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 Goldish
Director

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 question 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 Ashkenazi (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.

Matt Goldish. (Photo courtesy of Jeffry Konczal)

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
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.”

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 “Moabs 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.

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.

Brianna Pecsok is an international studies and Hebrew double major with a minor in nonprofit 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.

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 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.

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.
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”). The course is interdisciplinary in nature, was created through a collaboration of faculty. 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 interdisciplinarity 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, COHILL, 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 Herrer, 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.

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 pried the speakers with questions about the life and status of the Persian Jews, and the cultural context of the Babylonian Talmud.

We are grateful to the Cummins family for their support of these programs through the Diane Cummins Community Education Fund.
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 Hebrew 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 Izhai 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 “Galicians” of Poland brought out not only students and faculty, but also community members, some of whom identified as Galician Jews.

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.
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 Kadonne 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.

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.
FACULTY NEWS, BOOKS AND HONORS

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


Professor David Stein and his colleague Professor Connis Warstreet, were recipients of the Shaura School Distance Teaching Practices Award for their 2011 Information Session Presentation, “A 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 contribution significantly contributed 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 Axel Gallery in Cincinnati, and in the 2012 Greater Columbus Art Council’s Visual Arts Exhibit 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 on political violence, nationalism, extremism, and ethnic, religious, and racial prejudice. His publications include The Logic of Evil: the Origins of the Origins of the Nazi Party, 1925 to 1933 (Yale University Press, 1994) 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 earned her PhD from the Tottenham College of Comparative Literature at the University of California, Berkeley, specializing in Hebrew 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 belletrist 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 studies of the Middle East, 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’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 University, 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 midrash. Based in Jerusalem during the tenth and eleventh centuries, the Karaites composed some of the first Jewish biblical commentaries. This sprawling work, 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 microfilm of manuscripts held in Russia. He plans to publish critical editions and translations during the coming years. Among his publications are Scripture World, Karaites 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), Rabbinc 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 and medieval Jewish culture, and medieval Bible commentaries, as well as Judeo-Arabic texts. For thirteen years he has taught 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.

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 economy 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 Ashkenazi Jewish speech. Professor Jacobs’s sense of humor and passion for Yiddish made him a favorite among students and colleagues.

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

PROFESSOR WILLIAM BRUSTEIN

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

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ALAN BEYERCHEN, Professor Emeritus (PhD, University of Calif., Santa Barbara) Modern German History

NAOMI BRENNER, Assistant Professor (PhD, University of Calif., Berkeley) Modern Hebrew Literature

LUCIA HELENA COSTIGAN, Associate Professor (PhD, University of Pittsburgh) Literatures and Cultures of Latin America and Portugal

HELEN FEHERVERGY, Professor (PhD, University of Wisconsin) Modern German 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

BERNOLD FISCHER, Professor (Universitatslehrer) Contemporary German Literature and Culture

DANIEL FRANK, Associate Professor (PhD, Harvard University) Medieval Jewish History and Literature, Judeo-Arabic, Karaita

EVELYN FREEMAN, Professor Emeritus (PhD, The Ohio State University) Teacher Preparation

JOSEPH GALRON, Associate Professor (MS, 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-RIUZ, 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 RADZYNFSKI, Professor (DMA, Yale University) Composition, Jewish Music

PAUL REITTER, Associate Professor (PhD, University of Calif., Berkeley) 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 Politics, Cultural Studies

SUZANNE SILVER, Associate Professor (IPPA, 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

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

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StAte unIVeRSIty, PRIVAte SuPPoRt hAS Been

centeR foR JeWISh StuDIeS At the ohIo

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BeGInnInG WIth SAm melton’S InVeStment

GIVInG oPPoRtunItIeS

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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.