

# The Melton Center for Jewish Studies

## 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**  
MELTON CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES



# Message from Director T.M. Rudavsky



Dear Friends,

This year we celebrate 45 years as one of the foremost Jewish studies programs in the United States. 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 forty-five years have borne witness to an explosion of research, teaching and service to the community: our world-recognized faculty and students engage in a variety of programs and research endeavors; we teach over a thousand 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; we regularly co-sponsor programs with other Ohio State departments and centers. In short, the Melton Center embodies a vibrant, important, and invaluable Jewish studies program.

During the past 45 years, the Melton Center has had several directors, starting with Professor Bob Chazan who, with Sam Melton’s support, founded the center in 1976. Other interim and full directors have included Professors Yehiel Hayon, Amy Shuman, Jeremy Cohen, Daniel Frank and Matt Goldish. I am privileged in that I have directed the Center for close to thirty years – from 1988 to 2007, and again from 2013 to the present. During this period, the Center has added stellar faculty, increased its endowed programming, added two endowed graduate fellowships and two endowed professorships, introduced the Melton Coalition for Creative Interaction, and of course, has continued to offer excellent programs to both the campus and community audiences. Even during two disruptive years of COVID, the Center was able to provide virtual, online programs and classes.

We hope you will join us for this coming year’s many programs, including: the Thomas and Diann Mann Annual Lecture on Israel and America with a program on Blackness in Israel; the annual Pearl and Troy Feibel Lecture on Judaism and Law featuring **Professors Ethan Katz and Steven Davidoff Solomon**, who have created a video about antisemitism on American campuses; and the Thomas and Diann Mann Symposium series featuring the musical group YAMMA. We will be providing more details on these and other programs soon.

As I look back on the past 45 years I cannot help but be proud of our many accomplishments. We are truly indebted to our many supporters and donors, who have enabled us to grow our program. This year’s newsletter highlights some of our most fervent supporters, including **Sam Melton** himself; **Tom and Diann Mann**; **the Feibel Family**, **Renée Levine**, and **Meryll Levine Page**; and **the Schottenstein family**.

The Melton Center is only as vibrant as its members and supporters, and we have you to thank.

Shanah tovah and warmest wishes for a healthy year.

**T.M. Rudavsky**  
Director, Melton Center for Jewish Studies



# Celebrating 45 Years

photo credit Mort Kaye



**“Jewish education is the basis for  
Jewish survival.”**

– Sam Melton

Thanks to the generosity of Samuel M. Melton, the Samuel M. Melton Center for Jewish Studies was established at The Ohio State University in 1976. It was the first privately endowed center for Jewish studies at a state university in the United States. Mr. Melton had already funded the first privately endowed chair, the Esther and Samuel Melton Professorship in Jewish History, and the Michael Melton Judaica collection at The Ohio State University in memory of his son.

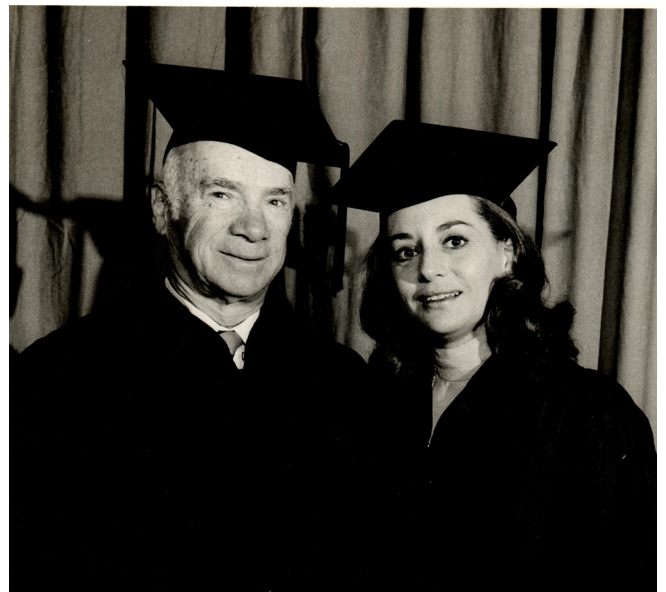
## OHIO STATE’S IMPACT ON SAM’S BUSINESS AND LIFE

“It was a stroke of luck which enabled me to attend [The] Ohio State University. I graduated from Scott High School in 1919... my father and uncle bought a grocery store in Columbus, and I moved to Columbus with the family.” He earned enough to put himself through college by working in the family’s store. Melton wanted to major in mechanical engineering, but at that time, no companies would hire a Jewish engineer, so he majored in accounting.

He took a philosophy course at Ohio State, taught by Dr. Albert K. Chandler which sparked his interest in Jewish history.

“We covered the entire series of prominent philosophers from Socrates to Darwin. I remember having touched on the Patriarchs and Prophets of Israel without very much emphasis. Yet I was sufficiently impressed with the ethical and moral teachings of the Prophets and selected the Prophets as my thesis in finalizing the course... I sincerely believe that the course of civilization since the Patriarchs and Prophets has been favorably influenced by the teaching of ethics, morals, justice, and peace, and that more students and people should be exposed to this information. I believe that Jewish history will augment an essential adjunct of knowledge that is factual but relatively unavailable to the average college student... My goal was to bring Judaism to the forefront, to show especially what Jews did for civilization through the teachings of the Prophets.”

Sam was a life-long supporter of Ohio State. “...I feel a deep affection for the institution that has played such a great part in shaping my life,” he said. In 1971, the university awarded him an Honorary Doctor of Laws. That year the keynote speaker at graduation was Barbara Walters, who was Ohio State’s first female graduation speaker (pictured below).





He graduated from Ohio State in 1923, and in 1924 he founded Capitol Manufacturing & Supply Company in Columbus. Initially, his company refitted pipe fittings, for which he received patents years later. His company was also the first U.S. manufacturer to open in Israel in 1949. 60% of the company's profits went to charitable organizations in Israel.

## THE WAR EFFORT

During World War II, Capitol Manufacturing was one of the first producers for the Army and Navy. In 1941, the Navy requested that Melton's company produce degaussing tubes before Pearl Harbor. After Pearl Harbor, Capitol continued to produce them, as well as an adapter for converting shells to bombs. The U.S. furnished England with obsolete shells left from World War I that were converted using special adapters that Capitol furnished.

His company also made electrical fittings for the Manhattan Tennessee project which resulted in the atomic bomb. His company wasn't told what they were used for because the government kept it a secret. At the end of World War II, Capitol Manufacturing was awarded the Army-Navy "E" award for excellence in the production of war materials.

Capitol's large production resulted in considerable savings for the War Department.

The peacetime products were used in every essential industry in the U.S., such as railroads, shipyards, power plants, steel mills, building construction, oil well supplies, the plumbing and heating industry, the automotive industry and many other industries that assembled equipment.

In 1959, Melton retired from his company and became a full-time philanthropist. He interacted with world leaders such as David Ben Gurion, Golda Meir, Abba Eban, and Presidents George H.W. Bush and Harry S. Truman.

Sam Melton was one of 47 founders at Hebrew University who helped to create **The Harry S. Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace**. The Truman Institute was the first, and is the largest, research institute in Israel and the Middle East that studies advancing peace in the region. It focuses on the countries of the Middle East as well as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The Institute was founded in 1965 at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem with the personal support of the 33rd President of the United States, Harry S. Truman.

By the time of his death, Mr. Melton had invested millions of dollars in institutions around the world. His support included:

- The Ohio State University: Melton Center for Jewish Studies, the Esther and Samuel Melton Professorship in Jewish history, Samuel M. Melton Graduate Fellowship in Jewish studies, and the Michael Melton Judaica library
- Boys Town Jerusalem
- Jewish Theological Seminary: Melton Research Center and Library
- Hebrew University: Melton Centre for Jewish Education in the Diaspora
- University of Florida: Samuel M. Melton Legislative



Left to right: Sam Melton, Myrtle Melton Katz, Esther Melton, and Herman Katz

Sam Melton is pictured here with President Harry S. Truman

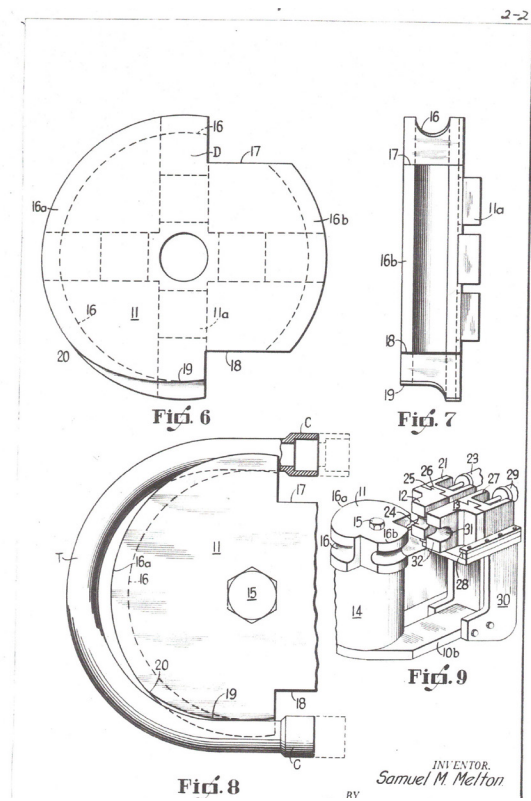


Professorship Fund and the Melton Jewish studies endowment fund to support the Center for Jewish Studies

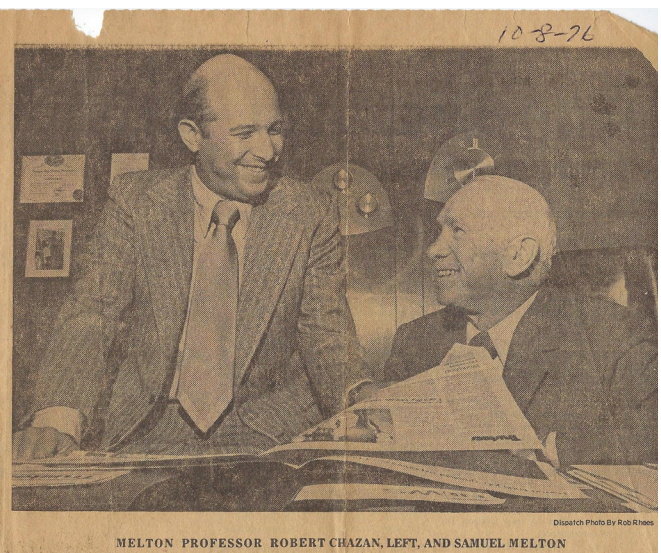
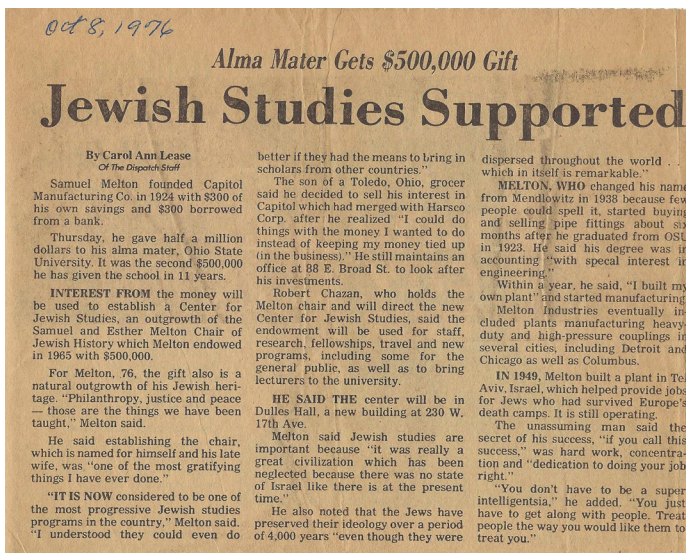
- Brandeis University: The Sam and Florence Melton Endowed Fellowship to support graduate students pursuing entrepreneurial goals or Jewish education.
- Kent State University
- Melton Coalition for Creative Interaction – Collaborative research between the three Melton Centers
- Melton Vocational High School in Bat Yam, Israel

One of Sam Melton's final acts was to establish The Melton Coalition for Creative Interaction, an integrated coalition between the three Melton partners, The Ohio State University, Jewish Theological Seminary and Hebrew University. The purpose of the coalition is to foster key issues of shared interest to Judaica scholars, scholars of Jewish education and Jewish educational practitioners. Recent topics have included Time and Jewish Thought in Education, Inside and Outside: How Jews Regard Outsiders Throughout Jewish History, The Transmission of Jewish Culture Outside the Classroom and Jewish Learning and the Non-Jew.









Above: A 1976 article in *The Columbus Dispatch* on Sam Melton's \$500,000 donation

Right: Professor Robert Chazan, Sam Melton, Ohio State President Novice Fawcett in 1976

## THE MELTON CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES

At its inception, Melton Center for Jewish Studies at Ohio State had nine full-time faculty members from seven departments in the Humanities. Two years later, the Center offered sixty-five courses. Dr. Saul Wachs, author of *Samuel Mendel Melton: A Visionary*, said, "After only four years of operation the Melton Center for Jewish Studies at Ohio State was recognized as one of the most comprehensive Jewish studies programs in the United States, and the strongest at a state university."

"One of the things that the Melton Center is doing... is making its faculty and staff available to the whole community for educational purposes. It has done a remarkable job in this area," said Sam Melton.

The Melton Center's goals are:

- to foster and coordinate the growth of Jewish studies at The Ohio State University in areas including Jewish history, Jewish philosophy, Hebrew language and literature, Yiddish language and literature, sociology, and social work
- attract outstanding Jewish scholars to the university
- to encourage more students to become involved in Jewish Studies; and
- to enable the Columbus community to share in Ohio State's extensive Jewish studies resources through an ongoing series of community programs.



In a speech he gave at Ohio State a year after the Melton Center for Jewish Studies opened, Melton said:

**"Philanthropy is more difficult than business. It is easy to give money away — it is difficult to do it so that it serves the purposes of mankind. It is with great satisfaction that I review the progress that has been made by the Melton [Center] for Jewish Studies. I view it as a greater achievement than anything I was ever able to accomplish in business."**

Today, there are 21 full-time faculty members and over 75 course offerings. Over 500 students enroll in Jewish studies courses each semester. There are graduate degree programs in areas of Jewish studies, the Jewish studies major and minor, the Hebrew major and minor, and the Jewish Oral History minor. Students have access to Ohio State's Judaica collection, which includes over 300,000 volumes. Professor Joseph Galron, the university's full-time Judaica librarian, oversees the collection.





- Top: Student award winners, photo credit Jeffry Konczal
- Middle left: Bloch program on Ethiopian cooking: Kasa Bayisin, Cori Zarem, Matt Goldish
- Middle right: Rachel Baransi and Matt Goldish in 2012, photo credit Jeffry Konczal
- Bottom: One Holy Land, Three Holy Peoples program, photo credit Lori Fireman



Over the course of the Melton Center’s history, we have hosted many conferences, symposia, concerts, films, workshops, and lectures. Some memorable programs have included our Jewish Music, East and West concerts, international Jewish film series and Jewish dance symposia.

In recent years, many other donors have established large endowments through the Melton Center. Mr. Melton’s wife Florence endowed the Samuel M. Melton Graduate Fellowship in Jewish Studies. Melton’s niece Renée Levine and her husband George Levine (z”l) endowed the George M. and Renée K. Levine Graduate Fellowship in Jewish Studies and the George M. & Renée K. Levine Endowed Professorship in Jewish History.

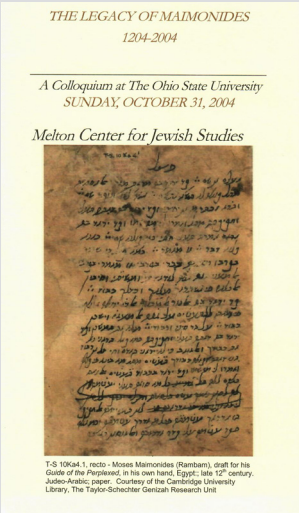
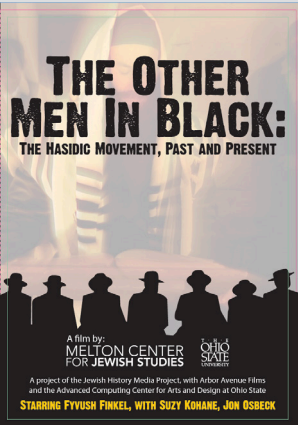
In 1997, longtime supporters Thomas and Diann Mann endowed a symposium series fund to support annual year-long symposia in which eminent scholars, along with The Ohio State University faculty, present lectures, conferences, and concerts on a chosen topic in Jewish studies.

The Mann Symposia has included a variety of topics, including Science, Religion and Judaism, Spinoza: The ‘God-Intoxicated Atheist’, Metaphors of Time: An Interdisciplinary Conversation Across the Arts, Humanities, and Sciences; Yiddish Culture in Transition and Jewish Music, East and West concerts.

The Manns also established a lecture fund to support programs focused on Israel. Program topics have included Blackness in Israel, Jewish Migration and Displacement, Trouble in the Tribe: The American Jewish Conflict Over Israel, and Models of Equality and Coexistence: The Pragmatic Search for a Shared Society of Israelis and Palestinians.

**“I’ve seen the Melton Center as a model that should be followed by other universities as communicating Jewish contributions to world civilization as well as American culture in an effective manner, not only in the entire range of civilization, but also philosophy, anthropology, music, and politics. I think the Melton Center does it very effectively compared to other Jewish studies programs. I also think the Melton Center has been very effective in educating the community. The Melton Center puts together really interesting programs with limited funds.”**

– Thomas Mann



- Since 1997, The Thomas and Diann Mann Symposium Series has brought a variety of lectures, conferences and concerts on a chosen topic in Jewish studies to Columbus.



## THE PEARL AND TROY FEIBEL LECTURE ON JUDAISM AND LAW

The Pearl and Troy Feibel Lecture Fund on Judaism and Law, established in 1988, supports annual lectures given by distinguished guest scholars. The fund was established by Pearl and Troy Feibels' children, Barbara Robins, Jim and Don Feibel (z"l), and Robert Shamansky (z"l).

Other major endowments include:

- **The Esther and Samuel Melton Endowed Professorship in Jewish History**, currently held by Professor Matt Goldish.
- **The Sonia and Saul Schottenstein Chair in Israel Studies** for a distinguished scholar who holds the Schottenstein chair, Professor Ori Yehudai.
- **The Diane Cummins Community Education Fund** to support educational programs for adults.

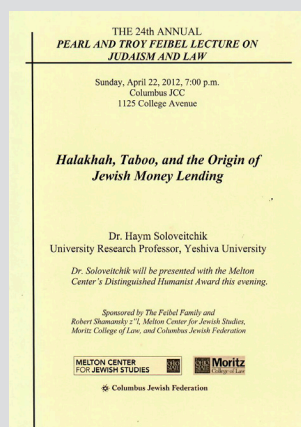
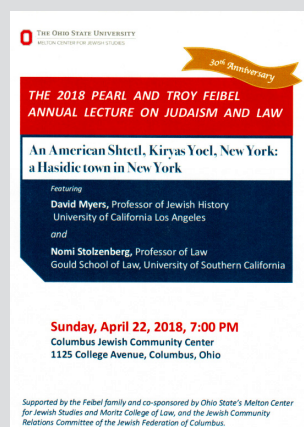
Student Scholarship Endowed Funds:

- **The Ellen and Victor Cohn Fund** provides generous

support to students who wish to study at The Hebrew University.

- **The Norbert and Gretel B. Bloch Endowed Scholarship Fund in Jewish Studies** awards a student each year to create a program that enhances awareness of topics relevant to Jewish life, culture, or history.
- **The Emily and George Severinghaus Beck Education Abroad Scholarship** supports students who wish to study Yiddish abroad.
- **The Morris and Fannie Skilken Family Foundation Endowment Fund Scholarship for Yiddish and Ashkenazi Studies** awards deserving undergraduate students who are majoring in Hebrew, Yiddish and Ashkenazi studies, or Jewish studies.
- **The Reva and Sanford Lipson Student Support Fund** awards deserving students studying or researching the history and culture of the Jewish people.
- **The Charlotte Susan Roth Memorial Fund Essay Contest** for currently enrolled undergraduate and graduate students who have written a paper on any aspect of Jewish Studies.

We are grateful to all our donors, past, present, and future for sustaining the vibrancy of Jewish studies programs.



### Feibel Lecture 2009

Left to right: Sam Shamansky, Babette Feibel, Jim Feibel, Professors Suzanne Heschel, Daniel Tokaji and Hasan Jeffries, Barbara Robins, Ron Robins, Ronnie and Don Feibel

### Feibel Lecture 2019

Front row left to right: Professor Tamar Rudavsky, Ron Robins, Barbara Robins, Babette Feibel, Ronni Feibel, Don Feibel  
Back row left to right: Professors Daniel Frank, Adena Tanenbaum, guest speaker Professor James Loeffler, Professors Michael Swartz, Susannah Silver, and Robin Judd



# Student Awards

The Melton Center for Jewish Studies has been fortunate to have received endowed funds from donors over the years, some of which are earmarked for several types of scholarships, such as education abroad, graduate fellowships, and essay contests, to name a few.

## 2021 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

### THE NORBERT AND GRETEL B. BLOCH SCHOLARSHIP FUND IN JEWISH STUDIES



**Morgan Taradash**  
Morgan graduated last spring with a major in World Politics and French & Francophone Studies and a minor in History.

### THE MORRIS AND FANNIE SKILKEN FAMILY FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT FUND SCHOLARSHIP FOR YIDDISH AND ASHKENAZI STUDIES



**Faye Hartman Vaeth and Katie Kuroff**  
Faye graduated last spring with a double major in Jewish studies and Anthropology; Katie also graduated with a major in Strategic Communications and a minor in Hebrew.

### THE REVA AND SANFORD LIPSON STUDENT SUPPORT FUND



**Brittany Zimmerman and Faye Hartman Vaeth**  
Brittany graduated last spring with a major in Hebrew.

### THE LEAH METCHNICK GODOFSKY AND MARTIN R. GODOFSKY SCHOLARSHIP

**Faye Hartman Vaeth**

### THE CHARLOTTE SUSAN ROTH MEMORIAL FUND ESSAY CONTEST, UNDERGRADUATE DIVISION



1st Place: **Nathan Hensley** for his essay, “Midrash and More in Paul: The Apostle’s Rhetorical Techniques on Circumcision and Death.” Nathan graduated in 2021 with a double major in History and Philosophy with a minor in Spanish.

2nd Place: **Brittany Zimmerman** for her essay, “Deuteronomy 13:13-19 (The Idolatrous City) According to Mishnah Sanhedrin.”

### THE SAMUEL M. MELTON GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP IN JEWISH STUDIES



**Tamara McCarty**  
Tamara is a PhD student in the Department of Dance at Ohio State. Her dissertation, “Marginalized Motion: Late-Medieval German Dance in Law, Practice, and Memory” examines how laws in medieval Bavaria, Germany circumscribed where and how Jews, women, and peasants could and could not dance, and how these sanctions reflected larger discriminations against these populations to control them and their participation in society.

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



**Donna Jarjour**  
Donna is a PhD candidate in the Department of Near Eastern and South Asian Languages and Cultures studying the Hebrew Bible in its ancient Near Eastern context. Her research interests include comparing the laws of ancient Israel with those of antecedent and contemporaneous ancient Near Eastern nations.



THE MORRIS AND FANNIE SKILKEN  
FAMILY FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT  
FUND SCHOLARSHIP FOR YIDDISH AND  
ASHKENAZI STUDIES



Kristina is a second-year student with a double major in Hebrew and Jewish studies and a minor in Linguistics.

THE LEAH METCHNICK GODOFSKY AND  
MARTIN R. GODOFSKY SCHOLARSHIP



Dorothy is a fourth-year student with a double major in Hebrew and Jewish studies.

THE CHARLOTTE SUSAN ROTH  
MEMORIAL FUND ESSAY CONTEST,  
UNDERGRADUATE DIVISION



**Carrie Esker** for her essay, "The United States Immigration Policies and Their Impact on Interwar Jewish Migration." Carrie graduated last spring with a double major in Jewish studies and Dance.

THE SAMUEL M. MELTON GRADUATE  
FELLOWSHIP IN JEWISH STUDIES



Rafael is in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. His areas of study are diverse (Jewish, Brazilian, German, Translation Studies). In Jewish studies, his research is on Holocaust literature written and published in book format by

European survivors who immigrated to Brazil and settled in its major cities. He is particularly interested in the processes of migration, traumatic memory, and witness accounts, both fictional or otherwise, and uses a literary approach to study the texts.

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



Edward is in the diplomatic history program at The Ohio State University's department of history. His work focuses broadly on the diplomatic relations between Israel and the United States from 1948 to the present. His dissertation places a particular emphasis on the

1982 Lebanon War and its role in pushing President Reagan away from a belligerent policy in the Middle East.



# Programs

**2020-21**

## The Thomas and Diann Mann series on Jewish Migration and Displacement

This series included two programs. The first focused on Jews escaping persecution during World War II. Professor **Robin Judd** moderated the discussion with Professor **Marion Kaplan** from New York University, and author of *Hitler's Jewish Refugees: Hope and Anxiety in Portugal*, and Professor **Mikhal Dekel**, City College/CUNY Graduate Center, and author of *Tehran Children: A Holocaust Refugee Odyssey*.

The second program looked at the complexities of immigration into and out of Israel, discussing the struggles of Jews who tried to rebuild their lives in the Jewish State after experiencing displacement in Europe and the Middle East, and those who left Israel to resettle in new destinations. Professor **Naomi Brenner** moderated this session with Professor **Rhona Seidelman** from University of Oklahoma, author of *Under Quarantine: Immigrants and Disease at Israel's Gate* and Professor **Ori Yehudai**, the Saul and Sonia Schottenstein Chair in Israel Studies at Ohio State and author of *Leaving Zion: Jewish Emigration from Palestine and Israel after World War II*.

## Dance, Human Rights and Social Justice

The Melton Center also co-sponsored a dance program in 2020, *Dance, Human Rights and Social Justice*, featuring Dr. **Naomi Jackson**. Her talk discussed dance in contexts of oppression and its subversion, along with the role of dance in healing from human rights abuses.

## Reading the Story of Dinah in Context and in the Age of #MeToo

**Alison Joseph**, senior editor at the Posen Library of Jewish Culture and Civilization and adjunct professor at the Jewish Theological Seminary, was interviewed by Ohio State Professor **Naomi Brenner** last February. The interview was recorded and made available to students in the undergraduate course Hebrew/Jewish Studies 3704, Women in the Bible and Beyond, as part of a week dedicated to Genesis 34 and its resonance in contemporary American society.

2021-22 ●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●

## The Holocaust and Nakba: A New Grammar of Trauma and History

This panel discussion featured two scholars based in Israel, one Palestinian and one Jewish. Professors **Bashir Bashir** of the Open University of Israel and **Amos Goldberg** of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem spoke on their groundbreaking book, *The Holocaust and the Nakba: A New Grammar of Trauma and History*. The discussion explored the various intersections and fundamental differences between the Jewish Holocaust and the Palestinian Nakba, and the role of those events in Palestinian and Israeli collective identities and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Their book does not seek to draw a parallel between the two events; it searches for a new historical and political grammar for relating and narrating their complicated intersections.

**The 2021-2022 Thomas and Diann Mann  
Symposium Series: Adjudicating Belonging  
Across the Mediterranean: Sephardi Jews  
between Italy and Tunisia**

**Jessica Marglin**, Associate Professor of Religion, Law, and History and the Ruth Ziegler Early Career Chair in Jewish Studies at University of Southern California gave a fascinating talk last October to students and community members about a Jew born in Tunisia who died in Italy, which sparked a lawsuit by his heirs about his nationality. In 1873, Nissim Shamama, a wealthy Jew from Tunisia, died in his palace in Livorno, Italy. He left behind a huge fortune, but no children. His surviving heirs fought bitterly over his enormous estate; the ensuing lawsuit boiled down to whether Shamama had been an Italian citizen or a Tunisian subject. This talk used this case study of the Shamama trial to explore debates about Jews and nationality as they played out across the Mediterranean.



# Faculty News



**Jane Hathaway**, distinguished professor in the department of history, has retired. Her areas of expertise include the Ottoman Empire before the nineteenth century, particularly the Arab provinces. She has published on Ottoman reactions to Jewish messianism in Egypt and Yemen, and on Jewish economic activity

as exemplified in Geniza documents.



**Sam Meier**, also a distinguished professor, has retired. His area of expertise includes Hebrew bible, ancient Semitic comparative languages and texts, and Semitic linguistics. Professor Meier received several teaching awards during his tenure at Ohio State.

*We wish Jane and Sam all the best in this next phase of their lives. They will be sorely missed.*



**Robin Judd**, associate professor of history, has been awarded the 2021-2022 Honors Faculty Service Award from the College of Arts and Sciences and was appointed by the Governor to the Ohio Holocaust and Genocide Memorial and Education Commission. She is currently the President of the Association for Jewish Studies.



**Hannah Kosstrin**, associate professor of dance, was awarded the 2021 Gertrude Lippincott Award Honorable Mention from the Dance Studies Association for her article “Whose Jewishness? Inbal Dance Theater and American Cold War Spectatorship” in *American Jewish History* 104, no. 1 (2020): 31–58.



**Stewart Shapiro**  
Stewart Shapiro, professor of philosophy, was elected as a Fellow of the American Academy of the Arts and Sciences.



**Suzanne Silver**, associate professor of art, participated in several exhibitions. *World is a Word*, with Luke Stettner, Abattoir Gallery, Cleveland, OH, July 23-Aug. 21, *Return to Sender*, with Laura Larson, Columbus Printed Arts Center, Columbus, OH, Nov. 17, 2020-Feb. 21, 2021, *Havruta* (collaboration

with Michael D. Swartz), Heaven Gallery, Chicago, IL, Oct. 29-Dec. 5, 2021 (Liam O'Connor and Shтерна Goldbloom, curators), *A Primer on the Commons*, Columbus Museum of Art, May 8–Nov. 28, 2021, Daniel Marcus, chief curator, and *DUST: The Plates of the Present*, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France, a project co-founded by Thomas Fougereol and Joey Tang. Oct. 21, 2020–March 22, 2021, [thedust.fr/the\\_plates\\_of\\_the\\_present.html](https://thedust.fr/the_plates_of_the_present.html)



**Ori Yehudai**, Assistant Professor of History and The Saul and Sonia Schottenstein Chair in Israel Studies recently published *Leaving Zion: Jewish Emigration from Palestine and Israel After World War II* (Cambridge University Press, 2020).

## YIDDISH STUDIES NEWS



The Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures recently hired **Matthew Johnson** as senior lecturer in Yiddish. His area of expertise includes Yiddish and German-language literature and cultural history in the 19th-21st centuries, translation theory and practice, and diaspora, exile, and migration studies.

He teaches courses in Yiddish Studies and German-Jewish Studies, including courses that address such topics as diaspora, exile, and migration, translation theory and practice, gender and sexuality, and film, music, and other media. He is also happy to support students interested in working on these and related topics beyond the classroom.

Johnson is currently completing a book project, *Faltering-Language: On German-Yiddish Literature*, which explores how the intersection between German and Yiddish became an important but largely forgotten site of literary production from around 1900 to the present.



# Faculty 2022-2023

**Naomi Brenner**

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

**Lúcia Helena Costigan**

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

**Daniel Frank**

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

**Joseph Galron**

Associate Professor  
(MLS, Hebrew University)  
Jewish Studies Librarian

**Steven Glaser**

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

**Matt Goldish**

Professor  
Samuel M. and Esther Melton Chair in History  
(PhD, Hebrew University)  
Early Modern Jewish History, Messianism

**J. Albert Harrill**

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

**Robin Judd**

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

**Hannah Kosstrin**

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

**Stuart Lishan**

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

**Gabriella Modan**

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

**Paul Reitter**

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

**Tamar Rudavsky**

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

**Stewart Shapiro**

Professor  
(PhD, SUNY at Buffalo)  
Philosophy of Mathematics

**Amy Shuman**

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

**Suzanne Silver**

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

**David Stein**

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

**Michael Swartz**

Professor  
(PhD, New York University)  
Rabbinic Literature, Jewish Mysticism

**Adena Tanenbaum**

Associate Professor  
(PhD, Harvard University)  
Medieval Jewish Literature and Thought,  
Modern Hebrew Literature

**Isaac Weiner**

Associate Professor  
(PhD, University of North Carolina)  
American Religions, Material and Sensory  
Cultures of Religions

**Ori Yehudai**

Assistant Professor of History  
The Saul and Sonia Schottenstein Chair in Israel Studies  
(PhD, University of Chicago)  
Jewish History, Power, Culture and the State, Race, Ethnicity, and Nation

MELTON CENTER STAFF

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**Lori Botnick Fireman**

Program Coordinator  
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# Giving Opportunities

*Beginning with Samuel M. Melton’s investment in the establishment of the Melton Center for Jewish Studies at Ohio State in 1976, private support has been invaluable to our mission to develop and promote the study, teaching, and research of Jewish studies. We hope you will make your investment in our students, faculty research, and programs today! Your support will enhance our programs and students for the next 45 years!*

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