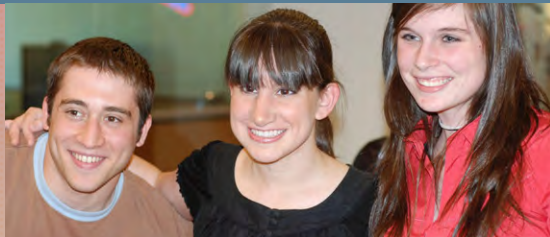
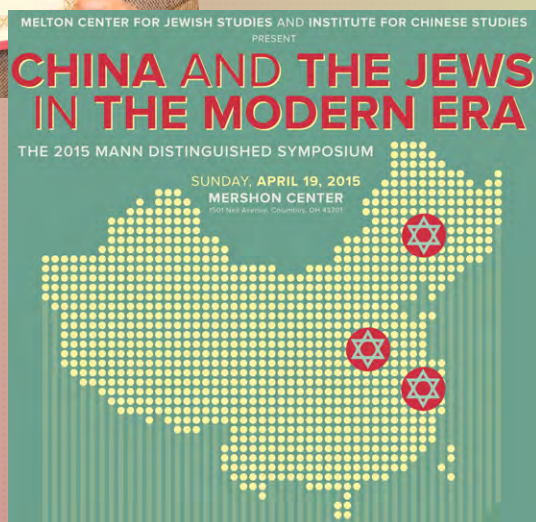


THE MELTON CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES

ANNUAL REPORT 2017



OUR 40TH YEAR



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

DEAR FRIENDS



These past two years represent the culmination of 40 years of the Melton Center for Jewish Studies at The Ohio State University. From its inception in 1976, the center has adhered to Sam Melton's vision, namely to create and nurture a presence for Jewish studies at the university and in the community.

These past 40 years have borne witness to an explosion of research, teaching and service to our community: our world-recognized faculty and students engage in a variety of programs and research endeavors; we teach more than 1,000 students a year in all aspects of Jewish studies; our library Judaica collection is one of the largest in the country; our programs are supported by both the community and university; and we regularly co-sponsor programs with other Ohio State departments and centers.

The Melton Center now, after 40 years of sustained growth and support, crystallizes a vibrant, important and invaluable Jewish studies program. We are truly indebted to our many supporters and donors who have enabled us to grow our

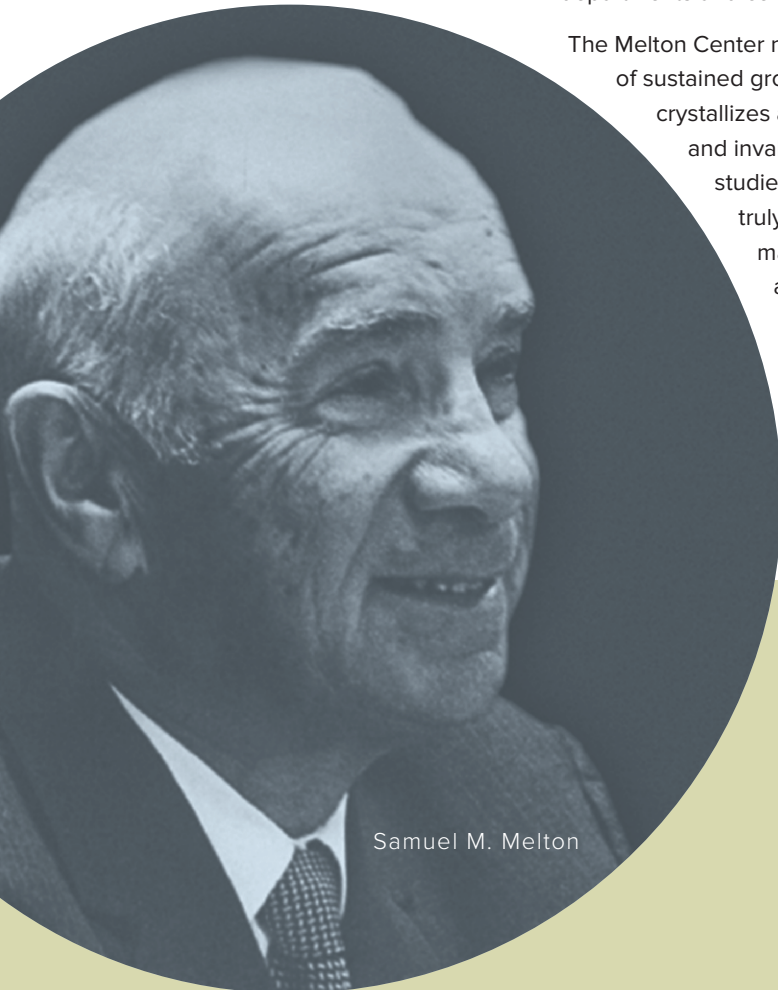
program. I have served the center as director for many of these years, and have now returned to the directorship. I would like to thank Professor Matt Goldish for his stellar eight-year stewardship of the center, under whose leadership we have added the newly endowed Sonia and Saul Schottenstein Chair in Israel Studies, as well as additional faculty and many unparalleled programs.

We hope you will join us for this coming year's many programs, including an international Jewish dance conference and program; the 2017-18 Thomas and Diann Mann Annual Lecture on Israel and America featuring Sarah Bunin Senor, associate professor of contemporary Jewish studies at Hebrew Union College/Jewish Institute of Religion; the 30th anniversary of the Pearl and Troy Feibel Lecture featuring Professor David Kraemer at the Jewish Theological Seminary; and the Thomas and Diann Mann Symposium series, featuring an international conference on Judaism and Time. We will be providing more details on these and other programs soon.

Shanah tovah and warmest wishes,

T.M. Rudavsky

Director
Melton Center for Jewish Studies
Professor, Philosophy



Samuel M. Melton

ON THE COVER

Top left photo: Suzanne Kohane, Fyvush Finkel, Philip Garret and Rabbi Zalman Deutsch from "The Other Men in Black: The Hasidic Movement, Then and Now."

Top right photo: David Frankel, Cori Zarem, Whitney Parson.

Far right photo: Megan VanDeWalker.

Middle left photo: Avram Shannon.

Middle center photo: Professor Sam Meier and students.

Middle right: 2016 student awards recipients.

Bottom left: Poster from our conference, China and The Jews in the Modern Era.

Bottom right photo: Scene from "The Other Men in Black: The Hasidic Movement, Then and Now."

STUDENT AWARDS

CHARLOTTE SUSAN ROTH MEMORIAL FUND ESSAY CONTEST

The Charlotte Susan Roth Memorial Fund Essay Contest is open to currently enrolled undergraduate and graduate students who have written papers on a topic related to Jewish studies from autumn semester to spring semester.

2016 ROTH ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS



Jacob Allen Portman was awarded first prize in the undergraduate category for his essay, "If You Film It, It Is No Dream." Jacob is a fourth-year student with a double major in history and political science.



Rachel Devorah Lieberman was awarded second prize in the undergraduate category for her essay, "Beta Israel's Quest for Correct Religious Interpretation." Rachel graduated in 2016 with a major in Jewish studies.



In the graduate category, first prize was awarded to **Sara Halpern** for her essay, "Ships and ... Guarded Trains for Jews? The International Refugee Organization, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, and Mass Evacuations from Shanghai." Sara is a PhD candidate

in modern Jewish history, focusing on postwar Jewish migration and international politics.

2017 ROTH ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

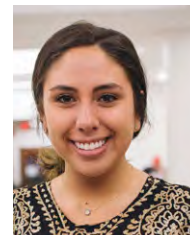
Michelle Sdao received first prize in the undergraduate division for her essay, "Historical Reconstruction of Jesus' Disciples: Searching beyond Contextual Incredibility, Themes, and Literary Tropes in Matthew and Mark." Michelle is a third-year student with a major in history and minors in classical Greek and archaeology.

Jacob Portman received second prize in the undergraduate category for his essay, "Bursting 'The Bubble': A View of Contemporary Tel Aviv in Etgar Keret's 'Allergies'."

In the graduate division, **Rachel Richman** received first prize for her essay, "Reconstructing the Past: Material Culture as an Aid to Understanding Fatimid Egypt." Rachel is a PhD candidate in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures. Her research focus is on the lives and stories of Jews of medieval Cairo.

MORRIS AND FANNIE SKILKEN SCHOLARSHIP IN YIDDISH AND ASHKENAZI STUDIES

2016



Naomi Lynn Benatar, Gabrielle Ryann Lyle and Moselle Hanna Yulish were the recipients of the Skilken scholarship, which provides support to a student or students actively engaged in Yiddish and Ashkenazi studies. Naomi graduated in 2016 with a major in Hebrew. Gabrielle is a third-year student with a major in international studies and minors in Hebrew and history, and Moselle, who also graduated this year, is a double major in Hebrew and international studies.

2017

Rebecca Michelle Sigal is the recipient of the 2017 Skilken scholarship. Rebecca is a third-year student with a major in Jewish studies and minors in Jewish oral history and nonprofit studies.

THE ELLEN E. AND VICTOR J. COHN EDUCATION ABROAD SCHOLARSHIP FOR STUDY AT HEBREW UNIVERSITY

The Cohn scholarship provides generous financial support for study at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.



Matthew Van Zile was awarded the Cohn scholarship. Matthew is a PhD candidate in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures. His research focus is on the examination of literary and biblical texts in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek associated with conversion and the way these texts are used as a nexus for cultural exchange.

THE GEORGE AND EMILY SEVERINGHAUS BECK FUND FOR STUDY AT VILNIUS YIDDISH INSTITUTE

The Severinghaus Beck Scholarship enables several students to attend a summer program at the Vilnius Yiddish Institute in Lithuania. An anonymous donor established this scholarship to help support students interested in gaining a cross-cultural experience in Vilna, Lithuania.

2016

Haley Taylor Ritzert and **Rebecca Michelle Sigal** were the 2016 recipients of the Severinghaus Beck scholarship. Haley graduated in May with a double major in German and history and a minor in Slavic languages and literatures. Rebecca is a fourth-year student with a major in Jewish studies and minors in Jewish oral history and nonprofit studies.

2017

Nicole Freeman and **David Bukszpan** are the 2017 recipients of the Severinghaus Beck scholarship. Nicole is a fourth-year graduate student in history. The focus of her research is the rehabilitation, care and education of Jewish children in early postwar Germany and Poland. David is a third-year graduate student in creative writing.

THE LEAH METCHNICK GODOFSKY AND MARTIN R. GODOFSKY SCHOLARSHIP OF THE COLUMBUS JEWISH FOUNDATION

The Leah Metchnick Godofsky and Martin R. Godofsky Scholarship of the Columbus Jewish Foundation is given to a deserving student for coursework in Jewish studies.

2016

Noah Jacob Bidna was the recipient of the Godofsky scholarship in 2016, which awards \$500 to a student for tuition support. Noah graduated this year with a major in Jewish studies.

2017

Logan Markle is the 2017 recipient of the Godofsky scholarship. Logan is a second-year student with a major in Jewish studies.

DIANE CUMMINS PRIZE FOR EXCELLENCE IN HEBREW LANGUAGE

The Diane Cummins Prize for Excellence in Hebrew Language scholarship in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures was created to benefit those studying Hebrew.

2016

Naomi Lynn Benatar was the 2016 recipient of the Cummins prize. She graduated in 2016.

2017

Alec Gershen is this year's recipient. He graduated in May with a major in international studies and minor in Hebrew.

THE REVA AND SANFORD LIPSON STUDENT SUPPORT SCHOLARSHIP

The Reva and Sanford Lipson Student Support Scholarship provides support for students studying or researching the history and culture of the Jewish people.

Carley Elizabeth Reinhard was the recipient of the Lipson scholarship for 2016. Carley graduated in May with a major in philosophy and a minor in Hebrew.

Gabrielle Ryann Lyle is the recipient of the Lipson scholarship for 2017.

JEWISH STUDIES STUDENTS



JSSA MAIN OBJECTIVES:

- Provide a social environment for students and faculty to interact within a Jewish studies context
- Plan and implement Jewish educational events

GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP AWARDS

THE SAMUEL M. MELTON GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP IN JEWISH STUDIES

2016

photos: Jeffry Konczal



Gabriel Mordoch was the 2016 Melton fellow. Gabriel is a fourth year PhD student in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. His field of concentration is the literatures and cultures of the Portuguese-speaking world. His PhD research addresses new Christian literature in the context of the Iberian imperial expansion.

THE GEORGE M. AND RENÉE K. LEVINE GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP IN JEWISH STUDIES

2016



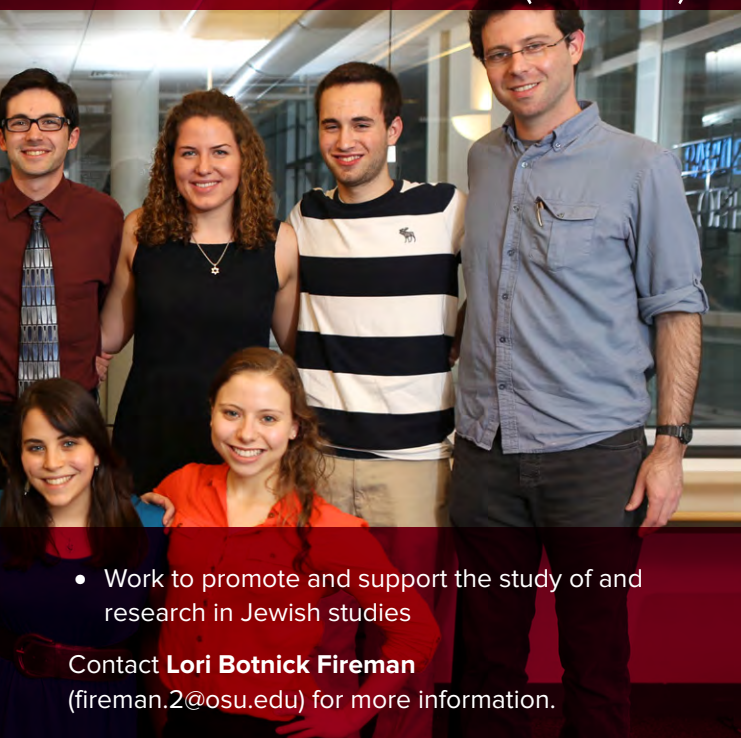
Rachel Elana Richman was the 2016 Levine fellow. She is a PhD candidate in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures. Her research focus is on the lives and stories of the medieval Jews of Cairo.

2017



Michael Biggerstaff is the 2017 Levine fellow. Michael is a PhD candidate in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures. His research focus is the Hebrew Bible with ancillary foci in ancient Near Eastern and Mediterranean religions, languages and cultures.

NT ASSOCIATION (JSSA)



- Work to promote and support the study of and research in Jewish studies

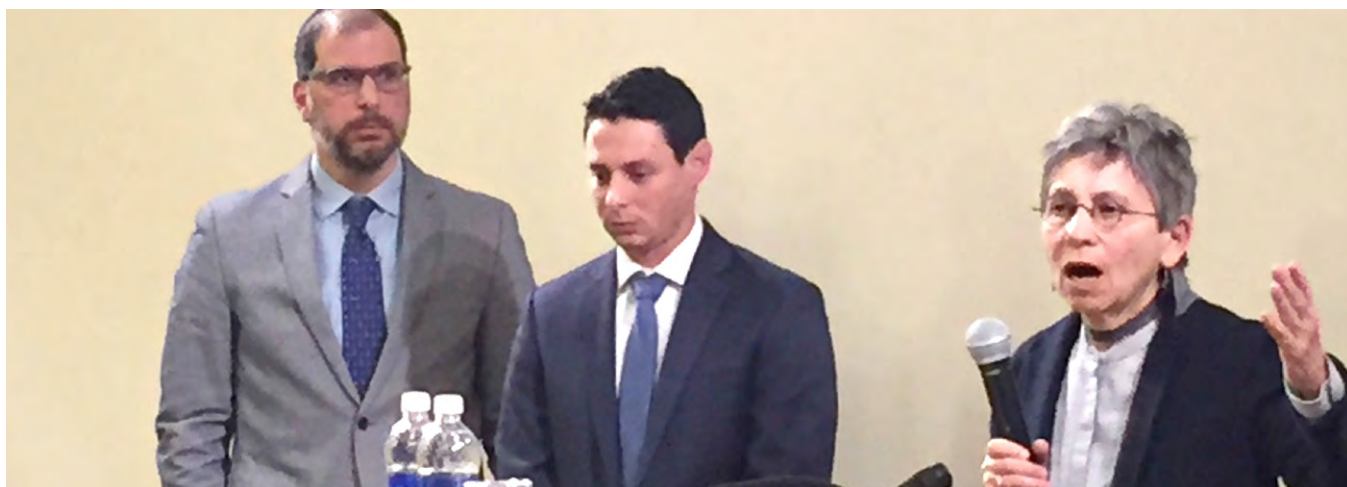
Contact **Lori Botnick Fireman**
(fireman.2@osu.edu) for more information.

2015-2016 Programs

Thomas and Diann Mann Annual Lecture on Israel and America

BDS AND THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT: A WAR OVER WORDS

photo: Lori Botnick Fireman



l to r: Professor David Caplan, Tomer Elias, Professor Divine,

Donna Robinson Divine, professor emerita of Jewish studies and government at Smith College, was the featured speaker for the Mann lecture in 2016. Divine spoke to a large audience about how and why the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement has changed the narrative about Israel from a symbol of social justice and national rejuvenation into a presumed outpost of colonialism and an enemy of civilization. Divine also addressed what this change in perception means not only for Israelis and Palestinians, but also the academic study of the Middle East conflict.

Professor David Caplan from Ohio Wesleyan University gave a response to Divine's presentation. Ohio State student **Tomer Elias** spoke about a resolution brought before Ohio State's Undergraduate Student Government (USG) by a group of students in March 2016, calling for the university to divest from three companies involved in what they referred to as "Israeli punishment and isolation of Palestinians in the West Bank." Elias and several other students successfully educated students on this issue, and USG voted to reject the measure.

The 28th Pearl and Troy Feibel Lecture on Judaism and the Law

LAW AND EMOTION: MAIMONIDES ON MOURNING

Moshe Halbertal, speaker for the 28th annual Feibel lecture and one of the world's leading scholars of Jewish legal thought and philosophy, presented a fascinating talk to a large audience about Maimonides's writings on Jewish law pertaining to rituals on death and mourning.

photo: Tamar Rudavsky



(back row l to r) Ohio State professors Matt Goldish, Adena Tanenbaum, Lynn Kaye, Suzanne Silver, Daniel Frank, Moshe Halbertal, and Michael Swartz. (front row l to r) Donald and Ronni Feibel, Barbara Feibel Robins and Ron Robins, Babette and Jim Feibel

Thomas and Diann Mann Symposium

AMERICAN JUDAISM: THE LAST 50 YEARS AND BEYOND

The 2016 Mann Symposium — a yearlong series of educational programs designed to help inform our community about some of the major movements, shifts and ideas driving American Judaism over the past half-century — focused on how Jewish life has been shaped in the recent past, and where things might be headed in the future.

The first program in the series took place on Oct. 11, 2016 at the Jewish Community Center and included panel discussions featuring **Rabbi Laura Geller**, the first Reform woman rabbi to be selected as the senior rabbi of a major metropolitan congregation and one of *Newsweek's* 50 Most Influential Rabbis in America for two years in a row; **Richard Siegal**, author of *The Jewish Catalog* (Jewish Publication Society, 1973), which has been one of the best-selling “how to” guides for Jewish celebrations, ceremonies, customs

and rituals; **Shaul Magid**, the Jay and Jeanie Schottenstein Chair in Jewish Studies and professor of Jewish studies and religious studies at Indiana University; **Riv-Elle Prell**, professor of American studies and director of the Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Minnesota; **Or Mars**, vice president of the Wexner Foundation; and **Pamela Nadell**, the Patrick Clendenen Chair in Women's and Gender History at American University and chair of the department of history (and a proud graduate of Ohio State).

The topics included “*Carlebach, Renewal, and the Jewish Catalog: The New American Jewish Spirituality in the Past Half Century*,” “*Women Rabbis and Shifts in Communal Control: Judaism, Synagogue, University, and Home*,” “*Where is the Future of American Judaism*” and “*The Past and Future of Our Institutions*.”



(l to r) Shaul Magid, Riv-Elle Prell, Pamela Nadell, Laura Geller, Richard Siegal, and Or Mars

photo: Lori Botnick Fireman

2015-2016 Programs (continued)

The Conservative Movement and the Jewish Theological Seminary:

THE PAST FIFTY YEARS

Photo: Lori Botnick Fireman



(back l-r) Rabbi Harold Berman, Tifereth Israel; Professor Don Sylvan, Ohio State, front l-r Jackie Jacobs, director of the Columbus Jewish Foundation, Chancellor Eisen, Matt Goldish

On April 3, 2016 **Arnold Eisen**, chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS) in New York, was the featured speaker for our second program in the American Judaism series. Chancellor Eisen spoke about how the conservative movement has changed since the creation of the seminary, and how JTS is expanding the

renewed mission of learning, leadership and service to the community through new curricula, technology and programs grounded in Jewish texts, history and practices, while still fully engaged with the societies and cultures of the present. JTS also has designed programs that bring students and faculty from various schools together for shared learning.

Hasidism In and Out of the Community:

WHAT IT MEANS FOR AMERICAN JEWRY

In May 2016, our final programs in the American Judaism series focused on two topics related to orthodox Judaism. **Rabbi Ysoscher Katz**, a former Hasid and now head of the Department of Talmud at Yeshivat Chovevei Torah Seminary, and **Dr. Andrew Klaffer**, a psychiatrist, spoke about the many people who have chosen to leave the Hasidic orthodox world for more modern practices of orthodoxy and the many challenges they face. "Those who remain in Hasidim and those who leave the Hasidic world have a significant impact on the present and future of the Jewish community," according to Rabbi Katz.



Rabbi Ysoscher Katz



Dr. Andrew Klaffer

Liberal Orthodoxy?

THE MEANING AND IMPACT OF YESHIVAT CHOVEVEI TORAH

Rabbi Katz also spoke at a dinner program about liberal orthodoxy and Yeshivat Chovevei Torah seminary, a modern orthodox seminary. Their philosophy of the yeshiva is much more liberal than other orthodox yeshivot. Rabbis trained at Chovevei, including graduates here in Columbus, are having an enormous impact on American Judaism.

Photos: Lori Botnick Fireman

COLLIDING DREAMS

Filmmaker **Oren Rudavsky** was in Columbus in March 2016 to show his latest film, *Colliding Dreams*, a documentary on the history of Zionism. The film delves into the relevant political ideology of Zionism, with rare archival footage and interviews with Jews and Palestinians living in the Middle East. Rudavsky's visit and film-showing were co-sponsored by the Wexner Center for the Arts and the Columbus Jewish Film Festival.



Jewish Art and Artifacts VIVIAN MANN

In February 2016, the Melton Center and the Columbus Museum of Art presented two programs led by **Vivian Mann**, director of the master's program in Jewish Art & Visual Culture Graduate School at the Jewish Theological



Seminary, and curator emerita of the Jewish Museum, New York. Mann talked about the history and significance of the 13th-century Hebrew

Bible, scroll of Esther and scroll of Esther case from the collection of Jay and Jeanie Schottenstein, which was on loan to the museum. Mann also taught a master class at Ohio State on Jewish art of medieval Spain.

FROM THE WORLD OF MY MOTHER AND FATHER:

WORKS OF HOPE AND LOVE FOR CELLO AND PIANO



Steve Honigberg and Steve Glaser
photo: Tamar Rudavsky

This past May, we presented a Jewish music program featuring compositions on Jewish themes by Jewish composers to a large and enthusiastic audience. Renowned cellist **Steve Honigberg** from the National Symphony Orchestra and **Steve Glaser**, professor of music from Ohio State's School of Music, performed. Honigberg and Glaser spoke about the composers and musical themes between pieces. Ohio State Professor Jan Radzynski's piece, *Prayer and Dance* was also on the program.

This program was supported by the Diane Cummins Community Education Fund.

Inventing Our Life: **THE KIBBUTZ EXPERIMENT**

photo: Lori Botnick Fireman

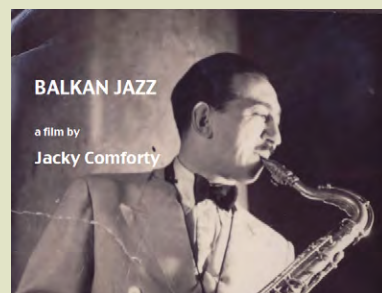


In November 2016, the Melton Center sponsored the showing of *Inventing Our Life: The Kibbutz Experiment*, a documentary film about the 100-year history of the

kibbutz movement. **Toby Perl Freilich**, the film's director, led discussion after the film. The program was co-sponsored by the Leventhal fund of the Columbus Jewish Foundation.

A Story of Friendship and Hope: **BALKAN JAZZ**

In April 2016, the Melton Center sponsored the showing of *Balkan Jazz: A Story of Friendship and Hope*, a documentary that tells the life story and music of Niko Nissimov and his Jewish friends from the Bulgarian Jazz band, The Optimists. The movie charts their rise to stardom as a band in late 1930s Bulgaria until World War II, when they were sent to slave labor camps. Nissimov was saved



Nikko Nissimov

by his friends at the last minute from a transport destined for the death camp of Treblinka. Their story is told by Nissimov, his brother Harry and his band mate, David Eskin. The filmmaker, Jack Comforty, led discussion about the film after the showing.

photo: courtesy Jack Comforty

Israel and Ohio in the Presidential Election **THE JEWISH VOTE:**

photos: Lori Botnick Fireman



(top) Herb Asher and Donald Sylvan



(bottom) Herb Weisberg.

Ohio State Professors Herb Asher, Donald Sylvan and Herb Weisberg summarized the main issues in the 2016 election and the status of Israel and its political impact upon election issues. Their presentation was followed by spirited and bipartisan discussion.

ORIENTED

In November 2016, we co-sponsored *Oriented*, a documentary film that explores the lives of three gay Palestinian friends living in



Tel Aviv who confront their national and sexual identity. The friends formed a non-violent cultural "resistance movement" to fight for gender and national equality. The film showing was co-sponsored by the Columbus Jewish Film Festival, Leventhal Fund of the Columbus Jewish Foundation, OSU Hillel, Ohio State's film studies program and Wexner Center for the Arts.

2016-2017 Programs

JEWISH LEARNING FOR SENIOR ADULTS

In 2016 the Melton Center received a generous grant from the Columbus Jewish Youth Foundation of the Columbus Jewish Foundation to host a series of Jewish learning programs for senior adults in the community. The programs took place over the course of the year at at Wexner Heritage Village's Creekside at the Village, an independent residential facility for senior citizens. Some of our best and brightest graduate students in Jewish studies led sessions on a variety of topics, such as the Cairo Geniza and Jews of medieval Spain, which were well-received. The Melton Center plans to continue this program in the fall.

PhD candidates Miriam Rudavsky-Brody (top photo, right) and Jonathan Leidheiser-Stoddard (bottom photo, right) speaking to audience members after their presentations.

photos: Lori Botnick Fireman



Thomas and Diann Mann Annual Lecture on Israel and America

TROUBLE IN THE TRIBE: THE AMERICAN JEWISH CONFLICT OVER ISRAEL

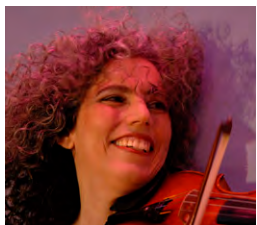


Dov Waxman

This past March, **Dov Waxman**, professor of Jewish historical and cultural studies and co-director of the Middle East Center at Northeastern University, gave a fascinating talk to a large audience about the American Jewish community's connection to Israel and how it has changed since the Lebanon war in 1982. Waxman said that while American Jews overwhelmingly still care about Israel, they have become more critical and more politically divided over Israeli policies, especially concerning the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

ALICIA SVIGALS'S KLEZMER EXPRESS

photo: Tina Chaden



Alicia Svigals

Alicia Svigals, the world's leading klezmer fiddler and a founder of the Grammy-winning Klezmatics came to Columbus last February with members of her Klezmer Express group for a Yiddish dance workshop and concert. The dance workshop, *Yiddish Dance as Community Dance*,

brought folk and Israeli dancers from around Ohio to learn Yiddish dance. The sold-out klezmer concert was held at the Wexner Center for the Arts. The workshop and concert were co-sponsored by the Wexner Center for the Arts and supported by the Lenore Schottenstein and Community Fund for Jewish Arts at the Columbus Jewish Foundation.



Participants in the dance workshop

photo: Lori Botnick Fireman

2016-2017 Programs (continued)

The 29th Annual Pearl and Troy Feibel Lecture on Judaism and the Law

DIVINE LAW: A TALE OF TWO CONCEPTS (AND THREE RESPONSES)

This year's Feibel speaker was Professor Christine Hayes, an expert on rabbinic and talmudic studies, history and literature of Judaism in late antiquity and legal theory at Yale University. Hayes talked to a large audience about the difference between what Romans and Jews meant when they talked about divine law. For the Romans, this term referred to certain qualities in the law itself, such as universality and immutability. For Jews, it referred to the idea that particular laws were given directly by God. The two definitions are starkly different and that difference has reverberated through the ages.



(l to r) Jim Feibel, Babette Feibel, Professor Hayes, Barbara Robins, Ron Robins, Ronni Feibel and Don Feibel

2017 MELTON COALITION CONFERENCE:

The Melton Coalition for Creative Interaction is a cooperative project among the Melton Centers at Ohio State, Hebrew University and the Jewish Theological Seminary, sponsored by gifts from Samuel Melton, a"h. The 2017 Coalition conference on "Jewish learning and the non-Jew" brought together scholars from a number of institutions and disciplines to discuss a very wide variety of topics related to this general theme. We were represented by Matt Goldish, Meryll Page and Lori Botnick Fireman. Goldish's paper was about the commentary on the New Testament by the 17th century English Hebraist John Lightfoot.



Matt Goldish

photo: JLK Productions LLC

OTHER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The Melton Center co-sponsored these programs in 2016:

MUSICAL STEREOTYPING OF AMERICAN JEWRY IN EARLY 20TH CENTURY MASS MEDIA

Daniel Goldmark, assistant professor of music at Case Western Reserve University, spoke about how music associated with turn of the century American Jewry such as vaudeville, Tin Pan Alley and theatre and film, cultivated and shaped the evolving mass-media/entertainment industry. The program was co-sponsored with Ohio State's School of Music.

The center co-sponsored a program featuring **Astirith Baltzan**, a well-known Israeli classical pianist who lectured on the history of Hatikvah, Israel's national anthem, at the 2016 community Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration.

The Melton Center co-sponsored these programs in 2017:

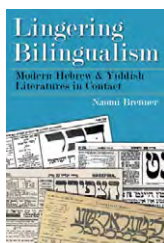
Professor **Lila Corwin Berman** spoke on "Jewish Urban Politics in an Era of Crisis," which was co-sponsored by Ohio State's Department of History.

There was a special showing of *The Return*, a documentary film directed by **Adam Zucker** about four young Polish women who were raised Catholic only to find out in their teens that they are Jewish. The documentary depicts what it means to be young and Jewish in modern-day Poland. It was co-sponsored by Ohio State's Center for Slavic and East European Studies.

Faculty News



Naomi Brenner, associate professor of modern Hebrew literature, published *Lingering Bilingualism: Modern Hebrew and Yiddish Literatures* (Syracuse University Press, 2016).



Brenner also received a fellowship from the Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan in 2017.



Carole Fink, professor emerita, history, recently published *Cold War: An International History*, 2nd edition (Boulder CO: Westview Press, 2017) and *Writing International History: Explorations and Examples* (Weimar: Wallstein Verlag, 2017).

Fink was a guest professor at University of Jena, Germany in spring 2016.



J. Albert Harrill, professor of history, received the 2017 Clio Award for Distinguished Teaching in History at Ohio State.



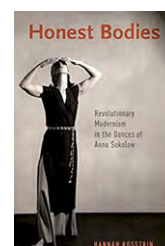
Jane Hathaway, professor of history, held the Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation Membership in the School of Historical Studies, Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton University in fall 2016. Hathaway also received the James M. Siddens Award for Distinguished Faculty Advising

from Ohio State's Council of Graduate Students in April 2017, and was Ohio State's nominee for the Gerda Henkel Prize, a biennial international award for scholarly achievement in any discipline, in January 2016. She is the first faculty member from Ohio State to win this award.



Hannah Kosstrin, assistant professor of dance, has been awarded a Global Mobility Project Faculty Grant in the amount of \$3,000 for her research on how the U.S. reception to the Yemenite-Israeli company Inbal Dance Theater tours during the 1950s-1960s

underscored Ashkenazi American Jewish assimilation through dance spectatorship. Oxford University Press published Kosstrin's monograph *Honest Bodies: Revolutionary Modernism in the Dances of Anna Sokolow* in 2017. The book illustrates the ways in which Sokolow's choreography circulated American modernism among Jewish and communist channels of the international Left from the 1930s to the 1960s in the United States, Mexico and Israel.



Carolina López-Ruiz, associate professor in the Department of Classics, published *Tartessos and the Phoenicians in Iberia* (Oxford University Press 2016), which was co-authored with Sebastian Celestino.

López-Ruiz also received a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities for her project on "The Phoenicians and the Making of the Mediterranean."



Paul Reitter, professor of Germanic languages and literatures and director of Ohio State's Humanities Institute, is one of 21 scholars, writers and artists awarded a coveted 2017-18 Berlin Prize, a semester-long fellowship by the American Academy in Berlin. Fellows

receive a monthly stipend and accommodations at the academy's lakeside Hans Arnhold Center in Berlin-Wannsee and the time and resources to work on academic projects.

Faculty 2015-2017

Naomi Brenner

Associate Professor, Near Eastern Languages and Cultures (PhD, University of California, Berkeley)
Modern Hebrew Literature

Lúcia Helena Costigan

Associate Professor, Spanish and Portuguese (PhD, University of Pittsburgh)
Literatures and Cultures of Latin America and Portugal

Steven S. Fink

Associate Professor, English (PhD, University of Washington)
Jewish American Literature

Berndt Fischer

Professor, German (Universität Siegen)
Contemporary German Literature and Culture

Daniel Frank

Associate Professor, Near Eastern Languages and Cultures (PhD, Harvard University)
Medieval Jewish History and Literature
Judeo-Arabic Karaitica

Steven Glaser

Professor, Music (MM, University of Michigan, BM, Juilliard)
Piano Performance

Matt Goldish

Professor, History (PhD, Hebrew University)
Early Modern Jewish History
Messianism

J. Albert Harrill

Professor, History (PhD, University of Chicago)
Early Judaism, Ancient Mediterranean Religions

Jane Hathaway

Professor, History (PhD, Princeton University)
Jews Under Islamic Rule

Robin Judd

Associate Professor, History (PhD, University of Michigan)
Modern Jewish History, Gender History and Theory

Alexander Kaye

Assistant Professor, History (PhD, Columbia University)
Modern Israel, Jewish Law

Lynn Kaye

Assistant Professor, Near Eastern Languages and Cultures (PhD, New York University)
Jewish Law and Thought
Literary/Critical Theory

Hannah Kosstrin

Assistant Professor, Dance (PhD, The Ohio State University)
Gender and Jewish Studies in Dance

Stuart Lishan

Associate Professor, English (PhD, University of Utah)
Jewish American Literature

Carolina López-Ruiz

Associate Professor, Classics (PhD, University of Chicago)
Greek and Near Eastern Cultures

Samuel Meier

Professor, Near Eastern Languages and Cultures (PhD, Harvard University)
Hebrew and Comparative Semitics

David Neal Miller

Associate Professor, Yiddish (PhD, University of California, Santa Cruz)
Yiddish Language and Literature

Gabriella Modan

Associate Professor, English (PhD, Georgetown University)
Sociolinguistics and Discourse Analysis

Jan Radzynski

Professor, Music (DMA, Yale University)
Composition, Jewish Music

Paul Reitter

Associate Professor, German (PhD, University of California, Berkeley)
Modern German Jewish Literature

Tamar Rudavsky

Professor, Philosophy
Director, Melton Center for Jewish Studies (PhD, Brandeis University)
Medieval Jewish and Scholastic Philosophy

Stewart Shapiro

Professor, Philosophy (PhD, SUNY at Buffalo)
Philosophy of Mathematics

Amy Shuman

Professor, English and Folklore (PhD, University of Pennsylvania)
Jewish Folklore, Cultural Studies

Suzanne Silver

Associate Professor, Art (MFA, The Ohio State University)
Painting and Drawing, Jewish Art

David Stein

Associate Professor, Education (PhD, University of Michigan)
Adult Education, Distance Learning

Michael Swartz

Professor, Near Eastern Languages and Cultures (PhD, New York University)
Rabbinic Literature, Jewish Mysticism

Adena Tanenbaum

Associate Professor, Near Eastern Languages and Cultures (PhD, Harvard University)
Medieval Jewish Literature and Thought, Modern Hebrew Literature

Isaac Weiner

Assistant Professor, Comparative Studies (PhD, University of North Carolina)
American Religions, Material and Sensory Cultures of Religions

MELTON CENTER STAFF

Tamar Rudavsky

Director
rudavsky.1@osu.edu

Lori Botnick Fireman

Program Coordinator
(614) 292-0700
fireman.2@osu.edu



Beginning with Sam Melton’s investment in the establishment of the Melton Center for Jewish Studies at Ohio State more than 40 years ago, private support has been invaluable to our mission to develop and promote the study, teaching and research of Jewish studies by faculty and students. We hope you will make your investment in our students, faculty research and programs today!

Giving Opportunities

You can make your donation online by going to: www.giveto.osu.edu/igive, or complete this form and mail it to us along with your contribution. Be sure to include fund number **306429**. Many employers offer matching gifts to The Ohio State University. Go to www.matchinggifts.com/osu to see if your company participates.

Enclosed is my gift of __\$1,000 __\$500 __\$360 __\$108 \$_____other

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email _____

Make checks payable to The Ohio State University Development Fund and return with this form to:

Melton Center for Jewish Studies
The Ohio State University
306 Dulles Hall
230 Annie and John Glenn Ave.
Columbus, OH 43210-1311



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Non-Profit Org.
U. S. Postage
PAID
Columbus, OH
Permit No. 711

Melton Center for Jewish Studies

The Ohio State University
306 Dulles Hall
230 Annie and John Glenn Ave.
Columbus, Ohio 43210

meltoncenter.osu.edu

2016 student award recipients.

Photo: Jeffry Konczal

