I have served the Center as director for many of these years, and have now returned to the directorship for an additional term. The past year has been busy indeed, with a wealth of programs, ranging from our Thomas and Diann Mann two-day Symposium on “Metaphors of Time”; our international dance conference; the 30th annual Pearl and Troy Feibel lecture featuring Professors David Myers and Nancy Stolzenberg, as well as numerous lectures, films, performances and concerts. 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 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.

We are truly indebted to our many supporters and donors who have enabled us to grow our program.

We hope you will join us for this coming year’s programs, including: the 2018-9 Thomas and Diann Mann Annual Lecture on Israel and America featuring Rudy Namdar; the annual Pearl and Troy Feibel Lecture featuring Professor James Loeffler (University of Virginia) whose books and articles have appeared regularly in the press; and the Thomas and Diann Mann Symposium series devoted to the feuilleton, Jewish literary magazines in the 19th and 20th centuries. The Melton Center will be hosting the bi-annual Melton Coalition conference; this year’s theme is “Metaphors of Time in Jewish Life and Thought.” We will be providing more details on these and other programs in the near future.

Shanah tovah and warmest wishes,

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

ABOUT THE MELTON CENTER

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.

Jewish studies at The Ohio State University comprises one of the largest and most diverse programs in the country, offering an impressive selection of courses, a multidisciplinary faculty and a wide range of events. Melton faculty are internationally recognized in their respective fields, including history, philosophy, political science, music, English, Near Eastern languages and cultures, Germanic languages and literatures, classics, art and education. The Ohio State University has one of the largest Judaica library collections in the country, with a full-time Judaica librarian and over 300,000 volumes.

The Melton Center for Jewish Studies remains true to its mission statement:

To develop, promote and support the study, teaching and research of Jewish studies by faculty and students at The Ohio State University

To encourage an interest in the study of all aspects of the Jewish experience within the Central Ohio community, and to sponsor educational programs for the general public service

To seek outside funding to encourage the growth of the Jewish studies programs at Ohio State.

ON THE COVER

Milgroym magazine, 1922. Milgroym was a Jewish literary magazine published in Yiddish and Hebrew. These and other Jewish literary and cultural magazines will be the subject of the Thomas and Diann Symposium this fall.
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.

UNDERGRADUATE LEVEL:
Michelle Sdao won first place for her essay, “Paul and [Greek/ mysterion]: Controversy and Revelation in the Corinthian and Roman Correspondence.” Michelle graduated last May with a major in History and minor in Classical Greek.


GRADUATE LEVEL:
Cady Vishniac won first place for her essay, “American Jewbook’s Rhetorics of Whiteness: Left-wing Jewish Responses to the Chicago Dyke March.” Cady was an MFA student in fiction, with a focus on Jewish fiction, and is a Distinguished University Fellow.

Rachel Richman won second place for her essay, “The Biography of Maimonides: An Inquiry into the Biblical and Autobiographical Sources.” Rachel was an MA candidate in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures and will complete her PhD studies at Brandeis University. Her research focus is on the lives and stories of the Jews of medieval Cairo.

MORRIS AND FANNIE SKILKEN SCHOLARSHIP IN YIDDISH AND ASHKENAZI STUDIES
Yoni Wechsler is this year’s recipient of the Skilken scholarship, which provides support to a student or students actively engaged in Yiddish and Ashkenazi studies. Yoni is a sophomore with a double major in International Studies/Security and Intelligence and Middle East Studies, and a minor in Hebrew.

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. Alexandra Zborovsky is this year’s recipient.

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. This year’s recipient is Drew Mayerson. Drew is a sophomore with a major in business administration and minor in Jewish studies.
The graduate fellowships in Jewish studies provide a stipend for a graduate student pursuing research in a core area of Jewish studies. He or she must also agree to function as a resource person to the Jewish community in a manner that is mutually beneficial to the student and to the targeted program in Jewish education, in consultation with the director of the Melton Center for Jewish Studies.

Nicole Freeman is the 2018 Melton graduate fellow. Nicole is a PhD candidate in history, working with Prof Robin Judd. The focus of her research is the rehabilitation, care and education of Jewish children in early postwar Germany and Poland.

*Rimon* magazine. *Rimon* was a German magazine in the 1920’s which focused on aspects of Jewish culture.
Last October, the Melton Center presented two programs which focused on the work of the Center for a Shared Society at Givat Haviva, Israel, which aims to build an inclusive, sustainable, thriving Israeli democracy based on mutual responsibility and civic equality. Its leading work has been recognized by the award of the UNESCO Prize for Peace Education. Both programs featured Yaniv Sagee, executive director of Givat Haviva, and Mohammad Darawshe, director of Givat Haviva’s Shared Society education department.

At the campus program, titled Roadmap for A Shared Society: How Israeli Jews and Palestinians Can Live and Prosper Together, which was attended by close to 100 students, faculty, and staff, Mr. Sagee and Mr. Darawshe discussed how they engage Israel’s divided communities in collective action towards the advancement of a shared vision of the future with their school, which is attended by Israeli and Arab students. They also showed how their model for developing equality and coexistence might be applied in other contexts of societies with deep historical, political and social rifts.

The second program, which was open to the community at the Bexley Public Library, was titled Models of Equality and Coexistence: The Pragmatic Search for a Shared Society of Israelis and Palestinians. In this session, Mr. Sagee and Mr. Darawshe addressed the opportunities and challenges in their work in Israel, and how Americans of different political persuasions and religious backgrounds might be able to contribute constructively to the pursuit of peace in the Middle East. They also discussed how their models of equality and coexistence might enhance the activities of the diverse groups involved in Israeli and Palestinian activism in the United States.

Both programs were co-sponsored by COMPAS (Conversations on Morality, Politics, and Society), the Center for Ethics and Human Values, Middle East Studies Center, departments of History and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures at The Ohio State University, and the Jewish Community Relations Committee and Israel department of the Jewish Federation of Columbus.
On October 22, 2017, the Melton Center welcomed scholars and practitioners of Jewish and Israeli dance for a Jewish Dance Symposium with the support of the Thomas and Diann Mann Distinguished Symposium Fund. This event was part of the inaugural conference of the Dance Studies Association, Transmissions and Traces: Rendering Dance that ran October 19-22, 2017 at Ohio State hosted by the Department of Dance and chaired by Assistant Professor Hannah Kosstrin. With support from the Melton Center and other Ohio State departments and programs, the Department of Dance welcomed dance scholars and researchers from across the field in the largest conference attendance since the organizations joined forces five years ago. The Jewish Dance Symposium was a centerpiece of the programming on October 22, attracting approximately sixty attendees for an audience mixed from the Dance Studies Association conference, the Melton Center, and the Columbus community. The Jewish Dance Symposium featured paper presentations, lecture-demonstrations, and a roundtable with leading Jewish and Israeli dance scholars discussing the state of the field. Presentations included: “Disobedient Dances: a Jewish Choreographer in Soviet Russia” by Janice Ross (Stanford University), “Excavating History: Memory, Community, and Place in Site-Specific Holocaust Performance” by Rebecca Rossen (University of Texas at Austin), “I, Thou, It, Us – Duet Dynamics and (Jewish) Structures for Change” by Hannah Schwadron (Florida State University), “Always Already: The Jewish Body as Victim and Victimizer” by Rebecca Pappas (Ball State University), “The Book is My Body: Demystifying the Improvisational Pedagogy of Gaga” by James Graham (University of California, Berkeley), and “Speaking the Words: Performing Dance Philosophy” by Kimerer L. LaMothe (independent scholar). Judith Brin Ingber (independent scholar) led the lively roundtable discussion, “Contemporary
Directions in Jewish Dance Scholarship” featuring Anna Petronella Foulter (Stockholm University), Naomi Jackson (Arizona State University), Einav Katan-Schmid (Humboldt University of Berlin), Hannah Kosstrin (Ohio State University), Adam W. McKinney (Texas Christian University), Melissa Melpignano (University of California, Los Angeles), Rebecca Pappas (Ball State University), Megan Quinlan (Kennesaw State University), Janice Ross (Stanford University), Rebecca Rossen (University of Texas at Austin), Hannah Schwadron (University of Texas at Austin), and Alexander Schwan (Freie Universität Berlin/Harvard University). The subfield of Jewish dance studies has greatly expanded in the past ten years, and gatherings like this have been integral to building the field.

The Melton Center has long fostered Jewish and Israeli dance discourse through collaboration with the Department of Dance. In 2011, the Melton Center co-hosted the two-day Modern Jewish Experience through the Lens of Dance Conference with the Department of Dance, which featured paper presentations, workshops, and a performance based in Jewish and Israeli dance featuring scholars and practitioners from across the US and Israel, some of which returned to participate in the 2017 symposium. Many of these scholars will congregate again at the Arizona State University Center for Jewish Studies in October 2018 for the special topics conference Jews and Jewishness in the Dance World under the direction of Naomi Jackson, who participated in both the 2011 and 2017 Melton Center Jewish dance events. The 2017 Mann Symposium served the local and international community, at the DSA conference and vibrantly going forward into future Jewish dance conferences and symposia.

Hannah Schwadron’s presentation, “I, Thou, It, Us – Duet Dynamics and (Jewish) Structures for Change.”
Last March, the Melton Center co-sponsored a music program, “Amichi Songs for Israel at 70,” featuring composer Daniel Asia, Ohio State Professor of Piano Steven Glaser, and Cantors Bat-Ami Moses and Jack Chomsky.

Daniel Asia, Professor of Music at the University of Arizona, composed music to the poetry of Yehuda Amichai. Amichai’s life and chronicles comprise a rich understanding of that dramatic history in combination with Asia’s award-winning music. The program was co-sponsored by Congregation Tifereth Israel and with generous support from the Diane Cummins Community Education Fund.

Professor Sarah Benor (HUC Los Angeles) offered this year’s lecture in the Mann series on Israel. In her lecture, Professor Benor focused on the rise of Hebrew speaking camps in the United States, tracing their relationship with Zionist movements and with Israel. She pointed out how, with the growth of the State of Israel, the flavor of Hebrew in these summer camps changed over the decades.
On April 9, Professor Michael Weingrad of University of Portland gave a fascinating talk on the relationship between Jews and fantasy literature in terms of the contributions of Jewish and Israeli authors to the fantasy genre. Weingrad also discussed the differences between fantasy and science fiction as they relate to Jewish history and theology, and the question of what a Jewish fantasyland might look like.

Last May, the 2018 Norbert and Gretel Bloch award recipient John Michael Sefel wrote, directed, and produced an adaptation of the early 20th century play, “The Dybbuk” by Russian-Jewish scholar and writer S. Ansky. “Leah and the Dybbuk” explored and deconstructed the original play with an all-female cast that was part ghost story, part folklore study. John Michael Sefel is currently pursuing a PhD in Theatre and a concurrent MA in Yiddish Studies.

The Melton Center runs a series of Jewish learning programs for senior adults in the community. The programs are held 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 lead sessions on a variety of topics. Recent topics have included “Maimonides the Man,” “Queer & Now: How LGBT Jews Fit in the Jewish Community” and “How Do We Talk About the Holocaust?”
On April 11-12, 2018, the Melton Center sponsored an interdisciplinary conference entitled Metaphors of Time: An Interdisciplinary Conversation Across the Arts, Humanities and Sciences. The conference was supported in part by the Thomas and Diann Mann Symposium fund, Ohio State’s College of Arts and Sciences Office of Research Conference Grant, as well as the Near Eastern Languages and Cultures department. The primary co-organizers of the conference were Professors Lynn Kaye and Tamar Rudavsky (Ohio State) and Sarit Kattan Gribetz (Fordham University, Department of Theology).

The conference organizers created two days of true cross-disciplinary and cross-cultural conversations, with presenters from different disciplines, attended by undergraduate students, graduate students, professors and members of the public. Presentations included particle physics, Zen Buddhism, contemporary dance, the Ohio Earthworks, coral reefs, mosquito circadian rhythms, and Palestinian film, to name just a few. Some of the presenters wrote to us afterwards to say that they had never experienced such a truly interdisciplinary and stimulating atmosphere.

In conjunction with the conference, Professors Kaye and Rudavsky taught a semester-long interdisciplinary course on “Dimensions of Time”, drawing on materials from both the rabbinic and philosophical sources. This conference has helped foster new knowledge and community building on The Ohio State University campus; the papers will be published in a volume edited by Professors Kaye and Gribetz.
The 30th Pearl and Troy Feibel Lecture on Judaism and the Law

AMERICAN SHTETL: KIRYAS JOEL, NEW YORK- A HASIDIC TOWN IN SUBURBAN NEW YORK

David Myers, Professor of Jewish History at University of California Los Angeles and Naomi Stolzenberg, Professor of Law at University of Southern California were the featured speakers at a packed house on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Pearl and Troy Feibel Lecture on Judaism and Law. **Professors Myers and Stolzenberg** spoke about America’s only Hasidic municipality, Kiryas Joel, New York- how it came into being, its political influence, and how it skirts the vaunted separation of church and state.

The program was co-sponsored by the Feibel family, Ohio State’s Moritz College of Law, and the Jewish Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation of Columbus.
MELTON CENTER ADVANCED TEXT STUDY PROGRAM

The Melton Center runs an advanced text study adult learning program with a small group in Columbus during the academic year. We created this program about ten years ago after we were approached by individuals who wanted to study Jewish topics at a more advanced and academic level.

The study sessions are taught by Melton faculty and graduate students two times each month, and readings are assigned prior to each session. The group members take turns hosting the sessions to maintain a small and intimate setting. Many people in the group have been involved since its inception, and the program has also created an opportunity to bring together participants representing many Jewish denominations and neighborhoods throughout central Ohio.

OTHER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The Melton Center co-sponsored these programs in the 2017-18 academic year:

MR GAGA
World-renowned Israeli choreographer Ohad Naharin is the subject of this documentary film, which premiered in Columbus last November as part of the Columbus Jewish Film Festival. Other co-sponsors included Ohio State’s Department of Dance and Balletmet.

DR. DAVID G. DALIN: JEWISH JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT FROM BRANDEIS TO KAGEN: THEIR LIVES AND LEGACIES
Last February, author David Dalin spoke about the eight Jewish men and women who have served or who currently serve as justices of the Supreme Court, Louis D. Brandeis, Benjamin Cardozo, Felix Frankfurter, Arthur Goldberg, Abe Fortas, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Stephen G. Breyer, and Elena Kagan. Topics include anti-Semitism, and themes such as the changing role of Jews within the American legal profession and the views and judicial opinions of each of the justices. The program was co-sponsored by Columbus Jewish Bookfair.

10TH ANNUAL LEVENTHAL ARTIST PROGRAM
Last fall, the Leventhal Artist Program brought visiting artists Oded Hirsch and Jim Burnstein to Columbus. Oded Hirsch (top right) is an Israeli filmmaker, and Jim Burnstein (bottom right) is director of the screenwriting program at the University of Michigan. They each conducted workshops and gave talks on films and screenwriting on and off-campus. The Ohio State University’s Film Studies Program and Melton Center for Jewish Studies, Ohio State Hillel, the McConnell Arts Center of Worthington, the Columbus Jewish Day School, Columbus Jewish Film Festival and Fort Hayes Metropolitan Education Center co-sponsored their visit.
TAMAR RUDAVSKY, PROFESSOR, PHILOSOPHY

AMY SHUMAN, PROFESSOR, ENGLISH
Professor Shuman published *Political Asylum Deceptions: The Culture of Suspicion* (London: Palgrave 2018) with Professor Carol Bohmer.

SUZANNE SILVER, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, ART
Professor Silver's solo exhibition, *Codes and Contingencies* was exhibited at Columbus College of Art and Design, and Silver's work was included in a group exhibition, *Repeat Pressure Until*, at Angel Meleca Gallery in Columbus.

JOSEPH GALRON, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, JUDAICA COLLECTION, OHIO STATE LIBRARIES
Professor Galron has created a database of Jewish historic newspapers, periodicals, and e-Journals: go.osu.edu/jpress. The database will be a useful research tool for faculty, students, and the general public, and will be updated on an ongoing basis.


JANE HATHAWAY, PROFESSOR, HISTORY
Professor Hathaway received the University Distinguished Scholar Award and the Clio Award for Outstanding Faculty Teaching in History, awarded by Phi Alpha Theta history honor society. Hathaway’s new book, *The Chief Harem Eunuch of the Ottoman Empire: From African Slave to Power Broker* (Cambridge University Press, 2018) was just published.

CAROLINA LÓPÉZ-RUIZ, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, CLASSICS

IN MEMORIAM
Professor David Neal Miller, professor of Yiddish studies, passed away on April 14, 2018 after a long illness. Professor Miller taught Yiddish literature, Ashkenazic cultural studies, narratology, and critical theory courses. He offered many courses to expose students to Yiddish and Ashkenazic culture. Yiddish language, Literature in Translation, Yiddish culture, and Brooklyn: The Poetics of Place, were courses popular with undergraduate students. In 1984, Prof. Miller worked to initiate the Minor in Yiddish at Ohio State. Several years later, the Master of Arts became an option, and then a PhD since 1996, when Yiddish and Ashkenazic Studies moved to the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures. Prof. Miller successfully directed the programs for many years. May his memory be a blessing.
FACULTY 2018-2019

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

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

Steven S. Fink, Associate Professor (PhD, University of Washington) Jewish American Literature

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

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

J. Albert Harrill, Professor (PhD, University of Chicago) Early Judaism, Ancient Mediterranean Religions

Jane Hathaway, Professor (PhD, Princeton University) Jews Under Islamic Rule

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

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

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

Carolina López-Ruiz, Associate Professor (PhD, University of Chicago) Greek and Near Eastern Cultures

Samuel Meier, Professor (PhD, Harvard University) Hebrew and Comparative Semitics

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

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

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

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

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

Amy Shuman, Professor (PhD, University of Pennsylvania) 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

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 over 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: [giveto.osu.edu](http://giveto.osu.edu), 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 [matchinggifts.com/osu/](http://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 Dules Hall
230 Annie and John Glenn Ave.
Columbus, OH 43210-1311
Our Jewish Studies program is one of the largest and most respected programs in the United States, and our faculty members are internationally recognized scholars in their fields. Every year, more students choose our Jewish Studies program over others in the Midwest for the variety of courses, the many events, and the vibrant Jewish life at Ohio State and in Columbus.

See for yourself at go.osu.edu/jewish-studies