

MELTON CENTER
FOR JEWISH STUDIES

2012 Annual Report





Matt Goldish. (Photo courtesy of Jeffrey Konczal)

DEAR FRIENDS,

The Melton Center has had another terrific year of courses, academic projects, and community programs. We focused on *conversations* in 2011-12, bringing together Ohio State faculty with visiting scholars. We were delighted with the results which generated both high-quality presentations and lively discussion that went beyond the lecture model.

We were honored to welcome some of the world's most distinguished experts in Jewish Studies. We taught around 1,500 Ohio State students. We participated in distinguished conferences, we brought top quality Jewish entertainment (with an educational flair), and we oversaw student-driven cultural events. We helped students study in Israel and in Lithuania. We worked with donors, community members, and numerous institutions to co-sponsor events. In short, it was another great year for the Center and I hope you will enjoy reading about it inside.

Please keep your eye out for the amazing set of events coming up this year as well—I hope we will see you there! Among the highlights will be a visit by two of the country's most distinguished experts on the state of the Jewish community; the premiere of the Melton Center's entertaining new educational film, "The Other Men In Black"; a program on Asians and Jews; and a long-awaited talk on Jews in world cinema.

I wish you a *shanah tovah*, a healthy and happy new year full of blessings and educational opportunities!

Sincerely,

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.

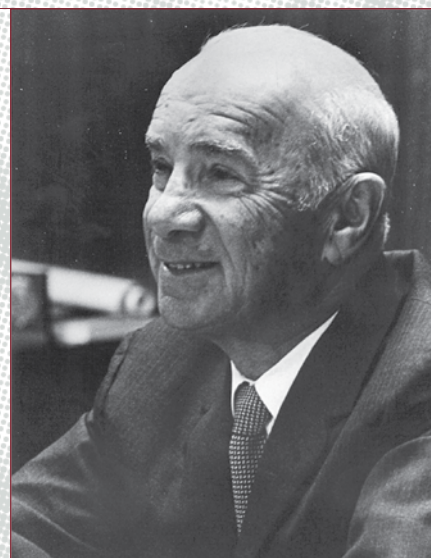
Jewish studies at The Ohio State University comprises one of the largest and most diverse programs in the country, offering an impressive selection of courses, a multidisciplinary faculty, and a wide range of events. Melton faculty are internationally recognized in their respective fields, including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



THE 24TH ANNUAL PEARL AND TROY FEIBEL LECTURE ON JUDAISM AND LAW

The 24th annual Feibel Lecture on Judaism and Law on April 22 featured the renowned historian of medieval European Jewry, Professor Haym Soloveitchik, who spoke about "Halakhah, Taboo, and the Origin of Jewish Money Lending." This fascinating presentation, attended by a large crowd, dealt with the questions of why Jews were so involved in the wine trade in France and Germany during the 10th-11th centuries, and how they ended up in the money-lending business shortly thereafter. This year's Feibel lecture was dedicated to the memory of Robert Shamansky, z"l, who was Troy Feibel's law partner and a founder of the Feibel Lecture fund along with the Feibel family.

Professor Soloveitchik presented another dazzling study at Ohio State Hillel on, "Communication and the Cultural Origins of the Ashkenazic (Franco-German) Community of the Middle Ages." This talk questioned the very foundational beliefs of historians about who the earliest Ashkenazi Jews were, and from where they came.



Hyam Soloveitchik. (Photo courtesy of Jeffrey Konczal)





Sarah Livingston



Avram Shannon



Mitchell Powell



Monica Hamblet



Chad Chessin



Joshua Sears



Brianna Pecsok



Esther Krupp

CHARLOTTE SUSAN ROTH MEMORIAL FUND ESSAY CONTEST

Sarah Livingston, a senior with a major in History and minor in Jewish Studies, won first prize in the undergraduate category for her essay, “From the Pale to the Empire; The Movement of Jews in Late Tsarist Russia.” Second prize was awarded to **Chad Chessin** for his essay, “The Golan Heights- A ‘Peak’ of Israeli Importance.” He is a first year student with a double major in Political Science and International Studies.

In the graduate category, first prize was awarded to **Avram Shannon** for his essay, “More Subtle than Any Other Beast: Affordances of the Serpent in Genesis 3.” Avram is a PhD candidate in the department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, specializing in Hebrew Bible and Early Rabbinic literature. **Joshua Sears** was awarded second prize for his essay “Moab Will Be Destroyed—Who Cares? Examining the First-Person Voices in Isaiah 15–16.” Joshua was a graduate student in Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, specializing in Hebrew Bible.

DIANE M. CUMMINS SCHOLARSHIP

Mitchell Powell received the Cummins Scholarship for outstanding achievement in Hebrew. Mitchell is a fourth year student with a double major in Hebrew and International Studies.

MORRIS AND FANNIE SKILKEN SCHOLARSHIP
IN YIDDISH AND ASHKENAZI STUDIES

Brianna Pecsok is an International Studies and Hebrew double major with a minor in Non-profit Studies. 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 enabled **Monica Hamblet** and **Esther Krupp** 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.



THE ELLEN E. AND VICTOR J. COHN SCHOLARSHIP
FOR STUDY AT HEBREW UNIVERSITY

Robyn Silver and **Sarah Livingston** are this year’s recipients of the Cohn Scholarship, which supports students who wish to study at Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Robyn spent a semester at the Rothberg International School at Hebrew University, taking classes and traveling around the country. Sarah spent a summer term in Israel taking classes and pursuing research.



Sarah Livingston



Rachel Baransi

THE 2012 NORBERT AND GRETEL B. BLOCH ENDOWED
SCHOLARSHIP IN JEWISH STUDIES

Rachel Baransi, who is a third year student majoring in Comparative Cultural Studies and minoring in Entrepreneurship, is this year’s Bloch recipient. Rachel 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.

2012 GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP AWARD WINNERS

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

Wendy Fergusson- Wendy is a PhD student in the History Department, focusing on Modern Jewish History. She is interested in the immigration patterns of Jewish intellectuals and artists who came to America from 1890-1945, and explores issues of chain migration, refugee aid organizations, and the creation of new utopian communities.



Wendy Fergusson

THE SAMUEL M. MELTON GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP IN JEWISH STUDIES

Joe Price- Joe is a PhD Student in the department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures. Focusing primarily on the Hebrew Bible, Joe has a special interest in the Deuteronomistic History and the books of Chronicles. Specifically, he is interested in the way these writings relate to each other, as well as how they relate to cognate literature in the Ancient Near East.



Joe Price



Community member Raisa Patlashenko sharing her family scrapbook for an oral history project. (Photo courtesy of Rachel Joy Baransi)

NEW – STUDIES IN JEWISH ORAL HISTORY

Oral history is a tremendously powerful and important tool in today's world of Jewish Studies. Community members and current students now have the opportunity to study Jewish Oral History at Ohio State starting fall semester. Current students can minor in Jewish Oral History, and community members can take courses as non-degree students through Ohio State's Office of Extended Education (formerly "Continuing Education"), ced.osu.edu, or through Program 60. Non-degree students who have successfully completed four courses in Jewish Oral History will receive a certificate in Jewish Oral History.

The curriculum combines a background in modern Jewish history, needed to understand the significance of such oral histories, and the proper techniques and legal issues involved in recording oral histories through various media. This program, unique to The Ohio State University and interdisciplinary in nature, was created through a collaboration of faculty. For more information about this program, go to meltoncenter.osu.edu/certificate-jewish-oral-history.

Holocaust Awareness Week Featured Deborah Lipstadt, Documentary Film

The Melton Center, OSU Hillel, Chabad, and a variety of other campus organizations hosted Holocaust Awareness Week on campus last April. On April 23, we hosted a free screening of the documentary *Ingelore*, which recounts the true story of a deaf Holocaust survivor who, after being raped by a Nazi, escaped to America. Following the film, Professor Brenda Brueggemann, who specialized in disability studies, and Melton Center graduate fellow Laura Herron, who specializes in German Jewish history, commented on the important issues in the film as well as answered questions from audience members.

Our feature event on April 24 welcomed one of the world's leading experts on the subject of Holocaust denial. Professor Deborah Lipstadt is the Dorot Professor of Modern Jewish and Holocaust Studies at Emory University. Lipstadt shared the story of her famous trial with a Holocaust denier that sued her after publishing her book *Denying the Holocaust*. The sold-out event included community members, students and fraternity and sorority members.



Deborah Lipstadt with event organizers Mary Giardina and Brian Freedman

PROGRAMS – JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Myth of Silence after the Holocaust

Our first public event of the year occurred on November 6 at the Jewish Community Center, in collaboration with the JCC Bookfair. We welcomed **Professor Hasia Diner** of New York University, who spoke about her new book, *We Remember with Reverence and Love: American Jews and the Myth of Silence after the Holocaust*. Professor Diner spoke to an engaged audience about the many American commemorations of Holocaust victims in the years following the war, well before the Eichmann trial. The next day **Professor Diner** was joined by the Melton Center's own **Professor Robin Judd** (History) and **Professor Steven Fink** (English) to discuss **"The Immigration and Absorption of Jewish Immigrants from Eastern Europe: A Model for Later Immigrant Populations?"** The panel spoke to a large audience of Ohio State students, faculty, and staff, as well as community members. This program was co-sponsored with the College of Arts and Sciences as part of its year-long conversation on immigration.

Philosopher Al-Ghazali and the Jews

In November the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures at Ohio State hosted a landmark international conference about the medieval philosopher al-Ghazali. Al-Ghazali had a profound influence on medieval Jewish philosophy, and the Melton Center hosted a conference **panel on al-Ghazali and the Jews** as its annual **Thomas and Diann Mann Distinguished Symposium**. The talks, involving al-Ghazali's impact on Maimonides and other Jewish thinkers, were presented by leading scholars of Jewish philosophy from Israel and the United States, including our own **Professor Tamar Rudavsky** (Philosophy).

Iranian Jews of Babylon

The Melton Center welcomed **Professor Yaakov Elman** of Yeshiva University on November 14, one of the world's leading experts on the Jews of ancient Persia. Professor Elman presented a conversation on **"Coexistence and Strife in Context: Iranian Jewry in Late Antiquity,"** together with Ohio State's **Professor Parvaneh Pourshariati**, a foremost scholar on the religions of ancient Persia. The two followed up their campus talk with an evening presentation at the Jewish Community Center called **"Outside of Babylon: The Ancient Community of Iranian Jews."** Appreciative audiences at both venues plied the speakers with questions about the life and status of the Persian Jews, and the cultural context of the Babylonian Talmud.

Our public programs for the year were focused on the theme "Join the Conversation." In almost every case throughout the year, visiting speakers were joined by our own Ohio State faculty for at least one of their presentations to create dynamic *conversations* on Jewish thought, culture, and history. We are grateful to the Cummins family for their support of these programs through the Diane Cummins Community Education Fund.



Robin Judd, Hasia Diner and Steve Fink



Parvaneh Pourshariati, Matthew Swartz, Yaakov Elman



Carolina López-Ruiz, Avi Ofer



Photo Credit: Gil Cohen-Magen



Anthony Kaldellis, Oded Irshai



Joshua Shanes

Archaeology of Mediterranean, Middle Eastern Worlds

In November we held the next event in our conversation series, with our visiting scholar of biblical archaeology, **Dr. Avi Ofer** and our own **Professor Carolina López-Ruiz**. They gave a talk called **“Biblical Archaeology in Context: Mythological Giants, Historical Peoples, First Alphabets”** to a standing-room-only crowd at the Ohio Union. Their discussion dealt with the parallels and connections between the ancient cultures of the Near East and the Northern Mediterranean worlds of Greece, Italy, and Spain. The two returned to converse about **“Ancient Israel: Biblical and Archaeological Interpretations”** at the Jewish Community Center on December 7. This was a unique opportunity for us to compare evidence from more familiar written sources with the findings of archaeologists like Dr. Ofer.

Inside the World of Today’s Hasidim

A unique event for the Melton Center was the photographic presentation and talk in early February by **Gil Cohen-Magen**, called, **“An Israeli Photojournalist in the Hasidic Court: Inside the World of Today’s Hasidim.”** Mr. Cohen-Magen explained how he developed an interest in the Hasidim and gained unprecedented access to their courts and observances. His striking photographs helped reveal a seldom-seen aspect of both Israeli society and Jewish culture. The event, co-sponsored by the Columbus Jewish Federation, attracted a crowd from across the Jewish and Christian communities of Central Ohio.

Jewish-Christian Violence in Ancient Alexandria

We joined with the Ohio State Libraries in February to sponsor the next in our conversation series with **Professor Oded Irshai** of the Hebrew University (visiting at Yale University) and Ohio State’s **Professor Anthony Kaldellis** (Greek and Latin), called **“Christian Historiographers’ Reflections on Jewish-Christian Violence in Early Fifth-Century Alexandria.”** The two scholars explained the unique local setting of Jews, Christians, and “pagans” in ancient Egypt, the violence that erupted between communities, and the way it was remembered by Christian historians. Their dialogue was enhanced by a film clip and lively discussion from the audience of students and faculty members.

Galicia, Poland and Zionism

We welcomed **Professor Joshua Shanes** of the College of Charleston in March to the Jewish Community Center, where he spoke about **“Zionism: Ancient Dream or Modern Revolution?”** Professor Shanes explained the European origins of modern Zionism and their relationship to the age-old religious hope for the return to the Land of Israel in the messianic age. Professor Shanes came to the Ohio State campus on March 6, with the co-sponsorship of Ohio State Libraries, to talk about **“The Jews of Galicia.”** This fascinating presentation about the much maligned “Galicianers” of Poland brought out not only students and faculty, but also community members, some of whom identified as Galician Jews.



Photo courtesy of Brian Freedman

Religion Defined

In April, the Melton Center joined with Ohio State’s Center for the Study of Religion to bring **Professor Daniel Boyarin** of the University of California, Berkeley to campus. Professor Boyarin, one of the country’s most famous academic Talmud scholars, spoke to an enormous audience at the Thompson Library about **“Genealogies of Religion in Late Antiquity.”** The lecture, which focused on the idea that only Christianity truly fit the definition of a “religion” in the earliest centuries of the common era, was followed by lively and learned discussion.

College of Jewish Knowledge, Year Three

Jewish atheism, Israeli short films, and theories of creation in philosophy and Torah were among the 30 sessions offered at the 2012 College of Jewish Knowledge. Over 120 people from central Ohio attended an afternoon and two special dinner sessions of Jewish learning for adults. The evening sessions featured history professor **Alan Levenson** from the University of Oklahoma, who spoke about **“The Making of the Modern Jewish Bible”**, and a session on an ancient Roman mosaic from Lod, Israel which is on display at the Columbus Museum of Art. The College of Jewish Knowledge is sponsored by the Melton Center, the Jewish Education and Identity Department of the Columbus Jewish Federation, area synagogues and agencies.

JewTube: Identity in Pop Culture

The Melton Center’s annual Bloch event, created by our 2011-12 Bloch Scholar, **Rachel Edelman**, took place in May at the Ohio State Hillel. Rachel’s program, aimed at her undergraduate peers, was an evening of creative activities intended to increase awareness of Jews and Jewishness in American popular culture. Participants were challenged to recognize Jewish celebrities, they learned how to make challah, and they analyzed YouTube clips about Jews with the help of Ohio State **Professor Naomi Brenner**.



Feature speaker, Professor Alan Levenson





The Arthur Carlos de Barros Basto Collection

Thanks to the generosity of the Latin American and Iberian Studies Collection, The Ohio State University Jewish Studies Library has acquired a collection of books and pamphlets relating to **Captain Arthur Carlos de Barros Basto**. Known as the ‘Apostle of the Marranos’ and the ‘Portuguese Dreyfus,’ he was a leader of the open return to Judaism of the Crypto-Jews of Portugal. The works were either written or edited by Barros Basto, or published by the yeshivah he founded. Five other booklets related to the Hidden Jews of Portugal and Spain are included in the collection.

Captain Arthur Carlos de Barros Basto, whose Jewish name was Abraham Israel Ben-Rosh, was a highly decorated Portuguese military officer, a hero of Portugal’s 1910 republican revolution and of World War I. He traveled tirelessly around the villages of the Porto region to speak to crypto-Jewish communities. He inspired them with his fervent call to courageously and openly affirm their Judaism after centuries of secrecy.

De Barros Basto was born in the Portuguese city of Amarante on December 18, 1887 into a New Christian family. He was nine years old when his grandfather, Francisco de Barros Basto, told him they were of Jewish ancestry and introduced him to the secret practices of the Jews. Raised by his mother in Porto, he attended the Portuguese Military Academy and in 1910, participated in the founding of the Portuguese Republic. He was the first person in Porto to hoist the new flag of the Portuguese Republic on October 5, 1910. He later commanded a battalion of the Portuguese Corps in World War I as a lieutenant on the Western front, for which he was awarded the War Cross for bravery.

Upon his return to Portugal from the war, De Barros Basto began to study Judaism and Hebrew. Rebuffed by the Jewish community of Lisbon, he went to Tangier to formally return to normative Judaism. There he was circumcised and welcomed into the Jewish fold by a Bet Din (Rabbinical court). He adopted the name of Abraham Israel Ben-Rosh. He married Lea Israel Monteiro Azancot, a daughter of a prominent Lisbon Jewish family.

The family settled in Porto where in 1923 he started the Jewish community of Porto, which is still active today. He founded the first yeshivah in Portugal in 500 years, the Israelite Theological Institute of Porto (Rosh Pina).

In 1938 De Barros Basto and his community completed the Kadoorie Mekor Haim synagogue.

Unfortunately, De Barros Basto was attacked by Portuguese Fascists and a military tribunal condemned him on trumped up charges. He was stripped of his rank and his name was only rehabilitated and exonerated posthumously.

For more information about the Arthur Carlos de Barros Basto Collection, contact Professor Joseph Galron, director of The Ohio State University’s Jewish Studies Library, galron.1@osu.edu

MUSIC PROGRAMS – JEWISH MUSIC, EAST AND WEST



Klezmatics



Yael Manor



Amir Eldan

The Melton Center was delighted to continue its partnership with CityMusic on February 23 with one of the country’s favorite Jewish musical ensembles The Klezmatics. We opened the performance with an interview conducted by our own Professor Jan Radzynski with members of the band about the Jewish background of their music and ideas. This was the first event in our annual Jewish Music, East and West series, and it was a huge success, judging by the great audience, excellent responses, and dancing in the aisles.

The Melton Center and the School of Music welcomed cellist Amir Eldan and pianist Yael Manor to Ohio State’s Weigel Hall in May for a concert called “New Jewish Classical Music Traditions.” Eldan and Manor introduced the audience to modern Jewish and Israeli classical composers, interleaving explanations of their background and motivations between stunning performances of pieces by the composers. Many of the pieces pioneer unique uses of the instruments as well as musical virtuosity.

GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS IN JEWISH STUDIES

We invite applications for the Samuel M. Melton Graduate Fellowship in Jewish Studies. This 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, 2013.** 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.

FACULTY NEWS, BOOKS AND HONORS

RETIREMENTS

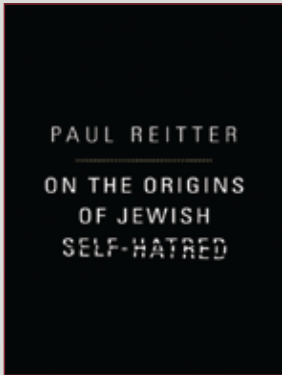
Alan Beyerchen retired this year after 34 years with the university. Alan taught nineteenth and twentieth century German history. His publications range from studies of the early 19th century military theorist Carl von Clausewitz, to science and technology in the German Empire, political environment of scientists in the Third Reich, and the economic competitiveness of German industry at the end of the 20th century. Past honors and awards include American Philosophical Society, Holocaust Education Foundation, and several teaching awards from Ohio State.

Carole Fink, one of the academic world’s leading scholars in 20th century European History, retired in 2011 after 20 years at Ohio State. In her distinguished career, Professor Fink published 12 books and numerous articles and monographs, delivered lectures and papers at more than 100 conferences and institutions all over the world, and received over 50 research grants and awards.

Yiddish Scholar **Neil Jacobs** retired this year. His many books and articles reflect his vast knowledge in the history and linguistic geography of Yiddish, and the ethnography of Ashkenazic Jewish speech. Professor Jacobs’s sense of humor and passion for Yiddish made him a favorite among students and colleagues.

Goldie Shabad retired this year from the department of Political Science after 36 years with the university. Her research interests focused on transitions in democracy, elite and mass political behavior, and development of new party systems in Southern and Central Europe.

BOOKS AND HONORS



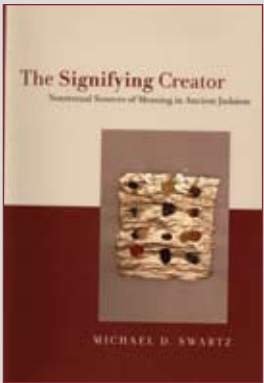
Professor Paul Reitter’s latest book, *The Origins of Jewish Self-Hatred* (Princeton University Press, 2012), challenges previously held perspectives on this topic. He

contends that Jews can get past the blight of self-hatred by examining their own self-critical tendencies.

Professor David Stein and his colleague, Professor Connie Wanstreet, were recipients of the *Shauna Schullo Best Distance Teaching Practices Award* for their 2011 Information Session Presentation, “e-Coaching and Feedback Practices to Promote Higher Order Thinking Online” at the Annual Conference on Distance Teaching & Learning. *The Shauna Schullo Award* was instituted to recognize an

information session presenter whose session contributed significantly to the practice of distance education.

The artwork of **Professor Suzanne Silver** was featured in two major exhibitions this year. “Cartoon Geometry” was exhibited at the Aisle Gallery in Cincinnati, and in the 2012 Greater Columbus Art Council’s Visual Arts Exhibition at the Columbus Museum of Art.



Professor Michael Swartz’s latest book, *The Signifying Creator: Nontextual Sources of Meaning in Ancient Judaism* (New York University Press, 2012), examines

rare sources from the first few centuries of ancient Judaism which are beyond text, such as magical and divination formulas and new interpretations of midrashim from classical rabbinic literature. He shows how ancient Jews perceived these signs through their use of divination, symbolic interpretation of physical features and dress, and interpretations of historical events. The book cover was designed by his wife and colleague, Suzanne Silver.

MEET NEW MELTON BOARD MEMBER, PROFESSOR WILLIAM BRUSTEIN



William I. Brustein is Professor of Sociology, Political Science, and History at The Ohio State University, and Vice Provost for Global Strategies and International Affairs. He

has published widely in the areas of political extremism, and ethnic, religious, and racial prejudice. His publications include *The Logic of Evil: the Social Origins of the Nazi Party, 1925 to 1933* (Yale University Press, 1996) and *Roots of Hate: Anti-Semitism in Europe Before the Holocaust* (Cambridge University Press, 2003). His role as Vice Provost for Global Strategies and International Affairs at Ohio State is to fully integrate international and multicultural experiences to the academic units within the university, and to expand and enhance its global reach.

FACULTY PROFILES



Professor Naomi Brenner Naomi Brenner has taught in Ohio State’s Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures since 2008. She completed her PhD in

Comparative Literature at the University of California, Berkeley, specializing in Hebrew, Yiddish and Arabic literatures.

Professor Brenner’s research focuses on multilingualism in modern Jewish culture, exploring connections between different languages, writers and literatures. Her current project examines the changing dynamics between Hebrew and Yiddish literature over the course of the first half of the twentieth century. The two languages of traditional East European Jewish communities had long coexisted, one as the written language of the synagogue

and study house, the other as the spoken language of daily life. But with radical transformations in Jewish life and identity over the course of the early decades of the twentieth century, the languages increasingly competed with each other. Tracing the complex paths of these Jewish literatures, Professor Brenner analyzes interactions between Hebrew and Yiddish writers and texts, from elegant bilingual magazines published in Berlin in the 1920s to ambitious projects to translate between Yiddish and Hebrew in the 1940s and 1950s.

At Ohio State, Professor Brenner teaches a wide range of courses in Hebrew language, Hebrew literature, Israeli culture, Jewish Studies and literary studies, including Hebrew and the Media, Women in the Bible and Beyond, and Israeli Film and Society. She often integrates the internet and new media into her teaching to help students engage with Israeli culture and society. She is currently the director of Ohio State’s Hebrew Language Program, working with coordinator Shaula Gurari to develop an effective curriculum and program for students learning Hebrew.

Professor Brenner enjoys teaching the Melton Center’s course, Introduction to Jewish Studies, and attending the many conferences and speakers sponsored by the Center. Thanks to a grant from the Melton Center, she was able to spend Summer 2012 researching at libraries and archives in Israel.



Professor Daniel Frank Professor Daniel Frank (A.B. Harvard, MA London, PhD Harvard) has taught in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures at Ohio State

since 1998. Before coming to Columbus, he spent twelve years in England as a Fellow of the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies, a Research Fellow at Wolfson

College, Oxford, and a Lecturer in the Faculty of Oriental Studies at Oxford University.

Dr. Frank’s research centers on the Karaites, a Jewish sect which does not accept the authority of the Talmud and insists upon the primacy of Scripture and reason. Based in Jerusalem during the tenth and eleventh centuries, one group of Karaites composed some of the first Jewish Bible commentaries. These sprawling works, written in Arabic, reflect their Islamic cultural milieu and illuminate the history of biblical interpretation. During the past year, Dr. Frank has transcribed and edited major commentaries on Lamentations and the Song of Songs from microfilms of manuscripts held in Russia. He plans to publish critical editions and translations during the coming years. Among his publications are *Search Scripture Well: Karaite Exegetes and the Origins of the Jewish Bible Commentary in the Islamic East* (2004) and two edited volumes: *The Jews of Medieval Islam* (1995) and (with Matt Goldish), *Rabbinic Culture and Its Critics: Jewish Authority, Dissent, and Heresy in Medieval and Early Modern Times* (2008).

At Ohio State, Dr. Frank has taught a wide range of courses, including surveys of biblical narrative and prophecy, ancient and medieval Jewish civilization, and an introduction to Jewish Studies. He has also taught graduate Hebrew courses on the Bible, the Dead Sea Scrolls, rabbinic literature, and medieval Bible commentaries, as well as Judeo-Arabic texts. For thirteen years he directed the modern Hebrew Language program in which he also taught.

A former Director of the Melton Center, Dr. Frank values the institution for the many opportunities it creates: joint projects between faculty from different departments; funding for study and research by faculty and students; and community-centered programs.



Alan Beyerchen, Carole Fink, Neil Jacobs, Goldie Shabad, Paul Reitter, David Stein, Suzanne Silver, Michael Swartz

FACULTY 2012 – 2013

ALAN BEYERCHEN, Professor Emeritus
(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 Emeritus
(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 Emeritus
(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

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

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

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

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

HERB WEISBERG, Professor Emeritus
(PhD, University of Michigan)
Jewish Voting, American Politics

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

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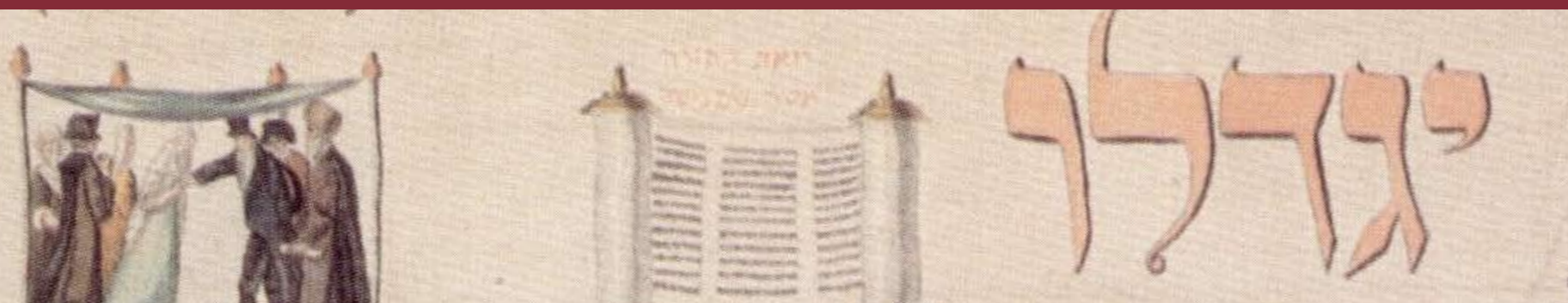
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Torah Wrappers (wimpels). After the Torah is read in synagogue it is lifted up for the congregation to view, then rolled up and wrapped with a band or wimpel to hold it closed. Decorated wimpels became a form of Jewish ceremonial art in the Middle Ages. Those pictured here were created to honor the circumcisions of baby boys. They are decorated with passages recited at the circumcision ceremony, particularly the blessing that God should destine this child for learning, the wedding canopy, and good deeds (*Torah, huppah, u-ma'asim tovim*). Dates are often also embroidered in. One of these is from 1796 and another from 1813. We are grateful to Rhodos Publishers, (photo Ruben Blædel) for permission to reproduce these images from the book *Danish Jewish Art*.

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