

MELTON CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES

2009 - 2010 ANNUAL REPORT



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

Thank you for supporting the Melton Center through your interest, participation, and donations during another outstanding year. 2009-10 was one of our most active years ever, both on and off campus. Here at Ohio State we offered dozens of courses in Jewish history, languages, thought, and culture, which were attended by close to 1,500 students. We were privileged to have our first-ever visiting scholar of Israel Studies, Professor Matt Silver, whose courses garnered considerable interest from students of all backgrounds. As always, we gave out thousands of dollars in fellowship and prize money to our students, all of it made available by our generous patrons. We also supported faculty research and conference travel, whose fruits are realized in their teaching as well as in their publications. I hope you were able to take advantage of our numerous community programs, including the "Israel and Its Neighbors" series, "Jewish Music East and West," and our many excellent speakers on various subjects. Enjoy the overview of past events in the following pages, and please join us for our many terrific programs in the upcoming year!



Shanah tovah and warmest wishes for a happy and educational new year

Matt Goldish
Director

2

Image on the front cover: Naïve Painting, 20th Century. Copyright Heb. Pub. 1909. "Hide me under the shadow of my wings (Psalms, 17:8)"- American Jews open their arms to their East European brethren. Photo credit: Beth Hatufsoth.

ABOUT THE MELTON CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES

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.

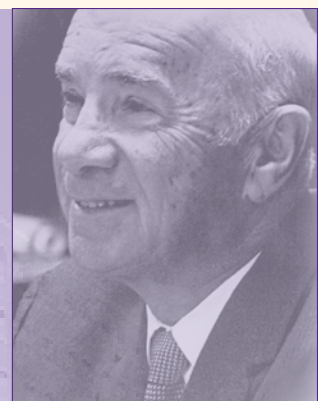
Jewish studies at The Ohio State University comprises one of the largest and most diverse programs in the country, offering an impressive selection of courses, a multidisciplinary faculty, and a wide range of events. The Center's work is greatly enhanced by a full time Judaica librarian who manages the Judaica collection (over 250,000 volumes) at the University Libraries — one of the largest and finest of its kind in the United States.

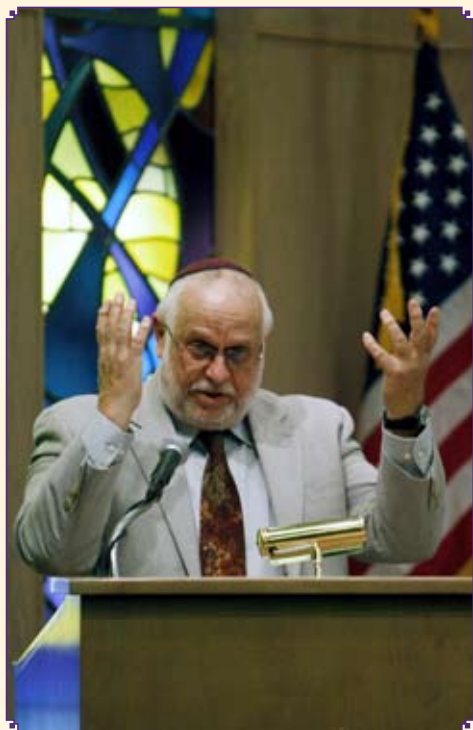
The Melton Center for Jewish Studies remains true to its mission statement:

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.





Professor Kellner

THE 22ND ANNUAL PEARL AND TROY FEIBEL LECTURE

On October 25, 2009, after delivering an “Israel and its Neighbors” lecture, Professor Menachem Kellner of Haifa University was back in action for the annual Feibel Lecture on Judaism and Law at Wexner Heritage Village. Professor Kellner’s talk, before one of our largest Feibel audiences ever, was called “When Theology Affects Law: The Case of Maimonides.” He addressed the challenge of the great medieval Jewish thinker, Moses Maimonides, in constructing essential texts of both Jewish law and Jewish philosophy. Professor Kellner explained how the structure as well as the content of Maimonides’s pioneering legal code, the *Mishneh Torah*, reflects the great scholar’s commitments to certain rationalist philosophical principles. Professor Kellner’s presentation was enhanced by a response by our own Professor Tamar Rudavsky, who is also a specialist in medieval Jewish thought, and has recently published her own book on Maimonides.

The Pearl and Troy Feibel Lecture on Judaism and Law was created by Pearl and Troy Feibel’s children, Jim, Don, and Barbara, with the support of Robert Shamansky, who was Troy Feibel’s law partner. This lecture series provides a valuable intellectual forum for the Jewish community.



L to R: Don and Ronnie Feibel, Babette and Jim Feibel, Menachem Kellner, Tamar Rudavsky, Ron and Barbara Robins



Professor Tamar Rudavsky

2010 STUDENT AWARDS

Charlotte Susan Roth Memorial Fund Essay Contest

Katie Cropper, who is a major in Biological Sciences and a minor in Business, won first prize in the undergraduate category for her essay, "The Role and Status of Women in Israeli Society." She wrote the essay for the honors section of the "Culture of Contemporary Israel" course. **Marla Davis** received second prize in the undergraduate category for her essay, "Environmental Problems and Efforts in Jerusalem." Marla graduated last spring with a major in Hebrew and a minor in Art. Marla is a past student award recipient. She received the Ellen and Victor Cohn Scholarship for study at Hebrew University in 2008.



Katie Cropper



Marla Davis

In the graduate category, first prize was awarded to **George Johnson**, a PhD candidate in Near Eastern Languages and Cultures. His paper was "A Reconsideration of the Potential Remnants of a Case." Second prize went to **Cory Driver**, also a PhD candidate in Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, for his essay "Deutero-Isaiah in Pesikta Rabbati." **Joe Price** a PhD candidate in Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, received a third prize for his essay, "Idols, Idol-making, Israel and Yahweh in Isaiah 40-44."



George Johnson



Cory Driver

Diane M. Cummins Scholarship

Elle Muhlbaum is this year's recipient of the Cummins Scholarship for outstanding achievement in Hebrew. **Joshua L. Kramer** (graduating this year) and **Thomas A. Tearney** received the Cummins Scholarship for outstanding achievement in Yiddish.



Elle Muhlbaum



Josh Kramer

Morris and Fannie Skilken Family Foundation Endowment Fund Scholarship for Yiddish and Ashkenazi Studies

Renée Primack 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 Beck Scholarship enabled **Matthew Glassman** and **Margaret Kittila** to attend a summer program at the Vilnius Yiddish Institute in Lithuania. The Beck Fund was established by an anonymous donor to help support students' interest in the intense workshop and cultural experience offered at Vilnius.



Tom Tearney



Matt Glassman

Ellen E. and Victor J. Cohn Scholarship for study at Hebrew University

Michael Eizyk is this year's recipient of the Cohn Scholarship, which awards students who wish to study at Hebrew University. Michael's major is International Relations and Diplomacy, and his minor is in English.



Michael Eizyk



Sarah Snyder

Melton Center for Jewish Studies Travel Grant Program

The Melton Center awarded one travel grant to **Sarah Snyder**, who completed the summer program at Hebrew University. She is a major in Psychology and a minor in Integrative Approaches to Health and Wellness.

GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS

George M. and Renée K. Levine Graduate Fellow in Jewish Studies

Avram Shannon is this year's Levine Fellow. He is a PhD candidate in Near Eastern Languages and Cultures. His primary area of research is the relationship between epithets and the designations of deity in the Psalms, and how deities are praised and described in other cultures around the Mediterranean and the ancient Near East. He received Master of Studies in Jewish Studies from the University of Oxford with distinctions in Biblical Hebrew and Ancient Israelite Religion. The Levine Graduate Fellow in Jewish Studies receives a \$15,000 stipend and a full fee remission for one academic year to work in a core area of Jewish Studies.

Samuel M. Melton Graduate Fellow in Jewish Studies

Cory Driver is the winner of this year's Melton fellowship. He is also a PhD candidate in Near Eastern Languages and Cultures. Cory received his MA in Near Eastern Languages and Cultures from Ohio State. His work focuses on cross cultural contact between Jews, Berbers, Arabs, and the French in the High Atlas mountains of Morocco, and how they worked together to establish a trade network in Morocco. Cory is himself a descendant of Moroccan Jews. The Samuel M. Melton Graduate Fellow in Jewish Studies receives a \$15,000 stipend and a full fee remission for one academic year to work in a core area of Jewish Studies.



Avram Shannon



Cory Driver

INVEST IN JEWISH STUDIES AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Dear Friends,

Jewish Studies at American universities are on the front lines of the major issues facing our Jewish community: Jewish knowledge and identity; relations between Jews and the American majority culture; Jewish continuity; Israel and Zionism; ethics and morals; and Jewish responsibilities and responses toward a complex world.

The connection and support that the Melton Center has provided me throughout these past three years as a student at Ohio State have been extremely positive. From the course offerings, which are always difficult to choose from (since I find them all to be interesting!), to the extracurricular lectures and events, to the email communiqués, the Melton Center has served as an integral connector to the community, this university, and the broader Jewish Studies-Hebrew academic realm...



Dena Rapoport

Every year close to 1,500 students from numerous backgrounds and orientations take Jewish studies courses coordinated by the Melton Center. We also help sponsor students' study opportunities abroad, in Israel, Eastern Europe and elsewhere. We provide graduate fellowships and student awards for excellent work. We enrich the campus and community by bringing outstanding scholars and programs. **Our students carry the lessons and values they learn here throughout their lives.** We thus have an unparalleled opportunity to create a positive impact on the future.

I am grateful for the continual support that the Melton Center provides for excellence in academic achievement. As both a Roth Memorial Fund Essay Contest winner and the Diane M. Cummins Hebrew Scholar, I feel indebted to and appreciative the lengths that the Melton Center goes to in order to enrich undergraduate opportunities...

We are grateful to those who have invested in Melton Center programs on campus and in the community in the past year. We hope you will join them by investing in Jewish studies at Ohio State, by attending our programs, and by recommending Ohio State to excellent high school students you know.

My experience as a Hebrew major and with the Melton Center has given me a firm foundation from which to grow. I feel extremely fortunate for the academic opportunities and the faculty, who have provided me with the exposure and tools to pursue Jewish Studies at the graduate level and beyond.
~Dena Rapoport, Class of 2010.

With All Best Wishes,
Matt Goldish

You can make your donation online by going to meltoncenter.osu.edu, and clicking on the **igive** icon. Or, complete the form and mail it to us along with your contribution. Many employers offer matching gifts to Ohio State. Go to 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 _____

Phone(____) _____ Email _____

____I want to learn more about naming opportunities.

____I want to learn more about planned giving.

Make checks payable to The Ohio State University Development Fund and return with this form to:
The Melton Center for Jewish Studies, 306 Dulles Hall, 230 W. 17th Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43210-1311

ISRAEL AND ITS NEIGHBORS



Yoni Cohen, visiting professor,
School of Communications

On the morning of October 25, 2009, the Melton Center was honored to welcome Professor **Menachem Kellner** of Haifa University to discuss the topic, “Is there a ‘New’ Anti-Semitism?” This was the first event in the Melton Center’s annual *Israel and Its Neighbors* series, co-sponsored with the Columbus Jewish Federation. Professor Kellner, who experienced the rain of rocket fire from Gaza during the Lebanon War, and has long been a keen observer of Israeli life, discussed a question that is on the minds of many Jews lately: Is the new anti-Zionism expressed in Europe and America really just disguised anti-Semitism? Professor Kellner examined the question from various angles and suggested that this is the case in many instances.

Ohio State and the Columbus community were lucky this year not only to welcome our first visiting Israel Studies Chair, but also to enjoy the presence of another outstanding Israeli academic, Professor **Jonathan (Yoni) Cohen** of the University of Haifa. Professor Cohen was a guest of the Department of Communications, where he conducted research and teaching in his areas

of expertise, especially concerning television audiences and media effects. His lecture on December 1, 2009 for the *Israel and Its Neighbors* series was called “Shaping of the Media in a Global Context.” Professor Cohen dealt with the problems of media coverage of Israel and of Israeli media, focusing especially on questions of unequal access and bias.

Our visiting Israel Studies Scholar, **Matt Silver**, presented a fascinating look at how lack of local representation on basic needs to or by the Israeli government influences relations between Israeli Jews and the Arab minority. He pointed to the fact that Israel is one of only two or three democracies in the world that does not have representatives

from local regions around the country to advocate for their needs, such as educational services, road improvements, and environmental care. These issues affect Arab neighborhoods in a very different way than they do in Jewish neighborhoods. It creates an environment which is antithetical to mutual understanding and co-existence between the two groups.

GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS IN JEWISH STUDIES

Melton Center for Jewish Studies at The Ohio State University 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 1, 2010. For full application information, go to our website, meltoncenter.osu.edu, or contact Matt Goldish, director of the Melton Center for Jewish Studies at goldish.1@osu.edu.



Matt Silver, visiting Israel Studies Scholar

JEWISH MUSIC, EAST AND WEST CONCERT SERIES

Yasmin Levy

The Israel singer Yasmin Levy graced the stage, singing Ladino songs before a full house on November 12 at the historic Lincoln Theater. Ms. Levy has embraced Ladino melodies and prayers which are part of a Sephardic heritage that goes back over 500 years. In her performance, she incorporated the more modern sounds of Andalusian Flamenco and Turkish rhythms into Judeo-Spanish songs. She shared some history and background about the Ladino language, which was primarily spoken among Sephardic Jews. The event was co-sponsored by CAPA, the Morris and Fannie Skilken Family Foundation and Congregation Tifereth Israel, with additional support from the Lenore Schottenstein Endowment Fund of the Columbus Jewish Federation.

Luminescent Orchestrii

A large audience packed the theater at the Fawcett Center on February 18, 2010, to hear the exciting klezmer-gypsy-tango-Appalachian-hip-hop fusion of the band Luminescent Orchestrii. The group features two fiddles, a bass and guitar, and has created its unique combination of musical influences since its formation in 2002. The musicians spent time in Romania studying local gypsy, Jewish, and traditional

styles. They explained the interaction between these elements and played pieces in Yiddish as well as in English and Romanian. This concert was co-sponsored by CityMusic.

Michal Tal

Professor Michal Tal, one of Israel's most accomplished concert pianists, and winner of several prestigious prizes from around the world, honored Ohio State with a concert of modern Israeli compositions in our famous Weigel Hall on March 3, 2010. Professor Tal explained the origins and significance of each piece, as well as the biographies of the composers, before playing the composition. Her performance was stunning and electrifying, eliciting a very strong and enthusiastic response from the audience. Professor Tal included works by Ohio State's own Professor Jan Radzynski of the Melton Center and the School of Music.

Professor Michal Tal



Singer Yasmin Levy

Luminescent Orchestrii



THOMAS AND DIANN MANN DISTINGUISHED SYMPOSIUM ON JUDAISM



Professor Michael Swartz, a member of the Melton Center faculty and the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at Ohio State, organized an international conference on “Ancient Ornamentalism.” This program brought together scholars from many countries and disciplines to discuss how Jews, Christians, and members of other Middle Eastern religions in antiquity interacted as they created prayers and poetry of their faiths, some of which are still used today. Professor Swartz’s achievement in this conference was to create a conversation between specialists who seldom talk to each other, to discover that the ancient people whom they study interacted and influenced each other a great deal. The Melton Center sponsored the conference elements that concerned Jews and Judaism under the auspices of our Thomas and Diann Mann Distinguished Symposium on Judaism.

GUEST SPEAKERS EXPLORE HISTORY THROUGH LITERATURE, ART, FILM AND CULTURE

The Wild World of Jewish Graphic Novels

Last November, the Melton Center and Columbus JCC Bookfair presented Jewish graphic novelist **Steve Sheinkin**, author of *The Adventures of Rabbi Harvey* and *Rabbi Harvey Rides Again*. He and **Steve Fink**, Professor of literature at Ohio State, discussed the graphic novel as an iconic art form that has re-emerged as a popular genre of storytelling for children and adults. Sheinkin's Rabbi Harvey book series is based on classic Jewish folktales and Talmudic teachings.



Steve Fink speaking at the JCC Bookfair



Steve Sheinkin



Sheinkin's Graphic Novel *The Adventures of Rabbi Harvey*

Book and its Function in Ashkenazi Society.” He explained the role of Yiddish compared to those of Hebrew and other languages used in European Jewish life, and how Yiddish came to be a literary language. He offered several examples of early Yiddish books, explaining why they were written and who the readership was for each. An audience of students, faculty, and community members plied Professor Berger with questions, creating a lively discussion.

New Yiddish Films

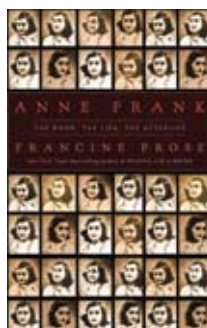
If you always assumed that the era of Yiddish movies was over, you would have been fascinated to hear Professor **Eric Goldman's** lecture at Ohio State on April 12, 2010, called “A New Era of Yiddish Cinema: The New Yiddish Filmmakers.” In this talk, co-sponsored by our Department of German Languages and Literatures, Professor Goldman showed clips of about eight films made in recent years that use Yiddish extensively (not including the recent Coen Brothers movie, “A Serious Man”). He demonstrated especially how Israeli filmmakers have used Yiddish to bring out the struggles of immigrants and the identity crisis of Israeli society as it wrestles with new forms of Jewish identity. Professor Goldman is the founder of Ergo Media and teaches media studies at Yeshiva University and Fairleigh Dickinson University. He is active as a film critic and expert on Jewish film in numerous contexts.



New Yiddish Films- *Brussels-Transit* by Samy Szlingerbaum

Anne Frank: The Book, the Life, the Afterlife

On October 13, 2009, the author **Francine Prose** spoke at the Hillel House about her new book, *Anne Frank: The Book, the Life, and the Afterlife*. Professor Prose, who is the author of numerous novels, short stories, and non-fiction works, spoke briefly about the origins and significance of her book before taking questions from the audience. She explained that she was interested in *The Diary of Anne Frank* as a work of literature as well as a cultural icon, and talked about how it had been edited as Anne matured. The subsequent lively discussion among students, faculty, and community members, raised numerous interesting questions concerning Professor Prose's approach and the lessons of her work.



Dura Europos: the Pompeii of the Desert, and the Art Historian's Perspective of Medieval Haggadot

We were treated to a double-header on April 22, 2010, when the renowned Israeli art historian, Professor **Naomi Feuchwanger-Sarig**, visited Ohio State. Her first lecture, delivered on campus in conjunction with several departments at the university, presented the audience of students, professors, and community members with an overview of the amazing archaeological remains at Dura-Europos. This site, located on the banks of the Euphrates River in present-day Syria, housed a synagogue and a complex of other spaces over several centuries during the Second Temple and early Christian periods. Professor Feuchwanger-Sarig focused on the multiple uses of these buildings and what they can tell us about relationships between members of different faiths



Professor Shlomo Berger of the University of Amsterdam

Yiddish Books

We were honored to welcome Professor **Shlomo Berger** of the University of Amsterdam to the Ohio State campus on February 11, 2010. Professor Berger, an expert on classics, Yiddish language, and Jewish Studies, spoke about “The Early Modern Yiddish



in the ancient world. Professor Feuchtwanger-Sarig then joined us across the street at Hillel for a delicious dinner made by Chef Chris Hughes, and a visual presentation about the history of the art in the Passover Haggadah. Campus and community members enjoyed learning about little-noticed and lost traditions that present themselves in medieval Haggadah illustrations.

Ohio's Jewish Communities

One of the features of our year in 2009-10 was an opportunity to work with the Columbus Jewish Historical Society on its huge project, "Legacy 2010: 170 Years of Jewish Life in Central Ohio."

This project featured two major exhibits on the history of the Jewish community, presented in the Jewish Community Center lobby, as well as a number of speakers and educational events. The Melton Center helped by bringing Ohio State students to work as interns in preparing the complex exhibits, by supplying a discussant for the film "The Frisco Kid," and by sponsoring a wonderful talk by University of Louisville historian **Lee Shai Weissbach**. Professor Weissbach spoke about his research on the history of small- and medium-sized Ohio Jewish communities over a long period. He discussed the problems of source materials and the sometimes surprising stories he found before a large and appreciative audience.



Professor Lee Shai Weissbach engages the crowd

Brazilian Jewish Culture and Identity

The Melton Center supported a program by Ohio State's Institute for Collaborative Research and Public Humanities that brought the distinguished Brown University literary scholar, Professor **Nelson Vieira**, to campus. Professor Vieira, who is also a member of Brown's Judaic Studies faculty, spoke about "The Cultural Politics of Diasporic Identities: Ways of Being Jewish in Brazil." He dealt with a number of recent and contemporary Jewish writers in Brazil, demonstrating how their works of fiction reflect their varied experiences of Jewish identity in that country. He read selections from some of their works and showed their relevance to both Brazilian and Jewish culture. Professor Vieira himself has been involved in translating some of these writings into English.



Norbert and Gretel B. Bloch Programs

Each year, a student is awarded the Norbert and Gretel B Bloch Scholarship, which gives him or an opportunity to create and implement programs on a relevant Jewish topic. Bloch recipient Tom Tearney coordinated programs on democracy in Israel and Jewish Identity.

Film Discussion – "The Tribe"

Professor Robin Judd showed a short documentary film "The Tribe," which traces the history of the Barbie doll and the Jewish people from Biblical times to present day. After the movie students discussed what it means to be a Jew and to be a member of any "tribe."

The Future of Israeli Democracy

Our outstanding visiting scholar of Israel Studies, Professor Matt Silver, delivered a lecture for the Norbert and Gretel B. Bloch program, called "The Future of Israeli Democracy," on April 23, 2010, at the Ohio State Hillel. An audience that included students, professors, and community members learned about the challenges to Israeli democracy presented by forces from both outside and inside Israel's Jewish society. A lively discussion ensued in which such issues as Arab voters, Orthodox parties, and institutional impediments were addressed. As always, Professor Silver's profound knowledge of the Israeli social and political scene made the Bloch event an excellent learning experience for all.

Women's Education in Eighteenth Century Eastern Europe

One of the world's most distinguished historians of Polish Jewry, Professor Moshe Rosman of Israel's Bar-Ilan University, spoke to us on May 3, 2010, on the subject, "How did Jewish Women Get an Education in the Eighteenth Century?" Professor Rosman explained the differences in the aims of male and female Jewish education among Ashkenazi Jews of the period, and how these reflected gender roles in Jewish society. He also spoke of some exceptional cases of Jewish women who became highly educated and even wrote books, which was considered astounding at the time. He explained how gender roles and educational outcomes began to change with the arrival of the Enlightenment.

Ohio State Students Intern for *Legacy 2010: 170 Years of Jewish Life in Central Ohio* Exhibit

Sasha Hammock, Jeremy Katz, Rebecca Andersen, and Stephen Drabek had the opportunity to receive hands-on experience in mounting the Columbus Jewish Historical Society's major exhibition on Jewish life in Central Ohio. They researched and developed the Children's Panels, clothing and textile related items, the Digital Story program, and artifacts in the exhibit.

FACULTY BOOKS AND HONORS

Professor Naomi Brenner received a fellowship at Yad Hanadiv/Keren Bracha Foundation for the year in Israel.

Lúcia Costigan published *Through Cracks in the wall: Modern Inquisitions and New Christian Letrados in the Iberian Atlantic World* (2010).

Professor Helen Fehervary co-edited two volumes of *Anna Seghers, Erzählungen 1950-1957*, vol. ed. Ute Brandes, II/4, A.S. Werkausgabe with Bernhard Spies (Berlin: Aufbau Verlag, 2009), and *Anna Seghers, Briefe 1953-1983*, vol. ed. Christiane Zehl-Romero and Almut Giesecke, V/2, A.S. Werkausgabe (Berlin: Aufbau Verlag, 2010).

Joseph (Yossi) Galron-Goldschlaeger, who heads our Hebraica and Judaica library collection, received the 2010 Body-of-Work Award from the Association of Jewish Libraries in recognition of his life-long contributions to the field of Hebrew bibliography. Since the 1980's, he has published print bibliographies for the writings of numerous prominent figures in the history of Modern Hebrew literature. In 2004, he established *Modern Hebrew*

Literature - a Bio-Bibliographical Lexicon, an online database of 2,000 entries available at hebrewlit.notlong.com. This invaluable one-person project, freely available on the Internet, is heavily used by librarians, researchers, students, and the general public.

Professor Steven Glaser composed two movie soundtracks this past year, one for the documentary film *A Bridge Life - The Road Back from Katrina*, which has been shown coast to coast in the United States and recently broadcast on The Documentary Channel to commemorate the 5th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, and the film *Betrayed*, an original film by New York based director Joshua Grossberg, which was premiered at the Cannes International Film Festival.

Professor Carolina López-Ruiz published *When the Gods Were Born: Greek Cosmogonies and the Near East* (Harvard University Press, 2010), and she also received tenure in the department of Greek and Latin.

NEW MELTON FACULTY

Bernd Fischer is Professor of Contemporary German Literature and Culture in the department of Germanic Languages and Literatures. Professor Fischer has done work on German Jewish literature and thought and how they intersect with German life and culture in the 18th and 19th centuries. Professor Fischer has also taught courses and given conferences papers and lectures on Jewish studies topics.

Lúcia Costigan is Associate Professor of Luso-Brazilian Literatures and Cultures in the department of Spanish and Portuguese. She has devoted much of her professional career to the investigation of crypto-Jews of Portugal, Spain, and the New World. She has also published extensively on Colonial Latin American Literatures and Early Modern Luso-Brazilian and Peninsular literatures and cultures. Her new book, *Through Cracks in the Wall: Modern Inquisitions and New Christian Letrados in the Iberian Atlantic World* (Brill, 2010), is an important contribution to Jewish, Spanish, and Portuguese studies.



Bernd Fischer



Lucia Costigan

IN MEMORIAM

Diane Cummins

Diane Cummins passed away last April. She was one of the earliest scholarship donors to Jewish studies at Ohio State. In 1985, she established the Diane M. Cummins Scholarship for outstanding achievement in Hebrew, which is awarded to undergraduates each year. Our heartfelt condolences go to her husband Millard and their children.

B. Lee Skilken

The Columbus Jewish community suffered the loss of Lee Skilken in June. He will be remembered for his lifelong dedication to the betterment of the Columbus Jewish community. We are grateful to him for the establishment of the Fannie and Morris Skilken Scholarship, which is awarded annually to students who have excelled in Yiddish and Ashkenazi studies. Lee and Marilyn were among the Melton Center's most fond supporters.

THE DIANE CUMMINS COMMUNITY EDUCATION FUND ESTABLISHED AT THE MELTON CENTER

In commemoration of Diane Cummins *a"h*, and in recognition of her dedication to Jewish studies at Ohio State and in the community, the Cummins family is endowing a fund for community education. This fund will help support the many Melton Center programs and initiatives aimed at spreading knowledge of Jewish history and culture in Central Ohio. The Cummins family invites friends of Diane who wish to join them to donate to the Diane Cummins Fund at the Melton Center in her honor.



LIBRARY UPDATE

The Ohio State University's outstanding Judaica library, overseen by Professor Yossi Galron, has acquired several major collections of pamphlets related to Israel. One group of these is a series of weekly Torah discussions issued by nationalist religious groups in Judea and Samaria (the West Bank), which reflect life and thought in the disputed lands. Another group of pamphlets was published by the Israeli Orthodox feminist organization "Kolekh" that illustrate the agenda and concerns of that group. A final group of pamphlets acquired by the library publications of the "New Family Foundation" in Israel, a group that advocates for equal family rights for all Israelis regardless of origin, color, creed, sexual orientation, or religious affiliation.

As the Melton Center moves toward the establishment of an Israel Studies program, these library holdings will become an important research resource.

The library also received a generous gift from the estate of George Levine *a"h* this year, which will enable the library to add important resources to the 250,000-volume collection. George and his wife Rénée have been longtime supporters of and advisors to the Melton Center.



Last May, the Melton Center, Columbus Jewish Federation, and community agencies and synagogues presented a day of Jewish learning for adult learners- "College of Jewish Knowledge." The program provided a spectrum of learning opportunities that spanned denominational, stylistic and topical varieties, while attracting a large number of adults from diverse backgrounds to learn together at one time in one location building a stronger community. Another one is planned in the spring.

FACULTY, 2010-2011

Alan Beyerchen, Associate Professor
(PhD, University of Calif., Santa Barbara)
Modern German History

Naomi Brenner, Assistant Professor
(PhD, University of Calif., Berkley)
Modern Hebrew Literature

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

Helen Fehervary, Professor
(PhD, University of Wisconsin)
Modern German Jewish Literature, Critical Theory

Carole Fink, Professor
(PhD, Yale University)
20th Century International History

Howard Fink, Professor Emeritus
(LLB, Yale University)
Civil Procedure and Legal Classics

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

Evelyn Freeman, Professor
(PhD, The Ohio State University)
Teacher Preparation

Joseph Galron, Associate Professor
(MLS, Hebrew University)
Jewish Studies Librarian

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

Matt Goldish, Melton Professor of Jewish History
and Director of the Melton Center
(PhD, Hebrew University)
Early Modern Jewish History, Messianism

Donna Guy, Professor
(PhD, Indiana University)
Latin American History

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

Neil G. Jacobs, Professor
(PhD, Columbia University)
Yiddish Linguistics, Jewish Geography

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

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

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

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

David Neal Miller, Associate Professor
(PhD, University of Calif., Santa Cruz)
Yiddish Language and Literature

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 Calif., Berkley)
Modern German Jewish Literature

Tamar Rudavsky, Professor
(PhD, Brandeis University)
Medieval Jewish and Scholastic Philosophy

Goldie Shabad, Professor
(PhD, University of Chicago)
East European Politics

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

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

Suzanne Silver, Assistant 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

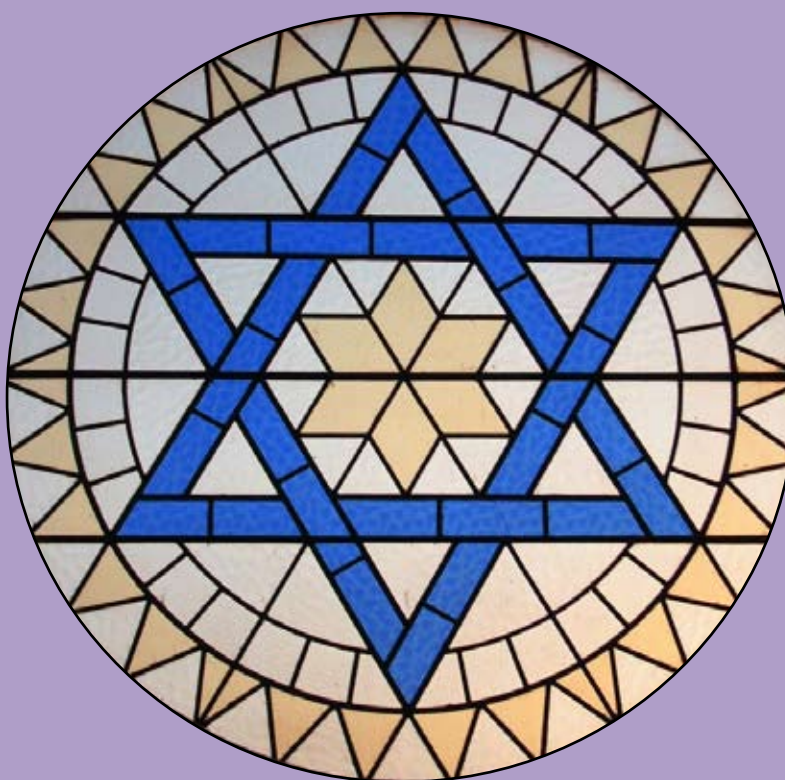
Adena Tanenbaum, Associate Professor
(PhD, Harvard University)
Medieval Jewish Literature and Thought,
Modern Hebrew Literature



MELTON CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES

306 Dulles Hall, 230 West 17th Avenue, Columbus, Ohio
43210 • 614.292.0967 • meltoncenter.osu.edu

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Columbus, Ohio
Permit No. 711



Melton Center Staff

Matt Goldish
Director

(614) 292-1358
goldish.1@osu.edu

Lori Fireman
Program Coordinator

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

Jared Boyd
Fiscal Manager

(614) 292-0967
boyd.150@osu.edu

Paige Bailey
Program Assistant

(614) 247-7882
bailey.554@osu.edu