

MELTON CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES

2013 Annual Report



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY



Director Matt Goldish

DEAR FRIENDS,

I am almost out of breath from going back over the Melton Center's slate of events of the past academic year. From the visit of two of the country's top **specialists on the state of the Jewish community, to music programs, a film premiere, our Coalition conference on Jewish education, and the outstanding Feibel Lecture**, 2012-13 has been a whirl of activity for us both on campus and in the community. I hope as always that many of you have had the opportunity to take advantage of these wonderful programs.

Next year promises to be just as impressive and exciting at the Melton Center. A new class of **freshmen** will be starting and many of them will take Jewish Studies courses during their years at Ohio State. Our present students will continue to grow and learn. The **community** will have amazing opportunities to hear top experts from around the world discuss a broad variety of topics—the **Jews of China, wooden synagogues in Poland, kabbalistic views on food**, and much more. We also hope to initiate a new program with classes to be held at the Wexner Heritage Creekside facility that will be open to residents and to the public.

My only regret is that I will not be here to enjoy these terrific programs because I will be on sabbatical at the University of Pennsylvania's Center for Advanced Judaic Studies. The Melton Center will be in the able hands of **Professor Tamar Rudavsky**, who directed it for eighteen years and brought it to its present glory.

I would like to take a moment to thank all our **supporters**, without whom we would not be able to do what we do. Whether you give \$18 or \$100,000 we are deeply grateful for your dedication to Jewish Studies education. May your generosity be repaid to you a hundred-fold.

I look forward to seeing you all when I return and hearing from you about your great experiences at Melton Center events!

Shanah tovah and warmest wishes,

Matt
Matt Goldish
Director

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.

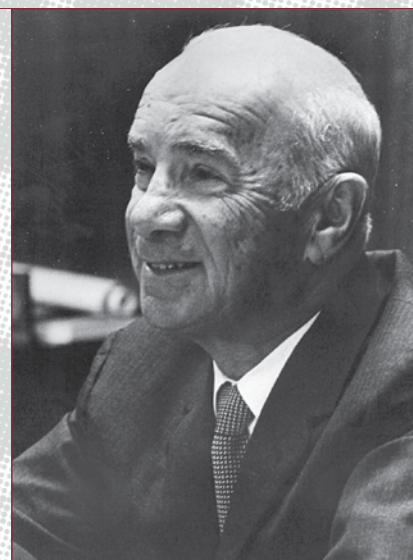
Jewish Studies at The Ohio State University comprises one of the largest and most diverse programs in the country, offering an impressive selection of courses, a multidisciplinary faculty, and a wide range of events. Melton faculty are internationally recognized in their respective fields, including 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, Professor Joseph Galron, 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 OSU



2013 STUDENT AWARDS



Rachel Lieberman



Benzion Chinn



Rachel Burdin



Ilana Nurko



Yelizaveta Filonenko



Erin Bishop

CHARLOTTE SUSAN ROTH MEMORIAL FUND ESSAY CONTEST

Rachel Lieberman, a first year Religious Studies major with a minor in Nonprofit Management, won first prize in the undergraduate category for her essay, "The Reversal of Cycle: Gideon."

In the graduate category, first prize was awarded to **Benzion Chinn** for his essay, "Spreading the Good News of the Messiah: The Sabbatian Network of Mobile Elites 1665-66". Benzion is a graduate student in Jewish history in the final stages of writing his doctorate, which deals with Jewish messianism. He currently lives with his wife Miriam in South Pasadena, CA.

Rachel Burdin was awarded second prize for her essay, "Yiddish Influences on Variation in Jewish English Intonation." Rachel is a PhD student in the Linguistics Department, specializing in contact and historical linguistics involving Jewish languages.

MORRIS AND FANNIE SKILKEN SCHOLARSHIP IN YIDDISH AND ASHKENAZI STUDIES

Ilana Nurko is a second year Dietetics major with a minor in Hebrew. She is this year's recipient of the Skilken Award, which provides a scholarship to students who are actively engaged in Yiddish and Ashkenazi studies.

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. The Severinghaus Beck Fund was established by an anonymous donor to help support students interested in gaining a cross-cultural experience.

This year's recipients are:

Rachel Burdin, a PhD student in the Linguistics Department specializing in contact and historical linguistics involving Jewish languages.

Leeza (Yelizaveta) Filonenko, a third year Marketing and English double major.

Erin Bishop, a third year Mathematics Education major with a minor in Anthropology.

Photo Credit: Megan Leigh Barnard



Brianna Pecsok

THE 2013 NORBERT AND GRETEL B. BLOCH ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP IN JEWISH STUDIES

Brianna Pecsok, who is a third year student majoring in International Relations and Diplomacy and minoring in Hebrew and Nonprofit Studies is this year's Bloch recipient. Brianna will receive a program budget and will collaborate with Melton Center staff to plan, publicize and carry out a program to enhance awareness of topics relevant to Jewish life, culture or history.



Robyn Frum

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

Robyn Frum, a first year student on the pre-dental track with a major in Human Nutrition and a minor in Hebrew received the new Godofsky Scholarship, which provides \$500 in financial assistance to one undergraduate student each year.

GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS IN JEWISH STUDIES

We invite applications for the George M. and Renée Levine Graduate Fellowship in Jewish Studies and the Samuel M. Melton Graduate Fellowship in Jewish Studies. Each fellowship provides a \$15,000 stipend plus a full tuition waiver for one year. Applications must be made through affiliated graduate programs at The Ohio State University. **The application deadline is February 3, 2014.** For full application information, go to our website, meltoncenter.osu.edu, or contact Professor Tamar Rudavsky, interim director of the Melton Center for Jewish Studies at rudavsky.1@osu.edu.



Rachel Lieberman, Robyn Frum, Daniel Freedman



Professor Robin Judd with her JSSA Teaching Award
Photo credit: Megan Leigh Barnard



Sara Halpern



Avram R. Shannon

2013 GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP AWARD WINNERS

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

Sara Halpern is a PhD Student in the History Department focusing on transnational Modern Jewish history. Sara's research compares American and German Jewish communities and identity politics. Her dissertation project explores the political, social, financial, and legal challenges of Central European Jewish emigration from Shanghai and the role of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee in negotiating those issues from 1945 to 1953. The Levine Graduate Fellow in Jewish Studies receives a \$15,000 stipend plus a full tuition waiver for one year.

THE SAMUEL M. MELTON GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP IN JEWISH STUDIES

Avram R. Shannon is a PhD candidate in Near Eastern Languages and Cultures. His research focuses on Early Judaism and Mediterranean Religions. He is writing his dissertation on the Tannaitic portrayal of the rituals of Graeco-Roman religion. The Melton Graduate Fellow in Jewish Studies receives a \$15,000 stipend plus a full tuition waiver for one year.

JEWISH STUDIES STUDENT ASSOCIATION

This year Ohio State's first Jewish Studies Student Association was launched with the help of Melton Center staff. The founding president, Daniel Freedman, describes his vision for the organization: "The purpose of JSSA is to build a connection between students and faculty at the Melton Center for Jewish Studies, and to foster a deeper appreciation for Jewish Studies outside of the classroom. It is open to all students at Ohio State who are interested in Jewish Studies, regardless of their major."

JSSA met several times this year to decide on goals for the group. They had one faculty member share his research this year and they intend to plan more Melton Center events. JSSA helped host our annual Jewish Studies banquet this year and presented the first Jewish Studies Student Association Teaching Award to **Professor Robin Judd**.

The Melton Center staff has enjoyed individual connections with students and looks forward to a growing partnership with this student group.

JSSA Main Objectives:

- Providing a social environment for students and faculty to interact within a Jewish Studies context;
- Planning and implementing Jewish educational events;
- Working to promote and support the study of and research in Jewish Studies.



Professor Matt Goldish, Rachel Burdin

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

Tom Tearney is a graduate from Ohio State with degrees in German and a PSP (Personalized Studies Program) in Yiddish. After graduation from OSU, he lived for a year in Warsaw studying Polish, then completed a Master's in Yiddish Studies at Wolfson College in Oxford. Tom is a graduate student at the University of Pennsylvania Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, concentrating on twentieth century German and Yiddish literature and poetry in Central Europe and the Americas through a comparative approach. He received the Margaret Schoenfeld Falk Fellowship, the only graduate fellowship awarded directly by the Jewish Studies program at the University of Pennsylvania.

"The greatest asset of the Melton Center is certainly the excellent faculty," Tom said. "I enjoyed the exciting courses in Yiddish language and literature offered by Professors Neil Jacobs and David Miller in OSU's department of Germanic Languages and Literatures. Thanks to the Melton Center's interdisciplinary nature, I also made many contacts with faculty outside of my field. Professor Daniel Frank was very helpful in planning my academic career after graduation, and his courses in Jewish history were among my favorite at OSU. The financial support offered by the Melton Center was very generous and I am grateful for the opportunities this afforded me."

Jill Ross is a 1983 graduate of The Ohio State University with a major in Jewish Studies. She has spent her entire professional career working as a Jewish communal worker for Jewish community of Cleveland. She began her career in the Activities Department at Bellefaire/Jewish Children's Bureau, a residential treatment center for emotionally challenged adolescents, where she created a Jewish program for the children. In August of 1988 she began her career at Cleveland Hillel, where she has held various positions. Jill currently supervises all of the Hillel programming in the metropolitan Cleveland area.

Jill reflects on her Ohio State experience, "I have wonderful memories of the Melton Center for Jewish Studies, and I remember fondly singing my final in Yiddish with Professor David Miller and hosting Dr. Gila Ramras Rouch for dinner at our sorority house. She had an interesting way of engaging her students in any of the courses that she taught. They both certainly had an impact on my life as a Jewish communal worker."



Tom Tearney



Jill Ross

First Jewish Oral History Graduate

Edgar Gangware is the first graduate with the Melton Center's new minor in Jewish Oral History. Edgar answers a few questions about himself and his experience with program:

Where are you from and what was your major?

My hometown is Buffalo Grove, Illinois. My major was in Marketing through the Fisher School of Business.

What are your post graduation plans?

I am officially enrolled in South Texas College of Law.

What was your favorite class?

My favorite class through the minor was the independent study I did with Professor Goldish. I loved the insights he shared in oral Jewish history and the people who shaped it. Professor Goldish is the most involved and passionate educator I have ever had.

Was there anything profound you learned that you want to share?

I learned a great deal by taking the minor in Jewish Oral History. All of it was interesting, and most of it was profound. I believe Jewish Studies is an ineffable exercise. Picking out a single idea or fact seems unacceptable, especially as a way to evaluate the minor or influence future student decisions. However, I viewed "The Culture of Contemporary Israel" course taught by Professor Adena Tanenbaum as the most interesting subject. The class is structured to give students a taste of music trends, demographics, politics, fashion, history, industry, conflicts, etc. Additionally, Professor Tanenbaum allows her students to choose a topic to research. I choose Jaffa. Because I did I will be visiting Andromeda's rock when I make my first trip to Israel.

Anything else you would like to share?

For anybody interested in the minor, I would suggest Professor Amy Shuman's "Introduction to Narrative and Narrative Theory" as the first class they take. This class is very engaging because it takes any situation, identifies its importance, and dissects it in order to achieve a new level. This class becomes a powerful tool by teaching students, using the work of Vladimir Propp and others, to make distinctions in narratives in a way that is useful in other courses too. Professor Shuman's love of the topic, combined with the class material, shaped my world-view and added a new layer of enjoyment to my life. I would also recommend "Israeli Film and Society" taught by Professor Naomi Brenner. Although this course is not included in the minor, I enjoyed the class material and Professor Brenner to such a great extent I feel it deserves mention.

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

BEGINNING WITH SAM MELTON’S INVESTMENT IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MELTON CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY, PRIVATE SUPPORT HAS BEEN CENTRAL TO OUR MISSION OF DEVELOPING AND PROMOTING THE STUDY, TEACHING AND RESEARCH OF JEWISH STUDIES BY FACULTY AND STUDENTS. WE HOPE YOU WILL MAKE YOUR INVESTMENT TODAY!



Students attending a Melton Center event



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 Ohio State. **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 W. 17th Ave.
Columbus, Oh 43210-1311

MELTON CENTER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Sociology, Geography Scholars Share Trends in the American Jewish Community

We kicked off the year with the visit of two of the country’s top experts on the current state of the American Jewish community: **Professors Steven Cohen and Ira Sheskin**. This event was a major co-operative project conceived and spearheaded by the Melton Center through our **Thomas and Diane Mann Distinguished Symposium Fund**, and supported by the **College of Arts and Sciences**, the **Columbus Jewish Federation**, and the **Columbus Jewish Foundation**. On Sunday, October 14, the two scholars spoke to a large community audience about **“The Jewish Future in America: The Problems, Possibilities and Projections.”** Drawing on their own extensive researches on Jewish communities and their huge expertise in all the relevant data, Cohen and Sheskin talked about the hard questions facing American Jewry and where the trends suggest things are going.



Steven Cohen and Ira Sheskin

Cohen and Sheskin also met with leaders of major Jewish organizations in the city to help them understand the nationwide directions in their fields and give them advice about leadership on the Columbus scene. They then spoke to an appreciative crowd at the Fawcett Center about **“Jewish Voting Patterns and the 2012 Elections,”** in a panel that put them on stage along with our own **Professors Herb Asher and Herb Weisberg**, as well as **Joyce Garver Keller**, executive director of Ohio Jewish Communities. The evening was chaired by **Bill Cohen** of WOSU’s Ohio Statehouse news bureau.



Jewish Voting panel including Professors Herb Asher and Herb Weisberg, and Joyce Garver Keller Photo credit: Jeffry Konczal

Professors Cohen and Sheskin also met with OSU Hillel staff and Ohio State students to discuss the topic, **“From Generation to Generation: Variations on Jewish Engagement.”** This talk was aimed at questions facing today’s Jewishly-engaged college students. The two scholars talked about the national trends among young Jews and what they imply about the future.



Brian Catlos

Ethno-Religious Relations in Middle Ages

On October 18 the Melton Center supported the campus visit of **Professor Brian Aivars Catlos** from the University of Colorado. His talk, co-sponsored by the Department of Spanish and Portuguese and the Center for the Study of Religions, was called “**Exceptional Iberia or Normative Mediterranean? Contexts of Ethno-Religious Relations in the Middle Ages.**” In it, Professor Catlos made the case that relations between Jews, Christians, and Muslims in the medieval Iberian Peninsula were very complex, and this complexity was not unique to the Spanish and Portuguese lands—it was typical of the Mediterranean in general.

Jews and Communism, Anti-Communism in U.S.

The Melton Center and Department of History co-sponsored a talk by **Professor Tony Michels** from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, who discussed, “**Commitment and Crisis: Jews, Communism, and anti-Communism in the United States.**” Professor Michels pointed out the enormous groundswell of support for the Bolshevik Revolution among American Jews in the 1920s and their rapid disenchantment with Communism by the end of the decade. This discussion was important for understanding the larger relationship of American Jews with Communism and Socialism.

Conference on Spinoza

The Melton Center, through its **Thomas and Diane Mann Distinguished Symposium Fund** and **Diane Cummins Community Education Fund**, Department of Philosophy hosted a conference on October 28 and 29 on the Amsterdam Jewish philosopher Benedict (Baruch) Spinoza, called “**Spinoza: The ‘God-Intoxicated Atheist?’**” Proceedings began on the evening of October 28 at the Jewish Community Center with a talk by **Professor Steven Nadler** (University of Wisconsin-Madison) called, “**Why was Spinoza Excommunicated?**” Professor Nadler explored not only Spinoza’s philosophy and its relationship to traditional Jewish beliefs, but also the larger world of Amsterdam Jewry in the seventeenth century. On October 29, Professor Nadler was joined on campus by **Professors Jacob Adler** (University of Arkansas) and **Michael Le Buffe** (Texas A&M) to deliver papers on Spinoza at the Department of Philosophy, which elicited lively discussion.

Poetry of Kabbalah at JCC Bookfair

The Melton Center joined with the Jewish Community Center’s Bookfair to host the distinguished poet and author **Peter Cole**, who spoke about his new book, **The Poetry of Kabbalah: Mystical Verse from the Jewish Tradition**. Mr. Cole read excerpts of the amazing poetic expressions he has found among the Jewish mystical literature of 1,500 years, showing how relationships between language, symbolism, and philosophy become unveiled in this genre.



Peter Cole photo credit: Lori Fireman



Being Asian and Jewish: Event organizers (L-R) Professor Judy Wu, Felicia Lilien, Kim McKee, Devorah Goldstein, and Paige Bailey

Being Asian and Jewish

“**Being Asian and Jewish: Adoption and Identity—A Crossing Borders Luncheon Dialogue**” was the name of the talk given by **Devorah Goldstein** and Ohio State graduate student **Kim McKee** at OSU Hillel on November 13. Goldstein, who was born in China and adopted by Orthodox American Jewish parents, was the subject of the popular book *The Bamboo Cradle*. She talked about the book and her experiences since its publication, living as a Chinese Orthodox Jew in Israel and the United States. Goldstein responded to many questions from the large crowd of students, faculty, and community members. She spoke again that evening at the Jewish Community Center on “**Growing Up Jewish and Chinese in America,**” focusing on her childhood experiences after the Schwartzbaum family found her as an abandoned newborn in a train station in China. Both programs were made possible by the Diane Cummins Community Education Fund, OSU’s Asian American Studies Program and Multicultural Center, OSU Hillel, Central Ohio Families with Children from China, and the Honors and Scholars Pressey Course Enhancement Grant.

Race and Jews in Britain, 1750-1900

Professor David Feldman, director of the Pears Institute for the Study of Antisemitism at the University of London, came to campus on November 8 to discuss, “**Equality, Race and the Jews in Britain, c. 1750-1900.**” Professor Feldman outlined the changing legal and political status of the Jews over this period, as well as the British conversations about whether the Jews are to be considered a race. He talked about the need to shift the scholarship concerning these attitudes away from simple dichotomies by showing how seemingly antithetical groups often come down on the same side in these debates.



Being Asian and Jewish Program



David Feldman



The Other Men in Black film strip



Coalition-Melton Center Directors

World-premiere of Melton Center Film, *The Other Men in Black*

After four long years of work, the Melton Center unveiled its new educational film, *The Other Men In Black: The Hasidic Movement, Past and Present*, at a premiere at the Ohio Union on November 25. The film, starring Fyvush Finkel as well as local actors Suzy Kohane and Jon Osbeck, tells the story of the Hasidic movement, its origins, and its impact on modern Jewish culture. A large audience joined us at the the Ohio Union for a screening and discussion with filmmakers Phil Garrett, Todd Delman, and Matt Goldish. The film is being distributed on DVD.

Melton Coalition Conference: Jewish Culture Outside the Classroom

Our spring semester programming began February 10-11, 2013 with a major event, the conference of the Melton Coalition for Creative Interaction called “**The Transmission of Jewish Culture Outside the Classroom.**” The Melton Coalition consists of three centers endowed by Sam Melton: Ohio State, Jewish Theological Seminary (New York), and Hebrew University (Jerusalem). Mr. Melton donated money for the three centers to do projects together. This international conference brought together scholars from around North America and Israel to discuss non-traditional forms of Jewish education from the Middle Ages to the present. Local Jewish educators took advantage of the opportunity to hear the papers, and the conference was a great success for the participants.



Coalition Conference group



Coalition Conference Participants

Pico Kosher: Kashrut in an Orthodox Los Angeles Neighborhood

We took advantage of the presence of many excellent scholars at the coalition conference to hold a community event featuring two of the conference participants—a “Double Header” evening program on February 11 at the Jewish Community Center. First, **Professor Jody Myers** (California State University, Northridge) spoke about “**Pico Kosher: Kashrut in an Orthodox Los Angeles Neighborhood.**” She shared her research on the complex religious, cultural, social, and ethical issues behind the observation and teaching of Jewish dietary laws in a dynamic Los Angeles neighborhood. Jody was followed by Professor Stephen Burnett (University of Nebraska), one of the world’s leading scholars of Christian Hebraism, who spoke about “**Christian Scholars and Hebrew Books: Why Christians Studied Jewish Texts in the Renaissance.**” Stephen took us back to the period of the Reformation to understand why Hebrew and Jewish studies were suddenly so important to non-Jewish European scholars of that era.

Ethics of Holocaust Narrative

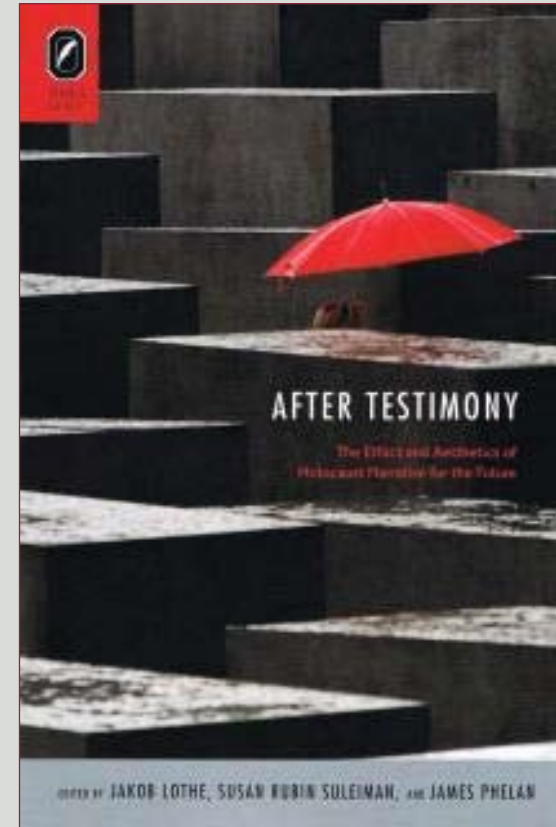
The Melton Center supported a symposium co-sponsored by Project Narrative and the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures called “**After Testimony: The Ethics and Aesthetics of Holocaust Narrative for the Future.**” The distinguished scholars who took up this sensitive topic were **Professors Irene Kacandes (Dartmouth), James Phelan (Ohio State), and Susan Suleiman (Harvard).**

The Wandering View: The Jewish Immigrant in World Cinema

On March 3 the Melton Center welcomed **Professor Lawrence Baron** of San Diego State University to give the evening lecture at the adult learning day, College of Jewish Knowledge. His talk was called, “**The Wandering View: The Jewish Immigrant in World Cinema.**” Professor Baron brought us up to date on the various places in the world where films of Jewish interest are being made, and what kinds of innovations concerning the image of Jews (and specific types of Jews) are appearing. A large crowd came to hear the lecture, which was accompanied by illustrative film clips.

Melton Center, OSU Chabad, Hosts Film and Discussion on Yoni Netanyahu

Our own **Professor Naomi Brenner** led a discussion of the film, “Follow Me: The Yoni Netanyahu Story” on April 15 in a joint program presented by the Melton Center and the Ohio State Schottenstein Chabad House. After a dinner sponsored by the Melton Center, students watched this documentary film about an Israeli national hero and discussed it with Professor Brenner.



After Testimony Book Cover



Professor Brenner speaking to students



Amy Shuman



Artie Isaac



Rachel Baransi



Scott DeWitt



Toby Brief

Storytelling: The Jewish Past, Present + Future

Each year the Melton Center selects a student to receive the **Norbert and Gretel B. Bloch Scholarship**, which gives the student money for tuition support and a budget to run a program of her or his choice on a topic of Jewish interest. This year's recipient, **Rachel Baransi** ran a program on April 18 called "**Storytelling: The Jewish Past, Present + Future.**" This very innovative event, held at Wild Goose Creative in Clintonville, attracted a standing-room-only crowd to hear **Professors Amy Shuman (English) and Scott DeWitt (Digital Media) as well as Artie Isaac (public lecturer and consultant) and Toby Brief (President of the Ohio Jewish Historical Society).** Rachel herself talked about the significance of storytelling both in the Jewish community and the digital story archive at Ohio State.

First Graduate Student Colloquium in Jewish Studies

Last May, the Melton Center ran its first **Graduate Student Colloquium**. This program was designed to attract graduate students in Jewish Studies from around the Midwest. The colloquium included interactive discussion about OSU Professor Paul Reitter's book, *On the Origins of Jewish Self-Hatred*. Ohio State graduate students from the departments of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, Spanish and Portuguese, and History participated, and Professor Matt Goldish moderated the discussion.



Colloquium participants

THE 25TH ANNUAL PEARL AND TROY FEIBEL LECTURE ON JUDAISM AND LAW

The annual **Pearl and Troy Feibel Lecture on Judaism and Law** celebrated its twenty-fifth year on March 24 with a talk called "**Jewish Law and Changing Times,**" delivered by two very distinguished guests: **Rabbi Professor Mark Saperstein**, Principal of Leo Baeck College in London; and his brother, **Rabbi David Saperstein, JD**, Director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism in Washington, DC. Marc began the evening speaking of the ways Jewish law was adapted by the medieval rabbis to deal with changing circumstances. David then took up the thread and talked about how he applies principles of Jewish law and ideology in his work as a lobbyist on behalf of the American Jewish community. This lecture is co-sponsored by the Feibel family and Robert Shamansky z"l, Ohio State's Moritz College of Law and Melton Center for Jewish Studies, and the Columbus Jewish Federation.

Photo Credit: Jeffry Konczal



Rabbi David Saperstein



Rabbi Professor Marc Saperstein



L to R: Babette and Jim Feibel, Rabbi David Saperstein, Rabbi Marc Saperstein, Ronni and Don Feibel, Barbara and Ron Robins

JEWISH MUSIC, EAST AND WEST



Concert at CMA- Con Fuoco Duo



Concert at CMA-Concert guests viewing the Lod Mosaic

During the afternoon of Sunday, October 14, the Melton Center hosted a music program called “**Mystical Melodies and Raucous Celebrations,**” featuring the Con Fuoco Duo, show-casing our own **Professor Steve Glaser**, pianist, and special guest, cellist Mark Rudoff. They performed a selection of classical pieces by modern Jewish composers (including Ohio State’s own **Professor Jan Radzynski**) at the **Columbus Museum of Art**.

The Jewish Music East and West series continued with a concert by **David Broza** at the Lincoln Theater, co-sponsored by the Melton Center and CityMusic. Broza is a super-star in Israel, bringing together Spanish, Jewish, and Middle Eastern rhythms with a stunning style of guitar performance. A large and very appreciative audience enjoyed both Broza’s energetic performance and the stories of personal experiences with which he framed the music.



David Broza

FACULTY NEWS

Jane Hathaway, Professor of History, was the Douglas Southall Freeman Visiting Professor at the University of Richmond last spring. She taught “Intellectual and Social Movements in the Muslim World,” gave two public lectures, and worked on her forthcoming book on the Chief Harem Eunuch of the Ottoman Empire.

William Brustein, Vice Provost for Global Strategies and International Affairs, was awarded the 2013 Charles Klasek Award “for long-term and outstanding service to the field of International Education Administration” by the Association of International Education Administrators at the Association’s 2013 annual conference.

Robin Judd, Associate Professor of History, was one of several faculty honored by the Mortar Society for excellence in teaching, and received the Jewish Studies Students Association teaching prize.

Suzanne Silver, Assistant Professor of Art, was part of a four-person exhibition titled *End of Language*, at the Ruffin Gallery, University of Virginia March 1-29, 2013.

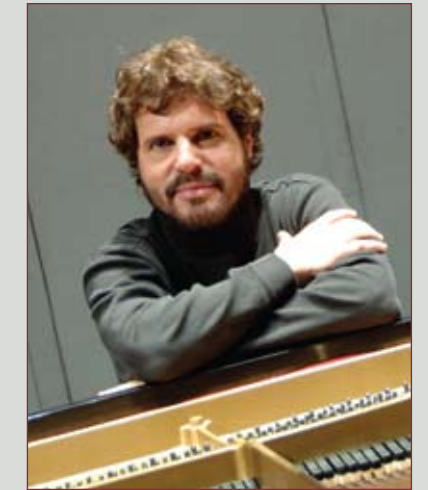
Michael Swartz, Professor of Rabbinic literature and mysticism, received an American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) Fellowship for the coming academic year for his project, “Ritual Theory and Religious Professionalism in Judaism in Late

Antiquity.” The project assesses the degree that religious professionalism permeated the culture of the ancient Mediterranean and influenced a variety of Hebrew and Aramaic religious texts outside the Rabbinic canon.



Donna Guy, Professor of History, retired in June. Professor Guy taught and published about women’s history, history of sexuality, Latin American history, history of Jews in Latin America, Argentine history, and economic history. Professor Guy wrote numerous books and articles including *From Private Acts to Public Identities: Teaching the History of Sexuality Since the Eighteenth Century* (2000), and *Sex and Danger in Buenos Aires: Prostitution, Family, and Nation in Argentina* (1991), among others.

FACULTY PROFILES



Steven Glaser

Professor Steven Glaser has been a member of the piano faculty in the School of Music at The Ohio State University since 1994 where he teaches piano, piano chamber music and seminars in piano literature. He received a Bachelor of Music degree with honors from the University of Michigan and a Master of Music degree from the Juilliard School in NYC. Prior to coming to OSU, he was a member of the music faculties at Texas Tech University and Penn State University.

Professor Glaser has established an international reputation as an artist-teacher of piano. He was appointed Visiting Professor of Piano at Tel Aviv University’s Buchmann-Mehta School of Music in 2006

FACULTY 2013 – 2014

and at Capital University in 2009. He remains active as a soloist and chamber music collaborator and in 2014 will perform recitals in North America, Europe and the Far East during a planned sabbatical. Other projects include a CD with cellist Mark Rudoff of works by French composers Poulenc, Honneger, and Lalo and a CD with clarinetist Robert Walzel of music by American composer James Scott Balentine.

An area of particular interest to Professor Glaser is music of Jewish classical composers. He often appears on the Melton Center's groundbreaking music series *Jewish Music East and West* including a boxed set of compact discs released by the Melton Center of works from the *St. Petersburg and Mediterranean Schools* in 2003. In 2006, he presented a solo program entitled *A Celebration of Jewish Classical Composers* in cities across the United States and Israel including a performance in New York City's Merkin Concert Hall. He has performed in Israel many times as soloist and in collaboration with Israeli musicians, and has taught courses in Jewish music at The Ohio State University and Sun Yat Sen University in Taiwan. He has been a member of the Melton board since 2003 and is indebted to his Melton colleagues for their support, friendship, and intellectual stimulation.



Jan Radzynski

Professor Jan Radzynski joined Ohio State's School of Music in 1994, where he teaches various courses on music, composition and performance, while continuing his own very active composition program.

After leaving his native Poland in 1969 for Israel, Professor Radzynski studied composition with Leon Schidlowsky at the Tel Aviv University Academy of Music, where he received an Artist Diploma and Bachelor's degree in Music. Professor Radzynski also studied with Krzysztof Penderecki and Jacob Druckman at Yale University, where he received a Master's of Music, Master's of Musical Arts, and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees. Professor Radzynski taught at Yale University before coming to Ohio State.

Professor Radzynski's interest in Jewish music began in post World War II Poland. For Polish Jews, cantorial singing and

klezmer music provided a nostalgic link to their pre-Holocaust past and served as a source of strength and promise for a better future. After immigrating to Israel, Professor Radzynski was inspired by the music of Jewish communities from around the world, including Arabic music of the Middle East and its interplay with contemporary Israeli music.

Many of the greatest orchestras, chamber groups, choirs, and soloists of the late twentieth century have performed and recorded Professor Radzynski's awe-inspiring works. Professor Radzynski often juxtaposes elements from musical cultures he feels particularly close to, embarking on a journey of personal discovery through musical archeology. His *Mazurkas* for piano combine Polish dance with an embellished melody that sounds almost cantorial. In *Personal Verses* for violin and piano, Professor Radzynski quotes a number of Jewish melodies more directly.

Professor Radzynski will premiere a new work in Columbus on April 9, 2014 titled *Arabesque* featuring Taiseer Elias, an internationally acclaimed oud virtuoso, and Uri Vardi, Professor of Cello at the University of Wisconsin in Madison.

Professor Radzynski is grateful to the Melton Center for its unwavering support of the Jewish Music series for the last 20 years.

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FRONT COVER IMAGE: Founding members of the Jewish Studies Student Association. Photo credit: Megan Leigh Barnard BACK COVER IMAGE: Professor Judd embracing Sarah Livingston as she accepts her teaching award. Photo credit: Megan Leigh Barnard

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