgia in Post-Soviet Jewish Culture around the Globe.
Endowed Lectures 2015–2016

November 5, 2015

The Aaron-Roland Endowed Lecture

John T. Pawlikowski, Professor of Social Ethics and Director of Catholic-Jewish Studies Program at Catholic Theological Union: Fifty Years of Catholic-Jewish Relations: The Gains and the Challenges. Co-sponsored by Department of Religious Studies, Stanford Humanities Center, Hillel at Stanford, and the Office for Religious Life.

November 5, 2015

The Charles Michael Lecture

Architectural designers Suzie Oliver and Amy Reichert discuss their approaches by creating sacred spaces. Oliver & Reichert create spaces to express the essence of space to enhance Jewish spirituality, while Reichert creates ritual objects that play with modern forms and surfaces. Their conversation will explore material and craft, light and shadow, and reinterpreting ancient ideas for a modern world.

April 13–14, 2016

The Clara Sumpf Yiddish Lecture Series

David Fishman, Professor of Jewish History at The Jewish Theological Seminary:

Sunday, April 10, 2016 – 5:00pm
Suzie Oliver and Amy Reichert: Designing the Sacred: Objects and Space

Monday, April 11, 2016 – 12:00pm
David Fishman: How Abraham Sutzkever and Szmurke Kaczerginski Rescued Vilna’s Jewish Cultural Treasures

April 10–11, 2016

March 13, 2016

Jewish Community Federation and Endowment Fund Lecture

Robert Putnam, Peter and Isabel Malkin Professor of Public Policy at Harvard University and Jane Shaw, Dean for Religious Life and Professor of Religious Studies: How Religion Divides And Unites Americans…And Why It’s Basically Good For The Jews. Co-sponsored by the Stanford Humanities Center.

Please check our website for more information: jewishstudies.stanford.edu

Parking is free after 4:00 pm, unless otherwise noted.

May 2, 2016

The David S. Lobel Visiting Scholar Lecture

Marc Michael Epstein, Professor of Religion on the Mattie M. Paschall (1899) & Norman Davis Chair in Religion and Visual Culture at Vassar College: Skies of Parchment, Seas of Ink: Jews, Art, Identity, and Politics. Co-sponsored with Hillel at Stanford.

The Clara Sumpf Yiddish Lecture Series

David Fishman, Professor of Jewish History at The Jewish Theological Seminary:

Poets Turned Smugglers: How Abraham Sutzkever and Szmurke Kaczerginski Rescued Vilna’s Jewish Cultural Treasures.

Sunday, April 10, 2016 - 5:00pm
History Bldg (200), Room 307

The Clara Sumpf Yiddish Lecture Series

David Fishman, Professor of Jewish History at The Jewish Theological Seminary:

How Abraham Sutzkever and Szmurke Kaczerginski risked their lives to rescue Jewish and other cultural treasures from the Soviet Union and Communist dominated Poland. How did they do it, and why? Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg, and later, after the War, by smuggling them out. This lecture is in Yiddish.

Two Yiddish poets from Vilna risked their lives to rescue Jewish and other cultural treasures from the Soviet Union and Communist dominated Poland. How did they do it, and why? Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg, and later, after the War, by smuggling them out. This lecture is in Yiddish.

Monday, April 11, 2016 - 12:00pm
CCSRE Conference Room, Bldg. 360

The Clara Sumpf Yiddish Lecture Series

David Fishman, Professor of Jewish History at The Jewish Theological Seminary:

How Abraham Sutzkever and Szmurke Kaczerginski risked their lives to rescue Jewish and other cultural treasures from the Soviet Union and Communist dominated Poland. How did they do it, and why? Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg, and later, after the War, by smuggling them out. This lecture is in Yiddish.

Two Yiddish poets from Vilna risked their lives to rescue Jewish and other cultural treasures from the Soviet Union and Communist dominated Poland. How did they do it, and why? Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg, and later, after the War, by smuggling them out. This lecture is in Yiddish.

Monday, April 11, 2016 - 12:00pm
CCSRE Conference Room, Bldg. 360

The Charles Michael Lecture

Architectural designers Suzie Oliver and Amy Reichert discuss their approaches by creating sacred spaces. Oliver & Reichert create spaces to express the essence of space to enhance Jewish spirituality, while Reichert creates ritual objects that play with modern forms and surfaces. Their conversation will explore material and craft, light and shadow, and reinterpreting ancient ideas for a modern world.

Wednesday, April 13, 2016 - 7:00pm
Jewish Community Center of San Francisco

Please email arts@jccsf.org or call 415.292.1233.

TAUBE CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES
Free and open to the public.

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From the Other Shore Conference

From the Other Shore: A Conference Celebrating the Careers of Aron Rodrigue and Steven Zipperstein, 25 Years of Collaboration at Stanford

In the fall of 1991, Stanford University welcomed two new faculty members to its ranks: Steven J. Zipperstein as Professor of History and Daniel E. Koshland Professor in Jewish Culture and History and Aron Rodrigue as Associate Professor and future Professor and holder of the Eva Chernov Lokey Chair of Jewish Studies. Twenty-five years, 15 distinguished books, scores of articles, and some 50 doctoral students later, the Stanford Jewish Studies Program can look back on two and a half decades marked by scholarship, teaching, mentorship, and service, not only to the university but to the academy and wider community. Most importantly, these 25 years have been marked by an extraordinary collaboration that enabled Steve and Aron to build – in tandem with many colleagues within the History Department and across campus – a program in Jewish history of a scale and quality that was truly unimaginable prior to their arrival, but which today towers over the field.

To mark this quarter century of fruitful partnership, “From the Other Shore: Celebrating the Careers of Aron Rodrigue and Steven Zipperstein, 25 Years of Collaboration at Stanford” took place January 24–25, 2016 with the sponsorship of the Stanford Humanities Center, the Taube Center for Jewish Studies, and the Department of History. Despite a major storm on the East Coast that waylaid a few participants (and which the rest gratefully missed in the California sunshine), sixteen former students gathered on the Stanford campus to share our work, reflect on our graduate training, and pay tribute to the profound influence of Aron and Steve had on us as scholars and teachers.

Speakers presented their research at panels focused on themes that have been hallmarks of Steve and Aron’s own work, such as Jewish power and politics, the evolution of modern Jewish literatures, and the importance of local history. The topics took the audience from Salonika to Kiev, from ancient Jerusalem to contemporary France. In addition to highlighting the breadth of scholarship produced by Stanford graduates, a common motif was the deep impact that both Aron and Steve had on our training regardless of our geographic specialization. Participants further reflected on the collective achievements of the program at a roundtable entitled “Is there a Stanford School of Jewish History?” We ended by considering the future of the field at Stanford and in the academy more broadly. Celebrations will also offer opportunities for students and colleagues to reflect informally on the achievements of the program and the study of Jewish history at Stanford.

The conference also featured an opportunity to offer toasts and reminiscences. Former students recalled not only the insights into Jewish history that they had gained from their years at Stanford but the warm, supportive atmosphere that Aron and Steve created. This sense of collegiality carried over into the strong bonds forged among graduate students that to this day continue to shape friendships and professional relationships. Stanford participants included Paula Findlen, Gabriella Safran, Norman Naimark, Jack Rakove, and Peter Stansky, who spoke about the history of Jewish Studies at Stanford and Aron’s and Steve’s pivotal roles in transforming the program.

In the end, participants left with not only with fond memories of time spent with old friends and colleagues, but a renewed sense of gratitude at our great good fortune to have studied with Aron Rodrigue and Seve Zipperstein.
A central term in the poetic/cultural universe of Chaim Nahman Bialik is *Kinnus*. The coinage itself, one of Bialik’s many alchemical transformations of words ossified by traditional usage, is almost impossible to translate. The standard translation in English is ‘Ingathering’—an awkward term. I’d say, pace the Bard, ‘Bringing it all Back Home’ would be the best equivalent. Bialik spoke of *Kinnus* as *Kibbutz galuyot*—reunion of the dispersed. But *kinnus haruah*—‘Homecoming of the Soul’—is the quintessence of *Kinnus*.

This is what this tribute to Aron and Steve was all about! —Marcus Moseley

As a student from the early 90s, it was thrilling to be able to return to Stanford and to see all of the exciting projects that the students who came afterwards have produced. Steve and Aron have always been an excellent combination, and it was wonderful to be able to honor both of them in such a meaningful way. I’m grateful to Cecile, Tony, Sarah, Ken, Priyanka and Linda for their excellent organization of the conference! —Alyssa Sepinwall

I was so sorry to have to miss the conference at the last minute because of the blizzard on the east coast, but I want to at the very least express my deepest gratitude to you both for your guidance and mentoring for my entire professional career. I consider myself incredibly privileged to have been able to work with you, and continue to benefit from your guidance and kindness. With each passing year, I become more and more aware of how profoundly the unique atmosphere of collegiality and support you both created at Stanford—in my opinion, their greatest achievement—has made its mark in my work, making me a far better writer, thinker and, most importantly, teacher than I would have been otherwise. Thanks so much for everything, and I look forward to the future! —Jess Olson

In addition to sharing new scholarship inspired and informed by Steve and Aron’s training, conference participants also reflected upon the ways in which their experiences under their guidance influenced their teaching of Jewish history to undergraduate and graduate students alike. Some participants noted how Steve and Aron’s breadth of expertise in Ashkenazi and Sephardic Jewries inspired them to teach Jewish civilization as a global history of diverse cultures. Reflecting on Steve and Aron’s impact on his teaching of graduate students, Dan Heller noted, “Rather than prescribe dissertation topics to their students, Steve and Aron encourage students to pursue subjects that fire their imaginations. They readily serve as interlocutors for texts and topics that are far afield from their own research interests. At the same time, they consistently insist that students clearly articulate to their readers (and to themselves) why it is that their research interests and findings matter. Whenever I meet with graduate students, I aspire to follow Steve and Aron’s example in these two respects.

—Dan Heller

When I was preparing to enter the job market, I was offered the following bits of contradictory advice by my academic mentors: From Steve: ‘Best not to order anything non-kosher. And perhaps: don’t drink?’ From Aron: ‘Of course, order a cocktail at the dinner after your talk—you’ll need it!’ The reward—and occasional challenge—of working with two such luminary, dedicated, and intimate advisors as Steve and Aron is hereby captured. One was always there to do the requisite perseverating, while the other made sure to linger over gossip. (I won’t name names.) This yin and yang was crucial to me as a graduate student and it remains crucial to me as a scholar ever appreciative of Steve’s and Aron’s engagement, feedback, and friendship. The dynamic has also been crucial to Stanford and its Jewish Studies program for two and a half decades. The tremendous resources and *yikhus* of Stanford has helped, to be sure. But money is never enough. Through the years, attempts by various other institutions to lure Steve or Aron away failed in no small part because of the unique alchemy that allowed them to work so well together, and to turn this campus into Jewish historical gold. (*continued on the next page*)
The lovely thing about a “school” is that it is fluid: the bittersweet aspect of mentorship that one’s students find their path and drift in directions all their own. This is no less true for what I would call the “Stanford school.” Those of us who earned their Ph.D. under Steve and Aron’s tutelage have academic and non-academic positions across the academy, at home and abroad, and we work outside the academy, as well, translating the insights garnered from graduate work into a variety of professional tongues and to a variety of ends. We did not all study together, nor have we necessarily stayed active dialogue over time. But I like to think that over twenty-five years, we have formed, due to the hard work, dedication, generosity, and intellectual vision of Aron and Steve, a vague collective—a Stanford school whose precise contribution and distinction will only come to the fore with time.

—Sarah Abrevaya Stein

It was a great stroke of luck that allowed me to work with Steve Zipperstein in graduate school. The advising Steve gave me then, and continues to give me into my own faculty career, has served me well as a writer, researcher, and teacher. The conference this year put that advice into context: Steve and Aron together have built a school of modern Jewish studies that left its mark on universities in the US and beyond — one that is creative and ethically motivated in addition to being highly rigorous. I am deeply proud to have studied alongside the group of scholars who have learned from Aron and Steve.

—Amelia Glaser

Alumni Spotlight

Jarrod Marks, Class of 2012

My name is Jarrod Marks and I graduated from Stanford in 2012 with an Individually Designed Major in Jewish Studies. After graduating I moved to New York City to attend The Mount Sinai School of Medicine and recently graduated there. I currently live in Boston and am a resident psychiatrist at Tufts Medical Center.

When I was a sophomore at Stanford, I applied to Mount Sinai’s Humanities and Medicine program which was designed for students like myself who are interested in the humanities, but also know they want to become physicians. The program was perfect for me because it gave me the time and space to explore my humanities interest as an undergraduate without being overly burdened with the pre-medical requirements.

At Stanford I had so many different majors to choose from, but I knew from the beginning that the Jewish Studies major was the perfect major for me. I had great interest in Jewish history, biblical scholarship, Hebrew language, and historical linguistics—through the Jewish Studies major I was able to tailor my courses to meet my interests, which lead me to take courses in several different departments, but all under the umbrella of the Jewish Studies program. I truly believe that a background in Jewish Studies, the humanities, and literature helped prepare me both for medical school and for psychiatry. So much of psychiatry is about narrative—the narrative that one tells oneself about the world around him. My training in Jewish Studies has helped me with the skills I need to interpret those narratives and ultimately help people with various issues.

There is not a day that goes by that I do not think of all the wonderful times I had during my years at Stanford. The faculty in the Jewish Studies Program truly went above and beyond to help me with my academic goals. I remember telling Professor Fonrobert that I wanted to study biblical Hebrew in Israel at the Hebrew University with one of the world experts and I was able to get funding through the program to go and do so. I also had the opportunity to get private biblical Hebrew tutoring on campus by a visiting Hebrew scholar, Tamar Zewi, and was even lucky enough to take a class on Israeli law and security by Daphne Barak-Erez who is now a justice on the Supreme Court of Israel! My fondest memories were studying Talmud with Professor Fonrobert in her home and the wonderful going away party that the program put together for myself and other students in the program. I am so grateful for all the time and effort put into making my undergraduate education so unique and meaningful.
New Affiliated Faculty

Janice Ross is Professor and Director of Graduate Studies of Stanford’s Theatre and Performance Studies Department and Faculty Director of the freshman immersion arts program, ITALIC. Ross is the author of four books: *Like A Bomb Going Off: Leonid Yakobson and Ballet as Resistance in Soviet Russia* (Yale University Press, 2015), *Anna Halprin: Experience as Dance* (UC Press, 2007), *San Francisco Ballet at 75* (Chronicle Books 2007), and *Moving Lessons: Margaret H’Doubler and the Beginning of Dance in American Education* (UW 2001). Her awards include Guggenheim and Fulbright Fellowships and grants from the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture and the Israel Institute. She is past President of the Society of Dance History Scholars and the Dance Critics Association and a former Fellow of the American Council of Learned Societies.

Nancy Ruttenburg is the William Robertson Coe Professor of American Literature in the English Department at Stanford. She also holds courtesy appointments in the Department of Comparative Literature and the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures. She received her Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from Stanford (1988) and taught at Harvard, Berkeley, and most recently NYU, where she was Chair of the Department of Comparative Literature from 2002–2008. Her research interests lie at the intersection of political, religious, and literary expression in colonial through antebellum America and in nineteenth-century Russia, with a particular focus on the development of liberal and non-liberal forms of democratic subjectivity.

Anna Schultz is Associate Professor of Music at Stanford University and has previously taught at the University of Minnesota, the University of Illinois, and Ithaca College. She received a Ph.D. in Ethnomusicology from the University of Illinois, an M.A. in Social Science from the University of Chicago, and a B.A. in Music and Anthropology from Beloit College. Her first book, *Singing a Hindu Nation: Marathi Devotional Performance and Nationalism,* was published by Oxford University Press in 2013. Her second book—on Indian Jewish song, translation, and gender—is also under contract with Oxford University Press. Her research in India has been supported by fellowships from Fulbright-Hays, the American Association of University Women, the American Council of Learned Societies, the Hellman Foundation, the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute, the University of Illinois, and Stanford University.

Marie-Pierre Ulloa is a lecturer in French and Francophone Studies in the French and Italian Departments of the Division of Literatures, Cultures, and Languages at Stanford University. She teaches courses on Francophone Literature and Cinema. She is the author of *Francis Jeanson, a Dissident Intellectual from the French Resistance to the Algerian War* (Stanford University Press, 2008). She holds a degree in History from the University of La Sorbonne, an MA in History and Political Science, and an Advanced Post-Graduate Diploma in History *(summa cum laude)* from Sciences Po in Paris. She has an ongoing research project on the Maghrebi Diaspora in the United States. She was awarded the honorific title of “Chevalier de l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres” by the French Republic in 2013, one of the highest cultural honors France offers, for her contribution to the production and diffusion of French and Francophone culture in the United States.
In June 2016, Zachary Baker (University Library) presented at the Association of Jewish Libraries conference in Charleston, SC on “Building the Israeli Nation: Two Decades of Collecting Initiatives at Stanford.” In addition, the first installment of his bibliographical series on Yiddish Studies appeared online in In geveb at the beginning of September 2016 (http://ingeveb.org/education/resources-in-yiddish-studies-part-one). He continues to serve as Secretary-Treasurer of the Association for Jewish Studies. See also the Library Update in this Newsletter.


Jonathan Berger (Music), Denning Family Provostial Professor in Music, has premiered a number of recent compositions. These include: “My Lai,” commissioned by the National Endowment for the Arts for the Kronos Quartet, which premiered in Chicago and is slated for future performances around the world; “Intermezzo for piano,” which was performed at the Kennedy Center with upcoming performances in Canada and the US; and “Tango alla Zingarese,” which was commissioned by and premiered at the 92nd Street Y. Professor Berger’s upcoming compositions include “Rime Sparse,” commissioned by the Lincoln Center Chamber Music Society and Harris Theater, which is set to premiere in March 2017 at the Lincoln Center. His awards include The Rome Prize in Music Composition, the Elliot Carter Fellowship at the American Academy in Rome, and the Guggenheim Fellowship.


Together with her colleagues Ishay Rosenzvi, Aharon Shemesh, and Moulie Vidas, Charlotte Elisheva Fonrobert (Religious Studies) has edited and contributed to a Festschrift for Prof. Daniel Boyarin (on the occasion of his 70th birthday) entitled Talmudic Transgressions, about to appear with Brill. She also co-edited, together with her colleagues Marjorie Lehman and Jane Kanarek, and contributed to a special issue of the journal Nashim in honor of Prof. Judith Hauptman (on the occasion of her 70th birthday), which appeared in 2015. In 2014, Prof. Fonrobert joined the Academic Advisory Board of the Zentrum für Jüdische Studien in Berlin, a consortium of five Jewish Studies departments at universities in Berlin. She contributed a chapter on “Ritual” to the forthcoming Handbuch für Jüdische Studien (Berlin and Frankfurt), ed. by Christina v. Braun und Micha Brumlik. She is completing her Einführung in den Talmud (Introduction to the Talmud) for the university books series in “Jüdische Studien” in Germany.

Shelley Fisher Fishkin’s (English and American Studies) new book, Writing America: Literary Landmarks from Walden Pond to Wounded Knee (Rutgers UP, 2015), includes discussions of Jewish writers including Sholem Asch, Abraham Cahan, Allen Ginsberg, Michael Gold, Abraham Goldfaden, Jacob Gordin, Irena Klepfisz, Emma Lazarus, Morris Rosenfeld, Henry Roth, and Anzia Yezierska. The book was named Runner-up in General Non-Fiction at the 2015 London Book Festival.

Katherine Jolluck (History) is a Senior Lecturer in East European History and also the Faculty Coordinator for the Public History/Public Service Track and Faculty Fellow at the Haas Center for Public Service. She is also a Faculty Fellow at the HANaDA Center for Human Rights & International Justice. Her forthcoming publications include “Life and Fate: Race, Nationality, Class, and Gender in Wartime Poland” in Catherine Baker, ed., Gender in 20th-Century Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union (London: Palgrave, December 2016) and “Women in the Crosshairs: Violence Against Women During World War II” in the Australian Journal of Politics and History. Her most recent article is “The Future of Work: A Living Wage and Freedom for Today’s Slaves,” Pacific Standard (Nov./Dec. 2015).

Ari Y. Kelman (Education), Jim Joseph Professor of Education and Jewish Studies, is hard at work with his students on a number of projects. He is completing his manuscript on the making of Evangelical Christian worship music (NYU Press), and is writing a number of articles focusing on subjects as varied as the production of scholarly knowledge about Jewish education, the relationship between school desegregation and religious schooling, and about how people collaborate to make a bar or bat mitzvah, and what people need to know in order to do so. Together with students in the Concentration of Education and Jewish Studies, he is launching a new project that will examine how Jewish college students are making sense of discourse around Israel and Palestine on their campuses. Last year, he helped create the Cluster in American Religions in a Global Context, and he and his family are still the proud Residential Fellows for Junipero House, a dorm of first-year students.
Aron Rodrigue (History) is continuing to work on his book on the Jews of the island of Rhodes and the end of the Ottoman Sephardi world.


Beginning in academic year 2013–14 and continuing to the present, Janice Ross (Theater and Performance Studies) has served as the Faculty Director of the new year-long residential based freshman arts program, Immersion in the Arts: Living in Culture (ITALIC). In 2015–16 she also became the Director of Graduate Studies for the Department of Theatre and Performance Studies. In 2015 Yale University Press published her fourth and most recent book, Like A Bomb Going Off: Leonid Yakobson and Ballet as Resistance in Soviet Russia. This first detailed study of the cultural and political impact of the leading Jewish choreographer working at the Kirov and Bolshoi Theatres in the USSR during the reign of Stalin was widely reviewed by major publications including The Washington Post, The Atlantic, The New York Times, The Forward, The J (SF Jewish Bulletin), and The Jewish Chronicle in the UK. The Board of the Congress on Research in Dance, the leading scholarly Dance Studies organization, will be awarding her the 2015 Award for Outstanding Scholarly Research in Dance. Noting her appreciation for “how profoundly dance engages its social surround,” one nominator applauded her “commitment to oral history as well as archival research to recover what happens in the dance studio as well as onstage, and an interest in how voices from what might seem a margin inflect the dominant.” Indeed, each of her four books—Moving Lessons: Margaret H’Doubler and the Beginning of Dance in American Education (2000), San Francisco Ballet at Seventy Five (2007), Anna Halprin: Experience as Dance (2007), and Like a Bomb Going Off: Leonid Yakobson and Ballet as Resistance in Soviet Russia (2015) has been a moving and definitive study. The Awards Committee enthusiastically agrees with one nominator, who stated that her combination of “dedicated service to the field” with “superlative scholarship” deserves the Award for Outstanding Scholarly Research in Dance. She was also hosted as a participant in the Israel Institute’s Leadership Summit in Jerusalem.

Gabriella Safran (Slavic Languages and Literatures), the Eva Chernov Lokey Professor of Jewish Studies, published “History, Voice, Money, and Trees: ‘Rothschild’s Fiddle’ and the Jews,” which was co-written with Ben Knelman, and Approaches to Teaching the Works of Anton Chekhov, ed. Michael Finke and Michael Holquist, an MLA teaching volume. She also co-edited and co-wrote the introduction in Writing Jewish Culture: Paradoxes in Ethnography, a volume of scholarly articles and source texts, with Andreas Kilcher, Indiana University Press. Other publications include “Listening in the Dark: The Yiddish Folklorists’ Claim of a Russian Genealogy” in Writing Jewish Culture and “Jewish Argument Style among Russian Revolutionaries” in Journal of Jewish Languages. Safran received the Ellen Andrews Wright Fellowship from the Stanford Humanities Center.

Anna Schultz (Music) has a forthcoming book entitled Songs of Translation: Bene Israel Migration, Gender, and Textual Orality (Oxford University Press, under contract).

Vered Shemtov (Comparative Literature) was nominated to be the Chair of the NAPH Literature Committee, which she now co-chairs with Gidon Ticotsky. Together with Anat Weisman from Ben-Gurion University, she co-founded a new online magazine on Hebrew, Jewish, and Comparative Literature, Dibur, for which she now serves as editor-in-chief.

Steven J. Zipperstein’s (History) new book, tentatively entitled “Pogrom: Kishinev and the Tilt of History,” was accepted for publication by Liveright/W.W. Norton and is slated to appear in fall 2017. For his work as series editor of the Jewish Lives volumes published by Yale University
Press, he was awarded 2015 Book of the Year by the National Jewish Book Council. The award marked the first time a book series had ever won the prize. Recent essays of his have appeared in the *New York Times Book Review*, the *Jewish Review of Books*, and elsewhere.

**Graduate Student Updates**

**Kristen Alff** is a sixth year and a Geballe Fellow at the Stanford Humanities Center. She has been working on the evolution of property rights in Ottoman Palestine and their intersection with the expansion of new world economic systems in the mid-nineteenth century. She is currently in the middle of her dissertation writing, drawing on sources from Israeli archives, European archives, and private correspondences.

**Annie Atura** is entering her sixth year at Stanford as a Lieberman Fellow at the Stanford Humanities Center. The award, sponsored by the Vice Provost for Graduate Education, recognizes excellence in teaching and leadership as well as in academic research. In 2015–2016 she pioneered the “Feminist/Queer: Critiques and Synergies” workshop at the Stanford Humanities Center under the direction of Sianne Ngai; the workshop has been renewed for 2016–17, and she will once again be serving as graduate coordinator. In 2015–16, Annie was awarded a Graduate Teaching Fellowship at the Center for Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity. Through that position she designed and taught “The Ethics of Metaphor: Identities in Parallel,” an undergraduate course on problematic likenesses in literature. She served as Student-at-Large Representative to the Faculty Senate in 2015–16 and was re-appointed to the position in 2016–17. In 2015–16 she also served as an English Department WISE mentor and coached undergraduate theses in Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. She organized the Colloquium on Jews, Judaism, and Jewish Culture for the Taube Center for Jewish Studies for a second year. Her paper, “Unpleasant Business: Rat, Jew, Payment, and Covenant in Freud’s *Rat Man*” is forthcoming in the *Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association*. This summer, she and her partner, Tyler Bushnell, won a bid from the City of San Francisco to install a series of sound-activated light sculptures in the Tenderloin; she and Tyler are looking forward to supervising the project’s installation along Larkin Street this winter.

**Gilat Bacher**, a native of Israel, is a J.S.D. candidate at Stanford Law School specializing in tort law, conflict resolution, professional responsibility, and civil procedure. Gilat holds an LL.B. in Law and an M.B.A. in Business Administration, both summa cum laude, from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. She also holds a J.S.M. in International Legal Studies from Stanford Law School.

Gilat was awarded the Franklin Prize in International Law and the American Society of Comparative Law’s Younger Comparativists Prize for her master’s thesis. During her undergraduate studies, Gilat was an editorial board member of *Mishpatim*, the Hebrew University’s major law review. She then served as a Legal Clerk for Chief Justice Beinisch, President of the Israeli Supreme Court, and as an associate at a leading law firm in Israel. At Stanford, Gilat has been a fellow at the Stanford Center on International Conflict and Negotiation and at the Haas Center for Public Service, and has also been an International Peace Scholarship fellow. She is currently an Israel Institute Doctoral Fellow. Her dissertation project is a case study of compensation mechanisms for victims of Israeli-Palestinian intergroup conflict.

**Jacob Daniels** is a Ph.D. student in the Department of History. He studies Jews in the late Ottoman Empire and is especially interested in economic and social history.

**Ella Elbaz-Nir** is a candidate in the Comparative Literature Department. Her interests include the intersections of Arabic, Hebrew, and French contemporary literature and art with the political realities of the Middle East.

**Daniella Farah** is a third-year Ph.D. student in Jewish History. Her research has examined the effects of nationalism on the identities of Jewish communities in Iran and Turkey in the twentieth century and on Jewish education in twentieth-century Iran. During the 2015–2016 academic year at Stanford, she was a TA for “The Changing Face of War: An Introduction to Military History” and “Jews in the Contemporary World: Faith and Ethnicity, Vulnerability, and Visibility.” She received the Department of History’s 2016 prize for “Excellence in First-Time Teaching” for her work in the latter course. Daniella will teach a course of her own design in spring 2017 titled “Between Toleration and Persecution: Iran and its Minorities in the Twentieth Century.”

**Idan Gillo** is currently working on a dissertation project entitled “Redemption through Conversion: The Conversion and Rebirth Discourse in Eighteenth-Century Germany.”

**Ilana Horwitz** is a Ph.D. candidate in Sociology of Education with a concentration in Education and Jewish Studies. Her research focuses on the intersection of education and religion. She is particularly curious about how a teen’s religious background affects how far he goes and how well he does in school. Currently, researchers and policymakers focus on how race, socioeconomic status, and gender affect educational outcomes. Could religion also explain some of the variance in educational attainment? Ilana holds an M.A. in International Education Development from Columbia University’s Teachers College and a B.B.A in Business...
Administration from Emory University. Ilana currently has fellowships from the Wexner Foundation and the Institute for Education Sciences.

Jeremiah Lockwood is a Ph.D. candidate in the School of Education. His research concerns the culture and history of cantorial music. Jeremiah is also a musician. His most recent album, entitled Kol Nidre #3, will be released in the fall of 2016.

Alexander Marcus is a Ph.D. candidate in Religious Studies. His research focuses on analyzing rhetorical strategies in the Babylonian Talmud as a window into the broader religious, cultural, and political world of late-antique Jewish communities in Sasanian Mesopotamia. His interests include orality, historiography, folklore, discourses of magic and medicine, and the boundaries and intersections of communal identity.

Joshua Meyers’ research focuses on the history of the General Jewish Labor Union (Bund), a Jewish Marxist-Nationalist party, during the Russian Revolution of 1917. In particular, he is interested in the tensions between nationalism and radicalism encountered by the party as it struggled to reconcile itself to both the Jewish street and the Marxist world.

Shoshana Olidort is a Ph.D. Candidate in Comparative Literature. Her research focuses on performativity in postwar Jewish literature, across languages. She has presented work on Isaac Bashevis Singer and Dan Pagis, and her review of Jonathan Safran Foer’s new novel Here I Am will appear in the fall issue of the Jewish Review of Books.

James Redfield is a Mellon Fellow at the Stanford Humanities Center, where he is completing his dissertation, “The Sages and the World: Categorizing Culture in Early Rabbinic Law.” He has published articles on the literary reception of the Hebrew Bible, phenomenology, postcolonial literature, and Jewish ethics, and two of his articles on Talmudic literature are forthcoming. James has enjoyed teaching languages and religious texts to students of diverse ages and cultures. He has also worked as an urban ethnographer in Berlin and as a translator from French, German, and Yiddish.

Ashley Walters is a Ph.D. candidate working on late nineteenth and early twentieth-century Russian and American Jewish history. Her dissertation focuses on Russian Jewish immigrants who came to the United States between 1880 and the 1920s and were active in the creation of a Jewish immigrant intellectual community. She is particularly interested in Jewish women and the roles they assumed in leftist circles upon immigrating to the United States.

In 2015, Matt Williams moved to New York to finish research for his dissertation on the history of Orthodox outreach. In the past year, Matt was appointed the Managing Director of the Berman Jewish Policy Archive (now located at Stanford), and he is in the midst of consulting projects on Jewish education, broadly defined, with the Orthodox Union, UJA-Federation of NY, the Avi Chai Foundation, the IDEA Schools Network, and a number of other organizations.

In the past year Jonathan Wurl studied in Belarus and Russia. His current academic work addresses the development of radical thought in the Russian Empire in the mid to late 19th century. He is currently focusing on Nikolai Chernyshevsky, who popularized materialism in the period. In addition to focusing on the Russian intelligentsia, Jonathan is also examining how ideas diffused into the intelligentsias of national minorities of the Russian Empire (especially Jews). His next project examines the relationship between Russian radical intellectuals and Jewish radical intellectuals in creating new secular-universal identities by examining their shared experiences in religious (Orthodox Christian and Jewish, respectively) primary and secondary schools.

Alumni/ae Updates

Mira Balberg is Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at Northwestern University, where she specializes in ancient Judaism. She holds a B.A. and an M.A. from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, where she studied the Hebrew Bible and Talmud, and a Ph.D. in Religious Studies from Stanford (2011). Her areas of teaching include Hebrew Bible, Second Temple literature, Hellenistic Judaism, and Rabbinics. Her book Purity, Body, and Self in Early Rabbinic Literature (University of California Press, 2014) explores the transformations of the biblical purity system in rabbinic literature in light of contemporaneous Greek and Roman ideas of personhood and corporeality. She is currently completing a book manuscript titled Blood for Thought: The Rabbinic Reinvention of Sacrifice.

Elissa Bemporad is the Jerry and William Ungar Chair in East European Jewish History and the Holocaust and Associate Professor of History at Queens College of the City University of New York. Her first book, Becoming Soviet Jews: The Bolshevik Experiment in Minsk, won the National Jewish Book Award, the Frankel Prize in Contemporary History, and the Felix Gross Prize and received an honorable mention from the Jordan Schnitzer Prize in Modern Jewish History. Elissa is now working on a book entitled Legacy of Blood: Jews, Pogroms and Ritual Murder in the Lands of the Soviets, which will be published by Oxford University Press, and is co-editing a collection of primary sources on Jewish women in Central and Eastern Europe. She is currently an NEH fellow.
Alumni/ae Updates

Shana Bernstein is Clinical Associate Professor of Legal Studies at Northwestern University, where she also teaches classes in American studies and history. She is also a Distinguished Lecturer for the Organization of American Historians. After receiving her Ph.D. in history at Stanford she held a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship in Latino Studies before joining Southwestern University’s history department as an Assistant, and later Associate, Professor. Her first book, *Bridges of Reform: Interracial Civil Rights Activism in Twentieth-Century Los Angeles* (Oxford University Press, 2011), reinterprets U.S. civil rights activism by revealing its roots in the interracial efforts of Mexican, Jewish, African, and Japanese Americans in mid-century Los Angeles and by showing how the early Cold War facilitated, rather than derailed, some forms of activism. Bernstein is currently working on a project that examines the environmental health activism of multiracial, working-class immigrant neighborhoods in early twentieth-century Chicago.


This year, Timothy DeBold defended his dissertation, titled “The Hermeneutics of Textual Hierarchies in the Babylonian Talmud,” in which he proposes new ways of understanding passages that seem to deviate from more conventional Talmudic hermeneutical paradigms. He currently lives in Chicago where he works at Northwestern University in the Office of Residential Academic Initiatives, and where he is very happily married to Mira Balberg, also an alumna of the Stanford Religious Studies department.

Ziva Reimer Hassenfeld, received her Ph.D. in 2016 from Stanford’s Graduate School of Education. She is a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Studies in Jewish Education at Brandeis University.

Renana Keydar is a postdoctoral fellow at the Minerva Center for Human Rights in the Hebrew University’s Faculty of Law. She is affiliated with the interdisciplinary program “Human Rights Under Pressure: Ethics, Law and Politics” under the joint auspices of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the Free University of Berlin. Her current research project explores the ethics of the plurality of storytelling in transitional justice mechanisms. Renana received her doctorate in Comparative Literature from Stanford University (2015). Her dissertation is an interdisciplinary examination of the changes in notions of post-atrocity justice from 1945 to 9/11 through the joint prism of law and culture. Prior to her graduate studies, she earned an LLB (magna cum laude) and a BA (political science, magna cum laude) from Tel Aviv University and served as a legal advocate in the Israeli Ministry of Justice, High Court of Justice Department. Next year, Renana will be a fellow at the Martin Buber Society of Fellows in the Humanities at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

As a member of the religion department at Haverford College, Ken Koltun-Fromm teaches a wide range of courses in modern Jewish thought and culture, together with material studies in religion. His research focuses on Jewish conceptions of identity, authority, authenticity, and materiality. He has published four books—*Moses Hess and Modern Jewish Identity* (2001), *Abraham Geiger’s Liberal Judaism: Personal Meaning and Religious Authority* (2006), *Material Culture and Jewish Thought in America* (2010), and *Imagining Jewish Authenticity: Vision and Text in American Jewish Thought* (2015)—and one edited volume, *Thinking Jewish Culture in America* (2014). He is currently co-editing two projects, one on conceptions of the Jewish God and the other on sacred texts and graphic novels. For an updated mini-bio, please visit his website: http://dvar.haverford.edu/

Still living in Montreal, Emily Kopley taught a course she designed for McGill’s Jewish Studies program called “The Messiah in Twentieth-Century Jewish and Christian Literature.” She is working on an article on the same topic.

Cecile E. Kuznitz is Associate Professor of History and Director of Jewish Studies and Historical Studies at Bard College. She also serves as Senior Advisor at the Max Weinreich Center, YIVO Institute for Jewish Research. Her book *YIVO and the Making of Modern Jewish Culture: Scholarship for the Yiddish Nation* was published in 2014 by Cambridge University Press. Cecile has served as the Workmen’s Circle/Dr. Emanuel Patt Visiting Professor in Eastern European Jewish Studies at YIVO and as a Visiting Scholar at Vilnius University. She has also held fellowships at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies, and the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania.
Emily J. Levine (Ph.D. History and the Humanities, 2008) was promoted to Associate Professor of Modern European history at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in 2016. Her first book, *Dreamland of Humanists: Warburg, Cassirer, Panofsky, and the Hamburg School* (University of Chicago Press, 2013), was awarded the Herbert Baxter Adams Prize by the American Historical Association for the best book in European history from 1815 through the 20th century. The book was also a finalist for the Jordan Schnitzer Book Award in Cultural and Media Studies, awarded by the Association for Jewish Studies. Her article, “Baltimore Teaches, Göttingen Learns: Cooperation, Competition, and the Research University,” based on research conducted while she was an Alexander von Humboldt fellow in Berlin, was published in June 2016 in the *American Historical Review*.

Josh Peskin, Ph.D., utilizes a background in Strategic Communications and Modern Jewish Thought in his role overseeing fundraising and communications activity at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and Jewish Reconstructionist Communities. As RRC/JRC enters a new era for academic and Jewish organizations, the strategic advancement staff focuses on engaging our community and laying the foundation for a financially healthy and vibrant Reconstructionist future. Peskin is a member of the president’s cabinet and works closely with college and movement leadership on a wide range of issues that impact students, faculty, staff and Reconstructionist congregations internationally. Prior to joining RRC/JRC, Peskin was a Senior Strategist at Identity Advisors, providing strategic counsel to a diverse range of clients, including foundations, higher education institutions, and religion in public life advocacy organizations. Peskin holds a Ph.D. from Stanford University in Religious Studies and completed a dissertation on the work of Emmanuel Levinas.

Alyssa Goldstein Sepinwall is Professor of History at California State University San Marcos and past winner of the university’s Brakebill Distinguished Professor Award. After receiving her Ph.D. in History and Jewish Studies from Stanford in 1998, she was Lucius N. Littauer Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania’s Center for Advanced Judaic Studies. She is the author of *The Abbé Grégoire and the Making of Modern Universalism, Haitian History: New Perspectives* and many articles on French-Jewish history, French revolutionary history, French colonial history, and Haitian history. Her recent research examines depictions of Muslim-Jewish relationships in recent French cinema (“Reimagining Jewish-Muslim Relations on Screen: French-Jewish Filmmakers and the Middle East Conflict,” in Zvi Jonathan Kaplan and Nadia Malinovich, eds., *The Jews of Modern France: Images and Identities* [Brill], forthcoming September 2016).

Noam Silverman is Head of High School at The Heschel School in New York City.

Nina S. Spiegel is the Rabbi Joshua Stampfer Associate Professor of Israel Studies at Portland State University. Her first book, *Embodying Hebrew Culture: Aesthetics, Athletics, and Dance in the Jewish Community of Mandate Palestine* (Wayne State University Press, 2013), was recognized as a finalist for both the Sami Rohr Prize for Jewish Literature and a National Jewish Book Award. Spiegel’s articles have appeared in publications such as *Jewish Cultural Studies, Jewish Folklore* and *Ethnology Review*, and *Rethinking History: The Journal of Theory and Practice*. She has also served on the board of directors of the Congress on Research in Dance.

A 2015-2016 Guggenheim Fellow, Sarah Abrevaya Stein is Professor of History and Maurice Amado Chair in Sephardic Studies at UCLA. Her award-winning scholarship includes *Extraterritorial Dreams: European Citizenship, Sephardi Jews, and the Ottoman Twentieth Century* (University of Chicago Press, 2016); *Saharan Jews and the Fate of French Algeria* (University of Chicago Press, 2014); *Sephardi Lives: a documentary history, 1700-1950* (Stanford University Press, 2014); and *Plumes: Ostrich Feathers, Jews, and a Lost World of Global Commerce* (Yale University Press, 2008). With the support of a fellowship from the Guggenheim Foundation, she is now working on *Family Papers: A Sephardi Journey Through the Twentieth Century*.

Max Strassfeld is an Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at the University of Arizona. He is currently working on his manuscript, *Transing the Talmud: Androgynes and Eunuchs in Rabbinic Law*.

Dr. Sivan Zakai is an Assistant Professor of Education at the Graduate Center for Education at American Jewish University and an Affiliated Scholar at the Jack, Joseph, and Morton Mandel Center for Studies in Jewish Education at Brandeis University. She directs the AJU Teaching Israel Fellowship, a year-long course of study for exemplary educators who teach about Israel in Jewish educational settings, and the Children’s Learning About Israel Project, a longitudinal study of how American Jewish children think about Israel.
The Dr. Bernard Kaufman Undergraduate Research Award in Jewish Studies

2016: Sawyer Altman for his proposal “Jewish Modernists on How Technology Shapes Us” with Prof. Amir Eshel

Since the beginning of modernity, Jewish critical theorists have worked to map the evolving world around them, to develop a new conceptual language, and to understand the consequences of their times. But in late modernity, an age of pervasive information technologies, we are more embedded in information than the earlier thinkers could ever have imagined. I will continue their line of inquiry by reflecting on their writings and asking this question: what are the consequences of the rise to ubiquitous information?

Sawyer is studying Science, Technology, and Society with a concentration in Innovations and Organizations. He will be conducting his research as part of an STS honors thesis. He is a technologist and hopes to use his insights to inform his design process, to build digital technologies conscientiously, and to better understand how his choices and those of others like him affect society.

The Donald and Robin Kennedy Undergraduate Awards

2016: “On Trauma and Camp”: “I spent last summer researching the Holocaust and my grandparents’ experiences of the Holocaust in Germany, Poland, and Russia. I kept encountering these bizarre, campy things related to or in sites of incredible trauma. That’s what this essay is about.” – Adam Schorin

Adam is an American Studies major and a Creative Writing minor. This summer, he’ll be conducting research for a professor in the history department and continuing to work on a fiction project on a grant from his major.

Honorable Mention went to Beatrice Garrard for her honor’s thesis, “Yid.”

2015: “Reluctant to Save a Life? BRCA1 Gene Testing Among Orthodox Jewish Women”: “This essay explores critical issues surrounding BRCA1 genetic testing for Jewish Orthodox women. Ashkenazi women have a high prevalence of the mutation, but within the Orthodox community there are socio-cultural and stigma-related impediments to testing. The essay addresses how genetic testing might become more culturally accepted, thereby saving countless lives.”

– Debra Linfield

Debra graduated in 2015 with a major in Biology and a minor in Math. She will be serving next year as a Fellow at the American Hebrew Academy in Greensboro, North Carolina, before applying to medical school.

The Koret Award for Best Essay Written in Hebrew

2016: “Breaking the Silence” by Gil Lorch Kornberg

Honorable Mention went to Josh Lang for his paper “Israeli Cinema.”

2015: “Short Stories about Endings” by Shirley Yarin, Class of 2015, Economics and Mathematics major

The Second Undergraduate Short Story Contest

Grand Prize: “The Guest” by Beatrice Garrard

Second Place: “New Photographs” by Adam Schorin

Third Place: “Just a Cup” by Zane Hellmann

Honorable Mention went to Michal Leibowitz for “The Man and the Boy”
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Charlotte Fonrobert, Robin Kennedy, Debra Linfield and Sophie B. Roberts at the Kennedy Award Luncheon in 2015
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Linda Huynh (Center Manager/Stewardship Coordinator)

Charlotte Fonrobert (Director),
Linda Huynh (Center Manager/Stewardship Coordinator) and
Nicole Bridges (Event and Finance Coordinator, 2015-present)

Taube Center for Jewish Studies
450 Serra Mall, Building 360
Stanford, CA 94305-2190
jewishstudies.stanford.edu