

Stanford | Jewish Studies

TAUBE CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES



Newsletter

2012-2014

Letter from Director Charlotte Fonrobert



*Photo Credit: Jeffery Moffett
Stanford Introductory Studies*

It is with a sense of gratitude and enthusiasm that I have begun my work as the incoming director of the Taube Center for Jewish Studies. My gratitude is owed first to my colleague and friend Steve Weitzman, who has served as the center's director for the past three years. He worked diligently on behalf of the center and that of its faculty and students. He is passing the baton after having created new connections and expanded the visibility of the center's work in the university and the community. He will most certainly be missed here at Stanford, but I look forward to future collaborations with the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, where he now serves as Director. Stay tuned!

A newsletter is a way to acknowledge the contributions of the many people who enable the work of Jewish Studies faculty and students. The work of the program would not be possible if it were not for two groups of people: our donors and our staff. I am extremely fortunate to start my work with the best constellation of people that I can possibly imagine.

I will start with the staff, as they remain so often behind the scenes, and it is really they who keep an academic program running day-to-day. Linda Huynh manages our office with superb professionalism and great devotion. She provides much-needed institutional memory better than any computer can, and I am happy to have her at my right hand. Linda is aided in her work by Elena Boroski, who joined the office under the auspices of Steve Weitzman. When I decided this summer to restart the center's tradition of publishing a newsletter, she took on the additional work of collating the various items and designing this newsletter without hesitation and with a wonderful feel for aesthetics. Linda and Elena are my team. Marie-Pierre Ulloa has been the third column of support in the office for the past two years; she worked on much of the center's outreach to our undergraduate students, among other programming tasks. Much as I had been looking forward to working with Marie-Pierre on developing the undergraduate program, I absolutely support her decision to devote more time to her own research and teaching here at Stanford. One of my first official functions as Director is to bid her farewell. Luckily for us she will teach courses that are part of our program, so she will remain a part of our community.

As for our donors, I am personally in awe of their dedication to academic Jewish Studies here at Stanford. Jewish Studies programs at universities around the country rely on philanthropy. I would venture to say that our program has one of the most dedicated, generous, and supportive groups of philanthropists in the country. Tad Taube remains actively involved and deeply interested in our program even though he has been busy over the past few years with establishing The Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw. Over the past year we had the privilege of hosting the director of the museum, Dariusz Stola, in collaboration with Stanford and the Taube Foundation. More such collaborations lie ahead. As in previous newsletters, we are using this opportunity to spotlight one particular donor, and this year we chose Miriam Roland. Miriam is one of the founding figures in the history of Jewish Studies at Stanford, and as wonderful and serious an interlocutor as

Front Cover Art Credit:
*A. Trankowski, Jewish Wedding
(ca. 1875-1900), gift of Dr. and
Mrs. Fritz Schmerl in memory
of Professor Hamilton Wolf, The
Magnes Collection of Jewish
Art and Life, Bancroft Library,
University of California,
Berkeley, 75.19"*

Letter from Director Charlotte Fonrobert

one could wish for. We are also sad to have lost another great supporter of the program, Eva Lokey, who passed away in October of 2013.

Last, but certainly not least, my gratitude goes out to my colleagues who do the work of Jewish Studies and carry out its mission of research and teaching. We would like to spotlight the newest member of our core faculty, Ari Y. Kelman, who holds the Jim Joseph Chair in Education and Jewish Studies at the Graduate School of Education. He now heads the newly configured graduate program in Education and Jewish Studies, which has attracted a number of wonderful graduate students to the Jewish Studies intellectual community on campus. The Taube Center for Jewish Studies boasts one of the best graduate programs in the country, and we have been tremendously fortunate to have our graduate students placed in top academic programs around the country. Our former graduate students are now our colleagues elsewhere. I am filled with pride when I look at the pages in this newsletter that reflect the work of our faculty, graduate students, and alumni. I am looking forward to strengthening our undergraduate program and to supporting new course initiatives to invite more undergraduate students into the great journey of exploring Jewish culture and history at Stanford. Stanford certainly recognizes and appreciates the importance of our program to the University; the Deans have generously permitted an international search to replace Steve Weitzman immediately after his departure. This search will keep us busy this academic year.

I am writing this message at a moment of beginnings as we start an academic year that once again coincides with the New Year on the Jewish calendar, providing me with the opportunity to wish our community a wonderful 5775. Shanah tovah; Gut Yor; ein gutes, neues Jahr; and good beginnings to everyone!

Sincerely,



Charlotte Elisheva Fonrobert
Incoming Director, September 2014

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Farewell from Steve Weitzman



*Photo Credit: L.A. Cicero/
Stanford News Service*

As I take my leave of Stanford and of the Taube Center for Jewish Studies, I want to express how deeply honored and grateful I am to have had the opportunity to work with so many outstanding faculty members, students, and community leaders.

The Taube Center as developed by previous Directors Steve Zipperstein, Aron Rodrigue, Vered Shemtov, and Charlotte Fonrobert—along with many other colleagues—is a place of remarkable intellectual vitality and openness, and its intentional porousness facilitates collaboration across disciplinary boundaries. In my time here, I have had a chance to work with biologists to connect the latest research in population genetics with the historical and anthropological research of Jewish Studies; to engage literary scholars, writers and even Mobile App designers in a conference that explored the future of Jewish storytelling; to support education scholars working on the cross-cultural study of religiously motivated philanthropy; and to partner with the Center for Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity to address the challenges of and possibilities for coexistence across religious and ethnic divides.

All of these were unexpected encounters and collaborations that took me beyond the confines of my specialization, revived the desire for intellectual adventure that drew me into academia, and opened me up to new kinds of intellectual partnership that I had not realized were possible.

I want to thank my colleagues at Stanford for such a wonderful opportunity, especially the previous directors of the Taube Center, Dean Richard Saller, and Associate Dean Debra Satz. Much of what the center did in my time here was made possible by the support of Tad Taube, Shana Penn, Miriam Roland, Sissy and Ted Geballe, the Koret Foundation, David Lobel, Charles Michael, and a number of other donors and advisory board members from the larger community. I am grateful for and admiring of their generosity and commitment to academic Jewish studies.

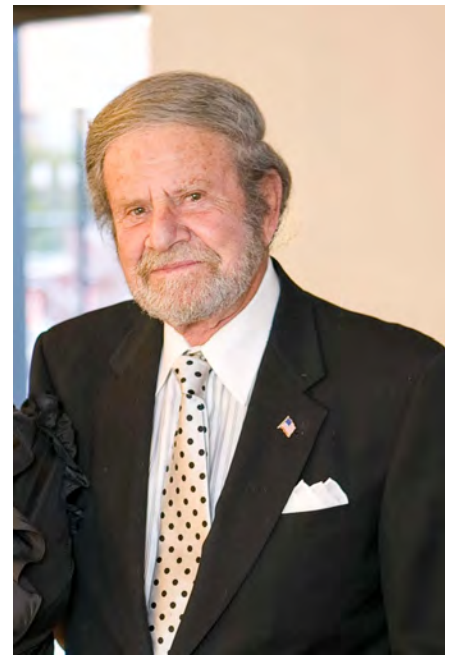
I also want to express my appreciation for the fantastic students I have met and taught here, including a community of Jewish Studies graduate students who will no doubt shape the field in coming decades and the enterprising undergraduates I met in classes and through Hillel. Everything the Center does is only possible because of its superb staff—Linda Huynh, Marie-Pierre Ulloa, and Elena Boroski, along with the Center's student interns—and I want to say publicly how much I owe them and enjoyed working with them. I am delighted that one of my closest colleagues here, Charlotte Fonrobert, is leading the Center now; she is a cutting-edge scholar and a champion of intellectual community.

I think it is not common in a newsletter like this for a faculty member who is leaving for another university to be given a chance to say thank you and farewell. This speaks to an aspect of Stanford that can get obscured by media reports about its tech-centered culture; there is at the core of this place a profound sense of humanity, which I have encountered in every corner of the university. I feel loss in leaving such a place but not complete loss: as a scholar of Jewish Studies, I will continue to benefit from the leadership and innovations of the Taube Center and I aim to expand on the lessons in creative collaboration that I have learned here.

Sincerely,

Steve Weitzman
Director, 2011-2014

As we approach the 30th anniversary of the commencement of Jewish Studies at Stanford University, we pause to reflect on our early days and on our progress. In 1985, 25,000 Jewish books, which came to be known as the Taube/Baron Collection, were gifted by my family to Stanford University in memory of my father, Zygmunt S. Taube. Salo Wittmayer Baron's collections documented virtually every aspect of Jewish life from its beginnings to modernity. His scholarship and his extraordinary collections earned Salo Baron the distinction of being known as the "dean of Jewish historians."



The Baron collections offered Stanford its first substantial Jewish resource, and the University was thereupon able to attract the beginnings of a cadre of outstanding interdisciplinary Jewish scholars, including Amos Funkenstein, Steven Zipperstein, Arnie Eisen, Peter Stansky, John Felstiner, Alice Bach, Mark Mancall, Naomi Seidman, Norman Naimark, and Aron Rodrigue. Under the direction of curators Roger Kohn and Zachary Baker, the Judaica/Hebraica Library at Stanford has since acquired a number of important collections that swell its catalogue to some 200,000 books; and Jewish libraries, lectures, publications, books, fellowships, and, of course, all of our amazing newer leaders—Steven Weitzman, Charlotte Fonrobert, Vered Shemtov, Gabriella Safran, and their scholarly colleagues—have teamed up to create one of the greatest Jewish Studies Centers anywhere.

As I write for the 2014 newsletter, I reflect on my Jewish world outside of Stanford. The Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw is soon to celebrate its international grand opening. Jewish Studies Advisory Board members Jeff Farber and Shana Penn collaborated with me in planning, politicking, fundraising and all that it took to get this world-class museum off the ground. The Museum of the Jewish People (as it is commonly known) will rank, with the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington and Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, as one of the three most important Jewish museums in the world. Unlike its peer institutions, the Warsaw museum is not a Holocaust Museum; it is fundamentally a history museum that depicts the 1000-year history and culture of Jews in Greater Poland—a culture that has underpinned Judeo/Christian Western culture. The museum is planning scholarly exchanges with Stanford Jewish Studies as well as with numerous other major educational centers worldwide.

In conclusion, I am proud of our notable achievements at Stanford and in Poland while feeling regret and sorrow that we now witness an unprecedented explosion of anti-Semitism in many parts of the world. Synagogues are being firebombed, Jewish stores are being ransacked, and Jewish people are being attacked, even in their homes. We are saddened by the unfortunate plight of our Jewish brothers and sisters in other parts of the world and offer prayers for their safety.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tad Taube". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tad Taube
Chair, Advisory Board
Taube Center for Jewish Studies
Stanford University

The Hebrew Project Update

During the last two years, the Hebrew Language, Literature, and Culture project brought visitors to the Stanford campus and introduced new courses on Hebrew and Israeli language, literature, and history. It provided many opportunities for academic discussion of Hebrew and Israeli culture.

We hosted the author **Sayed Kashua** in our classes and organized a public conversation between Kashua, Professor Shemtov, and Professor Alexander Key (Arabic and Comparative Literature, Stanford) on the topic of “Wealth, Ethics, and Literature.” Additionally, the author **Yael Hedaya** joined **Irvin Yalom** for a conversation about her writing for the Israeli TV show *In Treatment* in an evening that focused on “Therapy on the Screen and on the Page.” The movie director **Dror Moreh** met our students and faculty to discuss his Oscar nominated movie *The Gatekeepers*. These events were initiated by and coordinated with Marie-Pierre Ulloa.

Our graduate seminar hosted talks by faculty and students at Stanford and by many of the leading and most interesting voices in Hebrew scholarship today. **Dan Miron** and **Hannan Hever** each offered intensive two-day workshops on Hebrew poetry and prose; while **Yigal Schwartz**, **Svetlana Natkovich**, **Zali Gurevitch**, **Hagit Halperin**, **Yahil Zaban**, and **Uri S. Cohen** presented their current work and led discussions about the relevant texts.

Professor **Anat Weisman** joined us for the entire academic year of 2013-2014. She coordinated a series of talks about coexistence and literature with the generous support of a grant from the **Stanford Initiative for Religious and Ethnic Understanding and Coexistence**. This year, we established a new online publication entitled **Dibur - A Literary Journal** together with Professor Weisman. The journal will be part of *Arcade*, Stanford’s digital salon for literary studies and the humanities. **Dr. Giddon Ticotsky** will be joining us this year as a post-doc and will work on the journal’s team. The first issue is scheduled for Fall 2015.

On the lighter side, the chef **Dalia Yujtman** offered us an Israeli cooking class in Hebrew in an event coordinated by Gallia Porat.

We said goodbye to some of the key participants in the Hebrew project’s activities. **Arie Dubnov**, from the Stanford History Department, moved to the University of Haifa; **Noam Pines** graduated and was hired as an Assistant Professor at SUNY Buffalo; **Renana Keydar** is moving back to Israel, where she will finish her Ph.D. and start a two-year post-doc position; and **Marina Zilbergerts** will spend the year in Philadelphia. We are grateful to Renana and Noam for coordinating the graduate students’ seminar and to them and Marina, Arie, and **James Redfield** for their active participation. We hope to host them in our seminars during their future visits to campus.

We would also like to thank **Gallia Porat** for her dedicated work and to offer a special thank-you to **Steve Weitzman**, **Marie-Pierre Ulloa**, **Linda Huynh**, **Elena Boroski**, and the Taube Center for their financial and administrative support. **Amir Eshel**, **Gabriella Safran**, and **Steve Zipperstein** helped us with much appreciated advice and continued support. **Elizabeth Bernhardt** and the Language Center also provided funding and support. Finally, we are indebted to the **Newhouse Fund**, **Koret Foundation**, and the **Israel Institute**. Without them we would not have been able to offer the aforementioned activities. Many of our programs were coordinated together with other Taube Centers (the Jewish Community Centers in Palo Alto and in San Francisco) and we thank them too. Finally, we would like to welcome **Shoshana Olidort** and look forward to seeing all of you at our future events.

*By Vered Karti Shemtov
Coordinator, The Hebrew Project*



LET IT BE MORNING

Sayed Kashua

In conversation with Alexander Key, Arabic and Comparative Literature (Stanford) and Vered Karti Shemtov, Hebrew and Comparative Literature (Stanford)


March 12, 2013 Tuesday, 4:00pm
Building 260, room 113

Sayed Kashua and Alexander Key at the Arabic Conversation Table:
March 13, 2013, 12:15-1:45pm
Ass and Fain (Old Union)

Lunch and Conversation in Hebrew with Sayed Kashua
March 12, 2013, 12:00-1:30pm
By invitation only. For more details please email: shemtov@stanford.edu.

Sponsors: Dutch Foundation, Division of Humanities, Culture, and Languages, Taube Center for Jewish Studies, Department of Comparative Literature, Stanford Language Center

This event is part of the Wealth and Ethics Series



In Treatment: Therapy on the Screen and on the Page:

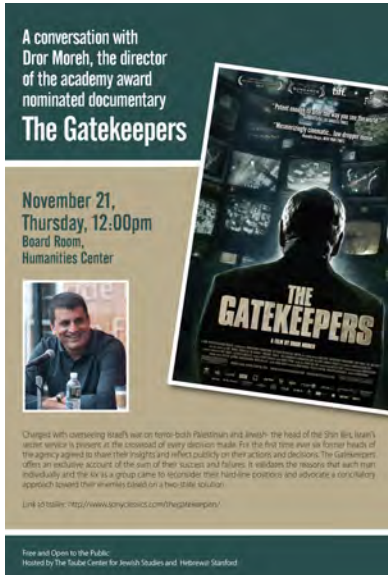
A Conversation with
Yael Hedaya and Irvin Yalom
Wednesday, 5:00 pm
April 3rd, 2013
Levinthal Hall,
Stanford Humanities Center

Join us for a late-afternoon conversation on therapeutic ventures on the screen and on the page.

Irvin Yalom, world-famous psychiatrist and author of *When Nietzsche Wept*, *Lying on the Couch*, *The Schopenhauer Cure*, *Love's Executioner* and *Other Tales of Psychotherapy*.

Yael Hedaya, screenwriter for the critical acclaimed TV series *In Treatment* and author of Wednesday Evenings, Edles, and Accidents.

Free and Open to the Public.
Hosted and Sponsored by The Taube Center for Jewish Studies and Hebrew Studies.
Contact: shemtov@stanford.edu or shemtov@stanford.edu, shemtov@stanford.edu



A conversation with Dror Moreh, the director of the academy award nominated documentary **The Gatekeepers**

November 21,
Thursday, 12:00pm
Beard Room,
Humanities Center

Changed with surprising speed's use on terror both Palestinian and Jewish- the head of the Shin Bet, Israel's security service is present at the head of every decision made. For the first time ever six former heads of the agency agreed to share their insights and reflect publicly on their actions and decisions. The Gatekeepers offers an exclusive account of the story of their success and failures. It explores the reasons that each man individually and the six as a group came to reconsider their hard-line positions and advocate a conciliatory approach toward their enemies based on a two-state solution.

Link to trailer: <http://www.stanford.edu/thegatekeepers/>

Free and Open to the Public.
Hosted by The Taube Center for Jewish Studies and Hebrew Studies



The Family at the Seder, 1935



The Seder Plate, 1935



The Bread of Affliction, 1935



The Cup of Elijah, 1935

THE ARTHUR SZYK HAGGADAH

The Stanford Libraries house many editions of the Passover Haggadah. These run the gamut from the splendid Amsterdam Haggadah (1781) in the Samson-Copenhagen Judaica Collection to socialist-inspired Haggadot published by Israeli agricultural collectives (kibbutzim) in the 1940s and alternative Haggadot from the Bay Area from the 1980s. Now we are gratified to announce the donation of the Premier edition of *The Szyk Haggadah*, published in Burlingame, California by Historicana in 2008. This copy comes to us from the Judaica library of the late Eva Chernov Lokey of San Mateo, California. It was offered to Stanford by her daughter, Ann Lokey, at the recommendation of the rare book dealer Irvin Ungar, who is also the curator of The Arthur Szyk Society.

Arthur Szyk (1894-1951) was a Polish-born graphic artist whose illustrations grew familiar to readers of American newspapers and popular magazines after he arrived from Europe in 1940. During the 1930s, while living in Lodz, he began work on the ornate illustrations and calligraphy that first appeared in a limited edition of the Haggadah published in England in 1940. About a decade ago, Ungar arranged to have the original artwork digitally photographed for a brand-new edition. The illustrations are reproduced here at a far higher resolution and with more faithful color representation than was previously possible. The Premier edition comprises the leather-bound Haggadah proper (printed in 85 copies), a companion volume containing scholarly essays, a suite of twelve individual prints by Szyk in a separate portfolio, and a DVD about the making of this edition.

Eva Chernov Lokey, who passed away in October 2013, was a devoted supporter of the Taube Center for Jewish Studies. We are especially pleased to have her personal copy of *The Szyk Haggadah* join the Libraries' holdings of this favorite Jewish text.

By Zachary M. Baker

Reinhard Family Curator of Judaica and Hebraica Collections

Assistant University Librarian for Collection Development – Humanities and Social Sciences



The Four Questions, 1935



Szyk's Four Sons, 1934



Le-Fikhakh--Therefore, 1935



Baby Moses, 1935

The Inaugural Undergraduate Short Story Contest

By Marie-Pierre Ulloa

“The boys had only been traveling together for a few days, but they bickered as if married for decades.”

“She first encountered a queer in your community.”

“When it was exactly the right time, her grandmother gave her Isaac Babel.”

“The Saturday that I began to love my father was a week before my Bar Mitzvah.”

Those are the first lines of the four engrossing short stories that were selected by a panel composed of three world-renowned Stanford University authors: Tobias Wolff, Maya Arad, and Sara Houghteling.

The Center launched the first short story contest to great success in 2014 and invited all Stanford undergraduate students to submit a short story on a Jewish theme.

The stories could draw on any aspect of Jewish life, history, and culture, and address any aspect of Jewish experience—historical, religious, non-religious, political, artistic, or personal—from a Jewish perspective or from the perspective of another culture.

We received almost thirty submissions. The stories were judged anonymously. The committee ended up awarding four prizes instead of the three initially planned.

The grand prize of \$600 was awarded to Stanford sophomore **BEATRICE GARRARD** for her story “A Man Without a Watch.” A history major and a keen student of Yiddish culture, Garrard will also receive a one-year mentorship with **SARA HOUGHTELING**, the award-winning author of *Pictures at an Exhibition* and a lecturer in Continuing Studies.

A second prize of \$300 was awarded to freshman **MAX WEISS** for “Kasanov’s Bakery,” a story inspired by his grandfather’s memories of growing up in Boston.

Two third-prize awards of \$150 each were given to senior **ALBERTO HERNANDEZ** for his work, “Tefillin,” and to senior **KIM LEON** for her story, “Babel.”

“There was a wonderful range,” said Sara Houghteling. “A lot of the stories had their foundations in Jewish literature, referring to Isaac Babel or to the teaching of the Talmud, and so there were a lot of echoes between the generations.”

When asked what makes a story uniquely Jewish, the winners pondered over the question.

“It’s really the voice and the values,” Weiss said. “A lot of the best Jewish stories don’t directly address Judaism at all.”

Read the winning stories on our website: <http://jewishstudies.stanford.edu/blog/announcing-winners-first-annual-short-story-contest>



Pictured from left to right: Kim Leon, Tobias Wolff, Beatrice Garrard, Sara Houghteling, Max Weiss, Alberto Hernandez, Marie-Pierre Ulloa, and Maya Arad

African and Middle Eastern Program: Jewish Languages

Beginning Hebrew. *Autumn, Winter, Spring* (Porat, G.)
Intermediate Hebrew. *Autumn, Winter, Spring* (Shemtov, V.; Porat, G.)
Beginning Yiddish. *Autumn, Winter, Spring* (Levitow, J.)
Reflection on the Other: The Jew and the Arab in Literature. *Winter* (Shemtov, V.)
Hebrew Forum. *Winter* (Shemtov, V.)

Classics

Biblical Greek. *Winter* (MacDonald, C.)

Comparative Literature

Poetic Thinking Across Media. *Autumn* (Eshel, A.)
Masterpieces of Hebrew Literature from the Bible to the Present. *Autumn* (Shemtov, V.)
Zionism and the Novel. *Winter* (Berman, R.)
Masterpieces: Kafka. *Spring* (Eshel, A.)

Education

Knowing God: Learning Religion in Popular Culture. *Winter* (Kelman, A.)

Feminist, Gender and Sexuality Studies

Sex and Gender in Judaism and Christianity. *Autumn* (Fonrobert, C.)
Rereading Judaism in the Light of Feminism. *Spring* (Karlin-Neumann, P.)

French

Beyond Casablanca: North African Cinema and Literature. *Autumn* (Ulloa, M.)
Literature and Society in Africa and the Caribbean. *Autumn* (Ulloa, M.)

History

Jews Among Muslims in Modern Times. *Autumn* (Rodrigue, A.)
Core Colloquium in Jewish History, 17th-19th Centuries. *Autumn* (Rodrigue, A.)
The Holocaust in Recent Memory: Conflicts - Commemorations - Challenges. *Autumn* (Uhl, H.)
A World History of Genocide. *Winter* (Naimark, N.)
The Holocaust. *Winter* (Rodrigue, A.)
Genocide and Humanitarian Intervention. *Winter* (Patenaude, B.)
Germany and the World Wars. *Winter* (Sheffer, E.)
Core in Jewish History, 20th Century. *Winter* (Zipperstein, S.)
Circles of Hell: Poland in World War II. *Spring* (Jolluck, K.)
Research Seminar in Middle East History. *Spring* (Yaycioğlu, A.)
Zionism. *Spring* (Zipperstein, S.)
Graduate Research Seminar in Jewish History. *Spring* (Zipperstein, S.)

Music

Jewish Music in the Lands of Islam. *Autumn* (Tchamni, A.)

Religious Studies

Readings in Talmudic Literature. *Autumn, Winter, Spring* (Fonrobert, C.)
“Land of Milk and Honey”: Food, Justice, and Ethnic Identity in Jewish Culture. *Winter* (Fonrobert, C.)
Jews and Christians: Conflict and Coexistence. *Spring* (Fonrobert, C.)

For more information about Jewish Studies courses, please visit our website:
<http://jewishstudies.stanford.edu/course-list-1>

Stanford University
Taube Center for Jewish Studies Presents

**Clara Sumpf
Yiddish Lecture**



RESPONDING TO THE HOLOCAUST IN THE SOVIET UNION:
David Bergelson's Yiddish Story "An Eydes" ("A Witness")

An exploration of a neglected but extraordinary short story about the Holocaust published in the Soviet Union in 1946 by a renowned Yiddish author shot on Stalin's order six years later.

HARRIET MURAV
Professor of Slavic Languages and Literature and Comparative and World Literature
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

ICA

October 15, 2012


The Clara Sumpf Yiddish Lecture

Harriet Murav, Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures; and Comparative and World Literature, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign: *Responding to the Holocaust in the Soviet Union: David Bergelson's Yiddish Story "An eydes" (A Witness)*.

Endowed Lectures 2012-2013

The Taube Center for Jewish Studies at Stanford University is proud to present
The Aaron-Roland Endowed Lecture

Who's Afraid of Assimilation?



Rethinking the Purposes of Jewish Education for the 21st Century

Jon Levisohn, Associate Professor of Jewish Education, Brandeis University

Monday, January 14, 2013 7:30pm
Levinthal Hall - Stanford Humanities Center

For a hundred years or more, Jewish education has been motivated by a fear of assimilation. But what does "assimilation" really mean, and why is it so scary? In this talk, we will re-examine some of the assumptions underlying the fear of assimilation in order to develop a new way of thinking about the purposes of Jewish education - a Jewish education that will serve the needs and purposes of the Jewish community for the 21st century.

Co-sponsored by the Stanford Humanities Center

Please check our website for details on the event: <http://jewishstudies.stanford.edu>

January 14, 2013

The Aaron-Roland Endowed Lecture

Jon A. Levisohn, Associate Professor of Jewish Education, Brandeis University: *Who's Afraid of Assimilation? Rethinking the Purposes of Jewish Education for the 21st Century*. Co-sponsored by the Stanford Humanities Center.

The Taube Center for Jewish Studies at Stanford University is proud to present the

JEWISH COMMUNITY ENDOWMENT FUND LECTURE



GARY SHTEYNGART
— author of
Super Sad True Love Story
and Absardistan

**SUNDAY, MARCH 3
8:00 PM**

A Conversation with
Gary Shteyngart's novelist
&
Dan Schiffrin, Contemporary Jewish Museum

Building 200, Room 105
(Sculpture Garden)

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
SEATING IS ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVE BASIS.



GARY SHTEYNGART

This event is part of a conference on the Future of Jewish Storytelling. Please check our website for more details on this event: jewishstudies.stanford.edu.

March 3, 2013

The Jewish Community Endowment Fund Lecture


Gary Shteyngart, novelist and Dan Schiffrin, Contemporary Jewish Museum: *A Conversation with Gary Shteyngart and Dan Schiffrin*.

The Taube Center for Jewish Studies at Stanford University is proud to present

The David S. Lobel Visiting Scholar Lecture

Jenna Weissman-Joselit


Charles E. Smith Professor of Judaic Studies and Professor of History, The George Washington University



Rock Solid: America's Embrace of the Ten Commandments

March 12, 2013
Tuesday, 7:30pm
Levinthal Hall - Stanford Humanities Center

Co-sponsored by the Stanford Humanities Center and the Department of Religious Studies



Free and open to the public.

A leading historian traces the history of the Ten Commandments in American culture from the Bible to today. Professor Jenna Weissman-Joselit explores the variety of ways in which Americans of the 19th and 20th centuries have come to regard these moral precepts as the foundation of the American identity. Drawing on a wide range of historical and contemporary sources, she examines how Americans have used the Ten Commandments to define their national identity and how they have used them to justify their actions. Her presentation highlights the centrality of these ancient texts and their role in the American imagination.

March 12, 2013


The David S. Lobel Visiting Scholar Lecture

Jenna Weissman-Joselit, Charles E. Smith Professor of Judaic Studies and Professor of History, The George Washington University: *Rock Solid: America's Embrace of the Ten Commandments*. Co-sponsored by the Stanford Humanities Center and the Department of Religious Studies.

The Taube Center for Jewish Studies at Stanford University Presents:

The 2013 Charles Michael Lecture


Capitalism and the Jews



May 6, 2013
Monday, 12:00pm
Bldg. 360-CCSRE
Conference Room

Jerry Z. Muller,
Professor of History,
The Catholic University of America

May 7, 2013
Tuesday, 7:00pm
Co-sponsored and presented by the Jewish Community Center of San Francisco
(Free! Advanced reservations required. Call 415.292.1233 or Email Arts@jccsf.org)



Jews have been a conspicuous presence in the history of capitalism, both as symbol and in reality. Jerry Muller, an expert in the history of capitalism, explains the disproportionate success of Jews in capitalist economies and why anti-capitalism and anti-Semitism have frequently been linked.

Please check our website for details on the event: <http://jewishstudies.stanford.edu>

May 6, 2013

The Charles Michael Lecture

Jerry Z. Muller, Professor of History and Chair, The Catholic University of America: *Capitalism and the Jews*.

The Taube Center for Jewish Studies at Stanford University is proud to present

The 2013-2014 Clara Sumpf Yiddish Lecture Series with Mikhail Krutikov




October 14, 2013
Monday, 12:00 pm
Reading New York in Yiddish: Space, Time and Jewishness
In English
CCSRE Conference Room, Bldg. 360

October 14, 2013
Monday, 4:15 pm
Di shikere un di nikhtere: Tsvey tendentsn in der proze fun Di Yunge
Yiddish Seminar for Yiddish Speakers
Board Room, Stanford Humanities Center

Dr. Krutikov was born in Moscow, graduated from Moscow State University with a degree in mathematics, and received his PhD in Jewish Literature from the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York. He has taught at the Russian State University for the Humanities, Central Institute for Jewish Studies, London School of Oriental and African Studies, and is currently an Associate Professor of Slavic and Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan. Since 1999, Dr. Krutikov has been a cultural correspondent of the Jewish Forward newspaper in New York.

Dr. Krutikov's publications include the books, *Reading New York in Yiddish* (2011) and *From Kabbalah to Clay Shogen: Experiencing Moscow and Jewish Education in the 19th and 20th Centuries* (2011), both published by Stanford UP. He is also a contributor of six columns of articles on various aspects of Jewish culture.

Co-sponsored by the Stanford Humanities Center.

Public display of publicly accessible information: (508) 271-1779, (415) 723-2222, (415) 723-2222

October 14, 2013

The Clara Sumpf Yiddish Lecture Series

Mikhail Krutikov, Associate Professor of Slavic and Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan: *Reading New York in Yiddish: Space, Time and Jewishness* and *Di shikere un di nikhtere: Tsvey tendentsn in der proze fun Di Yunge*. Co-sponsored by the Stanford Humanities Center.

Endowed Lectures 2013-2014

The Taube Center for Jewish Studies at Stanford University is proud to present

The 2013-2014 Aaron-Roland Endowed Lecture




Ivan Jablonka
Associate Professor of History at the Université Paris 105 Nord (France)

History - (his) story: the Historian and his Lost People.
Studying the Holocaust: family, history, memory

Monday, October 21
7:00 pm, 2013
Levinthal Hall,
Stanford Humanities Center

The History of the Grandparents I Never Had:
Ivan Jablonka's research and writing focuses on the Holocaust and its impact on the lives and hearts of his grandparents, emigrants of Ashkenazi Jews. His book, *History - (his) story: the Historian and his Lost People*, traces the lives of his grandparents through their emigration to France. He also writes for *Le Monde* and *Le Monde Diplomatique*, and is a frequent speaker at conferences and seminars. He is also a frequent speaker at conferences and seminars.

Free and Open to the Public
Co-sponsored by the Stanford Humanities Center

October 21, 2013

The Aaron-Roland Endowed Lecture

Ivan Jablonka, Professor of History at the Université Paris XIII: *History - (his) story: The Historian and His Lost People. Studying the Holocaust: Family, History, Memory*. Co-sponsored by the Stanford Humanities Center.

FIFTY YEARS OF FIDDLER

A Celebration and Symposium at Stanford University organized by the Taube Center for Jewish Studies



Sunday January 12
7:00pm
A Celebration of *Fiddler on the Roof* featuring performances by the Bay Area Jewish Community Center and the Occidental Chorus Association. *Laughing in the Darkness*.

Monday January 13
2:00-5:00 pm
"Fifty Years of Fiddler: A Symposium"
Featuring speakers: David Markowitz, Art Berman, Norman Kleeblatt, and Susan Rose. *Disobedient Images: Confronting Art, Questioning Meaning*. Also featuring a performance by the Occidental Chorus Association. *Laughing in the Darkness*.

All events are free and open to the public. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, please see our website: www.taubecenter.org or call 415-723-2222.

January 13, 2014

The Jewish Community Endowment Fund Lecture


Alisa Solomon, Professor and Director of the Arts & Culture concentration in the MA program at Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism: *Fiddler's Fortunes*. Co-sponsored by the Stanford Humanities Center.

THE TAUBE CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES AT STANFORD UNIVERSITY IS PROUD TO PRESENT

THE DAVID S. LOBEL VISITING SCHOLAR LECTURE


TORAH AND JEWISH IDENTITY: WHAT DID IT MEAN TO BE AN IOUDAIOS IN THE SECOND TEMPLE PERIOD?

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 12:00 PM
Bldg. 360-CCSRE, Conference Room



JOHN J. COLLINS
John J. Collins is the David S. Lobel Visiting Scholar and the professor of Old Testament Criticism and Interpretation at Yale University. He is the author of *Torah and Jewish Identity: What did it mean to be an Ioudaios in the Second Temple Period?* (2012).

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE SEE OUR WEBSITE: www.taubecenter.org. CO-SPONSORED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES.



May 15, 2014

The David S. Lobel Visiting Scholar Lecture

John J. Collins, Holmes Professor of Old Testament Criticism and Interpretation at Yale University: *Torah and Jewish Identity: What did it mean to be an Ioudaios in the Second Temple Period?* Co-sponsored by the Department of Religious Studies.



The Taube Center for Jewish Studies at Stanford University is proud to present

The 2014 Charles Michael Lecture

Is Nothing Sacred? Disobedient Images and Their Meaning for Jewish Culture
May 28, 2014 - Wednesday, 8 pm
Presented in partnership with the Jewish Community Center of San Francisco
Co-sponsored by the Contemporary Jewish Museum
Free. Advance reservations required: call 415.252.1223 or email art@ccj.org

Disobedient Images: Confronting Art, Questioning Meaning
May 29, 2014 - Thursday, 12 pm, Bldg. 360-CCSRE Conference Room
Co-sponsored by Cantor Arts Center and the Department of Religious Studies

Norman L. Kleeblatt
Susan Eshu Rose Chief Curator, The Jewish Museum, New York.
The many exhibitions he has organized include the award-winning *Artists/Abstractors: Pollock, de Kooning, and American Art 1940-1970*

May 29, 2014

The Charles Michael Lecture

Norman Kleeblatt, Susan and Elihu Rose Curator of fine arts of the Jewish Museum in New York: *Disobedient Images: Confronting Art, Questioning Meaning*. Co-sponsored by the Cantor Arts Center and the Department of Religious Studies.

Donor Spotlight

We will spotlight a different donor in each issue of this newsletter.



Photo Credit: Katie Githens

Miriam Roland (Class of '51) has been there from the beginning, and can be counted among the founding figures of Jewish Studies at Stanford.

Roland came to Stanford as an undergraduate student in 1947 having been raised in large and well-established Jewish communities on the East Coast. She brought with her an active interest in the study of Jewish culture, but found very little of it reflected in the course offerings at Stanford. When one speaks with her today she reveals her insight into this absence: in the teaching of what was then the required Western Civilization sequence, Jewish thinkers, writers, and artists would appear—when they appeared at all—not as Jews, but rather identified by their national origin. Rather than being discouraged by this elision, Roland took initiative to change things at Stanford. In her own words, she wanted to change how “general studies and Jewish studies were taught.” In the late 60’s

she started a conversation with Stanford’s administrative leadership about making Jewish culture and its contributions more visible in the course offerings at Stanford, and it was due to her commitment that Stanford agreed to establish Jewish Studies at Stanford more visibly and more permanently. She and her husband provided the program’s first endowment, the “Aaron-Roland fund for Jewish Studies,” named in honor of both her own and her husband’s family, and offered to commemorate her husband after his tragic early death. The Aaron-Roland fund (which to this day underwrites a significant portion of our program) evolved and grew from its early funding of a visiting lectureship (in 1969) to a visiting professorship (in 1976) to the hire of a permanent Jewish Studies faculty member, Professor Emeritus Arnold Eisen, in 1986. The Aaron-Roland fund was the seed that began Jewish Studies at Stanford and, with the growing support of other donors over the years, the fund enabled the program to grow into one of the foremost academic programs in Jewish Studies in the country. But it was the vision, initiative, and courage of Miriam Roland that convinced Stanford to begin this journey.

She remains actively involved and interested in our program, and aims to help us “grow from strength to strength,” as she says. When she visits the West Coast, we have the opportunity for delightful encounters and exchanges about Jewish Studies at Stanford and in general. Her dedication is exemplary in enabling the creative synergy between donors and academics to provide the study of Jewish culture and history with a well-recognized place in the humanities.

By Charlotte Fonrobert

*For the expanded story about Miriam Roland written by Amos Bitzan, please visit our website:
http://jewishstudies.stanford.edu/sites/default/files/docs/Miriam_Roland_by_Amos_Bitzan.pdf*

In Memory of Eva Chernov Lokey (1926-2013)

We are saddened by the passing of Eva Lokey, one of the great supporters of Jewish Studies at Stanford. Eva was born in 1926 in British Columbia. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of British Columbia and her Master’s degree from San Francisco State University’s Speech Communications Department. She wrote her Master’s thesis on the role of gossip in an Orthodox Jewish women’s study group. A Jewish Studies scholar in her own right, Lokey remained a life-long supporter of the Stanford program and served on our Advisory Board. She was the first donor to endow a position for the teaching of language—a position now held by Vered Karti Shemtov, our Eva Chernov Lokey Senior Lecturer in Hebrew and Comparative Literature. She also endowed a chair in Jewish Studies that is now held by Gabriella Safran, the Eva Chernov Lokey Professor in Jewish Studies. Eva is remembered as a charming, engaging, and extremely generous woman. She is survived by her two daughters, Ann Lokey and Miriam Khalsa. Earlier this year, Ann generously donated her mother’s Premier Edition of the Szyk Haggadah to the Stanford Library (see article on page 6).



Vered Shemtov and Eva Lokey

Faculty Spotlight: Ari Y. Kelman

Ari and I spoke one afternoon in his home amidst a colorful array of his two children’s stacking blocks, dollhouses, and puzzles. Being a father is only one of the many hats that Ari wears—he holds the Jim Joseph Chair of Education and Jewish Studies in the Graduate School of Education (GSE) and is a faculty affiliate of the Taube Center for Jewish Studies and the Center for Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity, as well as a Resident Fellow for Junipero House, an all-freshmen dormitory.

Ari did not always imagine that his research would focus on the nexus between education and Judaism. Growing up, his parents were, as he describes it, “professional Jews:” his father a rabbi, his mother a Jewish educator. He spent a lot of time in Jewish settings, but was not interested in studying religion professionally. But this changed after seeing the movie *The Jazz Singer* for a class on the Art of the African Diaspora while getting his Ph.D. in American Studies at New York University. While his classmates saw this as a movie about duplicity and the relationship between race and power, he was more interested in its focus on the performance of Jewishness.

After writing his thesis about Yiddish radio, Ari did a post-doc in American Jewish history at the University of Pennsylvania. He then spent five and a half years on the faculty of the American Studies Department at U.C. Davis, focusing on media, ethnic identity, and American religious culture. Now, as part of the GSE (Graduate School of Education) faculty, he is eagerly discovering new bodies of literature that can be helpful in understanding Jews. Serving as a faculty affiliate at the Taube Center for Jewish Studies has been quite valuable: “My students and I see our work speaking to Jewish Studies broadly. We bring a different perspective to the study of Jewish life and we strive to enrich the conversation about research on Jewish life.” Ari gets particularly excited about being able to study learning. “The bulk of literature on Jewish education is about teaching, but we have no idea how people learn about rituals and customs,” he says. It is no surprise that the tagline of the Education and Jewish Studies concentration is “We study learning.”

You will often find Ari on his bike or at the pool with his wife and children. He has great stories to share—ask him about delivering his first child and then breaking up a fight between high schoolers the day after delivering his child.

By Ilana M. Horwitz

Ph.D. Student, Education and Jewish Studies



Ilana Horwitz and Ari Y. Kelman at the 2014 Wexner Graduate Fellowship Conference in Vermont

Faculty Updates

In addition to serving as Reinhard Family Curator of Judaica and Hebraica Collections in the Stanford University Libraries, **Zachary Baker** has served as the Assistant University Librarian for Collection Development - Humanities & Social Sciences since 2010. Through 2015, he is also the Secretary-Treasurer of the Association for Jewish Studies. He has recently published a number of articles, including: "A Bibliographer Encounters the Muses: Reflections on the Yiddish Theater and Its Legacy," in *Perspectives on the Hebraic Book: The Myron M. Weinstein Memorial Lectures at the Library of Congress*, edited by Peggy K. Pearlstein (Washington, DC: Library of Congress, 2012), pp. 177-193; "'Gvald, Yidn, Buena Gente': Jevl Katz, Yiddish Bard of the Rio de la Plata," in *Inventing the Modern Yiddish Stage: Essays In Drama, Performance, and Show Business*, edited by Joel Berkowitz and Barbara Henry (Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2012), pp. 202-222; "On the Margins of Yiddishland." *H-Net Reviews*. July 2013. Review of: Szonja Ráhel Komoróczy. *Yiddish Printing in Hungary: An Annotated Bibliography*. Budapest: Center for Jewish Studies at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, 2011: <https://www.h-net.org/reviews/showpdf.php?id=37147> (accessed July 10, 2013); "'A Goodly Tent of Jacob and the Canadian Home Beautiful': The Jewish Public Library in the Civic Sphere during the 1950s," in *Canadian Jewish Studies* (2014, in press).

Joel Beinín, the Donald J. McLachlan Professor of History and Professor of Middle East History, published a new book on *Social Movements, Mobilization, and Contestation in the Middle East and North Africa*, 2nd ed. (Stanford University Press, 2013), co-edited with Frédéric Vairel.

Amir Eshel, Edward Clark Crossett Professor of Humanistic Studies and Professor of German Studies, takes the helm of the Department of Comparative Literature as its Director in September 2014. Most recently, he published a book both in English and German, in English as *Futurity: Contemporary Literature and the Quest for the Past* (University of Chicago Press, 2013), and in German as *Zukünftigkeít: Die zeitgenössische Literatur und die Vergangenheit* (Suhrkamp, 2012). Together with Ulrich Baer, he co-edited a collection of essays on Hannah Arendt *Zwischen den Disziplinen* (Wallstein Verlag, 2014), and with Yifaat Weiss, a book on the German writer Barbara Honigmann: *Kurz hinter der Wahrheit und dicht neben der Lüge: Zum Werk Barbara Honigmanns* (Fink Verlag, 2013).

Joseph S. Atha Professor of the Humanities **Shelley Fisher Fishkin**, a scholar of American Literature, was selected to deliver the keynote lecture at the American Studies Network

Conference on "Transnational Currents of US-China Relations," Hong Kong University, in the fall of 2013. She was also appointed to a three-year term on the Advisory Committee of the Institute for European and American Studies, Academia Sinica, 2013 and to a two-year term as Advisor for Arts and Humanities, National Sun Yat-sen University, 2013. In addition, she was selected to serve on the international jury for the Francqui Prize (the "Belgian Nobel Prize") 2013, and as the Brackenridge Distinguished Visiting Professor, UT San Antonio, Spring 2013.

In 2013, **Charlotte Elisheva Fonrobert's** *Cambridge Companion to the Talmud and Rabbinic Literature* (Cambridge University Press, 2007), edited with Martin Jaffee, appeared in Italian with Paideia (*Il Talmud e la letteratura Rabbinica*). Most recently, she contributed a paper ("Sabbathdraehte, Sabbathschnuere und Judentore: The German Century in the History of the Eruv") to the volume *It's a Thin Line: The Eruv and Jewish Community in New York and Beyond*, published by Yeshiva University Press (2014), as well as another paper ("The Rabbinic Logic of Gender Duality and its Subversions") to a volume on *Gender in Judaism and Islam*, edited by Firoozeh Kashani-Sabet and Beth Wenger (New York University Press, 2014). In April 2014, she co-organized a conference, "Talmudic Transgressions: Engaging the Work of Daniel Boyarin," at the University of California Berkeley, honoring the work of Daniel Boyarin. In May 2014, she organized a workshop at Stanford for the North American contributors to the Feminist Commentary to the Babylonian Talmud (published in English by Mohr Siebeck). Finally, she has finished an annotated translation of Mishnah *Eruvin* (and is completing the annotated translation of Mishnah *Niddah*) as part of the newly translated Mishnah, published by Oxford University Press.

Avner Greif's new book *Institutions, Innovation, and Industrialization: Essays in Economic History and Development*, edited together with Lynne Kiesling and John Nye, will be published by Princeton University Press in 2015. He was selected for the keynote panel at the *World Economic History Conference* in Kyoto, 2015. In 2014, he was a visitor at the Becker Friedman Institute at the University of Chicago. He was also the invited speaker for the 50th anniversary of the Sichel Lecture Series at the University of Western Michigan. In 2013, he received an honorary doctorate from the University of Utrecht and was awarded the Montias Prize by the Association for Comparative Economic Studies for the paper "A Theory of Moral Persistence," which honors the best paper published in the *Journal of Comparative Economics*.

Norman Naimark, the Robert and Florence McDonnell Professor in East European Studies, currently serves as the Sakurako and William Fisher Family Director of the Stanford Global Studies Division, which the Taube Center for Jewish Studies is a part of. Most recently he co-edited a book with Ronald Grigor Suny and Fatma Muge Gocek entitled *A Question of Genocide: Armenians and Turks at the End of the Ottoman Empire* (Oxford University Press, 2011). In addition, he was elected Foreign Corresponding Member of the Austrian Academy of Sciences.

Jack Rakove's book *Beyond Believe, Beyond Conscience: The Radial Significance of the Free Exercise of Religion* is forthcoming from Oxford University Press. He is the William Robertson Coe Professor of History and American Studies.

Aron Rodrigue, the Charles Michael Professor in Jewish History and Culture, finished his five-year term as Director of the Stanford Humanities Center at the end of the summer of 2013 and has been on a much-deserved research leave in 2013-14. In 2013, he was awarded the *Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, Ministère de la Culture et Communication*, and the *Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes académiques, Ministère de l'Éducation Nationale*, both awarded by the Republic of France. Most recently, he has published *A Voice from Ottoman Salonica: The Ladino Memoir of Sa'adi Besalel a-Levi* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2012), which he edited with his former student Sarah Abrevaya Stein (see Alumni Updates). In addition, he published a paper, "Reflections on Millets and Minorities: Ottoman Legacies," which appeared in a collection edited by Riva Kastoryano, *Turkey between Nationalism and Globalization* (Routledge, 2013).

Noah Rosenberg, who joined the Department of Biology recently, edited and published—together with outgoing Director Steven Weitzman—*From Generation to Generation: The Genetics of Jewish Populations*, a special issue of the journal *Human Biology* (2013, vol. 85, pp. 817-939).

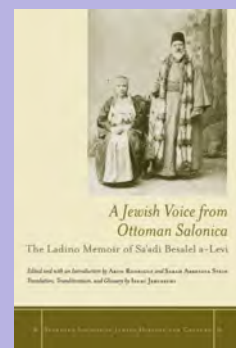
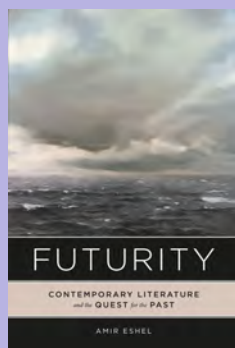
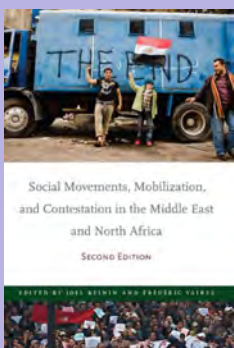
Gabriella Safran, the Eva Chernov Lokey Professor in Jewish Studies, has been working on two research projects, both involving literature and the history of listening: one on the 20th-century valorization of Jewish speech style in Russia and the United States, and another on the pre-revolutionary construction of Eastern European voice as mysterious and soulful. As chair of the Division of Literatures, Cultures, and Languages, and director of the Slavic Department, she is involved with the teaching of modern languages and literatures throughout the university. During the summer of 2014, she joined a folklore expedition to Siberia.

Vered Karti Shemtov moved from the Middle Eastern Studies Program to the Department of Comparative Literature and is now the Eva Chernov Lokey Senior Lecturer in Hebrew and Comparative Literature. In 2012, she co-edited with Amir Eshel and Hannan Hever a special issue of *Jewish Social Studies* (JSS 18:3, Spring/Summer 2012) on *History and Responsibility: Hebrew Literature Facing 1948* (18, Number 3, Spring/Summer 2012). That same year she also published her book *Changing Rhythms: Towards a Theory of Prosody in Cultural Context* (in Hebrew) with Bar Ilan Press in Israel. In addition, she was nominated to be the head of the Literature Committee at the National Association of Professors of Hebrew.

Steve Zipperstein, the Daniel E. Koshland Professor in Jewish Culture and History, expects to complete the writing of his cultural history of Russian Jewry in the early the 20th century by spring 2015. During a sabbatical leave in spring 2014, he was named the first Jacob Kronhill visiting senior scholar at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research in New York. In June 2014, he gave a keynote address at the Central European University's conference on "Narratives of Violence," and in September 2014, he will be a visiting Professor at the Australian Centre for Jewish Civilization.

For a full list of Jewish Studies Faculty please visit our website: <http://jewishstudies.stanford.edu/faculty>

Recent Faculty Books and Journals



Graduate Student Updates

Kristen Alff studies Modern Middle East History. Her dissertation is on the emergence of private property in late Ottoman Palestine. During the 2014-2015 academic year, she will be conducting dissertation research in Lebanon, Israel, and Turkey.

Annie Atura is entering her fourth year in English with a Ph.D. Minor in Feminism, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. She works on Judaism, feminism, and psychoanalysis (and their appropriations) in 20th- and 21st-century American literature. This year, she was honored to receive the James W. Lyons Award for her service to the Stanford community through the Women's Community Center, where she works as Graduate Coordinator.

Shimshon Ayzenberg is a Ph.D. candidate in East European Jewish history. He is currently writing a dissertation tentatively titled "Priests of the Revolution" on how "professional revolutionaries" belonging to the Poale Zion movement in early Soviet Russia (1917-1928) attempted to fulfill the dream of Zionism in partnership with the soviet government, the Russian Communist Party, or the Third International against the backdrop of war, the formation of the soviet state, ideological repercussions, and the Evseksia (Jewish Section of the Communist Party) persecutions.

Timothy DeBold is currently working on his dissertation exploring the hermeneutical relationships among the textual strata of the Babylonian Talmud. He is residing in Ann Arbor with his wife Mira Balberg (see Alumni Updates) where she will be a fellow at the Frankel Center for the coming year. Several months ago, he received a Mellon Foundation Dissertation Fellowship that will see him through the next (and hopefully final) year of writing his dissertation.

Daniella Farah is a Ph.D. student in Jewish History at Stanford University. Her research will focus on the religious and cultural histories of Jewish populations in Iran and Turkey during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Her work will also explore memory's impact upon Jewish diasporic narratives.

Jonah Hassenfeld completed his qualifying paper examining how American Jewish high school students narrate the history of Israel. He is now beginning to write his dissertation, which extends his prior research. He hopes to investigate the impact of a high school trip to Israel on the ways students narrate the history of Israel.

Ziva R. Hassenfeld studies Education and Jewish Studies. She defended her qualifying paper last spring, which presented original research on students' interpretive stances

and their alignment with their teacher's in the Hebrew Bible classroom. This fall she will begin work on her dissertation research looking at interpretive negotiation of Hebrew Bible among elementary school students.

Annelise Heinz, Ph.D. candidate in History, spoke in July 2014 at San Francisco's Contemporary Jewish Museum as part of the traveling exhibit "Project Mah Jongg." Heinz's dissertation focuses on how the Chinese game mahjong became a cultural tool in the United States, including how it became a part of Jewish American culture. In Spring 2014, she presented her research on mahjong in Toronto at the Berkshire Conference of Women Historians with the support of a Jewish Studies conference grant.

Ilana Horwitz is beginning her second year in the Education and Jewish Studies concentration at the Graduate School of Education. This year, she will be doing research for her qualifying paper, which will focus on how parents communicate with their children about the purpose of Hebrew school and Bar/Bat Mitzvahs.

Caroline Keller-Lynn is a second-year JD/MBA candidate. Her research in Israel this summer focuses on Christian minorities who volunteer to enlist in the Israel Defense Forces, and how this ties to a broader identity and political movement.

Renana Keydar's dissertation project is an interdisciplinary work focusing on the notion of justice in the aftermath of war and conflict from legal and cultural perspectives. In her work she explores legal mechanisms, such as international tribunals and truth commissions, that were instrumental in shaping certain ideas of justice in conjunction with the responses they engendered in the cultural sphere of literature, cinema, and new media. In 2015, she and her family will return to Israel where she will conduct further research and conclude the writing of her dissertation.

After **Alexander Marcus** finished his first year as a doctoral student at Stanford, he is continuing his research into the Babylonian Talmud, and is enthusiastic about participating in recent academic explorations of its broader literary context. Over the summer, he has developed greater facility with the relevant languages, and he also traveled to Vienna as an organizer of the fifth annual Muslim Jewish Conference. He looks forward to advancing his studies at Stanford, presenting at conferences at UT Austin and Pomona College, and further honing his dissertation topic during the coming academic year.

Josh Meyers is a fourth-year graduate student in History

studying Jewish politics during the Russian Revolution of 1917. This year, he will be traveling to Russia, New York, and Israel in order to conduct research for his dissertation. At the moment, his research focuses on the regional leadership of the Bund during the Russian Revolution and the Russian Civil War.

Shoshana Olidort is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Comparative Literature. She earned her B.A. from Columbia University in Writing and Literature, and has written extensively on Jewish literature for a wide range of publications. She is particularly interested in questions of language in poetry, and is focusing her research on poets who write in a non-native language.

James Redfield is writing his dissertation about the role of secular norms in early rabbinic culture and preparing a few articles in Jewish Studies for publication (in close collaboration with outgoing Taube Center Director Steve Weitzman and incoming Director Charlotte Fonrobert). In the fall, he is moving to D.C., where his spouse, Terra Edwards, will be an Assistant Professor of Linguistics at Gallaudet University. Although James hopes to be fairly reclusive while finishing his degree, he will make an exception for anyone who would like to read Greek and Latin or teach him Syriac.

As **Ashley Walters** finished the second year of her doctoral work in Jewish History, she spent the summer studying Modern Hebrew at The Hebrew University in Jerusalem and continuing her research. Her current project explores the lives and work of prominent Russian Jewish lawyers at the turn of the century before the Russian Revolution. By reading their memoirs, she hopes to better understand how these individuals believed Russian liberalism and the law could solve the Jewish question in Russia.

Matthew Williams is currently finishing a paper on Aish HaTorah and its origins in the 60s counter-culture. This year, he plans to begin research for his dissertation, which is on the history of *keruv* (outreach) in America—Orthodox educational programs for non-Orthodox Jews. He's also designing and teaching at a retreat for Jewish day school teachers interested in project-based learning.

Jonathan Wurl, doctoral student in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, is studying the development of Soviet Yiddish literature and print in Belarus during the 2014-2015 academic year, thanks to a grant from the Taube Center.

Marina Zilbergerts is currently in Philadelphia, where she

is researching and writing her dissertation at the Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies. Her dissertation is about the reinvention of the world of rabbinic scholarship in the works of post-yeshiva pioneering modern Yiddish and Hebrew writers from 1867 to 1900.

Alumni Updates

Mira Balberg (Ph.D., Religious Studies, 2011) is an Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at Northwestern University. She published her book *Purity, Body, and Self in Early Rabbinic Literature* with the University of California Press in 2014. She is spending 2014-2015 as a fellow at the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan, where she is working on her new research project on sacrifices in rabbinic Judaism.

Mara Benjamin (Ph.D., Religious Studies, 2005) received tenure at St. Olaf College in 2014 and is spending her sabbatical leave working on a manuscript entitled *The Obligated Self: Maternal Subjectivity and Jewish Thought*. She is a recipient of a Summer Stipend (2013) and a full-year Fellowship (2014-15) from the National Endowment for the Humanities (2013) for this project.

Sarah Benor (Ph.D., Linguistics, 2004) is currently an Associate Professor of Contemporary Jewish Studies at Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles. For her book, *Becoming Frum: How Newcomers Learn the Language and Culture of Orthodox Judaism* (Rutgers University Press, 2012), she won the Sami Rohr Choice Award for Jewish Literature. She served on the advisory panel for the Pew Research Center's study of American Jews, and was included in the Forward 50 list of influential Jews.

Shana Bernstein (Ph.D., History, 2003) has accepted a position as Clinical Associate Professor at Northwestern University, where she will teach in the Legal Studies Program and in the Program in American Studies. She was formerly Associate Professor of History at Southwestern University.

Julia Phillips Cohen (Ph.D., Modern Jewish History, 2008) is an Assistant Professor in the Program in Jewish Studies and the Department of History at Vanderbilt University. This year, she published her monograph, *Becoming Ottomans: Sephardi Jews and Imperial Citizenship in the Modern Era* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2014) and, together with Sarah Abrevaya Stein, *Sephardi Lives: A Documentary History, 1700-1950* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2014).

Daniel Heller (Ph.D., History, 2012) spent one year as the

Alumni Updates

Hazel D. Cole Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Washington after completing his Ph.D. in the summer of 2012. In September 2013, he was appointed Assistant Professor of Jewish Studies at McGill University in Montreal, Canada. He is currently writing a book manuscript based on his dissertation, “The Rise of the Zionist Right: Polish Jews and the Betar Youth Movement,” which won the Elizabeth Spilman Rosenfeld prize for best written dissertation in Stanford’s History Department.

Cecile E. Kuznitz (Ph.D., History, 2003) is an Associate Professor of History and Director of Jewish Studies at Bard College in Annandale-on-Hudson, NY. Her book *YIVO and the Making of Modern Jewish Culture* was published by Cambridge University Press in April 2014. Last spring, she presented the book at YIVO in New York, at the European Humanities University and Vilnius University in Vilnius, and at the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw. She has been awarded the Workmen’s Circle/Dr. Emanuel Patt Visiting Professorship in Eastern European Jewish Studies at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research for 2014-2015.

Emily J. Levine (Ph.D., History, 2008) has been Assistant Professor of Modern European history at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro since 2010. She spent academic year 2012–2013 as an Alexander von Humboldt fellow at the Free University Berlin. Her first book, *Dreamland of Humanists: Warburg, Cassirer, Panofsky, and the Hamburg School* was published by the University of Chicago Press in December 2013. The book will appear in paperback in Spring 2015. In April 2015, Levine will deliver the Sady and Ludwig Kahn annual lecture in German Jewish Studies at UCLA.

After five years as the Associate Rabbi at Chicago Sinai Congregation, **David Levinsky** (Ph.D., Religious Studies, 2009) will become the Senior Rabbi at Har Shalom in Park City, Utah. He is working on a book about Jewish messianism.

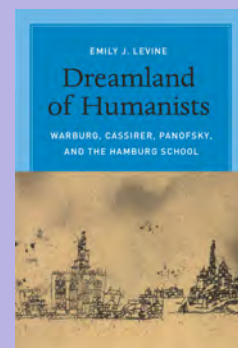
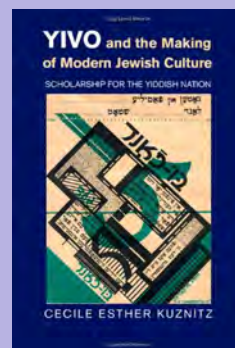
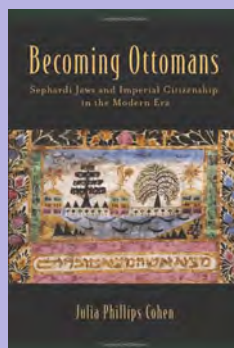
Tony Michels (Ph.D., History, 1998) is now the George L. Mosse Professor of American Jewish History at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. In 2012, Tony published his second book, *Jewish Radicals: A Documentary History* (NYU Press). In 2013, the American Jewish Historical Society awarded his article “Is America ‘Different?’ A Critique of American Jewish Exceptionalism” the Wasserman Prize for the best article published in the journal *American Jewish History*. With fellow Stanford graduates Ken Moss and Sarah Abrevaya Stein, he recently became co-editor of the journal *Jewish Social Studies*.

John Mandsager (Ph.D., Religious Studies, 2014) has started a postdoctoral fellowship in Jewish Studies at the University of South Carolina. He is excited to teach a course each semester, to work on his writing, and to help grow the Jewish Studies program on campus.

Ken Moss (Ph.D., History, 2003) continues to teach at the Johns Hopkins University, where he is the Posen Associate Professor of Modern Jewish History. He is currently writing a book on Jewish political thought, Zionism, diaspora, and the East European Jewish condition in the 1930s, provisionally entitled *The Unchosen People*. His 2009 book *Jewish Renaissance in the Russian Revolution* is currently being translated into Hebrew for the Zalman Shazar publishing house in Israel. This autumn, he will become co-editor (with Sarah Stein and Tony Michels) of *Jewish Social Studies*. He lives in Baltimore with his wife Anne and three children.

As the Marsha and Jay Glazer Chair in Jewish Studies and Assistant Professor of History at the University of Washington, **Devin E. Naar** (Ph.D., History, 2011) has established a new Sephardic Studies Program in partnership with the local

Recent Alumni Books



community. He has served as a fellow at the UW Simpson Center for the Humanities and has published new articles dealing with the Jews of Salonica and Sephardic Jewry in *Jewish History*, *Jewish Quarterly Review*, and the *Jewish Review of Books*.

Alyssa Sepinwall (Ph.D., History, 1998) recently published *Haitian History: New Perspectives* (Routledge, 2013) and several articles on French colonial and Haitian history. She continues to serve on the committee for the San Diego Jewish Film Festival (one of the top five in North America). She is currently writing an article on recent films about Jewish-Muslim relations and the Arab-Israeli conflict made by French-Jewish filmmakers; this research extends the work in her article “Sexuality, Orthodoxy and Modernity in France: North African Jewish Immigrants in Karin Albou’s *La Petite Jérusalem*,” in Lawrence Baron, ed., *Modern Jewish Experiences in World Cinema* (Waltham, MA: Brandeis University Press, 2011), 340 – 347.

Marci Shore’s (Ph.D., History, 2001) last book, *The Taste of Ashes: The Afterlife of Totalitarianism in Eastern Europe*, was published in 2013. It was published in Polish just two months earlier, in 2012, and in German in February of 2014 (by C.H. Beck).

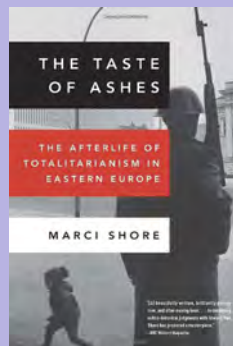
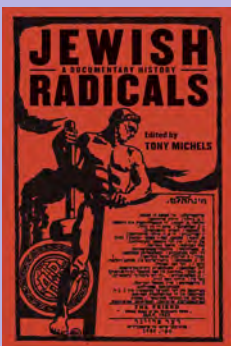
Nina S. Spiegel (Ph.D., History, 2001) is the Rabbi Joshua Stampfer Assistant Professor of Israel Studies at Portland State University. Her first book, *Embodying Hebrew Culture: Aesthetics, Athletics, and Dance in the Jewish Community of Mandate Palestine* (Wayne State University Press), was published in 2013 and recognized as a finalist for both the Sami Rohr Prize for Jewish Literature and also a National Jewish Book Award.

Sarah Abrevaya Stein (Ph.D., History, 1999) has published *Saharan Jews and the Fate of French Algeria* (University of Chicago Press, 2014) and has co-edited (with Julia Phillips Cohen) *Sephardi Lives: A Documentary History: 1700-1950* (Stanford University Press, 2014) and (with Aron Rodrigue and a translation by Isaac Jerusalemi), *A Jewish Voice from Ottoman Salonica: the Ladino Memoir of Sa’adi Besalel a-Levi* (Stanford University Press, 2012). In 2012, Stein was appointed a member of the American Academy for Jewish Research and was awarded the Walter D. Love Prize of the North African Conference of British Studies. This year, she will deliver the George L. Mosse Lectures at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Stein has recently assumed co-editorship (with Tony Michels and Ken Moss) of *Jewish Social Studies* and (with David Biale) the Stanford University Press Series in *Jewish History and Culture*.

Max Strassfeld (Ph.D., Religious Studies, 2013) is starting as an Assistant Professor at the University of Arizona in the Religious Studies department this fall. His hire was part of a cluster hire for the Transgender Studies Initiative, which is the first Transgender Studies program in the country, and he serves on the newly formed Transgender Studies steering committee. He is excited to be teaching LGBTQI Issues in Religion in the fall, and to be working on his first book project, entitled *Classically Queer: Eunuchs and Androgynes in Rabbinic Literature*.

Claire Sufrin (Ph.D., Religious Studies, 2008) is a Lecturer in the Department of Religious Studies and the Crown Family Center for Jewish and Israel Studies at Northwestern University. In Fall 2013, she was a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Theology at the University of Notre Dame. Her most recent article, “Beyond the Chasm: Religion and Literature after the Holocaust,” appeared in *Thinking Jewish Culture*, edited by Ken Koltun-Fromm and published by Lexington Books in 2014.

Recent Alumni Books





Annie Atura



James Redfield



Max Strassfeld and John Mandsager

The Colloquium on Jews, Judaism, and Jewish Culture (CJJC)

blossomed last year under the leadership of Ari Y. Kelman and Steven Weitzman, who coordinated lunch talks from luminaries in Jewish Studies and intimate discussions between the students about professional concerns and the future of the field. The Colloquium was founded in 2012 and since its inception has attracted students from across the disciplines. Historically meeting twice a quarter, the colloquium brings together graduate students and faculty for guest presentations, discussions, graduate student talks and other forms of intellectual exchange. The ultimate goal of the colloquium is to create a sense of community among Jewish Studies graduate students and to generate opportunities for intellectual exchange and professional development.

This year, the interdisciplinary group for graduate students and professors will focus on workshopping graduate work, offering students that hail from disparate disciplines the opportunity to get to know one another's research. We hope that the generalist model will offer graduate students fresh perspectives about cross-disciplinary potentials and concerns in their work. Professors from all fields are encouraged to attend, and the biweekly lunches will also feature a graduate student respondent. Any graduate student with an academic interest in Jewish issues is welcome to join us for any and all of our programs. Feel free to contact Annie Atura at annie.atura@gmail.com for schedules and details.

*By Annie Atura
Graduate Student Coordinator*



Max Strassfeld



Professor Ari Y. Kelman



Joshua Meyers and Ashley Walters

*For more information about the Colloquium on Jews, Judaism, and Jewish Culture, please visit our website:
<http://jewishstudies.stanford.edu/colloquium-jews-judaism-and-jewish-culture>*

The Taube Center for Jewish Studies is grateful for the generous contributions from all of our donors. Your support helps to ensure the continued growth and enrichment of our programs within the Stanford Community and beyond. Thank you!

Major Grants

- The Jewish Community Endowment Newhouse Fund of the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin, and Sonoma Counties
- Koret Foundation Grant for the Jewish Studies Program
- Shenson Foundation

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- Jewish Community Federation Lectureship Fund
- The Bernard Kaufman, Jr., M.D., Undergraduate Research Award in Jewish Studies
- Donald & Robin Kennedy Jewish Studies Undergraduate Award
- The David S. Lobel Visiting Scholar in Jewish Studies Fund
- The Eva Chernov Lokey Lectureship Fund in Jewish Studies
- The William J. and Fern E. Lowenberg Fellowship Fund for Holocaust Studies
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- The Clara Sumpf Yiddish Lecture Series Fund
- The Taube Center For Jewish Studies Fund
- The Taube Family Fellowship in Jewish Studies
- The L. Jay & Gretchen Tenenbaum Fund



Hanukkah in Berlin: 2013 (5774), when Professor Fonrobert taught a course on “Jewish and Muslim Berlin” with Stanford’s Overseas Program in Berlin.

Taube Center for Jewish Studies Staff



Pictured from left to right: **Marie-Pierre Ulloa**, *outgoing Associate Director for Academic Programming*; **Linda Huynh**, *Center Manager/Stewardship Coordinator*; **Charlotte Fonrobert**, *Director*; and **Elena Boroski**, *Event/Finance Coordinator*

Photo Captions (see opposite page)

1. Gary Shteyngart presenting at “The Storytelling Conference” in 2013
2. Undergraduate students who participated in Stanford’s Overseas Program in Israel during the summer of 2013
3. Robin and Donald Kennedy with Megan McKoy, winner of the 2014 Donald and Robin Kennedy Undergraduate Award
4. Jennifer Brody presenting at “The Fiddler at Fifty” Conference in 2014
5. Steve Weitzman, *Outgoing Director* and Noah Rosenberg, *Jewish Studies Faculty*
6. The children of Jewish Studies at the annual Fall Gathering in 2012
7. Pictured from left to right: John Mandsager, Josh Meyers, Josh Milstein, Annie Atura, Renana Keydar, Noam Pines, Marie-Pierre Ulloa, Simone Hudson, Ziva R. Hassenfeld, Jonah Hassenfeld, Noam Rosenthal, and Alex Marcus
8. Steve Zipperstein, *Jewish Studies Faculty and former Director*
9. Dariusz Stola, *Director of The Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw, Poland* presenting in 2014
10. Audience laughter at Gary Shteyngart’s lecture in 2013
11. Yael Goldstein Love presenting at “The Storytelling Conference” in 2013
12. Marie-Pierre Ulloa, *Associate Director* and Bob Gregg, *Religious Studies Emeritus*



Newsletter Credits: Elena Boroski - Design, Charlotte Fonrobert - Editor-in-Chief, Annie Atura - Copy Editor

Back Cover Photo Credit: Elena Boroski, Stanford University Outer Quad



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