As we are getting ready for another academic year, it is time to look back on the last one, which has been busy and wonderful. Since we are blessed with so many events and with an extraordinarily rich program at the Taube Center for Jewish Studies, we have decided to make this newsletter annual.

This past year we decided to try something new and dedicate the academic year to a theme that would frame our events and programs. The theme we chose was “Jewish Engagement with the Arts: Word, Image, and Performance.” And what a success it has been! Our affiliated departments and their faculty participated in wide-ranging ways, extending invitations to a variety of visitors. The Department of Comparative Literature, Religious Studies, Music, Theater and Performance Studies, and Art & Art History all participated. Thanks to our generous donors and collaborating programs, we were able to bring internationally renowned authors, performers, and artists from the United States, Europe, and Israel to campus. Our faculty has been especially creative this year in integrating these visitors into our teaching and regular classes, providing our students with maximal exposure. How amazing it is for an undergraduate student to be able to participate in a small-group conversation with authors like Etgar Keret, Zeruya Shalev, or Sayed Kashua, learning about the creative process, best writing practices, and simple faith in one’s own work and writing their own short stories as part of our successful biannual short-story contest. And what a treat to have director Amos Gitai present to screen his film Rabin: The Last Day! One of the most moving moments for me, as a European of German background, was seeing the only aerial footage of pre–World War II Warsaw, in the silent movie The Yellow Ticket, set beautifully to music by Alicia Svigals. The film was screened before a large audience in one of Stanford’s beautiful performance spaces.

As part of the year’s theme we launched another new project, bringing an artist in residence to campus to support and promote the production of Jewish art projects. It was a special gift to have Saar Magal, a young choreographer from Tel Aviv and Berlin, stay with us for a month, to work on her new piece, commissioned by the Staatsoper in Berlin, entitled I Am Still Here: Performing the Histories of Tomorrow.

Truly an amazing year! I am particularly grateful to be able to say that at the end of this year, since I am preparing for a sabbatical leave that will allow me to finish my own writing projects. As I write this letter, I am handing over the directorship of the Taube Center to my dear friend and colleague Ari Kelman, the Jim Joseph Chair of Education and Jewish Studies at Stanford’s School of Education. He will have the support of an enthusiastic group of affiliated faculty members, now newly replenished with the hiring of Ariel Mayse in Religious Studies, whom we will officially welcome during the fall quarter.

As always, and now especially more so, with good wishes for a wonderful year ahead, shanah tovah, a gut gebentsht yohr, anyada buena, ein gutes, neues Jahr.

Charlotte Elishева Fonrobert
Director, 2014–2017
Taube Center for Jewish Studies at Stanford University
hardly seems possible to imagine Jewish life and learning without the arts. This past year, the Stanford Taube Center for Jewish Studies decided to showcase its creative side with the yearlong theme “Jewish Engagement with the Arts: Word, Image, and Performance.”

This created an exceptional learning environment for our students, whose access to a gifted faculty was enhanced and enriched through interaction with renowned invited artists, authors, and performers from Europe, Israel, and the United States. And being part of Stanford enabled the Taube Center to integrate its thematic year into the university’s own celebration of the arts that began in 2015.

Taube Philanthropies encourages the Taube Center for Jewish Studies to continue its involvement in the world of Jewish arts. It is part of our philanthropic commitment to advance the Jewish arts, which in the last year has included support to the Taube Family Arthur Szyk Collection at UC Berkeley’s Magnes Collection of Jewish Life and Art, San Francisco’s Contemporary Jewish Museum and its new Taube Family Fund for Innovation in the Arts, and Tel Aviv’s Beit Hafutsot Museum of the Jewish People, to name a few of the Jewish arts programs.

The Stanford Taube Center’s myriad events, classes, performances, and viewings this past year met our highest expectations. As part of the role of the Taube Center’s advisory board is to advance the center’s partnerships with Jewish academic, cultural, and arts institutions in the Bay Area and beyond, we anticipate continued engagement with the arts.

Additionally, the Taube Center advisory board continues to urge the academic program to be mindful of the world around us. It is unfortunate, but brutally true, that assaults against Jews and Jewish values have increased exponentially in recent years. We cannot ignore the realities of the world around us, and those realities need to be recognized, discussed, and studied in the weeks and months ahead.

Tad Taube
Chair, Advisory Board
Taube Center for Jewish Studies at Stanford University
Last winter, Stanford cinephiles and music lovers enjoyed a special treat: a screening of *The Yellow Ticket* (*Der Gelbe Schein*), a silent movie accompanied by a live performance of music specially composed for the film by Alicia Svigals.

Dating from 1918 and filmed at Berlin’s Tempelhof Studios (some scenes were shot in Warsaw, then under German occupation), *The Yellow Ticket* starred the legendary actress Pola Negri, who later emigrated to Hollywood. (*The Yellow Ticket* was released in the United States in 1922, under the title *The Devil’s Pawn.*) In the film, Negri plays the role of Lea, a young Jewish woman from a Polish shtetl who, constrained by antisemitic laws, leads a double life in a brothel while attending medical school in tsarist Russia. Lea and Dmitri, a fellow student, fall in love, but their romance is temporarily foiled when Dmitri learns of her secret. Through various plot twists, happily, they eventually reunite.

The screening of *The Yellow Ticket*, which was cosponsored by the Taube Center for Jewish Studies together with Theater and Performance Studies; Slavic Languages and Literature; Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; the Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies; and Music at Stanford, took place in January 2017 in an intimate performance space at the Center for Computer Research in Music and Acoustics (CCRMA). Alicia Svigals performed her film score at the screening, along with Canadian jazz pianist Marilyn Lerner and clarinetist Laura DeLuca of the Seattle Symphony. Svigals is the world’s leading klezmer violinist, a composer, and a founder of the Grammy-winning Klezmatics, which she codirected for seventeen years.

Zachary M. Baker, Reinhard Family Curator of Judaica and Hebraica Collections, Stanford University Libraries
JEWISH ENGAGEMENT WITH THE ARTS

The Taube Center for Jewish Studies and the Hamid and Christina Moghadam Program in Iranian Studies are proud to present:

MICHAEL KRASNY
JEWISH HUMOR: WHAT IT ALL MEANS

Wednesday, November 1, 8 p.m. • Cubberley Auditorium

Free and open to the public

No RSVP required, but seating is limited

For more details, please see our website: http://jewishstudies.stanford.edu

October 20, 2016
Amos Gitai, renowned Israeli filmmaker: Rabin: The Last Day.

November 1, 2016

January 18, 2017
Alicia Svigals, violinist/composer: The Yellow Ticket. Cosponsored by the Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies; Theater and Performance Studies; Slavic Languages and Literature; Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; and Music at Stanford.

February 1, 2017
Daniel Landau, media artist/VR researcher: “TIME-BODY STUDY/VR Performative Experiment.” Cosponsored by the Department of Theater and Performance Studies and CCRMA.

Film screening followed by a conversation with renowned Israeli filmmaker Amos Gitai

(Rabin, Kadosh, Free Zone)

“It seems quite relevant to America today. It’s about what can happen in a democratic society when politicians go too far, when they not only stand mute when hateful words that cross civilized redlines suddenly become part of the public discourse, but, worse, start to wink at and dabble in this hate speech for their advantage.”

– Thomas Friedman, The New York Times

For more details, please see our website: http://jewishstudies.stanford.edu

The Taube Center for Jewish Studies at Stanford University is proud to present:

OCTOBER 20, 7 P.M.
Hewlett 201 Auditorium
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

TALK AND BOOK EVENT
Tuesday, November 1, 8 p.m. • Cubberley Auditorium

Visit jewishstudies.stanford.edu or iranian-studies.stanford.edu for info

Free and open to the public

*Parking is free after 4pm, unless otherwise noted

The Taube Center for Jewish Studies, CCRMA and the Dept. of Theater and Performance Studies is proud to present:

TIME-BODY STUDY/VR Performative Experiment
by
Daniel Landau
– Israel based Media Artist & VR Researcher –

Wednesday, February 1, 2017
7:30 pm
CCRMA Stage - The Knoll

An experimental theater and VR performance created by Daniel Landau exploring the boundaries of body, identity and self using virtual reality technology. This live event includes a lecture and demonstration of an experiment where a participant, wearing a virtual reality head-mounted display, is re-embodied in the body of a 7, 40 and 80 year old.

in collaboration with: Hai Cohen, Maya Magnat, Duffy Katz, Hedva Eltanani, Shani Bar

The Yellow Ticket is a 1918 silent film starring legendary actress Pola Negri; made in Europe before Negri emigrated to Hollywood. The film tells the story of a young Jewish woman from a Polish shtetl who, due to anti-Semitic laws, is constrained to lead a double life in a brothel while attending medical school in Tsarist Russia.

Wednesday, January 18, 2017
- 7:30pm -
CCRMA Stage
660 Lomita Dr. Stanford/The Knoll

Violinist/composer Alicia Svigals has composed a new live score for the film, which she will perform at the screening along with Canadian jazz pianist Marilyn Lerner and clarinetist Laura DeLuca of the Seattle Symphony.

Free and open to the public but RSVP required: nybridges@stanford.edu

The Yellow Ticket is a 1918 silent film starring legendary actress Pola Negri; made in Europe before Negri emigrated to Hollywood. The film tells the story of a young Jewish woman from a Polish shtetl who, due to anti-Semitic laws, is constrained to lead a double life in a brothel while attending medical school in Tsarist Russia.

- 7:30pm -
CCRMA Stage
660 Lomita Dr. Stanford/The Knoll

Violinist/composer Alicia Svigals has composed a new live score for the film, which she will perform at the screening along with Canadian jazz pianist Marilyn Lerner and clarinetist Laura DeLuca of the Seattle Symphony.

January 18, 2017
Alicia Svigals, violinist/composer: The Yellow Ticket. Cosponsored by the Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies; Theater and Performance Studies; Slavic Languages and Literature; Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; and Music at Stanford.

February 1, 2017
Daniel Landau, media artist/VR researcher: “TIME-BODY STUDY/VR Performative Experiment.” Cosponsored by the Department of Theater and Performance Studies and CCRMA.
On March 3, celebrated London-based Israeli artist Ori Gersht delivered a public lecture entitled “Optical Unconsciousness.” In a packed Oshman Hall in the recently inaugurated McMurtry Building for the Arts, Gersht offered a forceful presentation of some two decades of his internationally celebrated work. He focused on the evolving role of technology in the emergence of photography as an artistic medium. The lecture began with a thought-provoking introduction by Alexander Nemerov (department chair and Carl and Marilynn Thoma Provostial Professor in the Arts and Humanities, Stanford University). After a captivating hour-long lecture by Gersht, the audience discussed questions of aesthetics, remembrance, and art theory with the artist. This event was cosponsored by the Contemporary; the Division of Literatures, Cultures, and Languages; the Department of Art and Art History; and the Europe Center.

As part of our Jewish Engagement with the Arts year, we inaugurated a project to bring an artist to campus to work on a project. Our aim in this effort is to support the making of artistic projects through conversations with scholars in Jewish Studies and to bring the most recent insights gained within the academy into the world outside.

We were extremely fortunate to start this endeavor with Saar Magal, a young choreographer and director from Tel Aviv and more recently Berlin, who creates dance-theater and opera performances. Magal has created performances for theaters, opera houses, and dance companies in Europe, Israel, and the United States. Her work strives to enable the convergence of artists, audience, objects, and materials on stage to create new contexts and territories for movement and narrative. Among her more recent projects is Jephta’s Daughter, based on the (in)famous story from the biblical book of Judges, which was commissioned by the Bayerische Staatsoper and premiered in July 2015 at the Haus der Kunst in Munich.

Magal came to Stanford for a month to workshop her current project, I Am Still Here: Performing the Histories of Tomorrow, with faculty and graduate students in Jewish Studies, Hebrew literature, religious studies, comparative literature, and history. She involved participants in the various workshops to, as she put it, “explore processes of extinction as a physical, political, ecological, social, and cultural phenomenon together with me, mainly for the purpose of generating a constellation of images, narratives, movements, sounds, and sensations for a new dance performance.” What a thrill to see this artist work and to be able to be in conversation with her, to connect Jewish Studies with the process of artistic creation.
**Endowed Lectures 2016–2017**

**November 29, 2016**

Jewish Community Federation and Endowment Fund Lecture

**Joan Nathan**, writer, host: “The Latke and Civilization.” Cosponsored by American Studies, Hillel @ Stanford, the Jewish Student Association, Continuing Studies, Stanford Cooking Society, and AEPhi

**December 5, 2016**

The David S. Lobel Visiting Scholar Lecture


**March 9, 2017**

The Aaron Roland Endowed Lecture

**Judith Plaskow**, professor of religious studies, Manhattan College (emerita): “Bathroom Anxiety: Purity, Disgust, and the Dilemmas of Being Human.” Cosponsored by American Studies; the Center for Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity; and the Program in Feminist, Gender and Sexuality Studies at Stanford.

**March 13–14, 2017**

The Clara Sumpf Yiddish Lecture Series

**Ef rat Gal-Ed**, professor of Jewish and Yiddish Studies, Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf: “The Making of Yiddishland” (March 13) and “Itzik Manger un Rokhl Oyerbakh: a mayse fun libe, has un poezye” (March 14). Cosponsored by the Department of German Studies and Slavic Languages and Literature at Stanford.

**April 25–26, 2017**

The Charles Michael Lecture

This academic year was one of the most active years for the Hebrew program at Stanford. In addition to our Hebrew language class, we offered a new class on the Hebrew and Jewish short story. The class attracted heritage students as well as students for whom this was the first opportunity to learn about Hebrew and Jewish cultures. The class included meetings and workshops with acclaimed Israeli authors such as Etgar Keret, Zeruya Shalev, and Maya Arad. The workshops were recorded and will be used as a learning tool in future classes. Our focus on the short story also included an event that brought together students of Hebrew literature and Spanish literature for a conversation with Eduardo Halfon, a Jewish writer from Guatemala. Students read and discussed Halfon’s stories in both the Hebrew and the Spanish classes.

A different series of lectures and events introduced students to issues related to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the way that it is portrayed in literature, film, and other cultural expressions. For this series, in collaboration with the Persian, Hebrew, Turkish and Arabic focal group (PATH), we hosted Almog Behar, who visited Arabic and comparative literature classes and gave a talk at the Division of Literatures, Cultures, and Languages. For this same series we also hosted the screenwriter, journalist, and author Sayed Kashua. The goal of these visits was to create bridges and promote the study of connections between different Middle Eastern cultures. We would like to thank Professor Alexander Key and Professor Ramzi Salti for their help and support for these programs.

In the Hebrew Forum (for undergraduate students and students of Hebrew) and the Hebrew workshop (for our graduate students and scholars), we created opportunities for the Stanford community to engage in intellectual exchanges with artists and scholars. Some of the highlights were bringing people to campus from the local Jewish and Israeli community to discuss their work and their connection to Israeli culture and society; a series of talks with the artist Saar Magal, which was hosted by the Taube Center; and a collaboration with Berkeley that brought graduate students from both universities to a meeting with the poet and writer Shimon Adaf. We are grateful to graduate student Shoshana Olidort for her help in making these events possible. Yael Segalovitz and Giddon Ticotsky were also instrumental in planning and finding funding for the Stanford-Berkeley event.

In the Hebrew language program, we coordinated the annual Israeli dinner in Hebrew and continued our tradition of holding a storytelling competition in Hebrew for students in all Hebrew classes. The topic of the competition this year was friendship. Gallia Porat, our Hebrew instructor, and Maya Arad, our writer in residence, were key to the success of this event.
Lastly, our journal, Dibur, continues to grow. This year we were especially successful in achieving our goal of creating connections between the study of Hebrew and Jewish literature and culture and the general humanities. A collaboration in October 2016 with the English Department at Columbia University in New York yielded a conference and an issue devoted to the long poem. The issue included some of the most prominent scholars working on this topic from the United States and Israel. In May 2017, we worked with Oxford University on a conference and issue devoted to poetic currency, and earlier in the year we published our issue on archives, which included contributions from Israeli and French scholars and a special interview with Julia Kristeva. Dibur’s articles will now be featured on Arcade’s main page. This will add to the already wide distribution of the journal (more than 18,000 page views, with some articles getting more than 850 unique readers).
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.)
Hebrew Forum.
Spring (Shemtov, V.)
First-Year Yiddish.
Autumn, Winter, Spring (Levitow, J.)
Biblical Hebrew.
Spring (Levitow, J.)

CLASSICS
Biblical Greek.
Winter (Gardner, N.),
Spring (Tewksbury, I.)

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE
Zionism and the Novel.
Autumn (Berman, R.)
Reflection on the Other: The Jew and the Arab in Literature.
Autumn (Shemtov, V.)
Masterpieces: Kafka.
Winter (Eshel, A.)
Contemporary Hebrew and English Poetry in Translation.
Winter (Eshel, A. Shemtov, V.)
The Hebrew and Jewish Short Story.
Spring (Shemtov, V.)

ENGLISH
Jewish American Literature.
Spring (Staff)

FRENCH
Literature and Society in Africa and the Caribbean.
Spring (Ulloa, M.)
The Algerian Wars.
Spring (Ulloa, M.)

HISTORY
Making Palestine Visible.
Autumn (Beinin, J. Palumbo-Liu, D.)
A History of Strangers: Jews in the Mediterranean.
Autumn (Daniels, J.)
Autumn (Dorin, R.)
Core in Jewish History, 17th–19th Centuries.
Autumn (Rodrigue, A.)
Nationality and Belonging: Poles and Jews.
Winter (Joluck, K.)
Graduate Colloquium in Modern Jewish History.
Winter (Zipperstein, S.)
Jews in the Contemporary World.
Winter (Zipperstein, S.)
The Holocaust.
Spring (Rodrigue, A.)
Graduate Research Seminar in Jewish History.
Spring (Rodrigue, A.)
Zionism and Its Critics.
Spring (Zipperstein, S.)

INTERNATIONAL POLICY STUDIES
Religion and Politics.
Autumn (Carmon, A.)

RELIGIOUS STUDIES
Jews and Christians: Conflict and Coexistence.
Autumn (Duarte de Oliveira, M.)
Exploring Jewish Spirituality.
Winter (Mayse, A.)
Modern Jewish Mystics: Devotion in a Secular Age.
Spring (Mayse, A.)
Sacred Words: Jewish Thought and the Question of Language.
Spring (Mayse, A.)

SLAVIC LANGUAGES
Other People’s Words: Folklore and Literature.
Spring (Safran, G. Winestock, B.)
Writing between Languages: The Case of Eastern European Jewish Literature.
Spring (Safran, G.)

SOCIOLOGY
Social Inequality in Israel.
Winter (Levanon, A.)
Social Policy in Israel.
Spring (Levanon, A.)

For more information about Jewish Studies courses, please visit our website: http://jewishstudies.stanford.edu
FELSTINER MEMORIAL

BY ALEX SHASHKEVICH
STANFORD NEWS

Award-winning poetry scholar and translator John Felstiner refused to stop writing until his brain failed him.

Felstiner, professor emeritus of English who taught at Stanford for almost half a century, died Feb. 24 in hospice care near Stanford from complications of aphasia, a condition that leads to a loss of ability to understand and express language. He was 80. “Language was his life,” his wife, Mary Felstiner, said. “The meaning of words and how they sound was indispensable to him.” Felstiner is best known for his translations and analysis of the work of German-speaking Jewish poet Paul Celan. His 1995 book, Paul Celan: Poet, Survivor, Jew, was awarded the Truman Capote Award for Literary Criticism. He was also recognized for his translations of famous Chilean poet Pablo Neruda in Translating Neruda: The Way to Machu Picchu, which he wrote after spending a year in Chile teaching North American poetry in the late 1960s.

Felstiner’s latest work focused on the intersection of environmental issues with poetry, in his 2009 book Can Poetry Save the Earth? A Field Guide to Nature Poems. He founded the Save the Earth Poetry Contest for high school students as part of that work, his wife said. “The way John always came at poetry was through fascination and close attention to language, the way language moves and the way words fit together and sound,” said Albert Gelpi, professor emeritus of American literature. “He was a very distinguished translator and immensely passionate about poetry.” Among many awards, Felstiner was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Originally from Mount Vernon, New York, Felstiner graduated from Harvard College in 1958. After college, he served in the United States Navy for three years and then earned his doctorate at Harvard University in 1965. The same year, he came to Stanford, where he worked and lived for decades. He became an emeritus professor in 2009.

Felstiner was also outspoken on political and international issues. He opposed the Vietnam War and tried to call attention to the oppression faced by writers in other countries, such as Chile and Russia. “He was such a fighter,” Mary Felstiner said. “He stood up for anything that he thought should be defended. He never worried about who the opponent was.” He also loved being involved in the community at Stanford. He helped found Stanford’s Jewish Studies program, served on the board of Hillel at Stanford, and spoke up about different hot-button issues on campus. One of the issues Felstiner took up was saving the Mayfield Playfield. When the Stanford administration proposed to build new housing on the field on Mayfield Avenue in the late 1990s, Felstiner was among residents opposing construction. “John took hundreds of photos of students playing Frisbee, relaxing and exercising on the field,” Mary said. “He kept bugging Stanford about not destroying that beautiful place.”

In his spare time, Felstiner sang an a cappella songs. He and Mary frequented music concerts and became patrons of Stanford Live performances. While teaching a poetry class in 2012, Felstiner struggled to remember the name of Emily Dickinson, one of his favorite poets, his wife said. The primary progressive aphasia diagnosis came as a shock. “For him, this news fell somewhere between irony and tragedy,” Mary said. “Losing words was really terrible for him. He would’ve happily lost anything but words.” But Felstiner didn’t dwell in despair. Instead, he continued to lead an athletic life, swimming every day and running every other day on the Stanford campus. His favorite spot to jog was the Dish, his family said. And he immediately started working on his last book, documenting his experiences as a translator of poems and literary works, his wife said. As words began to escape him, Felstiner stacked his desk with thesauruses and dictionaries and wrote despite his condition until he finished. The book, titled Memoirs of a Maverick Translator, has not yet been published.

Felstiner is survived by his wife, Mary; his two children, Sarah Felstiner of Seattle and Alek Felstiner of New York City; and two grandchildren, Asa Felstiner and Brayden Puchtler.

Donations in Felstiner’s memory can be made to the Sempervirens Fund or the Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment.
Rowan Dorin joined the faculty of Stanford University in January 2017 as an assistant professor in the Department of History. Dorin is a historian of western Europe and the Mediterranean, primarily during the high and late Middle Ages. His research focuses on the interaction of law and society, especially where legal norms conflict with social practices. Another strand of his research explores the history of economic life and economic thought, especially medieval debates over usury and moneylending. He has also written on the circulation of goods, people, and ideas in the medieval Mediterranean. His current book project uses the banishment of Jewish and Christian moneylenders as a lens for exploring the origins of mass expulsion in late medieval Europe.

Ariel Evan Mayse joined the faculty of Stanford University in 2017 as an assistant professor in the Department of Religious Studies, after previously serving as the director of Jewish Studies and visiting assistant professor of modern Jewish thought at Hebrew College in Newton, Massachusetts, and as a research fellow at the Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies of the University of Michigan. He holds a Ph.D. in Jewish Studies from Harvard University and rabbinic ordination from Beit Midrash Har’el in Israel. Mayse’s current research examines the role of language in Hasidism, manuscript theory and the formation of early Hasidic literature, the renaissance of Jewish mysticism in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and the relationship between spirituality and law in Jewish legal writings.
During the 2016–2017 academic year, Zachary Baker (University Library, Reinhard Family Curator of Judaica and Hebraica Collections) published the six-part research guide *Resources in Yiddish Studies*. This web publication appears in the peer-reviewed online journal and website *In geveb*. Baker also announced his plan to retire as curator at the end of December 2017.

Amir Eshel (German Studies and Comparative Literature) was one of the editors of *The German-Hebrew Dialogue*, which is scheduled to be published by De Gruyter Mouton in September 2017.

Shelley Fisher Fishkin (English and American Studies) was the recipient of the John Tuckey Award at the Eighth International Conference on the State of Mark Twain Studies. The award is given only every four years, “in recognition of lifetime achievements and contributions to Mark Twain Studies.” Fishkin is the first woman recipient of this prestigious award. Also, the paperback version of her book *Writing America: Literary Landmarks from Walden Pond to Wounded Knee* (Rutgers University Press, 2015), which includes discussions of such Jewish American writers as Abraham Cahan, Anzia Yezierska, Emma Lazarus, Morris Rosenfeld, and Nathanael West, was published in 2016.

Charlotte Fonrobert (Religious Studies) contributed an essay (“Der Zorn der Babylonierin Jalta”) to the inaugural issue of the journal *Jalta: Positionen zur jüdischen Gegenwart*, newly established by young German Jewish philosophers and cultural critics. She also has a chapter on ritual in the forthcoming *Handbuch für Jüdische Studien* (UTB) and coedited the *Festschrift* for Daniel Boyarin, *Talmudic Transgressions* (Brill, 2017), to be presented to the honoree at the Association for Jewish Studies meeting in December 2017. Her translation, commentary, and introduction to tractate Niddah will appear in the new Oxford Study Edition of the Mishnah. In the summer of 2017, she was a member of the international committee for the Council of Higher Education in Israel to review academic Bible and Talmud programs.

Ari Kelman (School of Education) submitted his book manuscript on evangelical Christian worship music (NYU Press) and published articles ranging from new theories of Jewish identity (“The Social Self” in *Contemporary Jewry*) to a survey of religious out-of-school learning (in the *Sage Handbook for Out of School Learning*). He is also happy to begin his service as interim director of the Taube Center.

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. He also directs the Sephardic Studies Project, which presents Ladino texts in transliteration and translation (ladino.stanford.edu).

In November 2016, at a ceremony at the annual meeting of the Society of Dance History Scholars held at Pomona College, Professor Janice Ross (Theater and Performance Studies) received the Congress on Research on Dance Award for Outstanding Scholarly Research in Dance. The top honor in the field of dance studies, this award honors an exceptional scholar for leadership and sustained contributions to dance research.

Nancy Ruttenburg (English) is working on a book called *The Hidden Diaspora: The Scandal of Jewish White Slavery in the United States*. She presented work from this research at the International Narrative Conference in Amsterdam in June 2016. Ruttenburg also presented work from her project entitled “Dostoevsky And” at a Yale conference, *The Russian Century: The Literary, Visual and Performing Arts, 1801–1817*, put on by the European Studies Council, with her paper entitled “Kirillov, Meet John Brown. John Brown, Kirillov.” Lastly, she was the keynote speaker at the international conference American Literature and the Philosophical, held in March 2017 at the Université Paris-Diderot/Sorbonne Paris Cité.

Marie-Pierre Ulloa (French and Italian) will have a new publication in 2018, tentatively entitled *California Dreaming: From North Africa to California: Migrant Trajectories, Integration Narrative*, published in French by CNRS Editions (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, French National Center for Scientific Research).


Steven J. Zipperstein (History) has a new book—*Pogrom: Kishinev and the Tilt of History*—to be published by Liveright/W. W. Norton early in 2018. Last year, he delivered endowed lectures at Emory; University of Wisconsin, Madison; George Washington University; and the National Yiddish Book Center. Under his editorship—and that of Anita Shapira—the Yale University Press book series Jewish Lives released its fortieth book.
Melih Levi is a graduate student in comparative literature. His research focuses on twentieth-century English, German, and Turkish literatures, with special emphasis on modernist and postwar poetry and the enduring influence of expressionism.

Alexander Marcus is a Ph.D. candidate in religious studies. He has a B.A. in religious studies from Pomona College and an M.A. in Jewish history from the Graduate Theological Union. His research focuses on rhetorical dimensions of 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 myth, historiography, folklore, magic, medicine, theodicy, eschatology, and the boundaries and intersections of communal identity.

Marva Shalev Marom is a second-year Ph.D. student in the Graduate School of Education, with a concentration in education and Jewish Studies (EDJS) and race inequality and social justice (RILE). She has a B.A. and an M.A. in religious studies from Tel Aviv University, where she explored mystical language in ancient Jewish and Hindu texts. Before coming to Stanford, she founded a musical community center in Jaffa (south of Tel Aviv), working with Jewish Ethiopian and Muslim Arab communities; there she learned how artistic interaction ameliorates interreligious conflicts. Her research focuses on religious transformations in the Jewish Ethiopian community in Israel and in their expression in teen poetry and music.

Joshua Meyers is a seventh-year Ph.D. candidate in history. He studies the evolution of modern Jewish politics and is especially interested in the intersections of Jewish nationalism and radicalism. His dissertation, titled “To Dance at Two Weddings: Jews, Nationalism, and the Left in Revolutionary Russia,” charts the Jewish political landscape during the Russian Revolution from the vantage point of the General Jewish Labor Bund.

Josh Tapper is a second-year Ph.D. student in Jewish history. His research focuses on Jewish life and culture in the late Soviet Union, the contemporary Russian Jewish experience, and the Russian-speaking Jewish diaspora in the United States and Canada. Thanks to financial support from the Taube Center, he will spend the 2017 summer and fall quarters studying Russian in Moscow. Josh is also a journalist whose writing has appeared in the New York Times, the Globe and Mail, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, and the Jewish Daily Forward, among other publications.

Gilat Bachar is a fifth-year J.S.D. candidate at Stanford Law School and an Israel Institute doctoral fellow specializing in tort law, international law, the legal profession, and civil procedure. Her research focuses on conflict-related accountability and compensation mechanisms and the role legal actors play in such mechanisms. At Stanford, Gilat was a fellow at the Stanford Center on International Conflict and Negotiation and at the Haas Center for Public Service and was awarded, among other honors, the International Peace Scholarship, the Franklin Prize in International Law (twice), and the American Society of Comparative Law’s Younger Comparativists Prize.

Daniella Farah is a Ph.D. candidate in Jewish history. Her research examines cultural and social facets of Jewish communities in Iran and Turkey in the twentieth century, with a specific focus on how nationalistic campaigns came to affect these communities. In 2016, she was a teaching assistant for Jews in the Contemporary World: Faith and Ethnicity, Vulnerability, and Visibility, the course for which she received the Department of History’s 2016 Prize for Excellence in First Time Teaching. Daniella also taught a course of her own design in spring 2017, titled Between Toleration and Persecution: Iran and Its Minorities in the Twentieth Century. For the summer of 2017, with the aid of a research grant from the Iranian Studies Program at Stanford University, Daniella is conducting archival research in Jerusalem.

Ilana Horwitz is a Ph.D. candidate in sociology of education at the Graduate School of Education at Stanford University. Ilana’s research looks at how religion affects educational outcomes. Currently, Ilana is examining why more-religious adolescents in America get better grades than their less religious peers and why their academic advantage doesn’t carry over into higher education.

Ashley Walters is a Ph.D. candidate in the History Department working on late-nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Russian and American Jewish history. Her dissertation, tentatively titled “The Immigrant Life of Mother Russia: Russian Jewish Women in Progressive America,” tells the story of Russian Jewish women who immigrated to the United States between 1880 and 1917 who were active in the radical left.

Matthew Williams is a Ph.D. candidate studying formal and informal Jewish education in the United States. His dissertation focuses on the history of Orthodox outreach. In 2017, he became the inaugural director of research at Prizmah: The Center for Jewish Day Schools. He is a former Wexner fellow and Mellon Initiative scholar.

Joshua Tapper is a second-year Ph.D. student in Jewish history. His research focuses on Jewish life and culture in the late Soviet Union, the contemporary Russian Jewish experience, and the Russian-speaking Jewish diaspora in the United States and Canada. Thanks to financial support from the Taube Center, he will spend the 2017 summer and fall quarters studying Russian in Moscow. Josh is also a journalist whose writing has appeared in the New York Times, the Globe and Mail, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, and the Jewish Daily Forward, among other publications.

Gilat Bachar is a fifth-year J.S.D. candidate at Stanford Law School and an Israel Institute doctoral fellow specializing in tort law, international law, the legal profession, and civil procedure. Her research focuses on conflict-related accountability and compensation mechanisms and the role legal actors play in such mechanisms. At Stanford, Gilat was a fellow at the Stanford Center on International Conflict and Negotiation and at the Haas Center for Public Service and was awarded, among other honors, the International Peace Scholarship, the Franklin Prize in International Law (twice), and the American Society of Comparative Law’s Younger Comparativists Prize.

Daniella Farah is a Ph.D. candidate in Jewish history. Her research examines cultural and social facets of Jewish communities in Iran and Turkey in the twentieth century, with a specific focus on how nationalistic campaigns came to affect these communities. In 2016, she was a teaching assistant for Jews in the Contemporary World: Faith and Ethnicity, Vulnerability, and Visibility, the course for which she received the Department of History’s 2016 Prize for Excellence in First Time Teaching. Daniella also taught a course of her own design in spring 2017, titled Between Toleration and Persecution: Iran and Its Minorities in the Twentieth Century. For the summer of 2017, with the aid of a research grant from the Iranian Studies Program at Stanford University, Daniella is conducting archival research in Jerusalem.

Ilana Horwitz is a Ph.D. candidate in sociology of education at the Graduate School of Education at Stanford University. Ilana’s research looks at how religion affects educational outcomes. Currently, Ilana is examining why more-religious adolescents in America get better grades than their less religious peers and why their academic advantage doesn’t carry over into higher education.

Melih Levi is a graduate student in comparative literature. His research focuses on twentieth-century English, German, and Turkish literatures, with special emphasis on modernist and postwar poetry and the enduring influence of expressionism.

Alexander Marcus is a Ph.D. candidate in religious studies. He has a B.A. in religious studies from Pomona College and an M.A. in Jewish history from the Graduate Theological Union. His research focuses on rhetorical dimensions of 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 myth, historiography, folklore, magic, medicine, theodicy, eschatology, and the boundaries and intersections of communal identity.

Marva Shalev Marom is a second-year Ph.D. student in the Graduate School of Education, with a concentration in education and Jewish Studies (EDJS) and race inequality and language in education (RILE). She has a B.A. and an M.A. in religious studies from Tel Aviv University, where she explored mystical language in ancient Jewish and Hindu texts. Before coming to Stanford, she founded a musical community center in Jaffa (south of Tel Aviv), working with Jewish Ethiopian and Muslim Arab communities; there she learned how artistic interaction ameliorates interreligious conflicts. Her research focuses on religious transformations in the Jewish Ethiopian community in Israel and in their expression in teen poetry and music.

Joshua Meyers is a seventh-year Ph.D. candidate in history. He studies the evolution of modern Jewish politics and is especially interested in the intersections of Jewish nationalism and radicalism. His dissertation, titled “To Dance at Two Weddings: Jews, Nationalism, and the Left in Revolutionary Russia,” charts the Jewish political landscape during the Russian Revolution from the vantage point of the General Jewish Labor Bund.

Josh Tapper is a second-year Ph.D. student in Jewish history. His research focuses on Jewish life and culture in the late Soviet Union, the contemporary Russian Jewish experience, and the Russian-speaking Jewish diaspora in the United States and Canada. Thanks to financial support from the Taube Center, he will spend the 2017 summer and fall quarters studying Russian in Moscow. Josh is also a journalist whose writing has appeared in the New York Times, the Globe and Mail, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, and the Jewish Daily Forward, among other publications.

Ashley Walters is a Ph.D. candidate in the History Department working on late-nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Russian and American Jewish history. Her dissertation, tentatively titled “The Immigrant Life of Mother Russia: Russian Jewish Women in Progressive America,” tells the story of Russian Jewish women who immigrated to the United States between 1880 and 1917 who were active in the radical left.

Matthew Williams is a Ph.D. candidate studying formal and informal Jewish education in the United States. His dissertation focuses on the history of Orthodox outreach. In 2017, he became the inaugural director of research at Prizmah: The Center for Jewish Day Schools. He is a former Wexner fellow and Mellon Initiative scholar.
The Taube Center had the great opportunity to bring Devin Naar, one of our beloved graduate students and now an alumnus, back to campus to present his newly published, award-winning book, *Jewish Salonica: Between the Ottoman Empire and Modern Greece* (2016). The room was packed, a delightful surprise resulting from the presence in the Bay Area of a large population of people whose personal or family stories are connected to Salonica. Naar presented the story of Jewish Salonica and the making of the book with so much enthusiasm, warmth, and love for his subject that the event turned into a celebration of the book. It was a rare academic talk that left everyone in the room truly enthusiastic about the book as the object of the presentation as well as the presentation itself. From strength to strength, Professor Naar!

**ALUMNI BIOS AND INFO**

**2016–2017**

Mira Balberg is associate professor of religious studies at Northwestern University, specializing in ancient Judaism. Her areas of teaching include Hebrew Bible, Second Temple literature, Hellenistic Judaism, and rabbinics. She is the author of *Purity, Body, and Self in Early Rabbinic Literature* (University of California Press, 2014) and *Blood for Thought: The Reinvention of Sacrifice in Early Rabbinic Literature* (University of California Press, 2017).

Elissa Bemporad is the Jerry and William Ungar Associate Professor of East European Jewish History and the Holocaust at Queens College and the CUNY Graduate Center. She is the author of *Becoming Soviet Jews: The Bolshevik Experiment in Minsk* (Indiana University Press, 2013), winner of the National Jewish Book Award and of the Fraenkel Prize in Contemporary History. The Russian edition was recently published with ROSSPEN, in the History of Stalinism Series. She is currently finishing a book entitled *Legacy of Blood: Jews, Pogroms, and Ritual Murder in the Lands of the Soviets*, which will be published with Oxford University Press. Elissa is the coeditor of *Women and Genocide: Survivors and Perpetrators* (forthcoming from Indiana University Press), a collection of studies on the multifaceted roles played by women in different genocidal contexts during the twentieth century. She has recently been a recipient of an NEH fellowship and a fellowship at the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. Bemporad’s projects in progress include research for a biography of Esther Frumkin, the most prominent Jewish female political activist and public figure in late imperial Russia and in the early Soviet Union.

In the fall of 2017, Mara Benjamin will become the Irene Kaplan Leiwant Associate Professor of Jewish Studies at Mt. Holyoke College. Her second book, *The Obligated Self: Maternal Subjectivity and Jewish Thought* (forthcoming from Indiana University Press) investigates the religious dimensions of caring for young children in the context of Jewish thought and tradition.

Sarah Bunin Benor is professor of contemporary Jewish Studies at Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion (Los Angeles) and adjunct professor in the University of Southern California Linguistics Department. She is the author of *Becoming Frum: How Newcomers Learn the Language and Culture of Orthodox Judaism* (Rutgers University Press, 2012), as well as many articles about Jewish languages, Yiddish, and American Jews. Benor is founding coeditor of the *Journal of Jewish Languages* and creator of the *Jewish Language Research Website* and the *Jewish English Lexicon*. 
Julia Phillips Cohen is associate professor in the Program in Jewish Studies and the Department of History at Vanderbilt University. She is the author of Becoming Ottomans: Sephardi Jews and Imperial Citizenship in the Modern Era (Oxford University Press, 2014) and, with Sarah Abrevaya Stein, coeditor of Sephardi Lives: A Documentary History, 1700-1950 (Stanford University Press, 2014). Becoming Ottomans was recently translated into Turkish, as Osmanlılaşmak: Modern Çağda Sefarad Yahudileri ve İmparatorluk Yurttaşlığı (Alfa Yayınları, 2017).

Amelia Glaser is associate professor in the Department of Literature and director of the Jewish Studies Program and the Russian and Soviet Studies Program at the University of California, San Diego. She is the author of Jews and Ukrainians in Russia’s Literary Borderlands: From the Shtetl Fair to the Petersburg Bookshop (Northwestern University Press, 2012), the translator of Proletpen: America’s Rebel Yiddish Poets (University of Wisconsin Press, 2005), and the editor of Stories of Khmelnytsky: Competing Literary Legacies of the 1648 Ukrainian Cossack Uprising (Stanford University Press, 2015). She is currently collaborating with Steven Lee (Ph.D., Stanford, modern thought and literature) on an edited volume, Comintern Aesthetics. She is also at work on a study of Yiddish poets and leftist internationalism in the 1930s.

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 French Revolution: The Making of Modern Universalism (University of California Press, 2005) and editor of Haitian History: New Perspectives (Routledge, 2013). Sepinwall is also the author of many articles on French Jewish history, French revolutionary history, French colonial history, and Haitian history. Her most recent publications on French Jewish history are “Reimagining Jewish-Muslim Relations on Screen: French-Jewish Filmmakers and the Middle East Conflict,” in The Jews of Modern France: Images and Identities, ed. Zvi Jonathan Kaplan and Nadia Malinovich (Brill, 2016), and “New Directions in French Holocaust Film: The Origin of Violence, Once in a Lifetime, and Victor Young Perez,” Fiction and Film for French Historians: A Cultural Bulletin (2017).


Emily Kopley is the inaugural researcher in residence at Concordia University Library. In this position, she is researching twentieth-century anonymous literature, the topic of her second book project. She has recently published essays in Review of English Studies, English Literature in Transition, Mémoires du Livre, and the Times Literary Supplement. She is also completing her first book, Virginia Woolf and Poetry, stemming from her Stanford dissertation, and she continues to research the Messiah in Jewish fiction. She lives in Montreal, where she serves on the board of the Foundation for Yiddish Culture and on the committee of the J. I. Segal Awards, offered by the Jewish Public Library.

In January 2017, Cecile E. Kuznitz was invited to present two lectures in Japan at the workshop Yiddishdism and the Creation of the Yiddish Nation; her talks have been published in English and Japanese translation. Kuznitz recently published two articles on Jewish architecture and urban history, the subject of her ongoing research, and has articles forthcoming on the history of YIVO. Her book YIVO and the Making of Modern Jewish Culture: Scholarship for the Yiddish Nation (Cambridge University Press, 2014) will appear in paperback this fall.

Tony Michels is the George L. Mosse Professor of American Jewish History and director of the Mosse/Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Wisconsin. He coeditis the journal Jewish Social Studies with Kenneth Moss and Sarah Abrevaya Stein and is coeditor, with Mitchell Hart, of the forthcoming Cambridge History of Modern Judaism: The Modern Era (Cambridge University Press). His first book, A Fire in Their Hearts: Yiddish Socialists in New York (Harvard University Press, 2005), won the Salo Baron Prize from the American Academy for Jewish Research.


**Max Strassfeld** is an assistant professor in the Department of Religious Studies and Classics at the University of Arizona. He is currently on research leave revising his book manuscript, *Transing the Talmud*.

**Claire Sufrin** is associate professor of instruction in Jewish Studies and associate director of Jewish Studies in the Crown Family Center for Jewish and Israel Studies at Northwestern University. After earning her Ph.D. from Stanford (2008), Sufrin held a Schusterman Postdoctoral Fellowship in Jewish Studies at Northeastern University in Boston before moving to the Chicago area in 2010. Her current research focuses on religion and literature.

**Sivan Zakai** is the newly appointed Sara S. Lee Chair in Jewish Education at the Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion (Los Angeles). She is also an affiliated scholar at the Jack, Joseph, and Morton Mandel Center for Studies in Jewish Education at Brandeis University, where she directs the Children’s Learning about Israel Project, a longitudinal study of American Jewish children’s relationships to Israel.
UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS

The Dr. Bernard Kaufman Undergraduate Research Award in Jewish Studies

- **Ben Liad Schwartz:**
  “LGBTQ+ Reform in Orthodox Judaism”

- **Michaela Elias:**
  “Leaving Baghdad: Remembering a Past and Building a Future”

The Donald and Robin Kennedy Undergraduate Award

- **Ben Liad Schwartz:**
  “Beyond the Corporeal: Orthodox Judaism and the LGBTQ+ Community”

- Honororable mention: **Jen Ehrlich:**
  “Beyond Red Waters”

The Nelee Langmuir Award

- For the study of modern European history with an emphasis on the Holocaust:
  **Ben Liad Schwartz:** “Chess Camp”

- For excellence and commitment in French:
  **Ali Stack:** “La Sexualité et l’intimité féminine dans Le chant des mariées et caramel”

DONORS & GIFTS

The Taube Center for Jewish Studies is grateful to all of our donors for their generous contributions. Your support helps to ensure the continued growth and enrichment of our programs within the Stanford community and beyond. Thank you!

Major Grants

- The Newhouse Fund of the Jewish Community Federation and Endowment Fund of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin, and Sonoma Counties
- The Koret Foundation
- The Shenson Foundation Endowment Fund established in support of the Taube Center for Jewish Studies
- Endowment Funds established in support of the Taube Center for Jewish Studies
- Aaron-Roland Fund for Jewish Studies
- The Keith P. Bartel Graduate Fellowship in Jewish Studies Fund
- The Jill & John Freidenrich Fund in Jewish Studies
- The Frances K. & Theodore H. Geballe Fellowship Fund for Jewish Studies
- The Shoshana & Martin Gerstel Endowed Conference Fund
- The Jewish Community Federation and Endowment Lectureship Fund
- The Dr. Bernard Kaufman Undergraduate Research Award in Jewish Studies
- The Donald and Robin Kennedy Undergraduate Award
- The David S. Lobel Visiting Scholar in Jewish Studies Fund
- The Eva Chernov Lokey Lectureship Fund in Jewish Studies
- The Eva Lokey Yiddish Lecture Fund
- The William J. and Fern E. Lowenberg Fellowship Fund for Holocaust Studies
- The Partnership Endowed Graduate Fellowship Fund in Jewish Studies
- The Reinhard Fund for Faculty Excellence
- The Reinhard Graduate Fellowship Fund in Jewish Studies
- The Clara Sumpf Yiddish Lecture Series Fund
- The Taube Center for Jewish Studies Fund
- The Taube Family Fellowship in Jewish Studies
- The L. Jay & Gretchen Tenenbaum Fund
From left:
Nicole Bridges, Event and Finance Coordinator
Linda Huynh, Center Manager

Newsletter credits:
Tamar Inbar – Graphic Design
Sarah Sheetman – Copy Editor
Nicole Bridges & Charlotte Fonrobert – Editors

Ari Kelman,
Jim Joseph Professor of Education and Jewish Studies
Interim Director, Taube Center for Jewish Studies
Associate Director of BJPA@Stanford
Stanford Graduate School of Education

On the back cover:
1. Damian Collins
2. Jacob Daniels, Ari Kelman, Daniella Farah
3. Galit Hasan-Rokem
4. Aaron Roland, Miriam Roland, Judith Plaskow; Charlotte Fonrobert
5. Sarah Stein
6. Efrat Gal-Ed
7. Naomi Seidman
8. Devin Naar
9. Michael Krasny
10. Susan Suleiman
11. Ronald Leopold
12. Joan Nathan