

CJS NEWS



A day for celebration. Modern Hebrew students, instructors, and guests at our first in-person event since the beginning of the pandemic.

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Marcus Halevi

PLEASE JOIN US IN CONGRATULATING **SANDY CANTAVE VIL**

Sandy has been approved for a well-deserved and long-overdue job upgrade; **she is now our Program Coordinator!**

Sandy's duties remain the same, but this new title (and higher job grade) reflect the growth in the complexity of her responsibilities over the years we have been fortunate enough to have her working with us at the CJS.

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David Stern

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PHOTOGRAPHY: Ilene Perlman, CJS staff and students, also as submitted from featured individuals

COVER PHOTO: Allison Andrews

DESIGN: Edlund-Design.com

ON THE COVER: Modern Hebrew students, instructors, and guests at a talk by Yael Perlov, our first in-person event since the start of the pandemic.

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

As this second “post-pandemic” academic year begins, we’re looking forward to returning to an even more “normal” academic life. In-person classes resumed last September, but we were masked the entire year and required to take weekly COVID tests. Until mid-spring, nearly all non-curricular events like lectures, symposia, and receptions were held on Zoom. It was very good to be back, but alas, it was not quite the same Harvard we were used to.

Nonetheless, the Center remained extremely active. We sponsored or co-sponsored twenty-two lectures and two graduate student workshops that met regularly both semesters. Last February, we supported a conference organized by graduate students on Yiddish networks entitled “Farbindungen,” that drew participants from across the country and internationally. During the spring semester, the Harry Starr Fellowship in Judaica sponsored a cohort of six Postdoctoral Fellows from around the world, all of whom worked in different aspects of medieval Jewish culture and history. **Professor Noah Feldman** (Harvard Law School) and I hosted weekly Starr Seminars, half on Zoom and half in person, the Fellows presented their research to each other and to faculty. And through all the turbulence and disruptions of the year, our students—undergraduates and graduate students alike—continued to work assiduously on their research projects and special coursework. The Center awarded nearly fifty fellowships, research stipends, prizes, and honors.

Probably the most exciting event of the past year was the launching of a new undergraduate Jewish studies literary/intellectual journal called *Emet*. Work on this journal began a couple years ago, but was held up on account of the disruptions of the pandemic. Thanks to the incredible persistence and energy of our students, the first issue of *Emet* finally came out at the end of the spring 2022 semester, and the quality of its contributions is testimony to the excellent work of the editors. A new board of editors is already hard at work on the next issue, and we’re hoping for a much more timely and regular series of issues to follow next year. If you wish to have a hard copy of *Emet*, please write us with your name and address. You can read an online version on the Center’s website at cjs.fas.harvard.edu/about/publications/emet.

At the very end of August, classes will resume for the new academic year. We already are planning a full roster of events, including two Doft Lectures this year: a poetry reading and talk by the **Nobel Prize-winner Louise Glück** in November and a second event with **Tony Kushner** and **Professor Stephen Greenblatt** in March. We will be hosting four Gerard Weinstock and George Rohr Visiting Professors. In the spring, we’ll have a new crew of Starr Postdoctoral Fellows working on the theme of

A portrait of Ilene Perlman, the Director of the Center for Jewish Studies at Harvard University. She is a middle-aged woman with short, wavy grey hair, wearing glasses and a blue sweater over a light blue collared shirt. She is smiling and looking towards the camera.

Ilene Perlman

the Arts and Jewish Studies under the direction of Professors **Kay Shelemay** (Music) and **Joseph Koerner** (History of Art and Architecture). Last but not least, we welcome two new faculty to the Center for Jewish Studies, Professors **Annette Yoshiko Reed** and **Benjamin Dunning**.

All this would not be possible without the extraordinary generosity of our Friends, supporters and donors. On behalf of my faculty colleagues and our students, we express our warmest thanks and appreciation for all your encouragement and devotion.

Warmly,



David Stern

Director of the Center for Jewish Studies at Harvard University
Harry Starr Professor of Classical and Modern Jewish and
Hebrew Literature and Professor of Comparative Literature

VISIT THE REDESIGNED CJS.FAS.HARVARD.EDU!

Nearly one year ago, an anonymous donor kindly offered a gift to help support a much-needed update to the Center for Jewish Studies website. Thanks to this gift, we were able to work with Harvard Web Publishing specialists and are proud to announce the launch of our new and improved website. It is now live and located at the same address: cjs.fas.harvard.edu.

We hope that you will find the redesign easier to navigate and search, as well as more accessible and secure on both desktop and mobile devices. We aim to make our content clear and current.

NEW CONTENT INCLUDES

- Events and activities hosted by the Center for Jewish Studies
- [Accessible online versions](#) of our latest newsletters
- Expanded information about our faculty and visitors
- Current academic courses in Jewish studies at Harvard (for students)
- Fellowship opportunities for students and outside scholars
- Detailed video instruction on Giving to the CJS
- A list of our publications



In the future, we hope to add information about the history of the CJS. We invite you to browse the new website, hope you enjoy this new platform, and welcome your comments.

FACULTY NEWS

NEW ADDITIONS TO AND RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS BY OUR FACULTY



FROM THE DESK OF **DAVID STERN**

Harry Starr Professor of Classical and Modern Jewish and Hebrew Literature and Professor of Comparative Literature; Director, Center for Jewish Studies



JON D. LEVENSON

■ Publications

Professor Stern's book, *The Jewish Bible: A Material History* (University of Washington Press, 2017) has come out in a Hebrew edition under the title *Ke-Homer be-Yad ha-Sofer: Gilgulei Sefer ha-TaNaKh mi-Megilah ve-'Ad Masakh*.

FROM THE DESK OF **JON D. LEVENSON**

Albert A. List Professor of Jewish Studies

■ Articles

[“All Diversities But One: Why American Universities Put Religion Aside,”](#) *Mosaic*, August 18, 2021.

[“Historical-Critical Scholarship Alone Does Not Constitute ‘Torah,’”](#) in the series “Journeys: On Becoming a Jewish Biblical Scholar,” *TheTorah.com*, May 6, 2021.

■ Lectures

“Recovering Biblical Love from Emotionalism and Eroticism,” the Daniel J. Harrington, S.J. Memorial Lecture, Harvard Catholic Forum, Cambridge, MA, March 9, 2022.

“The Binding of Isaac: The Jewish-Christian-Muslim Debate,” a lecture for the Haberman Institute of Jewish Studies, Washington, DC (by videoconferencing), November 8, 2021.

“Resistance in Judaism,” a lecture for the conference on “Religion as a Culture of Resistance and Renewal,” Academy for the Study of Religion: Unity in Diversity, Jamaica (by videoconferencing), July 21, 2021.

■ Podcasts and Videos

Tikvah Podcast, [“Jon Levenson on the Moral Force of the Book of Ruth,”](#) Tikvahfund.org, June 3, 2022.

Enter the Bible (Luther Seminary): [“Why not throw out parts of the Bible that are troubling, like Genesis 22?”](#), EnterTheBible.org, March 29, 2022.

Enter the Bible (Luther Seminary): [“Are Christians reading someone else’s mail \(in the Old Testament\)?”](#), EnterTheBible.org, March 22, 2022.

Bibleology, [“Jon Levenson, Inheriting Abraham—Ten Years On,”](#) bibleology01.podbean.com, February 2, 2022.

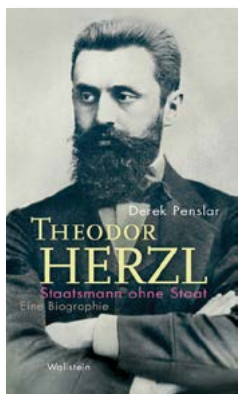
Conversations with Pastor Cliff (Pholoso Ministries, South Africa): [“Resurrection In The Hebrew Bible / Old Testament,”](#) Pholoso Ministries channel on YouTube.com, August 3, 2021.



FROM THE DESK OF DEREK PENSLAR

William Lee Frost Professor of Jewish History

Derek Penslar's co-edited volume (with Stefan Vogt and Arie Saposnik) *Unacknowledged Kinships: Post-Colonial Theory and the Historiography of Zionism* was accepted for publication by Brandeis University Press. He completed a book titled *Zionism: An Emotional State*, which will be published next year in Rutgers University Press' "Keywords in Jewish Studies" series. He published ["Solidarity As an Emotion: American Jewry and the 1948 Palestine War"](#) in *Modern American*



History; "How (Not) to Talk to an Antisemite: On the Failure of Jewish Apologetics," in [Activating Archives, Libraries, and Museums in the Fight Against Antisemitism](#), and ["Who's Afraid of Defining Antisemitism?"](#) in *Antisemitism Studies*. A German translation of his 2020 biography of Theodor Herzl was published under the title [Theodor Herzl: Staatsmann ohne Staat](#). He delivered talks at Brandeis University, the College of Charleston, Fordham University, Tel Aviv University, Stanford University,

and the University of Alberta. He co-organized and spoke at a global virtual conference on "Jewish Soldiers and Fighters in World War II," and gave a keynote address at a conference, held at the IUPUI Law School in Indianapolis, on antisemitism in contemporary American law. ■



FROM THE DESK OF PETER E. GORDON

Amabel B. James Professor of History

■ Publications

[Interview with the Author: Critical Theory and the Question of Secularization \(The Journal of the History of Ideas\): Peter E. Gordon in conversation with Jonathon Catlin.](#) (27 January, 2021). JHI Blog. 2021.

["Ghost in the Machine,"](#) an Interview with Peter E. Gordon on his book, *Migrants in the Profane*. Interviewed by Nathan Goldman. *Jewish Currents*. (16 March, 2021)

"Social Suffering and the Autonomy of Art," *New German Critique*. Special Issue: [Adorno's Aesthetic Theory at Fifty](#). Vol. 48, N. 2 (August, 2021).

"Introduction" to Ernst Cassirer, *An Essay on Man: An Introduction to a Philosophy of Human Culture*. Veritas Paperbacks. (Yale University Press, 2021).

"Beyond the Sphere of All Manufactured Things': Reflections on Hegel's Idea of the State" in Special Forum on Hegel's Philosophy of Right at 200. *Crisis and Critique*. Volume 8 Issue 2 (13-12-2021).

["Realism and Utopia' in The Authoritarian Personality"](#) *Polity*. Vol. 54, N. 1 (January, 2022).

["Adorno's Damaged Life"](#) *The New Statesman* (February 1, 2022).

["Who's Drawn to Fascism? A Postwar Study of Authoritarianism Makes a Comeback"](#) (On-line Podcast: CBC. Ideas. (4 March, 2022)).

["In Search of Recognition"](#) A review of Axel Honneth, *Recognition: A Chapter in the History of European Ideas*. Published in: *The New York Review of Books*. (23 June, 2022)

WELCOME, BENJAMIN DUNNING

by David Stern

The Center for Jewish Studies is delighted to welcome **Benjamin Dunning** as Professor of New Testament and Early Christianity at the Harvard Divinity School, and one of the Center's newest members. Professor Dunning comes to Harvard from Fordham University where he was Professor in the Department of Theology, and an affiliated faculty member of Fordham's interdisciplinary programs in both comparative literature and women's studies. He holds a BA from the University of Pennsylvania, an MAR from the Westminster Theological Seminary, and a Ph.D. from Harvard University. Before going to Fordham, Professor Dunning served as Director of Undergraduate Studies for the Comparative Study of Religion at Harvard. He was also a Women's Studies in Religion Program Research Associate for the 2009–2010 academic year.

Professor Dunning's work centers on the intersection of critical theory, gender and sexuality, and Christianity in Antiquity. He is the author of three books, *Aliens and Sojourners: Self as Other in Early Christianity* (2009); *Specters of Paul: Sexual Difference in Early Christian Thought* (2011); and *Christ Without Adam: Subjectivity and Sexual Difference in the Philosophers' Paul* (2014). He is also the editor of *The Oxford Handbook of New Testament, Gender, and Sexuality* (2019).

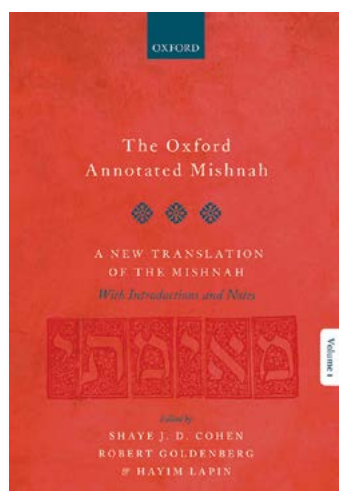
At Fordham Professor Dunning was centrally involved in the creation of the doctoral track in Judaism and Christianity in Antiquity and co-mentored the first dissertation at Fordham that focused substantively on both traditions, looking comparatively at theological discussions of circumcision across a range of rabbinic and early Christian texts. His book, *Christ*



Pixievision.com

Without Adam, was borne out of a conference he helped organize in 2014 with the Yale Program for the Study of Antisemitism called "Troubling Legacies: Anti-Judaism in Antiquity and Its Aftermath." One of the book's topics is the problematic ways that "Judaism" has figured in recent philosophical appropriations of the Apostle Paul, a subject Professor Dunning plans to continue to explore in a course he will teach this fall semester on Paul as a thinker within Ancient Judaism. His current research project deals with theological arguments that undergird discussions about sexuality in Hellenistic Judaism and Early Christianity.

The Center of Jewish Studies and its faculty look forward to working closely and teaching with Professor Dunning in the coming years. ■



FROM THE DESK OF SHAYE J.D. COHEN

Nathan Littauer Professor of Hebrew Literature and Philosophy

The Oxford Annotated Mishnah, a project that Shaye Cohen launched over ten years ago, has now finally been published by Oxford University Press. Two co-editors joined the project along the way (one of whom, alas, did not live to see the project to completion). This publication includes three large volumes, about 2500 pages of text, and the efforts of fifty contributors. The Mishnah is the foundational document of rabbinic law and, one might say, rabbinic Judaism. ■



JULIA RHYDER

FROM THE DESK OF JULIA RHYDER

Assistant Professor of Near Eastern
Languages and Civilizations

Professor Rhyder received the 2021 David Noel Freedman Award for Excellence and Creativity in Hebrew Bible Scholarship and is currently co-editing *Authorship and the Hebrew Bible*, a volume due out with Mohr Siebeck in October 2022.

■ Articles & Publications

With Christophe Nihan, editors. *Text and Ritual in the Pentateuch: A Systematic and Comparative Approach*. University Park, PA: Eisenbrauns, 2021.

With Sonja Ammann, editors. *Transforming Memories of Collective Violence. Special issue of Hebrew Bible and Ancient Israel*, 10, no. 1 (2021): 1–96.

“The Tent of Meeting as Monumental Space: The Construction of the Priestly Sanctuary in Exodus 25–31, 35–40,” *Hebrew Bible and Ancient Israel*, 10, no. 3 (2021): 301–13.

“Festivals and Violence in 1 and 2 Maccabees: Hanukkah and Nicanor’s Day,” *Hebrew Bible and Ancient Israel*, 10, no 1 (2021): 63–76.

“The Reception of Ritual Laws in the Early Second Temple Period: The Evidence of Ezra-Nehemiah and Chronicles.” Pages 255–79 in *Text and Ritual in the Pentateuch: A Systematic and Comparative Approach*. Edited by Christophe Nihan and Julia Rhyder. University Park, PA: Eisenbrauns, 2021.

“Vergissmeinnicht. Siegesfeiern im hellenistischen Judentum.” *Prospektiv* 15 (2022): 9.

“[The Commemoration of War in Early Jewish Festivals](#).” Bible Odyssey. 2021. www.bibleodyssey.org

■ Presentations

“Military Victory and Festal Celebration: Tracing the History of War Commemoration in Biblical and Early Jewish Festivals.” Columbia Hebrew Bible Seminar, May 2022.

“Yhwh the Lawgiver: The Extent and Limits of Divine Authorship in the Hebrew Bible.” Old Testament Postgraduate Seminars. Stellenbosch University, May 2022.

“Response to Yitzhaq Feder: *Purity and Pollution in the Hebrew Bible: From Embodied Experience to Moral Metaphor*.” Contagion: Is it All in Our Minds? Online book launch, May 2022.

“Celebrating War: Festivals and War Commemoration in the Hebrew Bible and Second Temple Traditions.” Spring Bible & Archaeology Fest. Biblical Archaeology Society. April 2022.

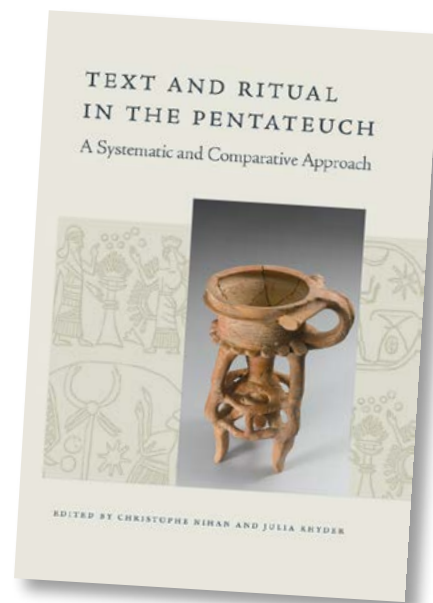
“Divine Authorship: Diverse Images of Yhwh as Lawgiver in the Pentateuch and Beyond.” Harvard Hebrew Bible Workshop, April 2022.

“Festal Politics in 1 and 2 Maccabees: Postcolonial Criticism and Ritual Innovation in Hellenistic Judea.” New Approaches to the Ancient Mediterranean. Annual lecture series, Department of Classics and Ancient Mediterranean Studies, Penn State University, February 2022.

“Hellenizing Hanukkah: The Commemoration of Military Victory in the Books of the Maccabees.” Faculty Works in Progress. Ancient Studies at Harvard, December 2021.

“The Origins of the Jewish Pig Taboo: Pig Consumption and Ethnicity from Leviticus to the Maccabees.” David Noel Freedman Prize for Excellence and Creativity in Hebrew Bible Scholarship Award Session. Society of Biblical Literature, November 2021.

“Response to David Carr: Terms for Teaching about and Discussing the Formation of Non-P/JE Materials in the Pentateuch in the Twenty-First Century.” Columbia Hebrew Bible Seminar, November 2021.





ANNETTE YOSHIKO REED

WELCOME, ANNETTE YOSHIKO REED

by David Stern

The Center for Jewish Studies is delighted to welcome **Annette Yoshiko Reed** as Professor of New Testament and Early Christianity in Harvard Divinity School. Professor Reed comes to Harvard most recently from New York University, where she was Professor in the Skirball Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies and the Department of Religious Studies; previously, she taught at the University of Pennsylvania and McMaster University. She earned her B.A. from McGill University, an M.T.S. from Harvard Divinity School, and her doctorate in Religious Studies from Princeton University.

Professor Reed is a highly accomplished scholar and teacher with exceptionally broad interests. Aside from the New Testament and Early Christianity, she has done groundbreaking work in Second Temple Judaism, Greco-Roman religion, and apocalyptic literature across religious traditions. She has a special interest in Jewish-Christian relations in Late Antiquity; in fact, she has been one of the major forces in the re-thinking of the ways in which these two great religious traditions of the West eventually “parted ways”—or didn’t—to become separate communities.

What distinguishes Professor Reed’s work is her ability to work in multiple ancient languages—Hebrew, Aramaic, Syriac, Coptic, and Greek, among others—along with a very sharp eye for the telling detail. Her remarkable ability to deploy those linguistic skills and details to build a larger conceptual picture can literally open up a previously unseen world. Her work has invariably focused upon either unrecognized, lost, or unknown traditions. She has written four monographs, most recently, *Demons, Angels, and Writing in Ancient Judaism* (Cambridge, 2020); edited or co-edited five volumes of essays including the seminal *The Ways that Never Parted: Jews and Christians in Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages* (2003), and authored numerous essays and articles, both academic and popular. She is currently working on a book about forgetting in ancient religion. This fall she will teach “Judaism and the Making of Christianity” in both HDS and the Committee on the Study of Religion.

On a more personal note, let me conclude by saying that it’s a special pleasure for me to welcome Professor Reed to Harvard because we were close colleagues together at Penn for many years. We taught together, shared students, and served on the same committees. I can personally testify to Annette’s extraordinary gifts as a teacher and mentor, and to her dedication, devotion, and loyalty to her students. Harvard is extraordinarily lucky to have her among its faculty! ■

VISITOR NEWS

THE CJS ANNUALLY HOSTS OUTSTANDING SCHOLARS, FELLOWS, VISITING PROFESSORS/LECTURERS AND EXCHANGE STUDENTS IN JEWISH STUDIES



VISITING SCHOLAR **RINA LAPIDUS**,
BAR-ILAN UNIVERSITY



ASSOCIATE
SUSANNE KLINGENSTEIN



VISITING SCHOLAR **AYNAT RUBINSTEIN**,
THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

Photos: Ilene Perlman

2021–2022 VISITORS WHO'S WHO

Harry Starr Fellows in Judaica

Theme: "The Medieval Period: 600–1600 CE"

Yakov Mayer (spring), Ben Gurion University of the Negev

Tamara Morsel-Eisenberg (academic year), Harvard University

Sivan Nir (academic year), Tel Aviv University

Sophia Schmitt (spring), Ludwig-Maximilian University Munich

Chana Shacham-Rosby (spring), Ben Gurion University of the Negev

Anna Sierka (academic year), The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Daniel Jeremy Silver Fellow

Aaron Adler, Ohel Nechama Community Synagogue, Israel (spring)

Visiting Professors

Gerard Weinstock Visiting Professor of Jewish Studies | Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations:

Yehudah Mirsky, Brandeis University (spring)

George Rohr Visiting Professor | Department of Government:

Arie Krampf, The Israel Institute; Academic College of Tel Aviv-Yaffo (spring)

Visiting Scholars, Fellows and Associates

Jonatan Benarroch, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem (fall)

Benjamin Braude, Boston College (fall)

Elena Dugan, Phillips Academy (spring)

Naama Golan, Kibbutzim College of Education (spring)

Samuel Hain, Young Israel Ohab Zedek of North Riverdale/Yonkers (academic year)

Marc Herman, York University, Toronto (academic year)

Yosi Israeli, Bar-Ilan University (fall)

Lynn Kaye, Brandeis University (fall)

Gilah Kletenik, Boston University (fall)

Ehud Krinis, Independent scholar (fall)

Susanne Klingenstein, Independent scholar (academic year)

Rina Lapidus, Bar-Ilan University (summer)

Aynat Rubinstein, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem (academic year)

Deborah Tatar, Virginia Tech (academic year)

VISITING PROFESSORS



YEHUDAH MIRSKY

THE CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES HOSTED TWO VISITING PROFESSORS DURING THE 2021-22 ACADEMIC YEAR.

These visiting professorships enable us to bring faculty from other universities to supplement our regular course offerings. These faculty are appointed in academic departments, where they offer courses in Jewish studies and connect with students in a variety of academic disciplines.

YEHUDAH MIRSKY

GERARD WEINSTOCK VISITING PROFESSOR IN JEWISH STUDIES

DEPARTMENT OF NEAR EASTERN LANGUAGES AND CIVILIZATIONS, SPRING

Professor of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies, Brandeis University

We were thrilled to welcome **Professor Yehudah Mirsky** back to Harvard as a Visiting Professor for the spring of 2022. Prof. Mirsky earned his Ph.D. at Harvard in the Committee on the Study of Religion several years ago. We are extremely grateful to the Weinstock family for their generosity which made this fund possible. In the spring 2022 semester, Prof. Yehudah Mirsky taught one class, Jewish Studies 152, “Renaissance and Revolution: Judaism, Zionism & Israel,” in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations.

At Brandeis, Prof. Mirsky teaches courses on Jewish thought (medieval and modern), history of Zionism and the State of Israel, and the history of political thought. He also served

in the US State Department’s human rights bureau and has written on religion, politics and culture for the *New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *New Republic*, *The Economist* and many other publications. As an ordained rabbi, he was chaplain with the Red Cross after 9-11. His *Rav Kook: Mystic in a Time of Revolution* (Yale, 2014) was awarded the Jewish Book Council’s Choice Prize. It appeared in 2021 in a revised Hebrew edition as *Rav Kook: Mabat Hadash* (Kinneret) and was named by *Ha-Aretz* as one of the 50 best books of 2021. This last year also saw the publication of his *Towards the Mystical Experience of Modernity: The Making of Rav Kook, 1865–1904* (Academic Studies Press). His current project involves the relationships between liberal politics, theology and nationalism in the mid-20th century. ■

ARIE
KRAMPF

ARIE KRAMPF

GEORGE ROHR VISITING PROFESSOR WITH SUPPORT FROM THE ISRAEL INSTITUTE

Associate Professor for Political Economy and International Studies, School of Government and Society, Academic College of Tel Aviv-Yaffo

It was a pleasure to host **Professor Arie Krampf**, together with the Israel Institute, as our George Rohr Visiting Professor during the spring semester. Prof. Krampf taught Government 1106, “The Political Economy of Israel” and Government 94kp, “The Globalization of Finance.”

Arie Krampf is a tenured Associate Professor for Political Economy and International Studies at the School of Government and Society at the Academic College of Tel Aviv-Yaffo. His main areas of interest, research and teaching are Comparative Political Economy and International Political Economy. In the field of comparative political economic research, he focuses on the political economy of small open economies and the ways geopolitical circumstances shape small states' growth strategies. Krampf is currently studying the impact of Israel's geopolitical circumstances on its growth models. He was recently awarded a highly competitive 3-year research grant from the Israel Science Foundation. This research project, *Israel Growth Strategy in the Post-Fordist Era: Ideology, Security and Economy* (October 2019 – September 2022), investigates how the perception of security threats by Israeli decisionmakers affected economic policy choices and determined Israel's path to the neoliberal era. His recent book on the topic is *The Israeli Path to Neoliberalism: The State, Continuity, and Change* (Routledge 2018). ■

THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF ISRAEL: A REFLECTION

by Arie Krampf, George Rohr Visiting Professor with support from the Israel Institute

During the Spring Semester of the 2021–2022 academic year, I served as Rohr Visiting Professor at the Department of Government and the Center of Jewish Studies at Harvard University

When I designed the syllabus for my course, “**The Political Economy of Israel: Ideology, Security, Economy**,” my choice of topics and readings was guided by one principle: I did not intend to build a course for “Israel experts,” those students who already had an interest in the Israeli case. Instead, my goal was to attract students interested in more general questions about statehood, state building, and emergent small, semi-peripheral economies. In other words, I wished to teach about Israel as a case study.

However, as scholars of Israel know, it is not clear what case the case of Israel makes. Some study Israel as a socialist state that turned into a capitalist one; others study it as a social democracy, as a developmental state or as a colonialist state. It can also be studied from the perspective of a small economy or a small emergent economy. Some scholars put more emphasis on Israel's social structure, while others focus on its political and legal institutions.

The point is that highlighting any of those potential perspectives in a serious way requires teaching the associated theory. A decision to teach about Israel as a case of a small state, would require discussion of theories of the political economy of small states and how the condition of being a small state shapes the economy, the

“...I did not intend to build a course for “Israel experts,” ... Instead, my goal was to attract students interested in more general questions about statehood, state building, and emergent small, semi-peripheral economies.”

—Arie Krampf

society, and the political system. Alternatively, teaching about Israel as a case of social democracy, would involve discussing the various types of welfare regimes and offering an explanation as to why not all states embrace the Scandinavian model.

A significant portion of the lectures was dedicated to theories. Bringing theories into the study of Israel enabled us to distance ourselves from the object of study. It highlighted the fact that there are multiple lenses through which one can study and understand the case of Israel. Therefore, even if students came with the impression that they already knew what Israel was “all about,” whatever their perspectives might have been, the theoretical discussion encouraged them to reconsider and revise those views.

Teaching about Israel from a comparative perspective does not imply denying the “uniqueness” of the case study. By the “uniqueness” of the case of Israel I do not mean simply another way of talking about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Of course it is impossible to talk — even more so to teach — about Israel without addressing this conflict. In addition to revealing something essential about the case of Israel, this discussion is essential in order to understand how Israel has been shaped by the conflict. I aim to create an open environment in which a variety of perspectives can be expressed and discussed.

One day on my way to class, I walked by an anti-Israeli installation at one corner of Harvard Yard and a pro-Israel demonstration in another corner. I did not feel intimidated or offended by either. I believe in the freedom of expression on campus and in general. However, I asked myself if, and to what extent, I should bring up the issues raised by those public demonstrations in class.

To answer that question, I imagined a situation in which my class included Palestinian and Jewish students from the West Bank. As the professor, it was my duty to make sure that both sides could feel sufficiently comfortable there. Though I know that the conflict will not be resolved in class, I feel a commitment to providing students with academic tools that I hope will permit open, informed, and hopefully constructive discussion. I thought that my primary obligation was to do my best to provide those students with the most up-to-date empirical and historical background and the best theoretical tools to understand the situation in Israel. The issue here is not about being “neutral” regarding the conflict, but rather it is about creating discursive space, in which conflicting narratives can be heard and discussed critically and in light of historical evidence. ■



"Spending the past thirty-eight years in the active rabbinate, along with a professional career in education, delayed the completion of this work until the Silver Fellowship provided me with the time and tranquility vitally necessary to convert this dream into reality."

—Rabbi Aaron Adler

DANIEL JEREMY SILVER FELLOW

DURING THE SPRING 2022 SEMESTER, WE HOSTED OUR TWENTY-EIGHTH DANIEL JEREMY SILVER FELLOW AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY, RABBI AARON ADLER OF OHEL NECHAMA COMMUNITY SYNAGOGUE IN ISRAEL.

This fellowship was established in memory of Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver '48 to enable an "active congregational rabbi who has demonstrated exceptional intellectual and academic interest, originality and energy" to engage in full-time research at Harvard for a semester.

RABBI DR. AARON ADLER

Ohel Nechama Community Synagogue/Israel

It has been an honor and a privilege serving as the Daniel Jeremy Silver Fellow during the spring semester of 2022 at Harvard's Center for Jewish Studies. This fellowship afforded me the unique opportunity of completing years of Maimonidean academic research.

This research commenced in the 1970s M.A. program at the Bernard Revel Graduate School of Yeshiva University under the guidance of Prof. Meyer S. Feldblum. It then continued during the 1980s at Bar-Ilan University's doctoral program, guided by Prof. Shlomo Z. Havlin. The area of research focused upon the multiple contradictions between Maimonides's *Mishnah Commentary* and his codes—the Maimonides's *Mishneh Torah*. Methodological shifts in Maimonides's approach to a variety of sources have been identified, thereby explaining the reversed Maimonidean opinions apparent in these two primary works of Jewish Law. During the past three decades,

other Maimonidean themes have been explored leading me to multiple appearances worldwide in the academic arena. The fellowship semester at Harvard University allowed me to polish the various academic conclusions and prepare this research for publication.

I thank the Creator for guiding me in the footsteps of such outstanding rabbinic and academic luminaries the likes of R' David Hoffman, R' Jechiel J. Weinberg, R' Binyamin Z. Benedikt, and R' Yitzhak (Isadore) Twersky (the first director of the Center for Jewish Studies).

Spending the past thirty-eight years in the active rabbinate, along with a professional career in education, delayed the completion of this work until the Silver Fellowship provided me with the time and tranquility vitally necessary to convert this dream into reality. And, for this, I am forever grateful. ■

2021–22 HARRY STARR FELLOWS IN JUDAICA

THE HARRY STARR FELLOWSHIP IN JUDAICA

supports a group of scholars from around the world to gather at Harvard to engage in full-time research in Jewish studies. This research fellowship was founded with a generous bequest from the estate of Harry Starr (class of 1921), former president of the Lucius Littauer Foundation.

The Starr Fellowship is open to scholars at different stages of their academic careers. From a record number of applicants,

we selected six Starr Fellows for 2021–22. Last year we invited a group of Post-Doctoral Fellows whose work relates to medieval Jewish studies. Starr Fellows presented their works in progress at weekly Starr Seminars during the spring semester. We were also able to invite some outside speakers to present to the group. These presentations often elicited lively discussions between the Starr Fellows, other visiting scholars, and faculty and students from Harvard and other area universities.

STARR SEMINARS 2022

Medieval period (600–1600 CE)

Harvard Faculty Hosts: **Noah Feldman** and **David Stern**
Co-sponsored by the Committee on Medieval Studies, Harvard University

JANUARY 26

Noah Feldman, Felix Frankfurter Professor of Law,
Harvard Law School

A Conversation (Orientation meeting)

FEBRUARY 2

Yakov Mayer, Ben Gurion University of the Negev

*"Individualizing the Talmud: Talmud
Copies from the Geniza in Context"*

FEBRUARY 9

Sivan Nir, Tel Aviv University

*"Exempla Patterned after the Talmud: The Tales
of The Sages in Neo Classical Medieval Midrash"*

FEBRUARY 16

Tamara Morsel-Eisenberg, Harvard University

*"Rupture and Religious Law: Legal Traditions
and their Transmission from Medieval
Ashkenaz to Early Modern Poland"*

FEBRUARY 23

Guest Speaker: Kenneth Stow, Professor of Jewish
History Emeritus, University of Haifa

A Conversation

MARCH 9

Sophia Schmitt, Ludwig-Maximilian University Munich

*"On the Defensive and On the Offensive:
Jewish Resilience in 15th Century Ashkenaz"*

MARCH 23

Anna Sierka, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

"The Sense of Smell in Medieval Jewish Mysticism"

MARCH 30

Chana Shacham-Rosby, Ben Gurion University
of the Negev

*"Practice, Practicality and Periphery
in Medieval Ashkenaz"*

APRIL 6

Rabbi Aaron Adler, Ohel Nechama Community
Synagogue/Israel

*"Ashkenazic Versions of Prayers and
Blessings in Maimonides's Codes"*

APRIL 27

Guest Speaker: Naama Golan, Kibbutzim College
of Education

*"Creative Interpretation within the Genre
Constraints: A Study of Yehuda Uziel's
Super-Commentary on Rashi"*

MAY 4

David Stern, Harry Starr Professor of Classical
and Modern Jewish and Hebrew Literature and
Professor of Comparative Literature; Director of the
Center for Jewish Studies, Harvard University

*"Tiny Jewish Characters: Micrography and
Religious Identity" (Wrap-up session)*



DAVID STERN & NOAH FELDMAN



SUSANNE KLINGENSTEIN



BERNARD SEPTIMUS



CHANA SHACHAM-ROSBY

SOPHIA SCHMITT



TAMARA MORSEL-EISENBERG

STARR SEMINARS

LIVE AND IN-PERSON!



AARON ADLER



PROFESSOR DAVID STERN AND STARR FELLOWS

Ilene Perlman

NOTES FROM THE 2021–22 STARR FELLOWS



YAKOV MAYER

YAKOV MAYER

Ben Gurion University of the Negev

Many challenges interrupted my opportunity to spend the spring term of 2022 as a Starr Fellow at Harvard. The whole world was in the middle of recovering from COVID-19: indoor meetings were still restricted and overseas travel was still complicated. But these challenges didn't stop us, the Starr and Silver Fellows, from meeting in Cambridge for an enriching, engaging, and powerful semester. Under Prof. David Stern's devoted guidance, our time was

"The weekly presentations of the rest of the Fellows and the hosts and the conversations that followed them have significantly contributed to my evolution as a scholar."

—Yakov Mayer

full of exciting opportunities, new introductions, and great exchanges of ideas.

It was a great opportunity for me to present my project, "Individualizing the Talmud: Talmud Copies from the Geniza in Context," in front of the Fellows and faculty. The group's lively discussion enriched my research in many ways and contributed profoundly to how I think about the subject. The weekly presentations of the rest of the Fellows and the hosts and the conversations that followed them have significantly contributed to my evolution as a scholar. I am thankful for the opportunity to use the treasures of the library of Harvard, both online and physically, in print and manuscript, which were extremely valuable to my research and opened intellectual and historical doors for me.

I extend my deepest gratitude to **Prof. David Stern** and **Prof. Noah Feldman** for their hospitality and support, and to Rachel Rockenmacher and Sandy Cantave Vil for their generous assistance. I thank **Prof. Daniel Boyarin**, for the great privilege of learning Talmud in his class at the Harvard Law School, and to the dear Fellows for a beautiful year of intellectual encounters and new friendships. ■

SIVAN NIR

Tel Aviv University

My year-long stay as a 2021–22 Starr Fellow at the Harvard's Center for Jewish Studies enabled me to complete a full first draft of a new book, *A Curtain Set with Jewels: The Tales of the Sages in Late Midrash*. Whereas most studies of the semi-biographical legends of the rabbinic sages focus on the Babylonian Talmud, this project morphed into the first systematic exploration of roughly half of the possibly unique and late (post 6th century CE) tales in existence. The study breaks new ground by showing that the narratives are truly post-classical works rather than recessions. Their poetics demonstrate a much higher degree of imitation and dependence on older tradition compared to classical Midrash. This dependence is, however, accompanied by novel, inclusive, and less ambiguous theologies and theodicies.



SIVAN NIR

"[My] stay as a 2021–22 Starr Fellow at the Harvard's Center for Jewish Studies enabled me to complete a full first draft of a new book, *A Curtain Set with Jewels: The Tales of the Sages in Late Midrash*."

—Sivan Nir

The centerpiece of my experience of Harvard was the enriching and enlivening Starr Seminar meetings. The feedback I received on my presentation led to a far more sophisticated hyper-textual lens through which to view my materials. I especially want to extend my gratitude to Professor David Stern for his helpful comments and to Professor Noah Feldman for his encouragement. It was my pleasure to get to know this year's other Fellows, from near and far, whose feedback and intellectual comradery proved vital. Finally, I wish to thank Sandy Cantave Vil, Rachel Rockenmacher, and Allison Andrews, for their generous care and attention in facilitating a fruitful stay in what was still in part a pandemic-ridden year. ■

TAMARA MORSEL-EISENBERG

Harvard University

It was a privilege and a pleasure to be a Starr Fellow for the academic year 2021–2022. During the first semester, I made significant progress on my first book manuscript, *Remaking a Culture*, which examines the transmission of halakhic knowledge in early modern Ashkenaz. I also began arranging the research for my second book-project, *Law and Disorder*, which uses early modern rabbinic responsa as a way to think anew about Jewish law.

Getting to meet the other Starr (and Silver) Fellows, first on Zoom and later in person, was particularly exciting. Beyond learning so much from their work, I have forged academic ties

and friendships for years to come. The seminars were a great way to learn more about one another's research and to make intellectual connections.

My own presentation centered on a strange phenomenon that appears in rabbinic responsa in 15th-century Bavaria: firstborn animals that nobody seemed to want to own. I had previously examined the scholarly and legal aspects of these cases. However, for the current presentation, I focused on the social, communal, agricultural, and economic circumstances, and examined how the halakhic issues interacted with these elements. The feedback I received from other fellows, such as Sophia Schmitt's insights on the Jews in Augsburg, was invaluable. Shortly after presenting, I submitted an article (in Hebrew) based on this research for publication.

The spring semester also saw the publication of an article of mine in the *Harvard Theological Review*. While this piece was conceived and written quite some time ago, it was particularly gratifying to make the final reviews and see it appear in print while at Harvard.

I would like to thank everyone who made the Starr Fellowship possible for their dedication and hard work, despite what was not an easy year! ■



TAMARA MORSEL-EISENBERG

"My own presentation centered on a strange phenomenon that appears in rabbinic responsa in 15th-century Bavaria: firstborn animals that nobody seemed to want to own."

—Tamara Morsel-Eisenberg



Ilene Perlman

SOPHIA SCHMITT

SOPHIA SCHMITT

Ludwig-Maximilian University Munich

My stay at the Center for Jewish Studies as a Harry Starr Fellow provided me with optimal conditions to jump-start and make significant progress on my new research endeavor. My project, “We Have Endured Fire and Water: Jewish and Christian Perspectives on Natural Disasters in Comparison and Conversation,” analyzes the impact of natural disasters on Jewish-Christian relations in medieval Ashkenaz, combining environmental history with the history of mentalities within the framework of shared Jewish-Christian cultures. I am examining institutional and cultural reactions to catastrophes, preventive measures, and socio-cultural and religious structures that contributed to the means of handling catastrophes. During my time at the CJS, I focused on the development of fire-fighting efforts among the Jewish and Christian urban populations of the Middle Ages. In addition, I finished an article about intimate Jewish-Christian relationships in the medieval city of Regensburg.

The vast library resources in English, Hebrew and German proved an indispensable tool for my research. Especially helpful, however, was the opportunity to present my preliminary findings in the weekly Starr seminar, where I received helpful feedback from Professors David Stern and Noah Feldman, from the other Starr Fellows, and from the guests of the seminar. Although each of the Starr Fellows engaged with Jewish history, thought or literature in the same period, the Middle Ages, our methodologies and topics of interest mirrored the diversity of the field. Both the seminar presentations and discussions, as well as everyday conversations in our shared office or over a cup of coffee, provided us with the opportunity to connect, discuss challenges and ideas and profit from the different approaches to the research of the Jewish experience in the Middle Ages. Despite some remaining COVID-related restrictions, the Starr Fellowship also enabled me to experience the ways classes in

“My project, “We Have Endured Fire and Water: Jewish and Christian Perspectives on Natural Disasters in Comparison and Conversation,” analyzes the impact of natural disasters on Jewish-Christian relations in medieval Ashkenaz, combining environmental history with the history of mentalities within the framework of shared Jewish-Christian cultures.”

—Sophia Schmitt

Jewish studies are taught at Harvard University. I gained new insights from guest lectures as well as from the chance to listen to the collaborative efforts of leading researchers, such as the Initiative for the Science of the Human Past. All of this would have been impossible without the support of the **faculty at the Center of Jewish Studies** and especially without the tireless efforts of Rachel Rockenmacher and Sandy Cantave Vil, the Center’s administrators. Thank you all so much! ■



Ilene Perlman

ANNA SIERKA

ANNA SIERKA

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

I was honored to serve as a Harry Starr Fellow at the Center for Jewish Studies at Harvard during the academic year 2021–2022. During this time late in the pandemic, Harvard was transitioning to a return to in-person teaching and physical presence on campus. Hence, I was able to benefit from a fuller Harvard experience: finding my favorite working spots in Andover and Widener Libraries, reading Hebrew manuscripts and incunabula in Houghton Library, and meeting with staff, associates, and co-fellows during weekly Starr Seminars presided over by Prof. David Stern and Prof. Noah Feldman.

"I completed my first book, focusing on the image of *merkavah* conceptualized as a nut-like structure permeating medieval and early modern Kabbalah. I also authored a paper on the olfactory experience as recorded in medieval Jewish esotericism."

—Anna Sierka

Over the course of the fall semester, I completed my first book, focusing on the image of *merkavah* conceptualized as a nut-like structure permeating medieval and early modern Kabbalah. I also authored a paper on the olfactory experience as recorded in medieval Jewish esotericism. I later advanced my research on the phenomenology of the olfactory sense and the significance attached to it in Jewish esoteric, magical, and kabbalistic writings. In addition, I benefitted from the abundant resources offered by the Harvard Divinity School: in order to further develop my multidisciplinary approach, I attended courses in mystical theology, gender studies, and hermeticism offered by **Prof. Amy Hollywood** and **Prof. Charles Stang**. The culmination of my research at Harvard was my participation in a unique academic event, "Adventures in the Imaginal: Henry Corbin in the 21st Century," a multidisciplinary conference hosted by the Harvard Center for the Study of World Religions.

It was a pleasure to join the thought-provoking Starr Seminars, exchanging ideas not only with the hosts and co-Fellows, but also with doctoral and postdoctoral affiliates at Harvard Divinity School. I wish to express my profound gratitude to Professors Stern and Feldman for their invaluable guidance during this academic year. I am also deeply grateful to Dr. Rachel Rockenmacher and Sandy Cantave Vil for their dedicated engagement and tremendous preparatory work, which ensured our gatherings were safe and conducted in accordance with the COVID protocols observed by the Harvard community. I would like to extend a special thanks to **Prof. Charles Stang** and **Sarabinh Levy-Brightman**, who were always open for discussions on mystical phenomena and diverse forms of spiritualism and transcendence, and by whose kindness and hospitality I was enchanted. ■

CHANA SHACHAM-ROSBY

Ben Gurion University of the Negev

During my time as a Starr Fellow at the Center for Jewish Studies, I had the wonderful opportunity to pursue a new research project entitled: "Thrones and Cathedrae: Ritual Seats from Late Antiquity to Early Modernity." The project focuses on ritual uses of the symbol



Ilene Perlman

"While at Harvard, my research benefited greatly from the extensive resources in the spectacular library collections, as well as from conversations with faculty and colleagues who were gracious with their time and enthusiastic about sharing ideas. "

—Chana Shacham-Rosby

of the "chair" in the context of two entangled themes related to this ubiquitous object, the first being assertion of authority, and the second its presence and absence. My primary case study is two iconic components that are part of the *brit milah*, the Jewish circumcision ceremony, the "Chair of Elijah" and the "Chair of the *Ba'al Brit*".

While at Harvard, my research benefited greatly from the extensive resources in the spectacular library collections, as well as from conversations with faculty and colleagues who were gracious with their time and enthusiastic about sharing ideas. I greatly benefited from the mutual friendship and support of my cohort of Starr and Silver Fellows; I could always find someone happy to discuss a research theory over ice cream. The Starr Seminars were a weekly highlight, and my thanks to Professors David Stern and Noah Feldman for leading the stimulating discussions. I am especially grateful to Rachel Rockenmacher, Sandy Cantave Vil, and the entire CJS staff for their generous assistance throughout my time at Harvard and their consistent efforts to help everyone at CJS feel welcome. ■

LECTURES & EVENTS

FALL SEMESTER 2021



Osnat Aharoni

PETER J. SOLOMON CLASS OF 1960 GATE

The new Peter J. Solomon Gate leads to the Houghton and Lamont libraries in Harvard Yard. It contains a portal with a reading bench where a quote from Lewis Carroll's *Through the Looking-Glass* appears on the underside of the lintel.

"Always speak the truth, think before you speak, and write it down afterwards."

—Inscription from the Peter J. Solomon Gate

OCTOBER 5, 2021

God at the Bedside: Faith, Medicine and the Challenge of Not Being God

JEROME GROOPMAN, M.D.

Dina and Raphael Recanati Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School; Chief of Experimental Medicine, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

MODERATOR: PROFESSOR DAVID STERN

Harry Starr Professor of Classical and Modern Jewish and Hebrew Literature and Professor of Comparative Literature; Director of the Center for Jewish Studies, Harvard University

The Inaugural Stacy Dick Lecture

Charles H. Revson Foundation Lecture Fund

OCTOBER 14, 2021

The Alliance Israélite Universelle and the Racial Politics of Ethnography

RACHEL SMITH

Ph.D. candidate, Department of History, UCLA

William Landau Lecture and Publication Fund with the Jews in Modern Europe Seminar, Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies and the Project on Russian and Eurasian Jewry, Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard University

OCTOBER 15, 2021

PETER J. SOLOMON GATE DEDICATION

Dedication of the Peter J. Solomon Class of 1960 gate near Houghton and Lamont Libraries. The gate was the gift of Peter and Susan Solomon and the event was organized by Harvard Alumni Affairs and Development.

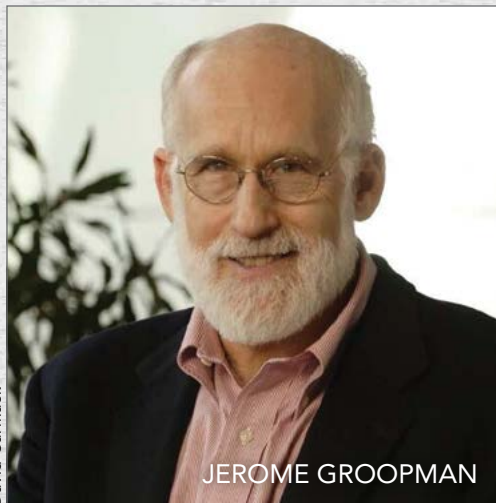
OCTOBER 27, 2021

Bearing Witness at Nuremberg: The Soviet Contribution to the Record of the Holocaust

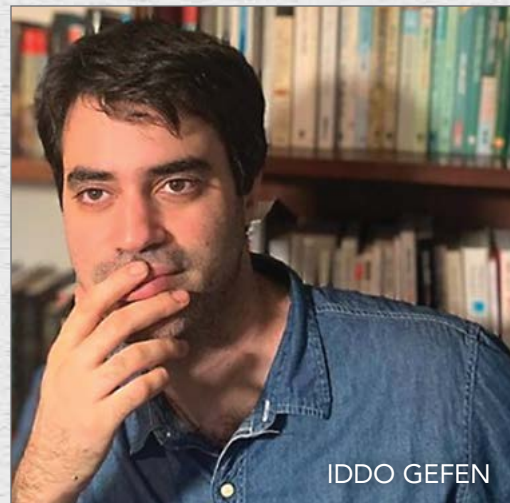
FRANCINE HIRSCH

Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professor, History, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Cosponsored by the Seminar on Russian and Eurasian Jewry, Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies and the Center for Jewish Studies at Harvard University.



JEROME GROOPMAN



IDDO GEFEN

NOVEMBER 3, 2021

Isaac Babel's Diary as Ego-Document: An Experimental Approach

MICHAEL STANISLAWSKI

Nathan J. Miller Professor of Jewish History, Columbia University

Cosponsored by the Seminar on Russian and Eurasian Jewry, Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies and the Center for Jewish Studies at Harvard University

NOVEMBER 5, 2021

Jewish Politics Between Minorityhood and Triage in Interwar Poland

KENNETH MOSS

Harriet and Ulrich E. Meyer Professor of Jewish History and the College, University of Chicago

Leon I. Mirell Lecture Fund with the Jews in Modern Europe Seminar, Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies and the Project on Russian and Eurasian Jewry, Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard University

NOVEMBER 10, 2021

ANNUAL CJS FALL RECEPTION

NOVEMBER 15, 2021

The Biblical Roots of Modern Hebrew

ILAN ABECASSIS

Ph.D., Biblical Studies and Ancient Near East, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Talk for the Modern Hebrew students taught by Senior Preceptor, **Dr. Irit Aharony**

Harry Edison Fund

NOVEMBER 18, 2021

Transcending Transcendence: Repentance and Hypernomian Transformation of Law

ELLIOT WOLFSON

Marsha and Jay Glazer Endowed Chair in Jewish Studies and Distinguished Professor of Religion at University of California, Santa Barbara

Cosponsored by the Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard Divinity School (Annual List Lecture in Jewish Studies), and the Center for Jewish Studies, Harvard University

DECEMBER 2, 2021


Jerusalem Beach

IDDO GEFEN

Israeli author


Talk for the Modern Hebrew students taught by Senior Preceptor, **Dr. Irit Aharony**

Lissner Jewish Research, Language and History Fund



**Sponsored by the
Center for Jewish Studies**

**THE BIBLICAL ROOTS
OF MODERN HEBREW**



DR. ILAN ABECASSIS

Dr. Abecassis is a biblical and ancient Near East historian, a writer, a podcaster and a licensed tour guide. He holds a B.A. in Archaeology and Biblical Studies and a M.A. in Biblical Studies from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and a Ph.D. in Biblical Studies and Ancient Near East from Ben-Gurion University in Beer Sheva.

Monday, November 15, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

Join us on Zoom:
<https://harvard.zoom.us/j/990867529497>
 pwd=coRHTMkholqVz9pTEgXQWV6dshuUT09

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Harry Edison Fund

SPRING SEMESTER 2022



ADAH HETKO

JANUARY 31, 2022

Conversation with Yiddish Singer, Songwriter and Educator Adah Hetko

ADAH HETKO

Talk for Yiddish students taught by Preceptor, **Dr. Sara Feldman**
Abraham and Rachel Bornstein Fund

FEBRUARY 2, 2022

Between Doubt and Certainty: Theology and Interpretation in the Book of Daniel (Dan. 1:9, 3:17–18)

NAAMA GOLAN

Ph.D. Jewish Studies, Kibbutzim College of Education, Associate, Center for Jewish Studies, Harvard University (spring term)
Center for Jewish Studies with the Hebrew Bible Workshop

FEBRUARY 11, 2022

Badges of Servitude: White Christian Supremacy and the Rejection of Jewish and Black Equality

MAGDA TETER

Shvidler Chair in Judaic Studies and Professor of History, Fordham University

William Landau Lecture and Publication Fund with the Jews in Modern Europe Seminar, Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies and the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard University

Harvard Yiddish Studies presents

FARBINDUNGEN = פאַרבֿינדונגען

a graduate conference on Yiddish networks

Sunday, February 20th, 2022 | virtual

IIAM Keynote Address
Jessica Kirzane (Chicago) and Karolina Szymaniak (Wrocław) with Dalia Wolfson (Harvard)

IPM Interactive Workshops
The Yiddish Archive with RI (Reyze) J. Turner (Wisconsin-Madison)
Pitch to In geveb with Cassandra Euphrat Weston (Michigan) & Sandra Chiriacescu (Columbia)

Monday, February 21st, 2022 | virtual

Paper Panels

<p>10AM Margins and Centers moderated by Sara Feldman (Harvard) Ezra Lebovitz (Harvard) Lila Fabro (Buenos Aires) Elena Hoffenberg (Chicago) with Ethan Levin (Harvard)</p>	<p>Yiddish and Translation moderated by Saul Zaritt (Harvard) Jacqueline Krass (Wisconsin) Daria Vakhreshova (Meinrich Heine) Corbin Allerdice (Independent) with Dalia Wolfson (Harvard)</p>
<p>12PM Digital Networks moderated by Sandy (Sossy) Fox (Stanford) Sarah Biskowitz (Yiddish Book Center) Caleb (Shmuel) Sher (Independent) Cameron Bernstein (Yiddish Book Center) with Alona Bach (MIT)</p>	<p>Soviet and Communist Yiddish moderated by Anna Elena Torres (Chicago) Netta Ehrlich (NYU) Tetiana Shyshkova (Central European) Annabel Cohen (JTS) with David Karkovskiy (UC Berkeley)</p>
<p>2PM Rethinking the Other moderated by Sam Spinner (Johns Hopkins) Benjamin Kersten (UCLA) Sophie Edelhart (Toronto) Eyshe Beirich (Chicago) with Sophia Shoulson (Johns Hopkins)</p>	<p>Language Landscapes moderated by Sunny Yudkoff (Wisconsin) Race McChidhe (Holy Angels) Matthew M. Greene (Wisconsin) Anna Nienartowicz (Wrocław) with Sarah Biskowitz (Yiddish Book Center)</p>

sponsored by the Center for Jewish Studies at Harvard University
with support from the Icla Isaac-Melech and Zelman Rykles Memorial Fund

register at bit.ly/registerfarbindungen22 | Zoom link to follow

FEBRUARY 20–21, 2022

FARBINDUNGEN: A GRADUATE CONFERENCE ON YIDDISH NETWORKS

See the student organizing committee on page 24 and more program details on page 36

Icla Isaac-Melech and Zelman Rykles Memorial Fund

FEBRUARY 22, 2022

Baron or Graetz: Who Has Carried the Day? On Writing Medieval Jewish History

KENNETH STOW

Professor of Jewish History Emeritus, University of Haifa

Yanoff-Taylor Lecture and Publication Fund with the Harvard University Committee on Medieval Studies

FEBRUARY 24, 2022

CJS ANNUAL SPRING RECEPTION

MARCH 8, 2022

A Conversation

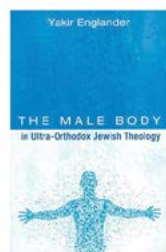
MAGDA TETER

Shvidler Chair in Judaic Studies and Professor of History, Fordham University

Friends of the Center for Jewish Studies
with the Jewish Studies Workshop

THE MALE BODY in Ultra-Orthodox Jewish Theology

Discussion of the New Book by Yakir Englander



Yakir Englander

Author, former WSRP Research Associate at Harvard Divinity School, and current National Senior Director of Leadership at the Israeli-American Council



Daniel Boyarin

Hermann P. and Sophia Taubman Professor of Talmudic Culture, UC Berkeley, currently Caroline Zelaznik Gruss and Joseph S. Gruss Visiting Professor in Talmudic Civil Law, Harvard Law School



Susannah Heschel

Eli M. Black Distinguished Professor of Jewish Studies at Dartmouth College



ARIE KRAMPF



Yael PERLOV

MARCH 9, 2022

Israel's Moment: International Conflict Over the Jewish State

JEFFREY HERF

Distinguished University Professor of History, University of Maryland

DISCUSSANT: DEREK PENSLAR

William Lee Frost Professor of Jewish History, Harvard University

Center for Jewish Studies with the European Politics Seminar and Jews in Modern Europe Seminar, and the Israeli Studies Support Fund, Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies at Harvard University

MARCH 24, 2022

The Male Body in Ultra-Orthodox Jewish Theology

Panel Discussion of Yakir Englander's new book with Daniel Boyarin and Susannah Heschel

DANIEL BOYARIN

Hermann P. and Sophia Taubman Professor of Talmudic Culture, UC Berkeley, currently Caroline Zelaznik Gruss and Joseph S. Gruss Visiting Professor in Talmudic Civil Law, Harvard Law School

SUSANNAH HESCHEL

Eli M. Black Distinguished Professor of Jewish Studies, Dartmouth College

YAKIR ENGLANDER

Former WSRP Research Associate at Harvard Divinity School, currently National Director of the Gavanim Leadership Program, Israeli-American Council.

Martin D. and Helen B. Schwartz Lecture Fund with the Women's Studies in Religion Program at Harvard Divinity School and Studies of Women, Gender, and Sexuality at Harvard University

MARCH 31, 2022

"In Antwerp We Speak Diamond" – City Branding & the Specter of Europe's Jewish Merchant

SAM SHUMAN

Rabin-Shvidler Joint Post-Doctoral Fellow in Jewish Studies, Fordham University and Columbia University

William Landau Lecture and Publication Fund with the Jews in Modern Europe Seminar, Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies at Harvard University

APRIL 4, 2022

Israel's Hawkish Neoliberalism: From Rabin to Netanyahu

ARIE KRAMPF

George Rohr Visiting Professor (with the support of the Israel Institute), Department of Government, Harvard University; Associate Professor, Academic College of Tel Aviv-Yaffo

Friends of the Center for Jewish Studies

APRIL 11, 2022

"Ben Gurion, Epilogue" – A Conversation

Yael PERLOV

Israel Institute visiting artist and the Artist in Residence in Cinematic Arts, Duke University

Discussion with the Modern Hebrew students taught by Senior Preceptor, **Dr. Irit Aharony**

Harry Edison Fund

Spring Event Calendar continues on page 24

JEWISH STUDIES WORKSHOP

MEETING DATES: 10/6/21, 11/2/21, 11/16/21, 11/30/21
2/1/22, 3/8/22, 3/22/22

HEBREW BIBLE WORKSHOP

MEETING DATES: 9/30/21, 10/14/21, 10/21/21, 11/4/21,
12/9/21, 2/10/22, 3/10/22, 4/7/22, 4/14/22, 4/28/22, 5/5/22



IRIT AHARONY & SUSAN KAHN



DEREK PENSLAR
& ARIE KRAMPF

END-OF-YEAR RECEPTION MAY 11, 2022

Photo credit (all photos): Ilene Perlman



DEBORAH TATAR



DAVID STERN



AARON ADLER, SIVAN NIR, SOPHIA SCHMITT &
CHANA SHACHAM-ROSBY



URI SCHRETER, CAROLYN BEARD, JESSICA PATEY, ALLISON HURST, ROY GINSBURG, AVISHAY BEN SASSON-GORDIS



JULIA RHYDER &
FUTURE SCHOLAR



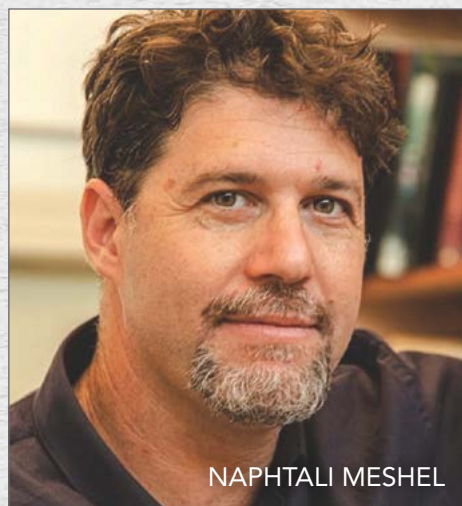
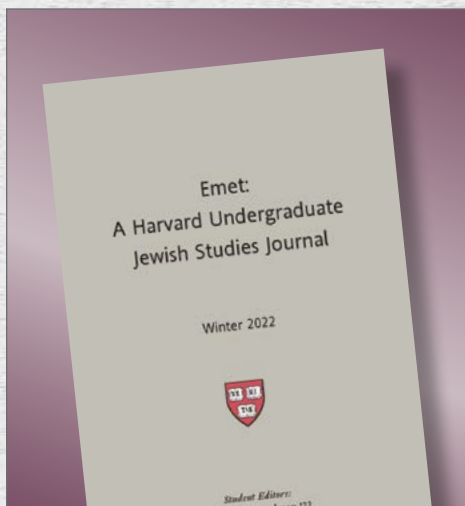
SAUL ZARITT, SARA FELDMAN
& AYNAT RUBINSTEIN



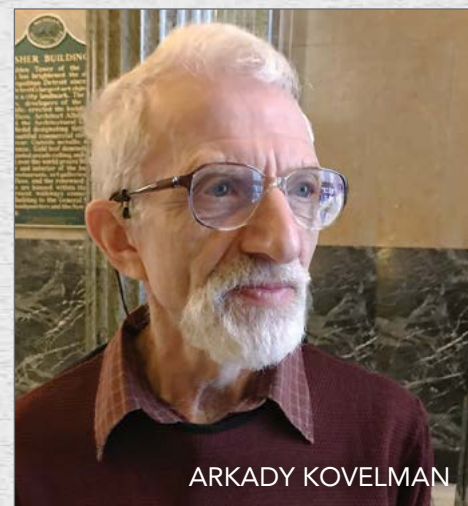
SONIA EPSTEIN, HANNAH MILLER & SAM MEYERSON



CHANA SHACHAM-ROSBY & FAMILY



NAPHTALI MESHEL



ARKADY KOVELMAN

APRIL 28, 2022

EMET: A HARVARD UNDERGRADUATE JEWISH STUDIES JOURNAL: LAUNCH EVENT

See details on page 39

Center for Jewish Studies and Harvard Hillel

MAY 5, 2022

Two Models for Pollution

NAPHTALI MESHEL

Senior Lecturer, Department of Bible and Chair of Department of Comparative Religion, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

*Friends of the Center for Jewish Studies
with the Hebrew Bible Workshop*

MAY 9, 2022

The Golden Age of Russian Jewry (1991–2021)

ARKADY KOVELMAN

Head of the Department for Jewish Studies,
Lomonosov Moscow State University

Icla Isaac-Melech and Zelman Rykles Memorial Fund

MAY 11, 2022

ANNUAL CJS END-OF-YEAR RECEPTION

See photo spread on page 22.



ACADEMICS

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

YIDDISH LANGUAGE NEWS

DR. SARA FELDMAN, PRECEPTOR IN YIDDISH



Harvard Yiddish students returned to in-person classes in the fall of 2021 eager for connection with our growing community. We worked with COVID-19 restrictions to meet this need with social activities and curricular innovations. For safety reasons, we sometimes had to meet on Zoom again—including for the Harvard Judaica Collection orientation by Vardit Samuels and Dr. Charles Berlin. Our masked fall party, though the snacks had to be taken home, forged crucial connections for students of all levels going into the new year. At our end-of-year outdoor pizza party for students, alumni, and affiliates, we could see how the Harvard Yiddish

studies program has flourished, not only by the numbers but by the students' joy in meeting new friends and reconnecting with old ones—in some cases, meeting in-person for the first time.

Throughout the year, Intermediate and Advanced Yiddish students met together weekly for a *Leyenkrayz* (reading circle) and language lab. In these eclectic sessions, students worked through challenging texts, played games in Yiddish, explored the world of endangered languages, deciphered the messy handwriting in a cantor's notebook, and shared their Yiddish work for courses and independent projects.

Harvard Yiddish students have conducted ambitious projects which reach far beyond the Yard. Carolyn Beard, Shoshana Boardman, Ethan Levin, Dalia Wolfson, and Alona Bach co-organized *Farbindungen*, an international virtual conference sponsored by Harvard's Center for Jewish Studies, which brought together young Yiddishists from around the world. In the online Yiddish Studies journal *In geveb*, co-founded by Saul Zaritt, our students published *Undzer mishpokhe*, a set of vocabulary and culture lessons which Yiddish teachers have begun using internationally so that Yiddish learners can discuss their nonbinary and queer family members and relationships. Some of our students have recently begun teaching Yiddish at other institutions and mentoring other Harvard students in their Yiddish research.

Academics/Yiddish Language News continues on page 28



NAMED FUNDS

Those pursuing Jewish studies at Harvard University may benefit from a number of funds established over the years. New funds are formed continuously; the following funds are currently supporting students and scholars in their pursuit for greater knowledge and achievement in this field. These also may support publications and events at the Center for Jewish Studies. For further information on establishing a named fund, or contributing to one, please contact our office at cjs@fas.harvard.edu.

NAMED STUDENT FELLOWSHIP AND PRIZE FUNDS & GRANTS

Mandell L. Berman Fellowship
Barney and Essie Cantor Scholarship Fund
Harry Edison Fund
Anna Marnoy Feldberg Financial Aid Fund
Suzanne and Dr. Lawrence Fishman Fellowship Fund
Leo Flax Fellowship
Goldhirsh-Yellin Foundation Fund for Undergraduate and Graduate Travel to Israel
Hertog Undergraduate Study Abroad Fund
Edward H. Kavinsky Fellowship
Lissner Jewish Research, Language and History Fund
Barney and Anne B. Malloy Memorial Fund
Raphael and Deborah Melamed Fellowship in Jewish Studies
Aaron and Clara Rabinowitz Trust Fellowship
Charles H. Revson Foundation Grant in support of Graduate and Undergraduate Research and Supplemental Study in Jewish Studies
Lewis and Alice Schimberg Graduate Student Fellowship Fund
Barry Shrage Travel and Research Fund for Jewish Studies
Nathan and Geraldine Snyder Fund for Jewish Studies
Sidney L. Solomon Fellowship
Sosland Family Fellowship
Harry and Cecile Starr Prizes in Jewish Studies
Alan M. and Katherine W. Stroock Family Fellowship for Advanced Research in Judaica Studies
Isadore Twersky Fellowship

NAMED TEACHING AND RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

Morris and Beverly Baker Foundation Yiddish Language Instruction Fund
Joseph Engel Fund
Freed Research Fund in the Center for Jewish Studies
Isla Isaac Melech and Zelman Rykles Memorial Fund

Edwin Lichtig, Jr. Research and Teaching Fund
Esther Miller Endowed Fund for Yiddish Studies
George Rohr Visiting Professorship in Modern Israel Studies
Daniel Jeremy Silver Fellowship
Harry Starr Fellows in Judaica Fund
Harry Starr Teaching and Research Fund
Alan M. Stroock Fund for Advanced Research in Judaica
Alan M. and Katherine W. Stroock Fund for Innovative Research in Judaica
Selma and Lewis H. Weinstein Fund for Jewish Studies
Gerard Weinstock Visiting Professorship

NAMED LECTURE AND PUBLICATION FUNDS

Yigal Allon Memorial Fund
Abraham and Rachel Bornstein Fund
Alan and Elisabeth Doft Lecture and Publication Fund
Robert and Florence Dreben Lecture and Publication Fund
Harry Elson Lecture and Publication Fund
William Landau Lecture and Publication Fund
Leon I. Mirell Lecture Fund
Charles H. Revson Foundation Lecture Fund
Estelle and Howard Rubin Fund
Martin D. and Helen B. Schwartz Lecture Fund
Harry A. Wolfson Publication Fund
Yanoff-Taylor Lecture and Publication Fund

OTHER NAMED FUNDS

Center for Jewish Studies Fund
Suzanne R. and Dr. Lawrence M. Fishman Endowed Fund for Jewish Studies
Friends of the Center for Jewish Studies
Josephine and Martin Gang Memorial Fund
Jeanette and Ludwig Goldschmidt Bequest for the Benefit of the Center for Jewish Studies
Judith and David Lobel Fund for the Center for Jewish Studies

Allison Andrews



MODERN HEBREW STUDENTS GATHER FOR A DISCUSSION WITH ISRAELI FILMMAKER Yael PERLOV

GIVING TO THE FRIENDS OF CJS



GATHERING OF YIDDISH LANGUAGE STUDENTS AND FACULTY

BECOME A FRIEND OF THE CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES

In December 1984, Peter Solomon (AB' 60, MBA '63) announced the establishment of the Friends of the Center for Jewish Studies. The Friends of the CJS fund provides an ongoing base of support for the Center and enables it to expand its present areas of activity. Annual support from the Friends helps shape the future of Jewish studies and sustains the Center as an influential, multifaceted enterprise at Harvard.

Projects supported by The Friends include:

- Student research and supplemental study fellowships
- Modern Hebrew language instruction
- Research-related expenses for visiting scholars
- Public lectures and class presentations
- Doctoral dissertation advising by specialized scholars from outside Harvard
- Graduate student workshop groups
- Undergraduate publications



PATRON

\$100

Receive priority invitations to selected events and publications



PILLAR

\$500

Receive priority invitations to selected events and copies of all CJS publications



BENEFACTOR

\$1,000

Receive all tier benefits plus invitations to additional events

Support the Center's programming and mission with an annual pledge or a one-time gift

GIFTS BY CREDIT CARD ONLINE

The Center for Jewish Studies offers the convenience of online giving. To give by credit card, go to cjs.fas.harvard.edu/giving for instructions and pledge options.

GIFTS BY CHECK MAY BE MAILED TO

**Center for Jewish Studies
Harvard University
6 Divinity Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02138**

Make checks payable to **"The President and Fellows of Harvard College"** and include a note in the memo line that this is **"for the Friends of the Center for Jewish Studies"** (or the name of another fund of your choice).



Academics/Yiddish Language News continued from page 25

Our students are growing as Yiddish artists, performing klezmer and Yiddish songs for wider audiences. Yiddish singer, songwriter, and researcher Adah Hetko was a welcome guest speaker in our classes this year, sharing some original Yiddish compositions and fundamental elements of Yiddish vocal technique. Intermediate Yiddish students thanked her by offering a translation of one of her English songs into Yiddish. Rebecca Araten and Ezra Lebovitz performed “*Leyg dayn kop oyf mayne kni*” at this year’s NELC (Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations) Poetry Night. Uri Schreter participated in *Tsvelf far Ukraine*, the Yiddish music world’s twelve-hour fundraising concert for war relief.

Our program is the first exposure many students have to the study of Ukraine and Eastern Europe, where Yiddish remains used but is endangered—and all of this is especially critical due to the continuing war. This year Radcliffe Fellow Amelia Glazer visited

our classes to share Yiddish poems about Ukraine. Throughout the spring semester, we listened to oral histories of Jewish survivors of the Holocaust in Ukraine, watched a film about Jewish Lviv, pored over Yiddish maps, listened to Yiddish radio reports about the current war and relief efforts in Ukraine, watched the music videos for Hasidic songs about this war, and regularly shared news about the war as a part of our *aktualitetn* (current events).

Our students make connections with their grandparents through Yiddish, with other Yiddishists across borders and conflicts, and forge close friendships and collaborations within our program. *Farbindungen* sums up what we have done this year and aspire to continue to do in the future for our students and their contributions to Yiddish culture. ■

MODERN HEBREW LANGUAGE NEWS

DR. IRIT AHARONY, SENIOR PRECEPTOR IN MODERN HEBREW



Marcus Halevi

IRIT AHARONY WAS BORN IN ISRAEL. SHE EARNED HER PH.D. IN HEBREW LITERATURE FROM BAR-ILAN UNIVERSITY IN ISRAEL. SHE HAS BEEN TEACHING AT HARVARD SINCE 1996 AND LEADS MODERN HEBREW LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION.

BEING AN EDUCATOR AND A TEACHER MEANS BEING ABLE TO LET GO, TO SET FREE.

Every new year, when you enter the classroom for the first time, you expect to meet new faces, new people, new students (who are younger and younger every year!). You struggle to remember their names as quickly as possible, and in a few days (language classes meet every day and are naturally small), the new faces become familiar, and the classroom feels like home.

During the semester you get to know your students. You know who arrives five minutes late every day, who never knows what is going on in class, who will submit the assignment promptly, and who will hand it in on the very last day. In every class you learn new things about the people sitting in front of you, about their characters, their facial expressions, their sense of humor. Sometimes the students share with you some private matters, like a sick parent or a celebration in the family. At the same time, you can’t forget that the students scrutinize you, they observe your moods, your strengths and weaknesses.

And then, at the end of the year, or sometimes two, three or even four years together, you must let them go. They are excited to start “the future”, and you are left in “the past”. The moment of departure is very emotional, but with it, and in the following years, you remain curious. It strikes you: What has become of this specific person? Which path did they pursue? At what point are they now? Sometimes you hear from your former students, and sometimes you lose contact with them, which is the natural way of the world. A teacher is just one encounter out of many on the students’ path, but the curiosity remains.

Here are three excerpts written by my former students. All of them took two years of the language, and each one of them chose their own unique road in life: Rebecca is on the way to becoming a rabbi, Max is an investment professional, and J’ (whose full name cannot be disclosed here) decided to make Aliyah. Studying the language served a different purpose for each one of them.

As for me, I wish them *behatzlaha* (good luck), and I am still curious as always — what will be their next step and where will their future take them. ■



MAX AUGUST IS LISTED ON THE FORBES “ISRAEL 2022 30 UNDER 30” LIST. HE IS AN INVESTMENT PROFESSIONAL AT GENERAL ATLANTIC’S ISRAEL OFFICE. THE FIRM FOCUSES ON INVESTING \$30-\$500M+ INTO THE MOST EXCITING ISRAELI START-UPS.

MAX AUGUST

Harvard College, ‘20

Studying Hebrew at Harvard with Irit quite simply transformed my life. I have never been good with languages and never had the time to learn thousands of new vocabulary words. However, during my sophomore year at Harvard, because of the language requirement (and the persuasion of a few friends), I found myself in Elementary Modern Hebrew. And wow, was I happy that I attended that first class, because little did I know, just three years later, I would find myself living in Israel!

Hebrew is — and was — important to me for a unique set of reasons:

- **BUSINESS** – there is tremendous economic opportunity to support the flourishing start-up nation of Israel
- **POLITICAL** – I hope to get involved in Israeli and Middle Eastern affairs and being able to speak the language is critical
- **RELIGIOUS** – I had never felt so connected to my Jewish identity until I could pray in Judaism’s mother tongue
- **PERSONAL** – I fell in love with Israeli music, movies, television, and all other dimensions of Israeli culture and being able to understand it natively has been a game-changer

None of this would have been possible without **Irit Aharony**. She made class fun, engaging, easy-to-follow, and interesting. She seamlessly mixed in Israeli songs and culture with complex and confusing grammatical structures. She minimized my nervousness speaking Hebrew in front of the group. She made me smile each and every class with her sense of humor and positivity.

I thank the CJS for this opportunity to share a bit about my experience in Hebrew at Harvard. I will be eternally grateful for having learned Hebrew. ■

REBECCA THAU

Harvard College, ‘20

I had the immense privilege of studying Hebrew for four semesters while I was an undergraduate at Harvard. These classes were exceptional. Not only did I grow as a Hebrew speaker and learner, but I also found a beautiful classroom community, created and facilitated by the extraordinary **Irit Aharony** and **Osnat Aharoni**. This supportive, engaging learning environment bolstered my confidence, and thus my ability to delve deeply into Hebrew learning.

I am now studying to become a rabbi at Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion. My experiences at Harvard — both inside and outside of the classroom — were instrumental in my decision to become a rabbi and have given me the tools to thrive in rabbinical school. As an undergraduate, I had the privilege of studying a vast array of Jewish subjects, from Modern Hebrew to Israeli history to traditional (and not so traditional!) Jewish text. Thanks to generous support from the CJS, I was even able to travel to France multiple times to conduct thesis research on French-Algerian-Jewish author Hélène Cixous. My extracurricular experiences as a student leader at Harvard Hillel were also instructive and inspirational. During my three-and-a-half years in Cambridge



(a little pandemic interrupted things!), I served Harvard Hillel as President, Reform Community Leader, and Vice President of Community Building, among other roles. My involvement with Harvard Hillel inspires me to focus my future rabbinate on Jewish pluralism and on a joy-based Judaism.

Harvard thoroughly prepared me for my current studies. Hebrew classes at Harvard gave me the tools to thrive while living in Jerusalem this past year, where all HUC–JIR students spend the first year of rabbinical school. The strong foundation I gained at Harvard allowed me to communicate in modern Hebrew on the streets of Jerusalem, and also gave me the skills to parse and analyze Biblical, Rabbinic, and Liturgical Hebrew in Chumash, Mishnah, Midrash, and Liturgy classes. I am indebted to my Harvard classmates, professors, rabbis, and, of course, to the CJS for furnishing me with the necessary skills to flourish in rabbinical school and in my future rabbinate. ■

J'

J's duties in the Israel Defense Forces do not allow us to publish his full name.

I arrived at Harvard in 2017 to enroll in the Middle Eastern Studies master's program and chose to study Hebrew throughout my full 2 years. In hindsight, I'm delighted I made that decision, as studying Hebrew at Harvard went so far beyond simple language learning. Rather, it was a study of the deep and fascinating complexities of Israeli society and culture through literature, film, journalism and more, all studied and

discussed in Hebrew of course. Those classes not only instilled me with a love for the best examples of Israeli arts and culture but deepened my understanding of the complex dynamics of life in Israel. In fact, that learning played a significant role in my decision to make *aliyah* at the end of my studies in 2019 and embark on a series of challenges in Israel, including drafting to the Israel Defense Forces, working as a tour guide in Israel's Holocaust museum, Yad Vashem, and volunteering to bring Jewish and Arab youth together through soccer.

Importantly, the Hebrew program at Harvard offered me the flexibility to learn what would be most helpful for me (especially army slang, which is a whole other dialect of Hebrew!), such that when I moved to Israel I was very well equipped for life here, knowing that the Hebrew language wouldn't be a barrier for me. For the past nearly two years I've been serving in a position in the IDF that requires me to read, write and present in discussions in Hebrew, a position that I would never have been accepted to were it not for the brilliant Hebrew teaching I received at Harvard. This year on *Yom Ha'atsma'ut* (Israeli Independence Day), I was even fortunate enough to receive the Israeli President's Award for outstanding army service. My connection and fascination with Israel (that I owe in no small part to **Irit Aharony** and the Hebrew program at Harvard) is still as strong today, and I plan to continue living here for the foreseeable future. ■



J' RECEIVES THE 2022 ISRAELI PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ARMY SERVICE FROM PRESIDENT ISAAC HERZOG.

COURSES IN JEWISH STUDIES

FALL 2021

FRESHMAN SEMINARS

Freshman Seminar 62J. Harvard's Greatest Hits: The Most Important, Rarest, and Most Valuable Books in Houghton Library

Freshman Seminar 62U. Zombies and Spirits, Ghosts and Ghouls: Interactions between the Living and the Dead

BIBLICAL AND ANCIENT

Ancient Near East 120A. Introduction to the Hebrew Bible/ Old Testament 1: Pentateuch and Former Prophets

Ancient Near East 197. Bible and Empire

Ancient Near East 198. Sacred Space and Sacred Time in Ancient Israel

Hebrew 203. In the Beginning: Genesis 1–11 in Comparative, Compositional, and Poetic Perspective

Hebrew 236. The Song at the Sea: Seminar

CLASSICAL AND MEDIEVAL JEWISH LITERATURE, HISTORY, AND CULTURE

Comparative Literature 252. The Literatures of Medieval Iberia: Approaches and Debates in their Comparative Study

Jewish Studies 148. How Jews Read (and Write)

Jewish Studies 203. Jewish Boundaries and Identities

MODERN JEWISH LITERATURE, HISTORY, AND CULTURE

History 1017. Jews in the Modern World

Religion 1255. Selected Works of Twentieth-Century Jewish Theology

Modern Hebrew 241R. Advanced Seminar in Modern Hebrew: Israeli Culture: Cinema & Literature

HEBREW (CLASSICAL AND MODERN), AND YIDDISH LANGUAGE

Classical Hebrew AA. Elementary Classical Hebrew I

Classical Hebrew 120A. Intermediate Classical Hebrew I

Classical Hebrew 130AR. Rapid Reading Classical Hebrew I

Modern Hebrew BA. Elementary Modern Hebrew I

Modern Hebrew 120A. Intermediate Modern Hebrew I

Modern Hebrew 130A. Advanced Modern Hebrew I

Yiddish AA. Elementary Yiddish I

Yiddish BA. Intermediate Yiddish I

Yiddish CA. Advanced Yiddish I

JEWISH LAW (HARVARD LAW SCHOOL)

HLS 2437. Advanced Topics in Jewish Law: The Law of Literature

HLS 3084. Talmud for All: Family Law

HLS 3085. The Sugya in The Babylonian Talmud

ADDITIONAL COURSES RELEVANT TO JEWISH STUDIES

Government 94OF. Law and Politics in Multicultural Democracies

Medieval Studies 250. At Cross Purposes: The Crusades in Material Culture

Religion 1414. Scripture Stories of Women

SPRING 2022

GENERAL EDUCATION

General Education 1118. The Holocaust

General Education 1161. If There Is No God, All Is Permitted: Theism and Moral Reasoning

BIBLICAL AND ANCIENT

Ancient Near East 120B. Introduction to the Hebrew Bible/ Old Testament 2: Latter Prophets and Writings

Ancient Near East 170. Ancient Diets: Food and Identity in Ancient Israel

Hebrew 207. Biblical Poetry and Poetics: Fundamental Issues and Advanced Topics

Hebrew 218. The Joseph Story and the Book of Esther

Hebrew 258. The History of God: Evidence from the Psalms

Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations 107. The History of the Book: Using Harvard's Greatest Treasures to Study the Material Text

Religion 1232. Ancient Jewish Wisdom Literature

CLASSICAL AND MEDIEVAL JEWISH LITERATURE, HISTORY, AND CULTURE

Comparative Literature 114. Mysticism and Literature

Harvard Divinity School 1834. Archaeology and History of Israel/ Palestine from the Second Temple to the Early Islamic Period

Jewish Studies 131. The Jewish Library: Four Jewish Classics

MODERN JEWISH LITERATURE, HISTORY, AND CULTURE

Government 1094. The Jewish Political Tradition

Government 1106. The Political Economy of Israel

Jewish Studies 152. Renaissance and Revolution: Judaism, Zionism & Israel

Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations 107. The History of the Book: Using Harvard's Greatest Treasures to Study the Material Text

HEBREW (CLASSICAL AND MODERN), AND YIDDISH LANGUAGE

Classical Hebrew AB. Elementary Classical Hebrew II

Classical Hebrew 120B. Intermediate Classical Hebrew II

Classical Hebrew 130BR. Rapid Reading Classical Hebrew II

Modern Hebrew BB. Elementary Modern Hebrew II

Modern Hebrew 120B. Intermediate Modern Hebrew II

Modern Hebrew 130B. Advanced Modern Hebrew II

Yiddish AB. Elementary Yiddish II

Yiddish BB. Intermediate Yiddish II

Yiddish CB. Advanced Yiddish II

JEWISH LAW (HARVARD LAW SCHOOL)

HLS 2437. Advanced Topics in Jewish Law and Legal Theory: Angels in Jewish Law

HLS 3084. Talmud for All: Jews and Gentiles

HLS 3086. Advanced Analysis of the Sugya

ADDITIONAL COURSES RELEVANT TO JEWISH STUDIES

Religion 1529. The Holocaust and the Churches, 1933–45

STUDENT NEWS

ACHIEVEMENTS, HONORS AND PROFILES OF CURRENT AND FORMER CJS STUDENTS



SHOSHANA F. BOARDMAN '22,

JONATHAN LOUIS KATZMAN '22

2022 HARRY AND CECILE STARR PRIZES IN JEWISH STUDIES

The Center for Jewish Studies at Harvard University is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2022 Harry and Cecile Starr Prizes in Jewish Studies. **Shoshana F. Boardman '22**, a senior in Winthrop House, and **Jonathan Louis Katzman '22**, a senior in Dunster House, won the Starr Prize for their exceptional senior theses. These prizes were established by Harry Starr, Harvard College class of 1921, LL.B. 1924, and are eligible by nomination only.

STARR PRIZE ABSTRACTS

SHOSHANA F. BOARDMAN BEST DISSERTATION IN JEWISH AND HEBREW STUDIES PREPARED BY AN UNDERGRADUATE

A joint concentrator in History & Literature and Mathematics; with a secondary field in Language and Linguistic Theory, Shoshana's senior thesis was nominated by Professor David Stern.

"Babylonian Incantation Bowl Onomastics"

This thesis investigates the naming conventions of late antique Jewish Babylonian communities. These communities were among the strongest and most influential in Jewish history. They codified the mammoth text known today as the Babylonian Talmud, a text which colors much of our understanding of Jewish life in this period. However, the authors of the Talmud were a male, educated elite. They often perceived themselves as categorically distinct from less educated, or more acculturated, Jews, and rarely centered on these latter voices. Luckily, there is another—and only one other—large source of textual evidence for the experiences of these non-rabbis: the incantation bowls, found in the 1890s buried under doorframes. The spells written on these bowls were to protect households from malevolent entities. As they were written or commissioned by women and practitioners of magic, quote texts and mention names affiliated with multiple religions, and are free of the generations of ideological “hypercorrections” in the Talmud, they allow us the often



ACHIEVEMENTS

unattainable privilege of access to voices left out of the canon. In this thesis, I argued that these voices represent Jewish communities distinct from those of the Talmud. I analyzed client names in 214 incantations, assessing their demographic factors (gender, language of origin, religious associations, family relationships, etc.). My study of onomastics in magical texts constitutes a methodological intervention. The data points to an integrated community, with a preference for Semitic-named parents to pass down a Semitic naming tradition to their children. This suggests that some Jewish practice was preserved among bowl clients. By comparing this data to the highly Semitic names in the Talmud, we see that the bowls represent a different way to be Jewish in late antiquity. ■

JONATHAN LOUIS KATZMAN

BEST DISSERTATION IN THE FIELD OF JEWISH AND HEBREW STUDIES PREPARED BY AN UNDERGRADUATE

Jonathan's winning senior thesis was submitted by Professor Derek Penslar. Jonathan is graduating with a concentration in History.

"A Dependent 'Special Relationship': Jewish American Economists and the Liberalization of the Israeli Economy"

A handful of individuals and institutions with American roots helped dramatically liberalize the Israeli economy between the 1950s and 1980s. This thesis explores the role of Jewish American economists who advised Israeli officials in constructing the modern Israeli economic system. American economists proposed neoliberal policy responses to acute economic crises and advocated for long-term changes to Israeli institutions and cultural attitudes within academia and the public sphere. My thesis demonstrates that the spread of neoliberalism in Israel was achieved through negotiation, persuasion, and responses to crises rather than through coercive dominance. American economists most reliably found success when they drew upon their Jewish identities and Zionist affinities. This helped them to both "Israelify" economic ideas and to adopt ideological flexibility in the face of local political resistance. This case study of Israel makes a significant contribution to the historiographies of political economy and

global capitalism by analyzing the international influence and coercive power of American individuals and institutions in the transnational spread of neoliberal policy. This in-depth analysis of cross-national economic policy formation also provides a novel perspective on the well-established history of the US-Israel "special relationship" beyond the usual military and geopolitical narratives. ■

CONGRATULATIONS 2022 GRADUATES!

HARVARD COLLEGE

Margaret "Mollie" Ames

History & Literature, Near Eastern
Languages and Civilizations

Shoshana Boardman

History & Literature, Mathematics, Secondary
field in Language & Linguistic Theory

Sonia Epstein

History & Literature, Secondary field in
Global Health & Health Policy, Language Citation
in Modern Hebrew

Matt Jelen

Comparative Study of Religion

Jonathan Katzman

History

Hannah Miller

History, Secondary field in Economics,
Language Citation in Modern Hebrew

HARVARD GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Jacobé Huet, Ph.D.

Harvard Graduate School of Design

Rachel Slutsky, Ph.D.

Committee on the Study of Religion

Miriam-Simma Walfish, Ph.D.

Department of Near Eastern Languages
and Civilizations



**SHOSHANA F.
BOARDMAN '22**

**SONIA F.
EPSTEIN '22**

**HANNAH MAE
MILLER '22**

2022 SELMA AND LEWIS WEINSTEIN PRIZE IN JEWISH STUDIES

The Center for Jewish Studies at Harvard University is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2022 Selma and Lewis Weinstein Prize in Jewish Studies. **Shoshana F. Boardman '22**, a senior in Winthrop House, was awarded first place for her essay "Babylonian Incantation Bowl Onomastics." **Sonia F. Epstein '22**, a senior from Eliot House, submitted "To Build and To Be Built: Tuberculosis Control and the Zionist Movement, 1922–1957" which won the second-place prize. **Hannah Mae Miller '22**, a senior in Quincy House, received a special citation for her entry, "Let My People Go! The Movement for Soviet Jewish Emigration's Impact on US Human Rights Policies 1963–1975." The Weinstein Prize, which is given to the Harvard University student(s) who submit(s) the best undergraduate essay in Jewish studies, was established by Lewis H. Weinstein '27, LL.B. 1930.

WEINSTEIN PRIZE ABSTRACTS

FIRST PLACE **SHOSHANA F. BOARDMAN '22**

"Babylonian Incantation Bowl Onomastics"

See Shoshana's abstract on page 32.

SECOND PLACE **SONIA F. EPSTEIN**

"To Build and To Be Built: Tuberculosis Control and the Zionist Movement, 1922–1957."

The Zionist movement and the campaign against tuberculosis emerged simultaneously in Palestine during the twentieth century, yet there has been no comprehensive study of their coterminous history. By analyzing tuberculosis as both a cultural and material force, I elucidate how efforts to control a chronic, emaciating disease gained ideological resonance within the Zionist movement and contributed to the development of a divided, unequal medical system under British colonial rule. Zionist efforts



SPELLS WRITTEN ON BABYLONIAN INCANTATION BOWLS WERE BELIEVED TO PROTECT HOUSEHOLDS FROM MALEVOLENT ENTITIES.

to combat tuberculosis expanded throughout the Mandate period and after Israel's founding not merely as a result of the disease's increasing prevalence, but because these efforts powerfully signified Jewish rejuvenation, productivity, and

“civilization.” Examining the ways Zionism and tuberculosis control enabled and reproduced each other sheds light on how social and political divides were deepened and defined between Palestinian Arabs and Jews, and among Jews themselves. This history, which draws upon English- and Hebrew-language archival materials from the British National Archives, Hadassah Medical Organization, scientific and governmental actors, and foreign and local observers, ultimately demonstrates that the nation-building process is sustained equally by institutional construction and self-construction, processes that continuously inform each other, shaping the very possibilities that exist for medical care. ■

SPECIAL CITATION HANNAH MAE MILLER

“Let My People Go! The Movement for Soviet Jewish Emigration’s Impact on US Human Rights Policies 1963–1975.”

Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger entered office hoping to strengthen US-Soviet détente by brokering nuclear arms limitation and trade agreements with the USSR. Given that the Soviet Union was intent on expanding its nuclear arsenal, many Americans were relieved that the administration would relax its antagonism to the Soviet Union to avert a potential nuclear war. However, Jewish Americans saw renewed US-Soviet relations as an opportunity to combat Soviet anti-Semitic policies, most notably limitations on Jewish emigration. American Jewish activists mobilized to create a bipartisan alliance between Democrats and Republicans in support of legislation to promote Soviet Jews’ human rights. They grew unanimous support for the Jackson-Vanik Amendment to the Trade Act of 1974, an amendment to link US-Soviet economic agreements to the condition that the Soviet Union permit free Jewish emigration. In doing so, American Jewry introduced the idea that the US has a moral imperative to protect international human rights as part of US foreign policy debates. Their efforts have had lasting consequences on US foreign policy and created the groundwork for future US human rights legislation. This essay demonstrates how Jewish activists successfully mobilized to challenge US foreign policy, how the movement to free Soviet Jewry unleashed new tensions between US Cold War strategy and a desire to promote international human rights, and how this movement inspired future US human rights legislation. ■

ALUMNI NOTES



CAROLINE KAHLENBERG

KAHLENBERG JOINS UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA AS PROFESSOR OF HISTORY

Caroline Kahlenberg has joined the University of Virginia as [Assistant Professor of History](#) in their Jewish Studies program, offering courses in Israeli and Palestinian history. Caroline earned a Ph.D. in History and Middle Eastern Studies from Harvard in November 2021.

Caroline has been the recipient of a number of CJS fellowships and awards. She was the first Harvard student to participate in the exchange program between Harvard University and The Hebrew University of Jerusalem for graduate students in Jewish studies, in the spring semester of 2020 (See the article on page 31 of our [Annual Review 2019–2020](#)).



RACHEL
SLUTSKY

SLUTSKY JOINS SETON HALL UNIVERSITY

Rachel Slutsky earned her Ph.D. in 2022 in the Committee on the Study of Religion. Rachel has been appointed to Seton Hall University as a Visiting Assistant Professor. Rachel will be teaching courses related to ancient Judaism and Jewish-Christian relations in antiquity.

ACTIVITIES

FARBINDUNGEN BY THE NUMBERS

A Graduate Conference on Yiddish Networks

by Carolyn Beard, M.Div. '22

We are very grateful to the CJS for sponsoring *Farbindungen: A Graduate Conference on Yiddish networks*. Our two-day conference went well, and we received positive feedback from peers and mentors in the field. To demonstrate the impact of the Center's support, I wanted to share some numbers:

We received **250 registrations**, with our registrants representing more than 20 countries, 30 cultural and academic institutions, and 70 universities.

Our **8-person graduate student organizing committee** included **5 current Harvard students**. With the support of **6 faculty moderators**, including **2 current Harvard faculty**, we were able to showcase the work of **3 graduate student workshop facilitators** and **18 graduate student paper presenters**, two of whom are current Harvard students.

Our keynote address peaked at 70 attendees, and 21 attendees participated in each of our two workshops. Participation in our paper panels is shown in the table below.

The preliminary feedback in our exit survey indicates that most participants found the sessions very engaging and were grateful to have the opportunity to learn from emerging scholars in the field. Many participants indicated that they wished they had the opportunity to attend more programming. To accommodate the volume of high-quality proposals we received, we elected to schedule two "tracks" of simultaneous programming, meaning that participants had to choose which sessions to attend (much like at a professional, field-wide conference).

Happily, 75% of respondents said that they would be interested in attending an annual graduate student Yiddish Studies conference; 13 peers have indicated their interest in helping organize the next conference and nine faculty members have offered their support as mentors.

We are grateful for the support of the Center for Jewish Studies, which helped make our graduate student conference such a success! ■

FARBINDUNGEN = פאַרבינדונגען

a graduate conference on Yiddish networks

FARBINDUNGEN PANELS	ATTENDANCE
Yiddish and Translation	35
Margins & Center	29
Digital Networks	48
Soviet and Communist Yiddish	34
Rethinking the Other	42
Language Landscapes	25

VIRTUAL PARTICIPATION IN THE PAPER PANELS AND A DETAIL FROM A CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FLYER.

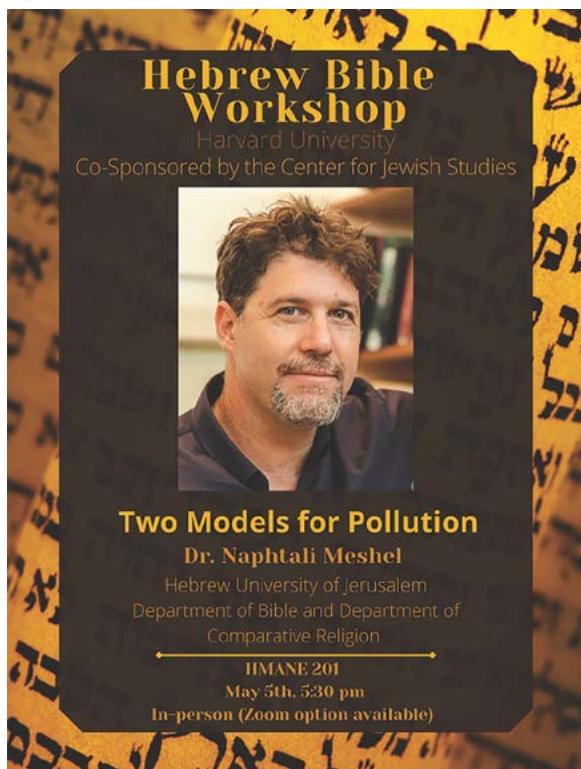
FARBINDUNGEN = פאַרבינדונגען
A GRADUATE CONFERENCE ON YIDDISH NETWORKS
February 20-21, 2022 // virtual

KEYNOTE Jessica Kirzane (University of Chicago) & Karolina Szymaniak (University of Wrocław)

WORKSHOPS The Yiddish Archive (conducted in Yiddish) How to Pitch to In geveb

PANELS Margins and Centers
Yiddish and Translation
Digital Networks
Soviet and Communist Yiddish
Rethinking the Other
Language Landscapes

CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES



Yossi Yarom

URI SCHRETER

THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM-HARVARD
UNIVERSITY GRADUATE STUDENT EXCHANGE
STUDENT, FALL 2021

Last fall, thanks to the generous support of the Center for Jewish Studies and the **Mandell L. Berman Fellowship** and the **Lewis and Alice Schimberg Graduate Student Fellowship Fund**, I was able to spend six months in Israel, during which I studied at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and conducted research for my dissertation about the postwar relationship between Yiddish music, klezmer, and Israeli folk songs.

I divided my research between two main avenues: archival research, and oral history interviews. Throughout my stay in Israel, I paid numerous visits to the Central Zionist Archives, the National Library of Israel, and the Israeli Music Archive at Tel Aviv University. In their collections, I found a wide range of materials, such as rare songbooks of Jewish music, detailed correspondences between representatives of international Jewish organizations, and sheet music by composers of Hebrew and Yiddish music. Additionally, I conducted interviews with more than 30 individuals who worked in the fields of Jewish music, dance, and theater between the 1940s–1970s. Among them were singers, actors, and directors from the Yiddish stage, composers and arrangers of Israeli popular music, klezmer musicians, choreographers of Israeli folk dance, and educators. Alongside my research, I was fortunate to be hosted by The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, which allowed me to attend seminars and talks, consult with faculty about my research, and join students and faculty for social events on and off campus.

With the materials I have collected in Israel and elsewhere at hand, I am now drafting the first chapters of my dissertation. I am grateful for the continued support of the CJS, as well as The Hebrew University. ■

HEBREW BIBLE WORKSHOP

by Jessica Patey, HBW Coordinator, Ph.D. candidate in Hebrew Bible, Committee on the Study of Religion

The Hebrew Bible Workshop (HBW) is a bi-weekly gathering of graduate students, faculty, and visiting scholars, which meets to share and discuss recent papers and presentations. In the Spring of 2022, the Center for Jewish Studies (CJS) sponsored a lecture for the HBW. With this funding, the workshop was able to invite Dr. Naphtali S. Meshel, a faculty member in the Departments of Bible and Comparative Religion from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. In “Two Models for Pollution,” Dr. Meshel offered his original thoughts on how two models of pollution, one qualitative and the other quantitative, can help understand Biblical and early Jewish literature on pollution.

Last year the workshop was able to meet in person once again with the added benefit of Zoom for those not able to be on campus. The excitement for in-person events was palpable. The attendance continued to grow throughout the year as COVID restrictions were lessened. At the end of the year, the HBW hosted an outdoor end-of-the-year social which celebrated our ability to be together again, as well as strengthen the bonds between the CJS and the HBW. We look forward to the next academic year and are excited to grow in both knowledge and community. ■



J.J. KIMCHE

J.J. KIMCHE

Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations

J.J. Kimche was born to a large London family of prominent rabbis and educators. J.J.'s father, Rabbi Alan Kimche, enjoyed a long and distinguished career as a rabbi in London, and the family home was an environment in which the children studied and discussed Jewish texts and ideas. "This is what we did and valued above all else." J.J. attended Menorah Primary School, an academically rigorous elementary school, where he gained a "strong foundation" in religious and general studies. At Hasmonean High School, J.J. laughs that he "engaged more in the social aspects" rather than devoted himself to academic pursuits. After high school, J.J. studied at Yeshivat Har-Etzion in Israel, where he focused on Talmud, philosophy, and *Tanakh* (Hebrew Bible). Here, he not only developed his considerable interest in many branches of Judaic studies, but "also developed the ability to study for hours on end." After two years in Yeshiva, J.J. served in the 101st Battalion of the Paratroopers Brigade in the Israel Defense Forces.

J.J. decided to pursue an academic path, rather than following his father into the rabbinate. For J.J., the world of academia "blew the doors open to a far broader range of questions, theories, methods and philosophies" than had previously been available to him. He wanted to be able to pursue this "broader range of learning" offered in a university setting, and took his undergraduate degree at Shalem College in Jerusalem, Israel's first liberal arts school, with a double major in Western philosophy and Jewish thought. There, he was inspired by great teachers, and enjoyed a wide exposure to Jewish studies and western philosophy. He discovered how much he enjoyed writing papers — and that he was good at it. Through these academic pursuits, J.J. became excited about what he sees as a "lifelong challenge" of scholarship, with "endless amounts of material to learn, and always more projects to pursue."

For J.J., the world of academia "blew the doors open to a far broader range of questions, theories, methods and philosophies" than had previously been available to him.

Currently in his fourth year in the Ph.D. program in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, J.J. is particularly interested in studying Jewish intellectual history and Jewish thinkers during the modern period. His research has focused on ways that Jewish thought has interacted with broader European intellectual trends during the enlightenment and post-enlightenment era, as well as on the development of history as a discipline.

J.J. explains the example of Heinrich Graetz, one of the great Jewish scholars and historians of the nineteenth century. He was "the first to elevate the Jewish story to a full national saga. Previously, the assumption of Christian historians was that after the destruction of the ancient Temple in Jerusalem, Jews ceased living as a fully-fledged national group. Graetz re-encapsulated the Jewish past to show Jews as a living, breathing national entity, with their own history, scholars, communities, achievements, and tribulations." This new form of scholarship was crucial in forming the many political and ideological tribes that characterize contemporary Jewish life.

J.J. intends to present his dissertation prospectus to the NELC department in October. His dissertation topic explores a 19th-century scholar, Christian David Ginsburg (1831–1914). J.J. explains that Ginsburg was born in Warsaw as David Ginsburg, pursued a Jewish education at Yeshiva, and was a promising rabbinic scholar. At 16, he converted to Christianity, added the first name Christian, and moved to England, where he became the senior Hebraic scholar of the Victorian period. A brilliant researcher, Ginsburg produced some of the first important Judaic studies scholarship in the English language, much of which is still useful today. He produced his own annotated version of the *Tanakh* (Hebrew Bible), based on medieval and early modern manuscripts, and was an expert on the *Massorah* (small notations around the biblical text). He compiled an enormous library of books and manuscripts in various fields of Jewish studies, and devoted himself to writing histories of Kabbalah, the Essenes, Hebrew grammar, the Moabite Stone, in addition to translations and commentaries on the Hebrew Bible. He also wrote an introduction to his own version of the Massoretic Text that is over 1000 pages in length.

PROFILES

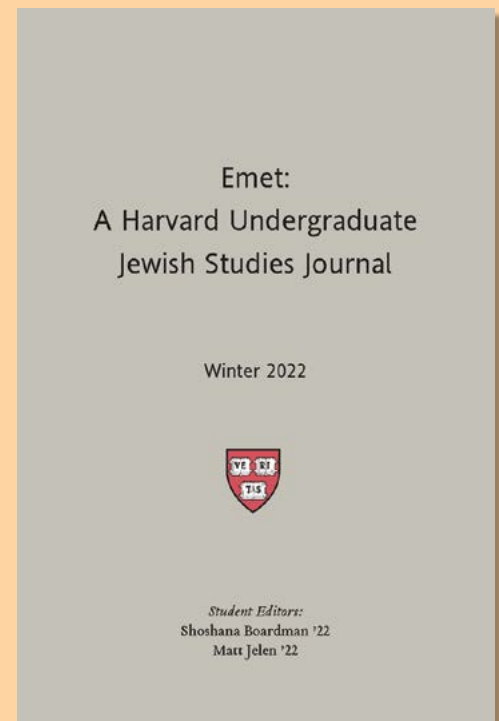
Throughout his life, Ginsburg remained more connected with the Christian world than any Jewish community. Improbably, this Polish-born Jewish convert rose to the heights of English society of that time, where he became friends with prominent figures such as William Gladstone, Lord Alfred Tennyson, and other senior dignitaries. His conversion to Christianity seemed to be genuinely out of conviction, yet he always remained interested in Jewish affairs. He is a unique figure, as he straddles the borderline between Jewish and Christian, Polish and English, scholar and missionary. J.J. is interested in producing an intellectual and spiritual biography of this figure, as well as examining in what ways we may consider Ginsburg to be a Jewish historian, and how this question sheds light on broader questions of historiography and Jewish scholarship of this era. Very few have written about Ginsburg; J.J. looks forward to breaking new ground in this field of scholarship.

J.J. Kimche is very grateful to the faculty members at Harvard who have been generous with their time and guidance with his research. His generals committee included **Prof. Jay Harris** (advisor) as well as **Prof. Derek Penslar** and **Prof. Andrew Teeter**. Other academics, such as **Prof. Jon Levenson**, **Prof. Shaye Cohen**, and **Prof. David Stern** have also guided him through various areas of his interest. He also wishes to thank **Prof. Idan Dershowitz**, recently of the Harvard Society of Fellows, for his assistance, as well as the Starr Fellows and other research scholars he has met, and the Center for Jewish Studies for its support with supplementary research and study funding. He has appreciated the great resources at the Judaica Division of the Widener Library, including the vast digital resources that allowed much of his research to continue during the pandemic. The Center for Jewish Studies wants to thank J.J. for his excellent work proofreading the new undergraduate publication *Emet*, monitoring the Jewish Studies Reading Room in Widener Library, and helping us with other projects.

He has already published a number of essays in both academic and popular venues. J.J. has also continued his family tradition in Jewish education and has taught at Brandeis, Harvard, and in a variety of other settings. Until recently, he served as the Orthodox educator at MIT Hillel, where he taught a wide range of Jewish texts. J.J. clearly loves his work, and spends most of his time on his studies, as does his wife, a student in dentistry at Tufts University School of Dental Medicine. In the future, he hopes to continue in an academic career, which could allow him to continue to bring together the academic writing and teaching he so enjoys and values, but “is not opposed to adding something else into the mix.” ■

EMET

A NEW UNDERGRADUATE JEWISH STUDIES JOURNAL



Shoshana Boardman and Matt Jelen, editors

This fall, students from Harvard College, in partnership with the Center for Jewish Studies and Harvard Hillel, proudly published the inaugural edition of *Emet*, Harvard's undergraduate Jewish studies literary journal. The journal is a collection of submissions from students across the College, who have written on topics related to Jewish studies. *Emet* is the realization of an idea first pitched two years ago, and the editors (Shoshana Boardman '22, Matt Jelen '22, and Wilfried Zibell '21) are thrilled to see this journal finally come to fruition. The team is especially grateful for the support and guidance of Professor David Stern, Dr. Rachel Rockenmacher, and doctoral student J.J. Kimche, without whom this journal would not have been possible. *Emet* is available in print and online.



DEBORAH B. THOMPSON

DEBORAH B. THOMPSON

Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations

Deborah B. Thompson, a Californian born in Los Angeles, grew up in a home surrounded by books. As a teenager, Deborah apprenticed for five years to Gloria Stuart, a celebrated actress, book printer and book artist—and Deborah's great grandmother. "She taught me to set type and print on a hand press using different typefaces and beautiful papers as a medium for artistic expression." Stuart's *Flight of Butterfly Kites* is now held in the collection of the J. Paul Getty Museum.

When it came time for college, Deborah was eager to learn about new places, and left the West Coast to attend Brandeis University, where she majored in Art History and minored in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies. It was at Brandeis that Deborah began her academic path of exploring the relationship between Judaism and art. "I chose art history in part because it provides a lens to study all of history through multiple perspectives: material, political, cultural, and religious, from an aesthetic point of view." For her senior thesis, she wrote about the synagogue of Dura Europos, located between the Roman and Persian empires, whose walls were covered with paintings of biblical scenes. Her thesis committee included professors from Brandeis in Jewish studies, art history and archaeology who, although they were longtime colleagues, told her they had never before met in the same room to work together. This experience opened Deborah's eyes to the value of interdisciplinary collaboration.

"I research the influence of the invention of print on Jewish bookmaking, the transition from manuscript to print in the early modern period, and how knowledge and traditions are transferred through the medium of the book."

— Deborah B. Thompson

At the Brandeis University Library, Deborah trained in book preservation and conservation, and has since worked with special collections at The Museum of Tolerance, The Jewish Theological Seminary (J.T.S.), and interned at the Thomas J. Watson Library at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Deborah also founded her own business, Thompson Book Repair, as an undergraduate. This business started when she found the *siddurim* at Brandeis were terribly worn. She invested two years in learning how to properly conserve these prayer books and then secured a grant from the university that supported her repair of more than a hundred *siddurim* by the time she graduated.

Afterwards, she attended J.T.S. in New York, earning her Master's degree studying Jewish Art and Visual Culture. Deborah went on to work as a museum professional in curation, exhibit and collections management, bookstore management, and museum education. As Deborah deepened her study of Jewish art, she became concerned that the study of Jewish material history is not more widely known. "Why is it that nearly every museum with departments of Christian and Islamic art lacks a department of Jewish art? We have incredible scrolls, manuscripts, paintings, micrography, ritual objects, and architecture, yet Jewish art history is extremely underrepresented. We can do more to share this history."

Currently entering her third year as a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Deborah is exploring dissertation topics that will allow her to examine Jewish material culture by incorporating art history, Jewish history, and the history of the book, and is utilizing interdisciplinary approaches to her research. "In my research,

I explore every aspect of the book—not only the import of what is on the page, namely text and image—but also its materiality, such as the type of support and the style of binding, and its religious, cultural, and historical context.”

During her first two years at Harvard, Deborah studied the history of papermaking, printmaking, and the impact of the printing press. “I research the influence of the invention of print on Jewish bookmaking, the transition from manuscript to print in the early modern period, and how knowledge and traditions are transferred through the medium of the book.”

“We are now living in a time of transition to digital media, revolutionizing the spread of written material in ways that are similar to the changes that came with the printing press. These new technologies create excellent opportunities for expansion and transmission of ideas, but also prompt fears about how digital technology is used, and whether it will endure, as electronic media can be remarkably fragile.”

An independent scholar prior to coming to Harvard, Deborah shared that “being accepted and supported as part of an academic community has been so rewarding!” She is especially grateful for the encouragement and support of her advisors, **Professor David Stern** and **Professor Ann Blair**. Deborah is thrilled with her access to the remarkable collections and staff at Houghton Library, the Judaica Division at Widener Library and the Fine Arts Library. “It was important for me to learn that students are able to submit purchase requests to the library so that staff can acquire books relevant to research that were not previously in their collections.”

In addition to her studies, Deborah leads letterpress printing workshops for students, together with Kristine Grieve at Houghton Library. “We print on an iron hand press and we also have a Vandercook SP15 press—the same type of press that I printed from with my great grandmother.” During the workshop, she teaches students how to set lead type so that each group can print broadsides together. Students take copies home as keepsakes. “I love to teach about the process of making books as much as I enjoy creating, conserving, and studying them.”

In the future, Deborah hopes to pursue an academic career that incorporates further work with material objects and potentially with museums. She envisions opportunities to teach within the field of Jewish art history through the study of the book.

In addition to her academic work, Deborah has a real love of the natural world. In particular, she is interested in entomology and protecting pollinators. (This is very serendipitous with her first name meaning “bee” in Hebrew!) During the pandemic, Deborah organized and taught online educational programs for families on the subject through her synagogue. She also planted a pollinator garden with native milkweed plants that, to date, has nurtured four generations of Monarch Butterflies. ■



SONIA EPSTEIN

Harvard University class of 2022

Sonia Epstein grew up in New York City, near midtown Manhattan’s Penn Station — a neighborhood whose one redeeming quality, she jokes, is its proximity to transportation that can take you anywhere else. In May 2022, she graduated from Harvard College with a concentration in History & Literature, a secondary in Global Health & Health Policy, a language citation in Modern Hebrew — and a shared lease on a house in Somerville, MA, where, she says, there are more trees than in Midtown.

Sonia attended the Abraham Joshua Heschel School through eighth grade. There she developed an interest in Jewish studies and a love of learning Hebrew. After eighth grade, she elected to attend Stuyvesant High School, a rigorous public school where she gravitated toward English and biology coursework.

As a first-year at Harvard, she continued to pursue these interests, but also returned to studying Modern Hebrew. In **Dr. Irit Aharoni’s** close-knit classes, she was exposed to the critical study of Israeli history, art, music, and literature; the following year, in **Osnat Aharoni’s** seminars, she absorbed texts and documentaries about the experiences of Middle Eastern and North African Jews who immigrated to Israel. Inspired, she decided to write her sophomore-year research paper for the Department of History & Literature on Zionism education in Moroccan *yeshivot* (Jewish schools) in the late 1940s and early 1950s, just before the mass emigration of Moroccan Jewry.

Through her History & Literature coursework, Sonia continued to deepen her study of Jewish and Israeli history. Her junior paper compared 1930s photographs of Yemenite and European Jews, with a focus on depictions of poverty and piety in the works of Russian photographer Roman Vishniac, German sociologist Arthur Ruppin, and Yemenite photographer Yihye Haiby.

During the 2020–21 academic year — the pre-vaccine era of the COVID-19 pandemic — Sonia took a leave of absence from Harvard. “By that time, I liked college too much to spend my last year of it on Zoom,” she said. She worked as a science writer for Brigham and Women’s Hospital, first for a semester and then two. She enjoyed combining her writing experience with her knowledge of biology and health care to produce stories about clinical innovation at the hospital, at one point reporting on the Brigham’s trial of Moderna’s COVID-19 vaccine.

Returning to campus in the fall of 2021, Sonia knew she wanted to continue researching twentieth century Jewish history for her senior thesis, but through the lens of medicine. It was a 1949 article about high tuberculosis mortality rates among Yemenite Jews, published in the Israeli medical journal *HaRefuah*, that first caught her attention and compelled her to look more closely at the disease. Unlike anti-malaria swamp-drainage efforts, whose symbolic place in the Zionist movement tends to be widely known, anti-tuberculosis efforts hadn’t received attention as a cultural and sociopolitical force that shaped the Zionist movement.

Sonia studied how Zionist efforts to combat tuberculosis expanded throughout the British Mandate period and in the first decade after Israel’s founding not merely because of the disease’s increasing prevalence with Jewish immigration, but also because campaigns to fight the chronic, emaciating disease powerfully signified Jewish productivity and national rejuvenation. Meanwhile, the British colonial government deferred and ultimately abandoned plans to establish a public tuberculosis hospital, exacerbating divides between Jews and Arabs that were, in part, fomented by medical inequality.

“The only government-run tuberculosis ward was a small prison ward in Acre,” Sonia emphasized — and 1930s records show that nearly all of its patients were Palestinian Arabs. Divisions in tuberculosis care would ultimately be used to illustrate the divided nature of the medical system in Palestine, helping to justify partition plans recommended in the 1937 Peel Commission and 1947 United Nations hearings. Shortly after its founding, Israel would become one of the first countries to deploy the vaccine against tuberculosis as it battled thousands of new cases.

“History and medicine may seem like disparate fields, but they both require critical listening and careful questioning — a kind of empathy. At their best, they can both offer us the tools and capacities for different kinds of healing.”

— Sonia Epstein

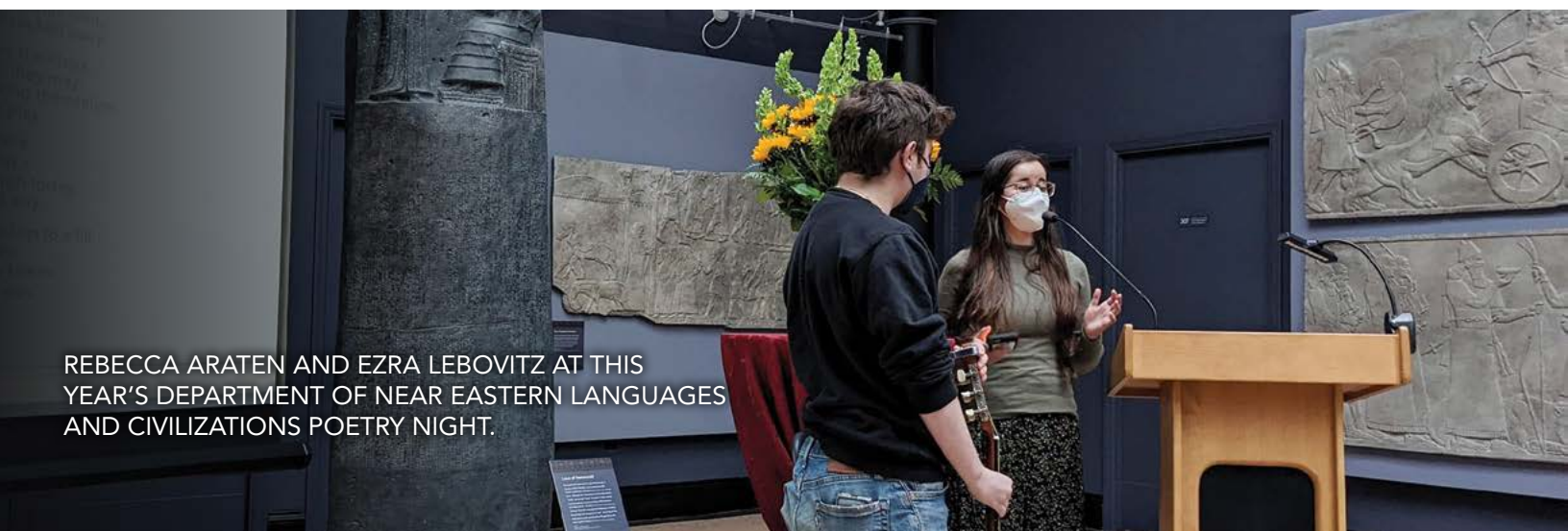
Sonia wants to express her gratitude for many individuals at Harvard that supported her academics. **Dr. Samuel Dolbee**, her thesis advisor, was a tremendous and dedicated guide throughout her senior year. **Prof. Derek Penslar**, whose classes she audited and enrolled in, was an “informal advisor,” generous with his office hours. Sonia says she is not the first student to be drawn toward the History & Literature concentration by **Profs. Lauren Kaminsky** and **Steve Biel**, whose formative seminar on WWI kindled Sonia’s interests in twentieth century history. Other mentors include **Dr. Jerome Groopman**, whose freshman seminar on medical narratives and continued support over the years she deeply cherishes.

Outside of her studies, Sonia spent four years singing in the Radcliffe Choral Society and working as a tutor for the Harvard College Writing Center. At Harvard Hillel, where she helped coordinate the activities of the Student Conservative Minyan, she found lifelong friends.

Sonia hopes to work in health care, though whether as a clinician, researcher, and/or writer, she has yet to determine. She is currently a research assistant at Boston Children’s Hospital, where she helps manage the clinical research and practice of a cardiologist, and she continues to freelance as a science writer.

“I found my way toward history and medicine by a circuitous route,” Sonia says. A love of literature compelled her to understand its context through studying history, and she similarly set out to “contextualize” her love of biology within the field of medicine. “History and medicine may seem like disparate fields, but they both require critical listening and careful questioning — a kind of empathy. At their best,” she says, “they can both offer us the tools and capacities for different kinds of healing.” ■

REBECCA ARATEN AND EZRA LBOVITZ AT THIS YEAR’S DEPARTMENT OF NEAR EASTERN LANGUAGES AND CIVILIZATIONS POETRY NIGHT.



STUDENT FUNDING 2021-22

GRADUATE ACADEMIC YEAR FUNDING

Sarah Corrigan (Department of Comparative Literature), *Sidney L. Solomon Fellowship*
Joe Currie (Committee on the Study of Religion), *Aaron and Clara Rabinowitz Trust Fellowship*
Rachelle Grossman (Department of Comparative Literature), *Raphael and Deborah Melamed Fellowship in Jewish Studies*
Matthew Hass (Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations), *Raphael and Deborah Melamed Fellowship in Jewish Studies*
Allison Hurst (Committee on the Study of Religion), *Center for Jewish Studies Fund*
Caroline Kahlenberg (Department of History), *Raphael and Deborah Melamed Fellowship in Jewish Studies*
J.J. Kimche (Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations), *Sosland Family Fellowship*
Tzipporah Klapper (Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations), *Lewis and Alice Schimberg Graduate Student Fellowship Fund and Isadore Twersky Fellowship*
Uri Schreter (Department of Music), *Mandell L. Berman Fellowship and Lewis and Alice Schimberg Graduate Student Fellowship Fund*
Rachel Slutsky (Committee on the Study of Religion), *Alan M. Stroock Fund for Advanced Research in Judaica*
Deborah Thompson (Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations), *Sidney L. Solomon Fellowship*
Miriam-Simma Walfish (Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations), *Alan M. Stroock Fund for Advanced Research in Judaica*
Dalia Wolfson (Department of Comparative Literature), *Leo Flax Fellowship*

J-TERM GRADUATE FUNDING

Jan Burzlaff (Department of History), *Lewis and Alice Schimberg Graduate Student Fellowship Fund*
Joshua Cohen (Committee on the Study of Religion), *Lewis and Alice Schimberg Graduate Student Fellowship Fund*
J.J. Kimche (Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations), *Lewis and Alice Schimberg Graduate Student Fellowship Fund*
Tsiona Lida (Department of History), *Lewis and Alice Schimberg Graduate Student Fellowship Fund*
Sama Mammadova (Department of History), *Barney and Anne B. Malloy Memorial Fund*
Nathaniel Moses (Department of History), *Lewis and Alice Schimberg Graduate Student Fellowship Fund*
Dalia Wolfson (Department of Comparative Literature), *Lewis and Alice Schimberg Graduate Student Fellowship Fund*

J-TERM UNDERGRADUATE FUNDING

Margaret (Mollie) Ames '22, *Barry Shrage Travel and Research Fund for Jewish Studies*
Shoshana Boardman '22, *Judith and David Lobel Fund for the Center for Jewish Studies*
Sonia Epstein '22, *Friends of the Center for Jewish Studies*
Hannah Miller '22, *Joseph Engel Fund*

SUMMER GRADUATE FUNDING

Avishay Ben Sasson-Gordis (Department of Government), *Lewis and Alice Schimberg Graduate Student Fellowship Fund*
Ori Ben Shalom (Department of the History of Science), *Barney and Anne B. Malloy Memorial Fund*
Sarah Corrigan (Department of Comparative Literature), *Sidney L. Solomon Fellowship*
Joe Currie (Committee on the Study of Religion), *Aaron and Clara Rabinowitz Trust Fellowship*
Rachelle Grossman (Department of Comparative Literature), *Barney and Anne B. Malloy Memorial Fund*
Allison Hurst (Committee on the Study of Religion), *Alan M. and Katherine W. Stroock Family Fellowship for Advanced Research in Judaic Studies*
Terry Iles (Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations), *Anna Marnoy Feldberg Financial Aid Fund*
J.J. Kimche (Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations), *Sosland Family Fellowship and Barney and Anne B. Malloy Memorial Fund*
Tzipporah Klapper (Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations), *Isadore Twersky Fellowship*
Tsiona Lida (Department of History), *Barney and Anne B. Malloy Memorial Fund*
Adam Mahler (Romance Languages and Literatures), *Barney and Anne B. Malloy Memorial Fund*
Nathaniel Moses (Department of History), *Barney and Anne B. Malloy Memorial Fund*
Luan Ribeiro (Committee on the Study of Religion), *Barney and Anne B. Malloy Memorial Fund*
Deborah Thompson (Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations), *Sidney L. Solomon Fellowship and Edward H. Kavinsky Fellowship*
Dalia Wolfson (Department of Comparative Literature), *Leo Flax Fellowship*
Michael Zanger-Tishler (Department of Sociology), *Anna Marnoy Feldberg Financial Aid Fund*

SUMMER UNDERGRADUATE FUNDING

Rebecca Araten '23 *Suzanne and Dr. Lawrence Fishman Fellowship Fund and Judith and David Lobel Fund for the Center for Jewish Studies*
Rachel Harris '24 *Lissner Jewish Research, Language and History Fund, Friends of the Center for Jewish Studies, and Harry Edison Fund*
Ryan Jordan '24 *Barney and Essie Cantor Scholarship Fund*
Caleb King '23 *Barry Shrage Travel and Research Fund for Jewish Studies*
Amelia Roth-Dishy '23 *Joseph Engel Fund*

FROM THE CJS MAILBOX

OPPORTUNITIES MADE POSSIBLE BY NAMED FUNDS AND THE FRIENDS OF THE CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES



I received generous support from the **Lewis and Alice Schimberg Graduate Student Fellowship Fund** to support my dissertation writing during the J-Term 2022. Engaging in an active dialogue with political science, sociology, and psychology, my dissertation rethinks the history of persecuted Jews in Nazi

Europe through surviving, a social process that involved spontaneous choices, painful decisions, and day-to-day experiences. During the J-Term, I tackled chapter 3, which deals with Jews' choices and decision-making across occupied Europe. The case of Soviet Jews gained my attention in particular, not the least due to the tragedy unfolding in Ukraine. It was painful to write about hard decisions in the context of war and occupation and being in touch with colleagues on the ground about events that unfolded at the very moment. If anything, it showed the urgency to better understand these regions and their complex history. I am now able to offer a coherent framework for Jews' responses to violence. I found that Soviet Jews did have agency, fleeting though it was, after the Nazi invasion in June 1941. Choices did matter all along, but it is helpful to conceive of choices in ever-narrowing sequences. In terms of motivations and reasons, wartime dynamics help explain such decisions, but we must include the pogrom waves of 1918–20 and the Great Stalinist Terror after 1935 to make fuller sense of Jews' experiences during WW2. In sum, the Fellowship allowed me to carry out my writing in a safe and responsible fashion. Thanks to the Fund's generosity, I am now about to complete the first draft of my dissertation. I am very grateful for this support, it was vital.

— **Jan Burzlaff**
Ph.D. candidate in History



With the generous support of the Center for Jewish Studies and the **Barney and Anne B. Malloy Memorial Fund Summer Fellowship**, I traveled to the Biblioteca Nacional de Madrid and the Cambridge University Library, which hold the two most important textual witnesses to the medieval Jewish poet Shem Tov Arduziel's collection of Castilian-language epigrams, *Los proverbios morales* (The Moral Proverbs, 14th century). The Cambridge Manuscript – the only *aljamiado* version of manuscript, that is, the only one written in Hebrew characters – has never been transcribed or reproduced in facsimile. Over the course of my stay in Spain and England, I was able to examine all relevant manuscripts onsite and produce high-resolution digital reproductions of the same. These digital resources will greatly facilitate my current book project: the first bilingual critical edition of Shem Tov's long wisdom poem. Thanks to the CJS, I am confident that Shem Tov's verse masterpiece will receive both the scholarly attention and general readership it has long deserved.

— **Adam Mahler**
Ph.D. candidate in Romance
Languages and Literatures

"Engaging in an active dialogue with political science, sociology, and psychology, my dissertation rethinks the history of persecuted Jews in Nazi Europe through surviving, a social process that involved spontaneous choices, painful decisions, and day-to-day experiences."

— Jan Burzlaff



" My research unveils how a divided system of medical care for Jews and Palestinian Arabs evolved during this time and how these divisions were used by both Jewish and British politicians to justify the eventual partition of Palestine."

— Sonia Epstein

In late December of 2021, I travelled to London with the generous support of the **Friends of the Center for Jewish Studies** to conduct research for my senior thesis, examining the British government's approach to combatting tuberculosis in Palestine during the Mandate era (1922–1948). The Colonial Office records of the National Archives were invaluable. This was part of my larger effort to understand how the spread of tuberculosis impacted, and was impacted by, the Zionist project. My research unveils how a divided system of medical care for Jews and Palestinian Arabs evolved during this time and how these divisions were used by both Jewish and British politicians to justify the eventual partition of Palestine. Reports, telegraphs, and letters from the 1930s and 1940s revealed, often in vivid detail, the plight of many underserved populations, especially rural Arabs, and narrativized the stalled, and ultimately abandoned, efforts to establish a government tuberculosis hospital.

I am so grateful to have received the support of the Center for Jewish Studies at a moment during the COVID-19 pandemic, when international travel plans were possible but precarious to arrange. I thoroughly enjoyed working on my senior thesis, which was honored with a Hoopes Prize and the History and Literature department's Edward Chandler Cumming prize for the thesis of highest distinction. I know that the depth of my research and argumentation depended on the materials I had at hand, and to be able to travel to an archive abroad was an incredible privilege.

— Sonia Epstein
Harvard College '22



With the generous support of the **Barney and Anne B. Malloy Memorial Fund**, as well as the **Lewis and Alice Schimberg Graduate Student Fellowship Fund**, I was able to conduct research and language study trips to Turkey during J-term and the summer. Given prior pandemic restrictions, these were invaluable opportunities to visit Istanbul's Ottoman archives and libraries and to improve my modern Turkish and Ottoman Turkish. In Istanbul I conducted research on scarcity, material politics, and intercommunal life in early modern Istanbul. I focused on water shortage, a recurrent problem in the early modern Ottoman capital, asking how the struggle for water shaped the ways that Jewish and non-Jewish Istanbulites related to each other and to the Ottoman state. My range of sources included court records, imperial decrees, multi-lingual chronicles, and rabbinic responsa. This work was guided by an inquiry into the role of social and material forces in structuring inter-religious life in the city. In July, I traveled to the Aegean island-town of Cunda to participate in the annual Intensive Ottoman and Turkish Summer School of the Ottoman Studies Foundation. Throughout the six-week course, reading texts and archival documents alongside other students in a supportive environment, I was able to make progress in the linguistic and paleographical skills required for my research and share ideas with colleagues in my field. Thank you to the CJS for enabling these opportunities!

— Nathaniel Moses
Ph.D. candidate in History



Ilene Perlman

This past summer, thanks to the generosity of Harvard's Center for Jewish Studies, I had the opportunity to travel to England and Israel to conduct research for my Ph.D. dissertation, and to present at two conferences. The first presentation took place at the annual conference hosted by the British and Irish Association for Jewish Studies, held at King's College in London, and the second at the World Congress of Jewish Studies at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The topics covered a wide range of Jewish intellectual history during the nineteenth century, and I was fortunate to receive high-quality feedback from colleagues and experts in these fields. It was especially meaningful, after the lengthy COVID hiatus, to meet and reacquaint myself with friends and colleagues, their lives and impressive scholarly achievements. It was also exciting to witness new advances in the field of Jewish studies and to engage intellectually with scholars working at the cutting edge of so many disciplines.

Most of the summer was spent exploring the treasures of various libraries in Israel and in England. The greatest finds were private journals and letters of Christian David Ginsburg, the brilliant Polish-British Hebraist and the first major scholar of Jewish studies in the English language, in the Wren Library at Trinity College, Cambridge. His correspondences with such British titans as William Gladstone, Benjamin Disraeli, and the Earl of Shaftesbury granted me unparalleled insight into the social and intellectual universe of this extraordinary gentleman.

I am truly grateful to the CJS, its staff, the **Barney and Anne B. Malloy Memorial Fund** and the **Sosland Family Fellowship**, whose commitment to the furthering of Jewish scholarship has made such an overwhelmingly positive impact in my own scholarly journey, as well as the journeys of so many other burgeoning Jewish scholars.

—J.J. Kimche

Ph.D. candidate in Near Eastern
Languages and Civilizations

"...being in the historical homeland of the Jewish people gave me the unique opportunity to combine my academic studies with cultural immersion..."

— Rachel Harris



I am incredibly grateful to the Center for Jewish Studies for giving me the opportunity to study traditional Jewish texts at Midreshet

Rachel v'Chaya, a seminary for Orthodox Jewish women in Jerusalem. The program's focus on Hebrew language development, with particular emphasis on grammar, enabled me to tackle complex Biblical and Rabbinic sources, both independently and with the help of classmates and teachers. When I return to Harvard, I will be equipped to analyze a variety of primary sources in their original language and context which I'm confident will deepen my ability to engage in a more nuanced study of Jewish legal and cultural history. Even though my interests primarily focus on diasporic—particularly American—Jewish history, being in the historical homeland of the Jewish people gave me the unique opportunity to combine my academic studies with cultural immersion; the texts I learned came alive in visits to the graves of Biblical personalities, the gates of Old City Jerusalem, and the Western Wall. I would not have had these amazing intellectual, cultural, and religious opportunities without the incredibly generous support of the **Lissner Jewish Research, Language and History Fund**, the **Friends of the Center for Jewish Studies fund**, the **Harry Edison Fund**, and the CJS.

— Rachel Harris

Harvard College '24



In the fall of 2021, the Center for Jewish Studies generously offered me funding to travel to Bologna, Italy during the J-term to participate in a training school entitled *Moving Goods for Charity across the Mediterranean (15th–19th Centuries)*, and to deliver a paper on the effects of Franciscan public banks (*monti di pietà*) on Jewish moneylenders in late medieval and early modern Italy. Because of a sudden

upsurge of COVID-19 in Italy, the program was canceled and then rescheduled. The CJS community (special thanks to Rachel Rockenmacher and Sandy Cantave Vill) was incredibly kind and understanding during this time of uncertainty.

The presentation provided me with valuable feedback from leading scholars in my field. I then traveled to Rome to study administrative books and documents pertaining to Jewish life in early modern Rome at the Fondazione Roma and the State Archive of Rome. At the Historical Archive of the Jewish Community of Rome, I met with an archivist whose expertise on my topic proved invaluable for my research. All of this helped me concretize the trajectory of my dissertation and prepare for the upcoming year of research in Italy.

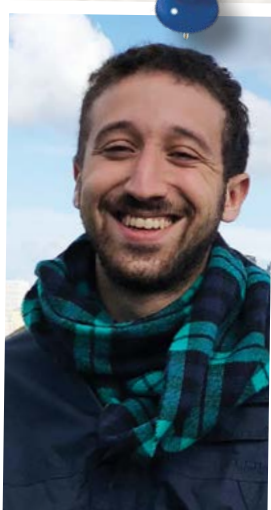
I am eternally grateful for the **Barney and Anne B. Malloy Memorial Fund** and to everyone at CJS for their care and support during this unpredictable year.

— *Sama Mammadova,*
Ph.D. candidate in History



With the support of the **Judith and David Lobel Fund for the Center for Jewish Studies**, I was able to spend winter break learning computational techniques to enhance my study of Harvard's Babylonian incantation bowls. These otherwise ordinary dishes are inscribed with incantations. They were created on behalf of clients from a supposedly Jewish community of Nippur, in what is now Iraq. I was intrigued by the diversity of names represented on the bowls: Biblical to rabbinic to theophoric Zoroastrian; both Semitic and Iranian in origin. I was able to write a Python computer script that extracted and analyzed over a thousand names from a corpus of 214 bowls (generously shared by the Director of the Comprehensive Aramaic Lexicon at Hebrew Union College, Dr. Steve Kaufman). I began to learn about natural language processing in the hope of identifying the language of origin of these names. By comparing data between different bowls and different family relationships, I have begun to situate Harvard's bowls in a communal context.

— *Shoshana Boardman*
Harvard College '22



I received a summer term grant from the **Anna Marnoy Feldberg Financial Aid Fund** to conduct archival research in Israel, and to give a visiting lecture to The Hebrew University Department of Criminology. This was an incredible opportunity for me to connect with Israeli scholars and to further my knowledge of Israeli archives. During my trip, I visited the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics archive to study reports published by the bureau in the 1950s and 1960s, which are currently unavailable online. These documents provided me material for an article on statistical omission in the

early years of the State of Israel. Further, by presenting at the Hebrew U., I was able to make connections with scholars studying the criminal legal system in Israel, which will be helpful for me as I continue to work on related subjects.

— *Michael Zanger-Tishler*
Ph.D. candidate in Sociology

"I received a summer term grant from the Anna Marnoy Feldberg Financial Aid Fund to conduct archival research in Israel, and to give a visiting lecture to The Hebrew University Department of Criminology."

— *Michael Zanger-Tishler*



Thanks to the Center for Jewish Studies and the **Anna Marnoy Feldberg Financial Aid Fund**, I was able to spend the summer writing a chapter of my dissertation: “The Compositional Poetics of the Book of Isaiah’s Nations Collection,” which is concerned with a fascinating phenomenon in the Hebrew Bible, the so-called “oracles against the nations.” The oracles are presented as addresses to foreign nations, and I am analyzing the principles and logic by which they have been collected and arranged within the book of Isaiah, Chapters 13–27. As such, my project is important for understanding the prophetic books on their own terms as ancient Jewish literature. My writing this summer focused on chapters 13–14, striking for the way they construct sophisticated conceptions of both history (blending the day of the Lord, the fall of Babylon, and the Assyrian crisis) and identity (imagining a new exodus involving both the house of Jacob and foreigners). I am deeply grateful for the support of my research last summer.

— **Terry Iles**

Ph.D. candidate in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations



“The Lewis and Alice Schimberg Graduate Student Fellowship Fund...enabled me to collaborate with Dr. Alon Yakter of Tel Aviv University on a survey experiment that measured to what degree Israelis were willing to classify Palestinian non-violence—such as economic pressure, legal action, and even civilian construction—as terrorism.”

— **Avishay Ben Sasson-Gordis**

I am deeply grateful to the Center for Jewish Studies and to the **Lewis and Alice Schimberg Graduate Student Fellowship Fund** for supporting my recent research project on Israeli public perception of non-violence as terrorism. Adding to the research connections between Harvard and Israeli universities, this generous support enabled me to collaborate with Dr. Alon Yakter of Tel Aviv University on a survey experiment that measured to what degree Israelis were willing to classify Palestinian non-violence—such as economic pressure, legal action, and even civilian construction—as terrorism. We found that those actions can rank close to violence in denotation as terrorism and can be seen to justify use of repressive force.

Our findings contribute to the growing debate about public perceptions of terrorism and outgroup behavior and the implication that leaders can label nonviolent resisters as terrorists and create a self-fulfilling prophecy. This can also serve to delegitimize domestic political opponents who support negotiated solutions, a finding that may have broader importance than the Israeli-Palestinian case.

The implications of the CJS-supported study have already drawn interest to it, and led a senior columnist in the Israeli newspaper, *Yediot Aharonot*, to report on them.

— **Avishay Ben Sasson-Gordis**

Ph.D. candidate in Government



I am grateful for thesis research funding from the **Joseph Engel Fund** at the Center for Jewish Studies. Over spring break, I traveled to New York to conduct archival research at the Center for Jewish History. This research supported my thesis *The Right to Leave: The Movement for Soviet Jewish Emigration and the Battle Between Cold War Strategy and Human Rights 1963–1975*.

In my thesis, I identified the Jackson-Vanik amendment and movement for Soviet Jewish emigration as the birth of US human rights-based foreign policy. I demonstrated that Jewish activists used shifts in US-Soviet relations and the Nixon administration's rising unpopularity during détente to advance their goal of freeing Soviet Jewry, which consequently led to the emergence of further human rights legislation. At the Center for Jewish History archives, I sifted through the National Conference for Soviet Jewry, Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry, Bayard Rustin, and Action for Soviet Jewry papers. These collections included Jewish organizations' debates on the various renditions of the Jackson-Vanik amendment and activists' accounts of their attempts to shift politicians' perceptions on the importance of US human rights-based foreign policy.

In my four years studying history at Harvard and writing numerous research papers on Jewish history, I was never able to conduct in-person archival research because of COVID-19 restrictions. This was an incredible experience, and I am so thankful to have had this opportunity.

— **Hannah Miller**
Harvard College '22

"In my thesis, I identified the Jackson-Vanik amendment and movement for Soviet Jewish emigration as the birth of US human rights-based foreign policy."

— **Hannah Miller**



I am so grateful to the CJS for the funding provided to me through the **Alan M. and Katherine W. Stroock Family Fellowship for Advanced Research in Judaica Studies** last summer. This funding provided crucial support to me in what would have otherwise been a precarious summer of pieced-together funding from various sources. Instead, the financial stability allowed me to focus intensively on making progress on my dissertation and, importantly, allowed me to remain in the Cambridge area with access to Harvard's incredible wealth of resources. With this funding, I was able to prepare a full draft of what I expect to be the largest chapter of my dissertation, which addresses the motif of Egypt as a "house of bondage" and place of enslavement in the Hebrew Bible, and to make large strides toward a full draft of another chapter on the motif of sojourning in Egypt. Thank you for this invaluable support!

— **Allison Hurst**
Ph.D. candidate in the Committee on the Study of Religion

Last summer, I had the privilege of conducting research in New York City and Los Angeles with the generous support of the **Joseph Engel Fund**. For my undergraduate thesis in the History & Literature Department, I am drawing on my findings to examine the relationships between Ladino (Judeo-Spanish-speaking) eastern Sephardic communities in these cities and the evolving hierarchies of race and belonging in the United States, from roughly 1910–1930. Thanks to this grant, I was able to cast a wide archival net in this relatively underrepresented area of Jewish studies and explore multiple relevant research collections, including the Ladino periodicals collection at the New York Public Library, the archives of Congregation Shearith Israel at the Center for Jewish History, and the papers of the Sephardic Temple Tifereth Israel at the UCLA Library Special Collections. It was a special honor to develop this project with funding from the Center for Jewish Studies, given that a similar grant enabled me to study Ladino remotely in the summer of 2020 and acquire language skills that I am now putting to use as a researcher!



— **Amelia Roth-Dishy**
Harvard College '23



Thanks to the Center for Jewish Studies and the **Barney and Anne B. Malloy Memorial Fund's** generous support, I spent a month in Italy conducting research in different archives and libraries. As a student of early modern medicine in the 18th century, I am intrigued by the fact that the practice of medicine was one of the most significant ways for Jewish men to participate in gentile Italian society. I am especially interested in the process of accumulation occurring in medical faculties, where Jews and Gentiles

exchanged ideas in an unprecedented way. Thus, I studied notable Jewish physicians and unearthed documents regarding their academic formation and intellectual life. I worked in the archives of the universities of Padua and Pavia, as well as in different libraries across northern Italy, where I was able to locate rare printed books..

—Ori Ben-Shalom

Ph.D. candidate in History of Science



Thanks to the generous support of the **Barry Shrage Travel and Research Fund for Jewish Studies** I was able to travel this summer to Cambridge, England, where I conducted research as part of the team writing the new Oxford Grammar of Biblical Hebrew (also referred to as the Gesenius update). Under the supervision of Prof. Geoffrey Khan, I focused on documenting Jewish reading traditions of Hebrew by analyzing recordings from the Hebrew University Language Traditions Project (עדה ולשון).

This valuable research experience was important for understanding the diversity of living traditions of Hebrew. I helped analyze these traditions from Amsterdam to Afghanistan that had never been documented.

—Caleb King

Harvard College '23



I am grateful to have had support of the **Lewis and Alice Schimberg Graduate Student Fellowship Fund** and the Center for Jewish Studies to travel to Israel and research archival materials related to the life and work of Yente Serdatzky (1877–1962). In her youth, Serdatzky participated in I.L.

Peretz's literary circles and was involved in revolutionary activities in Warsaw. In 1906 she emigrated to New York, where she wrote short stories for various Yiddish-language periodicals (*Forverts*, *Nyu Yorker*, *Vokhnblat*) through the 1950s, and published *Geklibene Shriftn*, her collected writings, in 1913. Both my second year paper and the ongoing dissertation research have taken Serdatzky as a case-study of the historical experiences, literary concerns, and the reception of women writers in the late 19th and early 20th century. This year, through the Translation Fellowship from the Yiddish Book Center (Amherst, MA), I have also been translating her stories.

It was thus with great excitement that I traveled to access materials of Serdatzky's at the National Library of Israel. Among these are letters written to Yiddish literary critic Melech Ravitch. After deciphering her sweeping, swift hand, the letters revealed her typically cutting and bold fashion, alternating between aesthetic praise and feminist critique. Also valuable were the many issues of the *Nyu Yorker Vokhnblat* which are not yet digitized. I feel that I have gained a much fuller picture of her writing style and particularities of her biography that are not considered in existing scholarly literature. I now have much material to incorporate into my ongoing translation and analysis of Serdatzky's work and new directions for my collections research that I am excited to follow up on. I deeply appreciate the support of the CJS.

—Dalia Wolfson

Ph.D. candidate in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations

"I participated in a two-week workshop, Hebrew Manuscript Studies: Codicology, Palaeography, Art History, organized by the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies."

— Deborah B. Thompson

Having begun my studies at Harvard under the shadow of COVID lockdown, it is with deep gratitude that I recognize the support of the Center for Jewish Studies over two consecutive summers. In 2021, supported by the **Anna Marnoy Feldberg Financial Aid Fund**, I took modern Hebrew lessons with an excellent tutor. These sessions increased my capacity to independently read Hebrew academic articles and prepared me for my foreign language exam.

Last summer, an award from the **Edward H. Kavinsky Fellowship** and the **Sidney L. Solomon Fellowship** allowed me to travel to England to conduct research for a dissertation that will examine the invention of print in Europe and the relationship between manuscripts and print in Jewish book culture during the early modern period. I participated in a two-week workshop, Hebrew Manuscript Studies: Codicology, Palaeography, Art History, organized by the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies, focused on core areas of Hebrew



manuscript studies. The workshop was taught by scholars, conservators, and librarians, and presented through primary materials at the Bodleian Library. I was delighted to turn the pages of a staggering array of books, including richly illuminated medieval manuscripts, micrographically illustrated Masoretic bibles, and Hebrew incunables. At the British Library in London, I viewed early modern *minhagimbukhs* (books of Jewish customs) and *haggadot*, and at the Cambridge University Library, I was thrilled to view important historical Jewish materials on paper from the Cairo Genizah in person. Thanks to these opportunities, I now have several viable dissertation topics in Jewish book culture to explore, and an improved toolkit of linguistic, paleographical, codicological, and art historical skills with which to conduct my research.

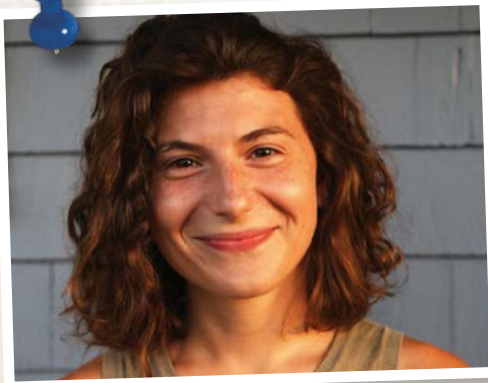
— Deborah B. Thompson

Ph.D. candidate in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations



I am incredibly grateful to the Center for Jewish Studies for their generous funding of my research over the summer through the **Barney and Essie Cantor Scholarship Fund**, which allowed me to conduct research at Oxford University, in Vienna, and in Munich on the stories and histories of Jewish and Mischling academics and intellectuals (as defined by the Nazi racial laws of 1935). With their support I began to scratch the surface of the incredibly complicated realities facing "Jewish" academics in the 1930s and 40s, and to examine how Mischling academics had their Jewishness forced upon them. Whereas previously these academics had defined themselves as German, Austrian, Czech, etc., and typically Christian or atheist, their new label as "Jews" or "half-breeds" (from the German Mischling), forced them to escape from the countries that they had been connected to and rooted in for generations. While I expected to find differences in reactions, and perhaps a greater sense of "unfairness" amongst the Mischling academics, the predominant reaction I discovered was of shared suffering, with both Jewish and Mischling academics uprooted and left trying to rebuild their lives (if they survived). My time abroad was also invaluable in underlining the limits of what I could reasonably expect to fit and accomplish within a thesis and has led me to avenues for further research. Thanks to the Center for Jewish Studies, I am confident that I will be able to craft a more polished thesis and will have the experience necessary to conduct further research and prepare for a possible master's program in Jewish studies in the future.

— Ryan Jordan
Harvard College '24



Thanks to the Center for Jewish Studies' generous support, I was able to spend six weeks of the summer in Jerusalem and Jaffa. This was my first opportunity to conduct archival research and to study Hebrew in an immersive setting since starting my Ph.D. This research was funded by the **Lewis and Alice Schimberg Graduate Student Fellowship Fund** for J-Term, and the **Barney and Anne B. Malloy Memorial Fund** for the summer. Due to COVID travel restrictions, the J-Term trip could not take place, so the awards were combined, which made this summer even more appreciated.

I am exploring the affective dimension of Jewish history in the twentieth century with particular attention to the Zionist context. I investigate how Jewish settlement in Palestine was experienced by both diaspora Jewry and non-Jews. My

inquiry is guided by controversial issues like honor and homeland, situated in claims—textual and territorial—over Jewish people, historical narrative, and Palestinian land. I surveyed materials pertaining to Jewish settlement in Palestine since 1901 in the Central Zionist Archives, the Jewish National Fund Central Office's archive, and at the National Library. I also participated in an eight-week advanced Hebrew course in archival materials and practices with the research institute *Akevot*. As part of a cataloguing initiative titled 'Deciphering the Military Rule Project', we read declassified official documents and letters from the years 1948–1966 and I gained linguistic and methodological experience necessary for navigating archives housed in Israel-Palestine. This summer experience precedes a year of research and further language study taking place in Berlin and Jerusalem. I am indebted to the CJS funding for my preparedness as I embark on this longer-term research. Thank you!

— *Tsiona Lida*

Ph.D. candidate in History



Weimar, Germany can be a difficult place for a Jew. The city itself was built up with labor from the nearby Buchenwald Nazi concentration camp. This history makes it an interesting and meaningful choice for a Yiddish singing workshop. With support from the **Suzanne and Dr. Lawrence Fishman Fellowship Fund**, the **Judith and David Lobel Fund for the Center for Jewish Studies** and the CJS, I attended Yiddish Summer Weimar, with esteemed singers Sasha Lurje and Michael Alpert.

I experienced distinctive Yiddish folk singing techniques: off-beat starts, glottal exclamations, and the sensation of music even in the moments of silence. We learned the Yiddish song "Yoshke Fort Avek" about a

"...history makes [Weimar, Germany] an interesting and meaningful choice for a Yiddish singing workshop."

— *Rebecca Araten*

young boy going off to war, and for comparison, its Greek counterpart "Mangiko Mou," a love song with the same tune but without the unique two/two/four rhythmic pulse of the Yiddish version. Participating in small ensembles, I observed the process of arranging Yiddish music, which I plan to bring to Harvard for a campus klezmer ensemble.

At the end of the workshop, we performed for an audience of Weimar locals (in a music school that purportedly was designed by Goethe). Making Yiddish music in Weimar, we recognized that so many lives and so much musical knowledge were lost there. By singing Yiddish songs, we asserted that these traditions are still valuable to us, and that Jewish culture is alive.

— *Rebecca Araten*

Harvard College '23



This summer I traveled to the University of Wrocław in Poland to access archives in support of an article on postwar Yiddish children's literature. Lower Silesia, a region in southwest Poland, was host to large-scale Jewish resettlement in the late 1940s and 1950s, and for a brief period Jewish culture flourished there after the Holocaust. As I have learned through my research, the postwar history of Jewish life in the region is complex, in part because the area, once part of Germany, was transferred to Poland in 1945. Jewish refugees returning from the Soviet Union were sent there, often replacing expelled ethnic Germans. This history was immediately apparent to me in the archives. In documents from the Jewish school system, I found many letters and forms printed, due to the post-war paper shortage, on the back of Nazi papers, including forms once used to document shipments between concentration camps, creating a striking juxtaposition between the recent, terrible past and new initiatives for the Jewish future. Accessing these materials in person made this discovery possible; were I only to look at digital scans of these documents, I would never have been able to notice their unique material histories. I am grateful for the support from the Center for Jewish Studies and the **Barney and Anne B. Malloy Memorial Fund**, which made this research possible, and I look forward to sharing my article with the wider public in the future.

— **Rachelle Grossman**
Ph.D. candidate in Comparative Literature

"Every day we would watch the sun rise over the Galilean horizon.

— **Luan Ribeiro**

I am very grateful for the support of the **Barney and Anne B. Malloy Memorial Fund** and the Center for Jewish Studies, which allowed me to travel to the ancient site of Horvat Esad/Asad in Israel with a group of students led by Dr. Giovanni Bazzana. Every day we watched the sun rise over the Galilean horizon, and along with dozens of local hired workers, we became the first group to excavate the site. I wish I could aptly describe the joy felt when a coin or a well-preserved piece of pottery was found—a rare and privileged experience. I was also extremely fortunate to visit many ancient sites in Israel and Palestine, always accompanied by scholars of antiquity and experienced archaeologists. We learned the valuable skill of navigating—and enjoying—technical and obscure articles and field reports. I now have a better understanding of the lives of people in Jewish communities during the Second Temple period, followers of Christ or otherwise. I have also experienced the cultural and religious spaces of contemporary Israel by being among the local community. Growing up in a poor family in Brazil, opportunities like this were for a long time just a distant dream. My many thanks to everybody who made them come true.

— **Luan Ribeiro**
Ph.D. candidate in the
Committee on the Study of Religion



"In documents from the Jewish school system, I found many letters and forms printed, due to the post-war paper shortage, on the back of Nazi papers, including forms once used to document shipments between concentration camps, creating a striking juxtaposition between the recent, terrible past and new initiatives for the Jewish future."

— **Rachelle Grossman**



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