

# MELTON CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES

2008 - 2009 ANNUAL REPORT



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe how much the Melton Center, our faculty, and our students have accomplished this year! We enjoyed *Jewish Music East and West* events of truly outstanding quality and educational value; a wonderful tribute to our founder, Sam Melton; top-notch speakers in our *Israel and Its Neighbors* program, co-sponsored with the Columbus Jewish Federation; revealing insights into the worlds of North African Jewry and Ethiopian Jewry; a strikingly purposeful *Feibel Lecture on Judaism and Law*; and numerous other excellent programs about which you can read inside. Be sure to look at our faculty and students' achievements of this past academic year.

Perhaps our most impressive accomplishment this year is the introduction of Israel Studies at Ohio State, which the Melton Center has made a priority. With a major grant from the American-Israel Cooperative Enterprise (AICE), support from the College of Arts and Humanities, the Columbus Jewish Federation, the Columbus Jewish Foundation; and the Brachman and Robins families, we are thrilled to be hosting Professor Matthew Silver, visiting Israel Studies Scholar in 2009-10. Professor Silver will demonstrate how valuable a permanent Israel Studies scholar at Ohio State would be for the entire community.

It is thus my great pleasure to share with you this annual report on the Melton Center's activities of 2008-9, and to welcome you to another year of exciting education with us in 2009-10.

Shanah tovah and best wishes,

Matt Goldish  
Director



Image on the front cover: Guglielmo da Pesaro and his Pupils. *Italiane 973*, courtesy *Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris*.

## MELTON'S FILM PROJECT: *THE OTHER MEN IN BLACK*

Have you ever gone into a history class and found that the material was just so far away from your own reality that you could not even relate to it? This is a common experience, and teachers often use film to bridge the culture gap. In our highly visual world, it helps us grasp the experiences of others if we can see a visual depiction of their lives.

With this in mind, Matt Goldish and Todd Delman (a recent MFA from Ohio State's The Advanced Computing Center for the Arts and Design (ACCAD)) created the Jewish History Media Project. The goal of the Project is to create high-quality docu-drama films about Jewish history that will stimulate discussion and interest in the classroom. After an initial period of exposure in media and film festivals, the films will be distributed for classroom use together with curriculum materials and bibliography.

We are now completing the Project's first film, called *The Other Men in Black: The Hasidic Movement, Past and Present*. This half-hour movie about the Hasidic movement in Judaism features an engaging story line, historical re-creations, and excellent animation. It deals with the origins of the movement



Actors Suzy Kohane and Fyvush Finkel with director Phil Garrett and Rabbi Zalman Deitsch of Ohio State's Chabad.

in eighteenth-century southern Poland, the spread of Hasidism, its opponents, and its impact on the Jewish world of today. A Hasidic tale is presented in mixed animation styles.

The film features one of the country's most recognizable Jewish character actors, Fyvush Finkel, as well as Suzy Kohane, Jon Osbeck, and other excellent local actors and actresses. It is produced and directed by Phil Garrett of Ohio State's Department of Theater and ACCAD. Funding for this project was supplied by the Nathan Cummings Foundation with help from Ohio State's College of Arts and Humanities and from individual donors.

Some sample historical scenes can be viewed at [www.accad.osu.edu/meltoncenter](http://www.accad.osu.edu/meltoncenter).



# COMMUNITY, CAMPUS WELCOME VISITING ISRAEL SCHOLAR FOR 2009-2010



For the 2009-2010 academic year, The Ohio State University will have a visiting Israel Studies scholar, Professor Matt Silver.

Professor Silver is a Middle East History scholar at Max Stern College of Emek Yezreel in Israel. He received his BA degree from Cornell University and completed his MA and PhD degrees in Modern Jewish History at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He has taught a number of topics in Jewish history at the Hebrew University and served on the *Ha'aretz* newspaper editorial staff.

Professor Silver has taught numerous courses on contemporary politics in Israel, American Jewish-Israel relations, peace studies, comparative religious history of Judaism, Islam, and Christianity; the Arab-Israeli conflict, and many other related topics. He has contributed to numerous publications. His newest project, *Our Exodus: Leon Uris and the Making and Unmaking of Israel's Founding Narrative* (Wayne State Press), is to be published this year.

Bringing a visiting Israel Studies scholar for the coming year is a great start. If you or someone you know might be interested in helping us to endow a permanent chair in Israel Studies at Ohio State, please contact Matt Goldish at (614) 292-1358.

*The Melton Center is grateful to American-Israel Cooperative Enterprise (AICE), The Ohio State University's College of Arts & Humanities, the Columbus Jewish Foundation, the Columbus Jewish Federation, Merom and Judy Brachman, and Danny and Anna Robins for their financial support of our visiting scholar this coming year.*



## Foreign Policy Expert Discusses the Arab-Israeli Conflict



Mitchell Bard autographing his book for an Ohio State student.

On March 31 and April 1, Dr. Mitchell Bard came to Columbus and met with students and community members to promote Israel Studies at Ohio State.

Bard holds a PhD in political science from UCLA and a master's degree in public policy from U. C. Berkeley. He is a foreign policy analyst and the Executive Director of the American-Israel Cooperative Enterprise (AICE), a non-profit nonpartisan organization which seeks to strengthen the U.S.-Israel relationship by emphasizing the fundamentals of the alliance. Bard is also the author of numerous books and director of the Jewish Virtual Library, the world's most comprehensive online encyclopedia of Jewish history and culture.

The occasion of Dr. Bard's visit to Columbus was an agreement between AICE and interested supporters to fund one year of a visiting professorship in Israel Studies at Ohio State. As a result, the Melton Center for Jewish Studies has invited Matthew Silver to serve as Visiting Professor in Israel Studies for the 2009-10 academic year.

# MODERN ISRAEL SCHOLAR KEN STEIN SPARKS INTEREST IN ISRAEL STUDIES



Ken Stein speaking to community leaders at Ohio State's Hillel.

Professor Ken Stein is a renowned scholar, acclaimed teacher, and director of both Emory University's Middle East Research Program and its Institute for the Study of Modern Israel. Professor Stein visited both the Ohio State campus and the Columbus community as part of the Melton Center's *Israel and Its Neighbors* series, co-sponsored with the Columbus Jewish Federation.

Stein addressed students and faculty at a lunch on October 29 at the Ohio State Hillel Foundation. His talk "Israel on American Campuses—Teaching or Preaching?" helped galvanize campus interest in Israel Studies. Later that evening, he presented "The United States in the Middle East and the Next Administration" at the Columbus Jewish Community Center to a crowd of community members.

Professor Stein also met with community members eager to see Israel Studies established as an academic discipline at Ohio State. Stein's wisdom, energy, and enthusiasm inspired some supporters to pursue a partnership with the Melton Center that will enable Matthew Silver to join Ohio State as a Visiting Professor in Israel Studies for the 2009-10 academic year.

## *ISRAEL AND ITS NEIGHBORS*

Stein was also the first of three scholars as part of our *Israel and Its Neighbors* series. The series is designed to offer a deeper understanding of the myriad issues affecting Israel and its relationship with its Arab neighbors.

In November, Professor Avi Beker, a speaker for *Israel and Its Neighbors* and the Jewish Community Center's annual Bookfair discussed Judaism's concept of chosenness and what it means to be chosen, based on his book, ***The Chosen: The History of an Idea, and the Anatomy of an Obsession***. He also explored the impact of this concept on the Middle East conflict. Beker is Georgetown University's Goldman Visiting Israeli Professor.

In December, Dov Waxman, Professor of Political Science at Baruch College, addressed the question, "Can Israel End the Occupation?" He presented the prospects of Israel's control of the West Bank in the larger Middle East political scene.

## CELEBRATED POLISH AUTHOR RECEIVES MELTON'S DISTINGUISHED HUMANIST AWARD

On November 12, the Melton Center for Jewish Studies and the Columbus Jewish Community Center Bookfair co-hosted Mr. Henryk Grynberg. Mr. Grynberg is a Holocaust survivor and has published more than thirty books of prose, poetry, essays, and drama depicting the Holocaust experience and the post-Holocaust trauma. He writes primarily in Polish, but his major works have been translated into English, French, German, Italian, Czech, Dutch, Hebrew, Hungarian, and Swedish. Grynberg read from several of his collections, including *Drohobycz*, *Drohobycz and Other Stories: True Tales from the Holocaust and Life After*. He also shared some of his most recent work, from a book not yet published.

The Melton Center presented Mr. Grynberg with its Distinguished Humanist Award after his reading, in honor of a life of literary achievements. Afterwards, the author took questions and signed copies of his books for audience members.



Melton Center director Matt Goldish presents Mr. Grynberg with its Distinguished Humanist Award.



## A MAN OF VISION: THE MELTON CENTER HONORS ITS FOUNDER, SAM MELTON

The success of Jewish Studies at The Ohio State University is a testament to the vision and generosity of one extraordinary man: Samuel Mendel Melton (1900-1993).

Ohio State's Melton Center for Jewish Studies honored its late founder with a tribute to his philanthropy and vision on January 12 at the Fawcett Center. The evening featured a short biographical film; remarks by President E. Gordon Gee and College of Arts and Humanities

Dean John Roberts; reflections by Renée Levine, Sam's niece; and a keynote address by Leslie H. Wexner. Mr. Wexner described Sam Melton as "a mentor and role model [whose] example provided important lessons in my own development." He pointed out that "Sam Melton taught our community how to be better and do better."

Sam Melton was a businessman and philanthropist whose financial success and generosity played a key role in the economic, educational and cultural development of both Columbus, Ohio, and The Ohio State University.

A defining experience for Sam Melton was taking a course in philosophy at Ohio State. The curriculum highlighted ethics and morals and included the Jewish prophets. The course resonated with his love for the richness of Jewish heritage and engendered his admiration for these prophets. It also fueled his belief that their writings made invaluable contributions to the development of Western civilization. This pivotal educational moment spurred Sam Melton to become a staunch advocate for the inclusion of Jewish Studies at institutions of higher learning in the U.S. and Israel.

After graduating from Ohio State, Sam Melton established his own business, Capitol Manufacturing and Supply. After 35 years running the business, he sold it and devoted the rest of his life to philanthropy. He was thus able to fully embrace his desire to promote academic Jewish Studies and enhance the quality of Jewish education—which he did on many fronts.

Sam Melton always pushed for improvement in the ventures he funded. As his niece Renée Levine recalled, "He invested in people, in ideas, and in institutions. I would think if he were here today, Sam Melton would be very proud of [the Melton Center for Jewish Studies], and he would say 'well done.' But he would add, 'What are your plans for the future?'"

Jewish Studies at Ohio State began with the endowment of The Samuel and Esther Melton Professorship (later Chair) of Jewish History and Studies in 1966. Sam Melton was the first individual in Ohio State's history to endow a chair.

In 1976, the Melton Center for Jewish Studies was established and became the first such center at an American public university. This positioned Ohio State at the cutting edge of Jewish Studies, precisely when the field was gaining recognition as an independent academic discipline.

In the 33 years since its inception, the Melton Center for Jewish Studies has grown to include 30 professors from affiliated departments and over 250,000 volumes in its Judaica library. Over 1500 students take courses with Jewish Studies topics each year. Melton Center director, Matt Goldish, acknowledged that, "We owe our current leadership in the world of Jewish academia to the vision of Sam Melton."



President Gee, Dean Roberts, Leslie Wexner, and Renée Levine.

At the tribute event, President E. Gordon Gee recognized Ohio State's debt to Sam Melton and declared "The Melton Center for Jewish Studies is one of this university's truly brilliant jewels, one of the nation's largest and finest centers for interdisciplinary teaching and research in Jewish Studies."

Many community members turned out for this commemoration and their numbers demonstrate the lasting impression that Sam Melton made with his generous support of Jewish education. Co-sponsors of the tribute were Ohio State's College of Arts and Humanities, the Columbus Jewish Foundation, and the Columbus Jewish Federation.



# THE 21ST ANNUAL PEARL AND TROY FEIBEL LECTURE DISCUSSES JEWS AND CIVIL RIGHTS: LAW, ACTION, ETHICS

The Melton Center for Jewish Studies and Moritz College of Law at The Ohio State University presented the 21st Annual Pearl and Troy Feibel Lecture on Judaism and the Law to an audience of over 125 people on Sunday, March 29 at Wexner Heritage Village.

The topic, "Jews and Civil Rights: Law, Action, Ethics," was discussed by a panel featuring experts in law, history, and Jewish Studies. The panelists examined the prominent participation of Jews in the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s, a period when African Americans and Jews found common ground in social and political activism.

The first speaker, Professor Daniel Tokaji of Ohio State's Moritz College of Law, is an expert on civil rights legislation. He spoke about the background and reasons for shifts in civil rights law, adding some personal comments about his own background as the son of a Japanese American father who was held in Manzanar during the Second World War. Professor Hasan Kwame Jeffries of Ohio State's Department of History spoke next, explaining both the passionate Jewish interest in civil rights and the subsequent falling out between African Americans and Jews. The last speaker was Professor Susannah Heschel of Dartmouth College, who recalled the activities of her father, Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, in the civil rights movement. She also discussed the moral and ethical imperatives of civil rights from the Jewish perspective.

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.



Robert Shamansky, Babette and Jim Feibel, Susannah Heschel, Daniel Tokaji, Hasan Kwame Jeffries, Barbara and Ron Robins, Ronnie and Don Feibel.

## IN MEMORIAM

### George Levine

One of our major benefactors, George Levine, passed away on June 8, 2009. He and his wife Renée established the George M. and Renée K. Levine Endowed Professorship in Jewish History and the George M. and Renée K. Levine Graduate Fellowship in Jewish Studies. Thanks to their generosity over the years, we have been able to award this fellowship to many students pursuing a graduate degree in an area of Jewish Studies. George will be fondly remembered as a generous supporter of Jewish education.

### Norman Harlan

Norman Harlan, who was a long-time supporter of the Melton Center, passed away at the age of 94 on June 7, 2009 in Dayton, Ohio. Our heartfelt condolences go out to his wife Thelma and their children and grandchildren.

### Edwin M. Ellman

The Columbus Jewish community suffered the unexpected loss of community leader Ed Ellman on October 7, 2008. Ed was passionate about adult Jewish learning and was an advisor and mentor to the Melton Center over the years.

# 2009 STUDENT AWARDS

## Charlotte Susan Roth Memorial Fund Essay Contest

**Dena Rapoport**, a Hebrew and History of Art major, won first prize in the undergraduate category for her essay “Hayim Nahman Bialik: Poetry and Tension.” Dena wrote the paper in a Hebrew poetry course. Second prize in the undergraduate category went to graduating senior **David Ladow**, a history and philosophy major with a minor in Jewish Studies. His essay was “Jesus, the Maccabees, and the Cleansing of the Temple.” In the graduate category, first prize was awarded to **Avram Shannon**, a PhD student in Near Eastern Languages and Cultures. His paper was “How the Mighty are Fallen: Reversal of Fortunes in 1 Samuel 28.” Second prize went to **George Johnson**, also a PhD student in Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, for his essay “The Lost Ark: a Text-based Commentary on 1 Samuel 4:1-11.”



Dena Rapoport



David Ladow



Avram Shannon



George Johnson

## Diane M. Cummins Scholarship

**Dena Rapoport** is this year's recipient of the Cummins Scholarship for outstanding achievement in Hebrew. When presenting the award, Professor Sam Meier emphasized that the selection committee was unanimous in its decision to recognize the third-year student for her excellent abilities and enthusiasm.

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

**Aaron Caldwell** (not pictured) is this year's recipient of the Skilken Award, which provides a scholarship to students who are actively engaged in Yiddish and Ashkenazi studies. Aaron, a Hebrew and Linguistics major, has taken several Jewish Studies courses and investigated Ashkenazi themes.



Josh Kramer



Tom Tearney

## George and Emily Severinghaus Beck Fund for Study at Vilnius Yiddish Institute

The Beck Scholarship enabled student winner **Joshua Kramer** to attend a summer program at the Vilnius Yiddish Institute in Lithuania. Josh is a political science major in the International Affairs Scholar Program. The Beck Fund was established by an anonymous donor to help support students' interest in the intense workshop and cultural experience offered at Vilnius.

## Norbert and Gretel B. Bloch Endowed Scholarship Fund in Jewish Studies

**Tom Tearney**, a German and Jewish Studies major, received this year's Bloch Scholarship. The Bloch Endowed Scholarship Fund provides a \$1,000 scholarship to a student engaged in Jewish Studies and requires that student to collaborate with Melton Center staff to facilitate a program or programming that focuses on Jewish life, culture or history (see story on page 12).

**Ellen E. and Victor J. Cohn Supporting Foundation Scholarship**  
**Shiran Bendor** is this year's recipient of the Cohn Scholarship for study at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Shiran is a junior and a Middle Childhood Education major. She will study at Hebrew University in the spring of 2010.



Shiran Bendor

## Melton Center for Jewish Studies Travel Grant Program

The Melton Center awarded one travel grant to a third-year student who will be traveling to Israel. **Megan VanDeWalker** (not pictured), a Hebrew and Linguistics major, will use her travel grant to study modern Hebrew at Hebrew University in Jerusalem.



# Graduate Fellowships

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

Ufuk Ulutas is this year's Levine Fellow. Ufuk is a PhD candidate in Ottoman history. He received his MA in history from Ohio State. He is currently studying the massive immigration of Turkish Jews to Israel between 1918 and 1948. 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.



Ufuk Ulutas



Hannah Kosstrin

## Samuel M. Melton Graduate Fellow in Jewish Studies

Hannah Kosstrin is the winner of this year's Melton fellowship. She is a PhD candidate in Dance Studies. Hannah received her MA in Dance from Ohio State in 2003. Her work focuses on social and political ramifications of artistic expression and Jewish identity from the 1930s to 1950s in the United States (see story below). 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.

## Jews and Dance: Graduate Student Wins Accolades



Kosstrin says, "I stress an interdisciplinary approach to my research and teaching, as dance exists not only as an art form but also as a social phenomenon and a political tool." Hannah Kosstrin in her piece "...don't know if I'm running or going home" (2005).

It is not often that the Melton Center for Jewish Studies encounters a fellowship applicant like Hannah Kosstrin. Kosstrin, a PhD candidate in Dance Studies, has found a way to examine and articulate the "Jewishness" of dance. Her dissertation investigates Jewishness, radicalism, and modernism in the work of choreographer Anna Sokolow from 1927-1961. In her research, Kosstrin questions what constitutes Jewish dance. "Is it dance with Jewish themes? And are those themes connected to theology or are they cultural? Or both? Is it dance created and/or performed by Jews who are completely secular and otherwise have no connection to anything 'Jewish'? Is it concert dance, folk dance, or both?" Hannah has a minor field in Women's History, and her work also analyzes the intersections between dance, Women's Studies, Jewish history, and Jewish Studies.

An energetic dancer and scholar, Ms. Kosstrin is busily garnering honors during her training at Ohio State. In addition to her selection as the Melton Center's Samuel M. Melton Graduate Fellow, Kosstrin has also won a Coca-Cola Critical Difference for Women Graduate Studies Grant for Research on Women, Gender, or Gender Equity; been named a "Philanthropic Educational Organization Scholar" by the International Chapter of the Philanthropic Educational Organization Sisterhood; and been awarded the Selma Jeanne Cohen Award from the Society of Dance History Scholars. The Cohen Award is given to up to three graduate papers that will be presented at the annual Society of Dance History Scholars Conference. Kosstrin won for her paper on Anna Sokolow's Holocaust work. The Melton Center is honored to count this innovative thinker as one of its fellows.



# INVEST IN JEWISH STUDIES AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Dear Friends,

Thank you for helping make this past year one of achievement and growth for the Melton Center, despite the unprecedented financial challenges we all share. In light of these circumstances we deeply appreciate your generous financial support and involvement.

One of our milestone accomplishments this year has been the launch of what we hope will become a permanent **Israel Studies** program at Ohio State. With the generous support of the American-Israel Cooperative Enterprise (AICE), the College of Arts and Humanities, Columbus Jewish Foundation, Columbus Jewish Federation, and beneficent private donors, we funded a one-year **Israel Studies scholar position** for the 2009-10 academic year. We are thrilled that **Professor Matthew Silver** will bring his wealth of historical and cultural expertise to that position. We will also enjoy the presence of **Professor Jonathan Cohen** of the University of Haifa, an expert on Israel and world media, who will be visiting in Ohio State's School of Communication this year. We sincerely hope that the presence of Israel experts at Ohio State and in the Columbus community will inspire others to step forward and make this a permanent program.

Other highlights of the year include an amazing group of musical performances and lectures in our ongoing **Jewish Music East and West** program; wonderful lectures about Israel in our **Israel and Its Neighbors** series, co-sponsored by the Jewish Federation; a novel **Feibel Lecture on Judaism and Law** featuring a panel of experts discussing Jews and the Civil Rights Movement; and numerous other terrific public programs.

At the same time, the Melton Center maintains its position as one of the biggest and best Jewish Studies programs among American universities. Our catalogue offers more Jewish Studies courses than any academic institution in the U.S. except Yeshiva University in New York. We support student travel to study in Israel and Europe with the generous support of our donors. The graduate students whom we support with the Melton and Levine fellowships break new ground in creative scholarship. We bring in outstanding lecturers to teach our students and faculty, and our faculty in turn speak at top universities around the world.

We are so grateful that your generosity has allowed us to do all these things, and to continue doing them at a time when many other institutions are cutting back drastically or even folding. You allow the Melton Center to fulfill its mission. We will do our best to continue to earn your trust as responsible and effective stewards of your resources. I always welcome your ideas and feedback.

With great hopes for our future,

Matt Goldish

Enclosed is my gift of: \$1,000\_\_ \$500\_\_ \$360\_\_ \$108\_\_ other \$\_\_\_\_\_

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**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

## FACULTY BOOKS AND HONORS

**Professor Donna Guy** published *Women Build the Welfare State: Performing Charity and Creating Rights in Argentina 1880-1955* (Duke, 2009). The book is now under contract with Prometeo Libros to be translated and published in Spanish.

**Professor Paul Reitter's** book *The Anti-journalist: Karl Kraus and Jewish Self-fashioning in fin-de-siècle Vienna* was listed as one of the Times Literary Supplement's Best Books of the Year.

**Professor Steve Fink** is the 2008 recipient of the Rodica C. Botoman Award for Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching and Mentoring. Professor Fink was also named the English Department's Undergraduate Professor of the Year as selected by the Undergraduate Organization, EUGO.

**Professor Robin Judd** is the 2009 recipient of the Rodica C. Botoman Award for Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching and Mentoring.

**Professor Steven Glaser** was promoted to full Professor of Piano Performance in the School of Music this spring. He played numerous concerts in prestigious venues (see story, page 14).

**Professor Carolina Lopez-Ruiz** received the Virginia Hull Research Award in October 2008.

**Professor Goldie Shabad** was promoted to full Professor in the Department of Political Science.

**Professor Suzanne Silver** received an Ohio Arts Council Individual Excellence Award for 2009. Professor Silver's piece *Kafka in Space (Parsing the Eruv)* was included in

the exhibit "In Other Spaces" at Columbus College of Art and Design this spring (see story, page 14).

**Professor Alan Beyerchen** served as the 2009 Holocaust Scholar in Residence at Bexley High School April 22-23, teaching classes on anti-Semitism and giving a public lecture entitled "Science, Technology and the Cost of Nazi Racism."

**Professor Sam Meier** published *Themes and Transformations in Old Testament Prophecy*. (InterVarsity Press, 2009). Professor Meier also received the Mortar Board and Sphinx Faculty Recognition Award and was a finalist for the Arts and Science College Student Council Outstanding Teaching Award.

**Professor Carole Fink** co-edited the book *Ostpolitik, 1969-1974: European and Global Responses*. (Cambridge University Press, 2009) and authored its Introduction, Conclusion, and the chapter entitled: "Ostpolitik and West German-Israeli Relations."

**Professor Jane Hathaway** published *Al-Jabarti's History of Egypt* (an abridged primary source) (Markus Wiener Publishers, 2009) and *The Arab Lands in the Ottoman Era: Essays in Honor of Caesar Farah* (Center for Early Modern History, University of Minnesota, forthcoming 2009).

**Professor Tamar Rudavsky** co-edited *The Cambridge History of Jewish Philosophy: From Antiquity to the Seventeenth Century* (Cambridge University Press, 2009) and published *Maimonides* (Blackwell-Wiley Press, forthcoming 2009) (see story, page 11).

## History Professor Organizes Ottoman Workshop

**Professor Jane Hathaway** of Ohio State's Melton Center and Department of History organized the sixth Great Lakes Ottoman Workshop (GLOW) on April 18-19. In addition to its host, the Department of History, sponsors were the Mershon Center for International Security Studies, the Middle East Studies Center, the Center for Slavic and East European Studies, the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, and the Department of Comparative Studies. For the second year in a row, the workshop's centerpiece was a roundtable on "Who was an Ottoman?" featuring five participants speaking on a variety of influential figures and groups in the Ottoman Empire between the sixteenth and nineteenth centuries.

GLOW was launched in 2005 as a more intimate and intensive supplement to Ottomanist panels at the Middle East Studies Association's annual conference. Since the inaugural meeting at Northwestern University in March 2005, it has met once a year at a major midwestern institution.





# PROFESSOR CO-EDITS HISTORY OF JEWISH PHILOSOPHY AND PUBLISHES DEFINITIVE STUDY OF MAIMONIDES



**Professor Tamar Rudavsky** was doubly industrious during her sabbatical this year, co-editing a comprehensive history of ancient and medieval Jewish philosophy as well as authoring an in-depth study of Maimonides.

*The Cambridge History of Jewish Philosophy: From Antiquity to the Seventeenth Century* (Cambridge University Press,

2009), co-edited with Steven Nadler, has been praised by readers for its depth, breadth and organization. The contributors are top scholars in the field. Unlike most histories or guides to Jewish philosophy, this innovative volume is organized by philosophical topic rather than by chronology or individual figures in the field. Sections include: logic and language; natural philosophy; epistemology, philosophy of mind, and psychology; metaphysics and philosophical theology; and practical philosophy. Professors Nadler and Rudavsky chose this organizational method in an attempt to emphasize the philosophical contributions made by Jewish thinkers to ongoing philosophical problems and issues.

Professor Rudavsky's solo project, forthcoming from Blackwell-Wiley Press, is a study of Moses Maimonides, one of the most important Jewish philosophers of all

time as well as a pre-eminent Torah scholar. Professor Rudavsky's book not only provides an intellectual biography of this multi-faceted figure, but also examines in depth the most critical philosophical works of Maimonides' canon. Although its primary focus is philosophy, the work incorporates material from the philosopher's legal and medical works as well.

One of Professor Rudavsky's central premises is that Maimonides considered himself engaged in philosophical dialogue not only with his contemporaries but also with ancient Greek and Islamic philosophers. All too often Maimonides has been studied in total isolation from his philosophical peers; Rudavsky has tried to rectify this narrow view by situating Maimonides' ideas about prophecy, miracles, God, the afterlife, creation of the world, divine providence, and morality in the context of his philosophical cohorts.

Rudavsky takes these philosophic writings and presents them in a style accessible even for readers with little background in Jewish or medieval philosophy. "I was particularly excited by this project," she says, "since Maimonides is the first Jewish thinker to be included in this book series entitled 'Great Minds in Philosophy.' Having taught Maimonides' works for many years, both at Ohio State and in various adult education courses and venues in the Jewish community, I felt the time was right to grapple in a more sustained and disciplined way with Maimonides' work."

In addition to these most recent publications, Dr. Rudavsky is the author of *Time Matters: Creation, Time and Cosmology in Medieval Jewish Philosophy* (2000). She has edited two other volumes: *Divine Omniscience and Omnipotence in Medieval Philosophy: Islamic, Jewish, and Christian Perspectives* (1984); and *Gender and Judaism: Tradition and Transformation* (1995). Now that these works have been completed, she is embarking upon a succinct history of medieval Jewish philosophy (Oxford University Press), focusing on the tensions between Judaism and science in the medieval period. "In this volume, as well, I hope to present the high points of medieval Jewish philosophy to a wider readership," she says. The Melton Center is proud of these fine scholarly studies by Professor Rudavsky, who served as the center's director for 18 years.



## 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. Application deadline is February 1, 2010. For full application information, go to our website, ([meltoncenter.osu.edu](http://meltoncenter.osu.edu)), or contact Matt Goldish, director of the Melton Center for Jewish Studies at [goldish.1@osu.edu](mailto:goldish.1@osu.edu).

## “JEWS OF NORTH AFRICA” SERIES HIGHLIGHTS LIBYAN AND MOROCCAN JEWRY



Professor Jane Hathaway, director Vivienne Roumani-Denn, and Melton Center director Matt Goldish.

For the first event in the Melton Center’s two-part “Jews of North Africa” series, New York-based filmmaker Vivienne Roumani-Denn presented her award-winning film *The Last Jews of Libya*. The film focuses on the experiences of Ms. Roumani-Denn’s family, as residents of Benghazi and as immigrants to the United States. There were two screenings—one on campus and one at the Columbus Jewish Community Center. Both screenings were very well attended and followed by lively and informative question-and-answer sessions with Ms. Roumani-Denn. The filmmaker was introduced by Ohio State’s own Jane Hathaway, Professor of History and an expert on Jewish communities under Islamic rule.



Professor Oren Kosansky and Léa Schottenstein with Matt Goldish. Not pictured: Rabbi Avraham Elbaz.

The second event in the series, “The Jews of Morocco” included three parts. First, a panel discussion featured Rabbi Avraham Elbaz and Léa Schottenstein, community members and natives of Morocco who shared their experiences of growing up Moroccan and Jewish. Next, attendees enjoyed an authentic and tasty Moroccan kosher dinner. Finally, visiting scholar Oren Kosansky gave a multi-media presentation about his study of Moroccan religious pilgrimages. Dr. Kosansky is Professor of Anthropology at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon. The audience for all three parts of “The Jews of Morocco” was lively and very enthusiastic.

## BLOCH SCHOLAR AND ISRAEL SHLICHA BRING ETHIOPIAN JEWISH CULTURE TO CAMPUS

On May 14, Ohio State’s Hillel and the Melton Center for Jewish Studies presented “Ethiopian and Jewish,” a program featuring Hillel’s Israel emissary Kasa Bayasin and facilitated by Ohio State senior Cori Zarem. Zarem was the 2008-09 recipient of the Norbert and Gretel B. Bloch Scholarship which supported her development of this program with the help of Melton Center staff. The event included a free traditional Ethiopian dinner, a power point presentation on Jewish Ethiopian culture and traditions, and a question and answer session. Ms. Bayasin shared her experiences growing up in Ethiopia and leaving at age eleven when her family made aliyah to Israel.



Kasa Bayasin and Bloch Scholar Cori Zarem making traditional Ethiopian bread.



# JEWISH MUSIC, EAST AND WEST, CONCERT SERIES

## ***The Golem Brought to Life by Performance of Musical Score***

The Melton Center kicked off its 2008-09 Jewish Music East and West series with a screening of the classic 1920 German silent film *The Golem: How He Came into the World* accompanied by a live performance of Betty Olivero's haunting score by famed virtuoso klezmer clarinetist **David Krakauer** and Columbus' own **Carpe Diem String Quartet**. The screening and concert filled the Wexner Center for the Arts' film theater and proved an especially exciting introduction to the rest of the Jewish Music series. This type of cultural event normally takes place only in large cities, such as New York, Los Angeles and Tel-Aviv. The event was co-sponsored by the Wexner Center for the Arts and the Lenore Schottenstein Jewish Arts Endowment of the Columbus Jewish Foundation.

## **French Ensemble Les Yeux Noirs Dazzles its Columbus Audience**

On January 22 the French sextet *Les Yeux Noirs* gave an electrifying performance for a packed house at the Fawcett Center for Tomorrow. This energetic ensemble thrills audiences around the world with its unique blend of Gypsy, Yiddish and manouche jazz. The ensemble features two classically trained violinist brothers who share entertaining tidbits about the Jewish influences on their music in between furious fiddling. By the group's encore, many audience members were dancing in the aisles. The concert was co-sponsored by CityMusic, the Columbus Foundation, Greater Columbus Arts Council, and the Ohio Arts Council.

## **Israeli Composer and Pianist Assaf Shelleg Offers "Explained Concert"**

Next in the line-up was Israeli composer and pianist **Assaf Shelleg** in an event co-sponsored with Ohio State's School of Music. Shelleg performed "Israel—Diaspora, A Musical Dialogue," playing works by late 19th and early 20th century Israeli and Eastern European composers, including Professor Jan Radzynski of Ohio State's School of Music and Melton Center. The event was an "explained concert" with intimate seating arranged so that Shelleg could share with his audience academic and cultural contexts of the composers and their works before playing their pieces. The expressive pianist closed the evening with two challenging Mazurkas by Jan Radzynski, followed by an encore of one of his own compositions.

## **Yossi Chajes Shares "Songs of the Lord in Strange Lands: Sacred Music and the Faces of Contemporary Jewish Spirituality"**

The Jewish Music series concluded with guitarist and pianist **Yossi Chajes**, who was joined by his violinist daughter, Levana on Saturday, February 28 at Wexner Heritage Village. Chajes is a Professor of Jewish History at the University of Haifa as well as an accomplished Jewish folk musician, known for his Jewish "soul music." Chajes combined a musical performance with a Power Point analysis, explaining how music reflects the values and philosophies of diverse contemporary Jewish spiritual movements. A diverse array of songs were featured, with audience participation welcomed on a few well-known tunes.



Clarinetist David Krakauer, violinist John Ewing, violinist Korine Fujiwara, cellist Diego Fainguersch, violinist Charles Wetherbee, and conductor Russ Mikkelsen



Les Yeux Noirs



Assaf Shelleg



Yossi Chajes with his daughter Levana

# PIANIST GIVES INAUGURAL CONCERT AND TRAVELS TO ISRAEL



Steven Glaser at the piano.

On Monday, April 27, Professor Steven Glaser presented “The Art of Interpreting Music: A Lecture-Performance,” marking his promotion to full Professor of Piano Performance in the School of Music. During the concert, Professor Glaser discussed how and what a Professor of Piano teaches at the college level and how musicians create interpretations. He also shared his own approach to music making and musical interpretation using examples from standard repertoire, including the *Polonaise Fantasy*, Op. 61 by Frederic Chopin.

In June, Professor Glaser traveled to Israel to perform at several prestigious venues. He played a chamber music concert with members of the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance in a “Beethoven, The Titan” series held at Hebrew University. He gave a solo recital at the Austrian Hospice Music Salon and participated in the international workshop “Emancipation through Sound and Images: Jews Entering the Fine Arts” at Hebrew University. He also offered seven hours of Master Classes at the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance. In addition to attending lectures, performing, and teaching, Professor Glaser met with world-renowned musicians and musicologists.

Of the many highlights of his trip, Professor Glaser singled out the recital at the Austrian Hospice as most memorable, as his performance took place on the 200th anniversary of the death of the great Austrian composer Josef Haydn. “During intermission, the church bells in the city were all ringing and the minarets that encircle the Hospice were blaring out the Muslim call to prayer, all this under the Israeli Star of David flying from flagpoles on rooftops above the city. This confluence of sounds and cultures drifting into the music room created a unique atmosphere only found in Jerusalem.”

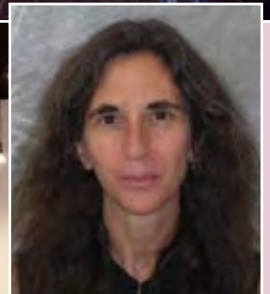
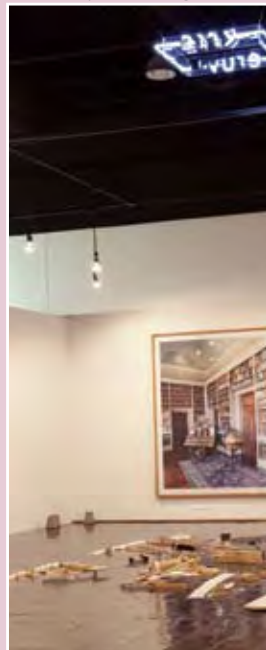
## An Artist at Work

**Professor Suzanne Silver** investigates religious, linguistic, visual, physical and literary conventions in her installation *Kafka in Space (Parsing the Eruv)*. The installation includes found, recycled, and new building materials ranging from rope and muslin to pigment and neon. Silver’s piece is an intriguing three-dimensional exploration of Franz Kafka’s quotation: “The true path leads across a rope that is not suspended on high, but close to the ground. It seems more intended to make people stumble than to be walked upon.” In Silver’s creative reading, Kafka is referencing the Eruv, a wire or fence that symbolically joins a neighborhood into a single domain—that is, it turns public space into private space—so objects may be carried in that area on the Sabbath.

Thus, the piece, which contains a neon Eruv overhead and a diagram of Kafka’s words below, is a strikingly innovative commentary on how religion creates and manipulates space through ritual. Professor Silver’s Kafka installation was included in the exhibit “In Other Spaces” at Columbus College of Art and Design this spring.

Silver says, “I am interested in notions of the transformation of public to private and secular to sacred in the context of my personal art and as it relates to my project for the exhibition ‘Of Other Spaces.’ The neon eruv represents the idea of an inscribed space and functions literally as a sign to announce eruv in both Hebrew and English.” For Silver’s complete discussion of her work, see <http://religion.osu.edu/news/>.

*Kafka in Space (Parsing the Eruv)*



Suzanne Silver



# FACULTY, 2009-2010

**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

**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

**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, Associate 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, Assistant 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](http://meltoncenter.osu.edu)

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### OUR 2009-2010 *PROGRAM RESOURCE GUIDE* FOR SYNAGOGUES, AGENCIES, AND VOLUNTEER GROUPS IS NOW ONLINE

Now in its third publication, our *Program Resource Guide* provides communal institutions and volunteer groups with lecture topics which Melton Center faculty members are available to teach for the coming year. You can find the guide by going to our website, [www.meltoncenter.osu.edu](http://www.meltoncenter.osu.edu). Click on "Publications."

## Jewish Camping Course Offered by Ohio State, Siegal College, and Camp Wise

This summer the Melton Center for Jewish Studies and the College of Physical Activity and Educational Services at The Ohio State University joined Siegal College of Jewish Studies and Camp Wise in developing and running a college-credit course for counselors at Camp Wise on "Camping and Jewish Identity."

The course included an intensive study of the camping experience as it relates to Jewish youth identity formation. The coursework blended field experiences with readings, discussion, and reflective assignments. Students examined the influence of camping activities on Jewish ethical concerns, spiritual development and engagement with Jewish thought.

"Camping and Jewish Identity" was designed by Melton board member Professor David Stein, who teaches in the College of Physical Activity and Educational Services, Rabbi Jeffrey Schein at the Siegal College of Jewish Studies, and Camp Wise director Jodi Sperling.

Scholarships for all of the students were provided by Siegal College's Mahar regional partnership fund for the Jewish future.

We hope to offer this course to other Jewish camps in the future.

#### Melton Center Staff

**Matt Goldish**  
Director

(614) 292-1358  
[goldish.1@osu.edu](mailto:goldish.1@osu.edu)

**Lori Fireman**  
Program Coordinator

(614) 292-0700  
[fireman.2@osu.edu](mailto:fireman.2@osu.edu)

**Nancy Golden**  
Program Coordinator

(614) 247-7882  
[golden.45@osu.edu](mailto:golden.45@osu.edu)

**Jared Boyd**  
Fiscal Manager

(614) 292-0967  
[boyd.150@osu.edu](mailto:boyd.150@osu.edu)