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UCLA Alan D. Leve Center for Jewish Studies

JEWISH STUDIES IN THE PUBLIC SPHERE









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OCTOBER 24, 2017 INAUGURAL LEVE AWARD & OPEN HOUSE CELEBRATION

NEW LOWELL MILKEN FAMILY MUSIC programs BUCHALTER GIFT expands scholarships



2017-18 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE DIRECTOR: NEW DIRECTIONS FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT



As I reflect on nearly eight years directing UCLA's Alan D. Leve Center for Jewish Studies, many thoughts come to mind. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to meet and work with so many extraordinary people—from faculty, staff, and

students to community partners, religious leaders, philanthropists, elected officials, and members of the general public. It has been inspiring. I am proud of the efforts we have made to become a truly world-class center dedicated to the study of all aspects of Jewish culture, history, religion, and civilization.

As a center located at one of the leading public universities in the U.S. in one of the largest Jewish communities in the world, I feel that the Leve Center has a special mission to engage broadly with the diversity within our own community as well as with the diversity beyond our community. As such, we are committed not only to first-rate academic scholarship, but also to a core set of democratic values that inform our mission to educate the next generation of leaders and to address the many complex issues of the day with historical perspective, cross-cultural understanding, reasoned nuance, and moral clarity.

Through our programmatic and outreach efforts, the Leve Center has engaged thoughtfully with contemporary issues, ranging from the local to the global. We study the past because it shapes the texture of the present and helps us imagine a more just future.

Our exhibition, From Brooklyn Avenue to Cesar Chavez: Jewish Histories in Multiethnic Boyle Heights, will remain up at the Breed Street Shul through the end of November. If you haven't already, I very much hope you will be able to see it. Organized around the interlocking themes of education, religious institutions, political activism, language, and arts, the exhibition traces the history of Boyle Heights over more than 100 years, situating Jewish culture within one of Los Angeles' most diverse neighborhoods.

This past May, the exhibition's timeline was featured at City Hall as part of the Los Angeles City Council's first ceremony marking Jewish History month. It was an honor to be invited by the **Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles** to participate and address the Mayor and Council Members alongside our Chief Curator, **Caroline Luce**. This past year, Dr. Luce organized three events in East Los Angeles including the exhibition's opening at the Breed Street Shul, collaborating with the Boyle Heights Arts Conservancy, Boyle Heights Historical Society, the Garment Workers Center, Libros Schmibros, Los Angeles Jewish Historical Society, Yiddishkayt, the UCLA Labor Center, and the Workman's Circle (Arbeter Ring)—all with the goal of developing new models for public engagement with Jewish studies.

Funded in part by the **UC Humanities Research Council**, all three events in East LA involved participation by current residents of the neighborhoods and sought to illuminate historical parallels between Jews and the struggles facing other immigrant groups. The resonance with current events is, of course, unmistakable, hence the theme of this year's *at the Center*, **Jewish Studies in the Public Sphere**. We look forward to screening *we are in it*, a new documentary film about refugees in Houston, Texas, by UCLA alumnus **Dr. Yehuda Sharim** on October 26.

The year will culminate with a major symposium on May 6 called **Primo Levi for the Public**, which examines the significance of Levi's life and work, with a particular focus on how it speaks to contemporary, public issues. Cosponsored by the Primo Levi Center in New York City, the symposium will involve a broad range of scholars, including literary critics, philosophers, artists, and political commentators.

I am also pleased to announce that the **Mapping Jewish LA** project continues to grow and add new digital exhibitions, which can be seen at: www.MappingJewishLA.org, including upcoming exhibitions about the Fairfax neighborhood and composer Walter Arlen. Professor Sarah A. Stein's **Sephardic Archive Initiative** is building an interactive digital platform and continuing to reach out to local Sephardic communities in a concerted collecting effort. This major initiative has garnered additional support from the **Maurice Amado Foundation** and **UC Humanities Research Council**.

I hope to see you at our **Inaugural Leve Award Celebration and Open House.** We will honor **Rabbi Elliot Dorff** as the first recipient of the Leve Award for his exemplary leadership and service building bridges across and beyond the Jewish community. The Leve Award ceremony will take place on October 24 at 4pm in 314 Royce Hall.

I'm excited to welcome you to the 2017-18 academic year, and look forward to introducing the next director of the Leve Center before the end of the year.

Todd Samuel Presner

Sady and Ludwig Kahn Director, UCLA Alan D. Leve Center for Jewish Studies Professor, Germanic Languages and Comparative Literature Chair, Digital Humanities Program

LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL CELEBRATES JEWISH HISTORY MONTH



Caroline Luce and Todd Presner hold up a Los Angeles City Council proclamation honoring the Leve Center following ceremonies marking Jewish Heritage Month in May 2017. Also pictured (I. to r.): Advisory board members Laura Leve Cohen and Alan D. Leve; Councilmembers Paul Koretz, David Ryu, Gil Cedillo, and Bob Blumenfield; and UCLA Assistant Vice Chancellor Keith Parker.

LEVE CENTER ADVISORY BOARD

AL FINCI, *chair* LARRY COHEN LAURA LEVE COHEN MILT HYMAN JAMES KEIR LORI KEIR

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*Deceased

Photos: David Wu



- The opening of the Leve Center's exhibition, From Brooklyn Ave. to Cesar Chavez, at the Breed Street Shul on June 4, 2017, featured several musical performances including by the rock fusion band **Ollin**, based in Boyle Heights.
- 2 Former Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky with Alan D. Leve and Todd S. Presner at the Leve Center's Grand Opening Celebration in November 2017, where Yaroslavsky was the keynote speaker. (Photo: Reed Hutchinson)
- 3 The UCLA Klezmer Ensemble played its first public performance for an enthusiastic audience at the Breed Street Shul exhibit opening.
- Language, Culture, and Lugar (Place): Writing Boyle Heights held at the Boyle Heights Arts Conservancy on January 29, 2017, featured a poetry slam. Readings by L.A. Poet Laureate Gloria Alvarez and other local poets were interspersed with historical pieces by two Yiddish writers and a Japanese American writer from the neighborhood.

Leve Center Student Leadership Council
 2016-17 (I. to r.): Tess Williams, Aizian
 Yuan, Elizabeth Ho, Jessica Behmanesh,
 Darian Ouliguian, Hannah Berookhim, and
 Ryan Davidson (not pictured, Tal Boussi).



editors Mary Enid Pinkersor Vivian Holenbeck

> <mark>design</mark> David Wu

LOWELL MILKEN FAMILY FOUNDATION: \$1.5 MILLION GIFT TO ADVANCE AMERICAN JEWISH MUSIC



Lowell Milken (right) with composer Herman Berlinski in 2000. Berlinski's masterpiece, "Avodat Shabbat," was recorded by the Milken Archive of Jewish Music. (Courtesy Milken Archive)

The conference American Culture and the Jewish Experience in Music

(November 5-7) is the inaugural program of the Lowell Milken Fund for American Jewish Music, recently established with a \$1.5 million gift from the Lowell Milken Family Foundation to The UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music.

Under the direction of Professor Mark Kligman,

who holds the school's Mickey Katz Endowed Chair in Jewish Music, the fund will enable the school to build on the work of the Milken Archive of Jewish Music, a collection of recordings, scores, and historical materials that document the Jewish experience in America over the past 350 years.

"There has never been a concerted effort to significantly research or study American Jewish music," Kligman said. "With the establishment of this fund, Jewish music—and its history and development—will be given the attention it deserves as an integral part of the American music experience."

To help advance the mission of the fund, Kligman has added two members to his team. Lorry Black has been appointed associate director, and Lily Wohl has been selected as the postdoctoral fellow for American Jewish music.

Lowell Milken founded the Milken Archive in 1990 with a vision to record, preserve, and disseminate the music born of and inspired by Jewish life in America. It has grown to include more than 600 recordings by 200 composers, complemented by more than 800 hours of oral history recordings, videos, photographs and scholarship, and has earned ASCAP and Grammy awards.

"Our goal is to advance cutting-edge research, artistic creativity, and interdisciplinary collaboration," Milken said. "The Milken Archive is a living project, and I believe The UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music is uniquely positioned to further both our mission and our impact on current and future generations."

"This gift substantially advances our commitment to the field of Jewish music," said **Judith Smith**, Dean of the music school. "Bringing together academic scholarship with performances and community events, the gift embraces and leverages the unique advantages of the school's three departments: ethnomusicology, music, and musicology."

Milken graduated from the UCLA School of Law in 1973 and is among UCLA's most generous supporters. His many contributions include a transformative \$10 million gift in 2011 to the law school, which established the Lowell Milken Institute for Business Law and Policy. The largest single gift in the law school's history, it enabled the school to surpass a \$100 million fundraising goal well ahead of the original five-year schedule. The donation was followed by another \$5 million gift in 2014.

In 2016, UCLA was honored again when Milken donated \$1 million for the Lowell Milken Family Centennial Scholars Endowed Scholarship Fund, which provides substantive support to some of the campus' nearly 700 student-athletes as they pursue their degrees. The gifts have been part of the \$4.2 billion UCLA Centennial Campaign, which is scheduled to conclude in December 2019 during UCLA's 100th anniversary year.



LORRY AARON BLACK

is the newly appointed associate director of The UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music's Lowell Milken Fund for American Jewish Music. A percussionist, pedagogue, and Jewish music scholar deeply rooted in the Los Angeles performance scene, Dr. Black has performed with the Santa Monica Symphony, The Jacaranda Music Ensemble, and Torrance Symphony and Torrance Civic Chorale, and is the percussionist with the Helix Collective, a Los Angeles-based new music ensemble.



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LILLIAN M. WOHL

is the Lowell Milken Fund for American Jewish Music postdoctoral fellow. She completed her Ph.D. in ethnomusicology at the University of Chicago in 2015. Prior to joining UCLA, she was visiting assistant professor of Jewish Musicology and Ethnomusicology at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. Dr. Wohl's research focuses on constructions of race, ethnicity, and the sacred in Jewish and Latin American music.

CONFERENCE AND PERFORMANCE: AMERICAN CULTURE & THE JEWISH EXPERIENCE IN MUSIC



Starting about 125 years ago, American Jews began a period of intense creativity that has changed both American and world music. The effect can be seen in popular music forms such as Hava Nagila to art music innovations like Leonard Bernstein's use of cantillation in his First Symphony, to Aaron Copland's incorporation of jazz and folk into compositions that transcended the concert hall and entered the popular consciousness.

The U.S. allowed Jewish performers, songwriters, and producers unprecedented opportunities, and their influence is legendary. Celebrated conductors of major orchestras include Barenboim, Levine, Maazel, Previn, and Slatkin, to mention only a few. Over the fifty-year period of its development, the songs of the Broadway musical were created almost exclusively by Jewish Americans.

American Culture and the Jewish Experience in Music, a two-day conference convened by Professor Mark Kligman, Mickey Katz Endowed Chair in Jewish Music at The UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music, will be held at UCLA on November 6-7. The conference will be preceded with an evening concert of new works at the Stephen S. Wise Temple on November 5.

The conference will examine the musical *resources*, both those considered "Jewish" as well as others that these Jewish artists drew upon, and the *strategies* that they used to select, shape, and promote them. It will also consider the *agendas*—ideological, aesthetic, and economic—behind their choices. **The Lowell Milken Fund for American Jewish Music** at The UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music will be inaugurated in a special session with Lowell Milken. Keynote speaker **Mark Slobin**, professor of Music and American studies at Wesleyan University, has written about the roots of this American Jewish creativity in *Tenement Songs: The Popular Music of Jewish Immigrants*. He will discuss the long view of American Jewish music, another conference focus.

Other panels will explore Jews and the L.A. Music Industry, Sacred Song and Music of the Past, Jewish Musical Interactions with Popular Media, Afterlife of *Fiddler on the Roof*, and The Language of Yiddish Theater.

Several musical performances will focus on heritage and identity, including a concert of music by school of music students recreating a 1945 recital on European-born Jewish composers that moved to Los Angeles (Toch, Schoenberg) and scenes from musicals by UCLA Theatre students and UCLA Opera students.

A performance of **David's Quilt**, a new work by 15 Los Angeles-based composers, including David Lefkowitz, Professor of Music and Chair of Composition and Theory, and several graduate students in composition working together with the **Max Helfman Institute**, will be presented at the Stephen S. Wise Temple on the evening of Sunday, November 5.

The American Culture and the Jewish Experience in Music Conference is presented by The UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music and the UCLA Alan D. Leve Center for Jewish Studies. Funding is provided by the school of music's Lowell Milken Fund for American Jewish Music, Mickey Katz Endowed Chair in Jewish Music, and Center for Musical Humanities, as well as the Natalie Limonick Symposium in Jewish Civilization.

The concert at Stephen S. Wise Temple is presented by The UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music, in collaboration with the Max Helfman Institute. Funding is provided by the school of music's Lowell Milken Fund for American Jewish Music and Drs. David and Irmgard Dobrow Fund for Performance, as well as the Max Helfman Institute.

RSVP INFO



DAVID'S QUILT

Sunday, November 5, 2017 • 7PM • Stephen S. Wise Temple RSVP: http://bit.ly/DavidsQuilt

AMERICAN CULTURE AND THE JEWISH EXPERIENCE IN MUSIC November 6-7, 2017 • 7PM • Luskin Conference Center/314 Royce Hall RSVP: cjsrsvp@humnet.ucla.edu or (310) 267-5327 A full conference schedule is available at www.cjs.ucla.edu

MILTON AND ETTA LEVE SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM

The Leve Center hosted a week-long film festival, Shadows of the 20th Century, at UCLA in June 2017 featuring a retrospective of the work of both Marcel Ophuls, one of the most respected and influential European filmmakers of the 20th century, and his father Max Ophuls, the acclaimed and exiled German-Jewish film director.



Marcel Ophuls participated in the festival as the inaugural 2017 Etta and Milton Leve Artist-in-Residence, while *LA Times* film critic and USC lecturer **Kenneth Turan** served as the inaugural 2017 Etta and Milton Leve Scholar-in-Residence for the keynote program.

Marcel Ophuls' many documentary films explore topics such as Holocaust memory, Vichy collaboration, Nazi war crimes, and the search for justice. The residency program is named for Alan D. Leve's late parents as part of his 2015 endowment naming the Leve Center. "**The Etta and Milton Leve Scholar-in-Residence program** is intended to bring academics from across the world to UCLA, foster international collaborations, and provide new perspectives on Jewish history," Leve explained.

As a child, Marcel Ophuls found himself at the center of international film production as well as the rise of Nazism. Leaving Germany for Paris in 1933 at age 5, the filmmaker remembers driving past a cinema showing *Liebelei*, with MAX OPHULS in large letters. During the War, the family hid for a year in the Vichy zone, escaped to Spain, and reached Los Angeles in December 1941.

Now 89, the artist has returned many times to the dark pages of 20th century history with unanswered philosophical and ethical questions. The Marcel Ophuls' films screened in partnership with the Academy for Motion Picture Arts and Sciences included: *The Sorrow and the Pity* (1972), *The Memory of Justice* (1976) newly restored, and *Hotel Terminus: The Life and Times of Klaus Barbie*, for which he won the 1989 Academy Award for Best Documentary.

Several of Max Ophuls' classic films were also shown, including *Liebelei* (1933), *Letter from an Unknown Woman* (1947), made in Hollywood and starring Joan Fontaine and Louis Jourdan, and *Lola Montès* (1955). In addition to Turan, English professor Michael Rothberg, the 1939 Society Samuel Goetz Chair in Holocaust Studies, and UCLA faculty Maria Elena de las Carreras, Silvia Kratzer, and Jonathan Kuntz, also spoke with Ophuls during the festival.

The idea of bringing Marcel Ophuls to UCLA from his home in the South of France was suggested by his grandson, Andreas-Benjamin Seyfert, who convened the film festival together with Paul Dominik Kurek. Seyfert and Kurek, both graduate students in Germanic Languages, are co-directors of GSA Melnitz Movies, the Graduate Student Association's twice weekly screening series. Todd Presner, Sady and Ludwig Kahn Director of the Leve Center, is their advisor.

INAUGURAL LEVE AWARD TO HONOR RABBI ELLIOT DORFF FOR HIS PUBLIC SERVICE



The inaugural Leve Award will be presented to Rabbi Elliot Dorff at a ceremony coinciding with the Center's open house celebration on October 24.

As the Leve Center's highest honor, the award recognizes Rabbi Dorff, the rector of American Jewish University and distinguished professor of philosophy, for his significant public service and leadership in building bridges across diverse communities. Rabbi Dorff will address the topic: "I'm Right, You Don't Agree, So You Must Be Wrong: Grounds for Pluralism in the Jewish and American Communities."

Rabbi Dorff is a board member and past president of Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles (JFS), a member of the Ethics committee at UCLA Ronald Reagan Medical Center, a co-chair of the Priest-Rabbi Dialogue, a past president of the Academy for Jewish, Christian and Muslim Studies, and a past board member of the Jewish Federation.

In addition, Rabbi Dorff has served on federal advisory commissions dealing with healthcare ethics, sexual responsibility, and research on human subjects, and is a member of the State of California's

HOLOCAUST HISTORIAN TO BE SECOND MILTON AND ETTA LEVE SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE



Who Will Write Our History?



The Leve Center will host Samuel D. Kassow as the 2018 Milton and Etta Leve Scholar-in-Residence from April 12-19. Kassow will deliver a public lecture, visit classes, meet with students, and participate in community events.

Kassow, Charles H. Northam Professor of History at Trinity College, is the author of the celebrated *Who Will Write Our History* (Indiana, 2007), which tells the gripping story of **Emanuel Ringelblum** and his determination to use historical scholarship and the collection of documents to resist Nazi oppression.

In 1940, Ringelblum established a clandestine organization, code named Oyneg Shabes, in Nazioccupied Warsaw to study and document all facets of Jewish life in wartime Poland and to compile an archive that would preserve this history for posterity. As the Final Solution unfolded, although decimated by murders and deportations, the group persevered in its work until the spring of 1943. Of its more than 60 members, only three survived. Ringelblum and his family perished in March 1944, but he managed to bury thousands of documents in milk cans and tin boxes before he died. Searchers found two of these caches in 1946 and 1950.

Recently, Kassow edited *In Those Nightmarish Days* (Yale, 2015). This book sheds light on two brilliant but lesser known ghetto journalists: **Josef Zelkowicz** and **Peretz Opoczynski**. An ordained rabbi, Zelkowicz became a key member of the archive in the Lodz ghetto. Opoczynski was a journalist and mailman who contributed to the Warsaw ghetto's secret Oyneg Shabes archive. While other ghetto writers sought to create an objective record of their circumstances, Zelkowicz and Opoczynski chronicled daily life and Jewish responses to ghettoization by the Nazis with powerful immediacy.

Samuel Kassow's visit is sponsored by the Leve Center and cosponsored by The 1939 Society, the Samuel Goetz 1939 Society Chair in Holocaust Studies, the UCLA Center for European and Russian Studies, the UCLA Department of Germanic Languages, the California Institute for Yiddish Culture and Language, Yiddishkayt, the USC Center for Advanced Holocaust and Genocide Studies, and the Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust.

Ethics Committee on embryonic stem cell research. He currently chairs the Conservative Movement's Committee on Jewish Law and Standards and is secretary of the board of the FaithTrust Institute, a national organization that produces seminars and educational materials to help people avoid or extricate themselves from domestic violence.

He is the author of twelve books, most recently, *The Oxford Handbook of Jewish Ethics and Morality* (2016). He is also a visiting professor at UCLA School of Law where he teaches a course in Jewish Law. He earned his Ph.D. in philosophy from Columbia University and was ordained by the Jewish Theological Seminary.

While it is rare for academics to get involved deeply in community organizations, Rabbi Dorff notes that his volunteer work has enhanced his academic work. "For example, a theme that comes up in several of my books is related to domestic abuse, which I first thought about while working with JFS' Family Violence Project. In this way, the gap is bridged between academia and community work."

He also believes it is important for rabbis to do volunteer work despite their busy schedules. "I hope this indicates to the community that communal service and philanthropy really do come out of the depths of our tradition—that this is not just something you feel inside you, but is something that is a continuation of our ancient heritage. And It is up to us to ensure it continues far into the future."

GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS

Michael Casper is Berger Fellow in Holocaust Studies



MICHAEL CASPER [History] has been awarded the Fritz, Jenny and Gustav Berger Fellowship in Holocaust Studies. His dissertation promises to make major contributions to our understanding of the historical context for the Holocaust in Lithuania, and its devastating impact on one of the most important Jewish communities in Eastern Europe.

Lithuanian Jews suffered one of the greatest losses of any country in Europe—around 95% of the Jewish community was murdered. Casper's dissertation, The Creation of a National Jewish Culture in Interwar Lithuania, 1918-1940, puts the Holocaust in perspective by looking at the development of Jewish-Lithuanian relations over the course of the interwar period. At the same time, he explores how Jews actively engaged with Lithuanian culture, politics and history, putting this story in the longer history of the Jews in Lithuania, stretching back to 1388. Casper first travelled to Vilnius, the Lithuanian capital, in 2003 to study Yiddish, and returned as a Fulbright scholar from 2006-2007, where he studied both Yiddish and Lithuanian.

The prestigious fellowship, which provides a full year of support, was endowed by Ellen Goodhill in memory of her parents, who found refuge from Nazi-occupied Europe in Shanghai, and their infant son, killed there along with his nanny, by a drunken Japanese officer.

Bluma Appel travel grants assist graduate students to attend conferences, conduct research, and participate in archaeological digs

The Leve Center provided Bluma Appel Winter Travel Grants for the first time this year to enable graduate students to attend conferences and present papers that come up during the year. Over the summer several graduate students in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures worked on archeology related projects with support from the Bluma Appel Summer Grants.

Chaskel and Sara Roter research grant winners do research in Britain, Ghana, Berlin, and Israel as well as Los Angeles

MAX GREENBERG [History] conducted research on his project, "Transnational Networks, Transborder Ties: Race, Place, and Contemporary Jewish Mexican U.S. Immigration."

SULEIMAN HODALI [Comp. Lit.] visited the British Museum for his dissertation on "Anglo-Jewish Orientalists and the Invention of Semitism in Nineteenth Century England."

LOUIS KNECHT [Education & Info. Sci.] conducted summer research at the L.A. Museum of the Holocaust on the origins of the museum, the first of its kind in the U.S.



JANICE LEVI [History] is studying oral histories of a community in Ghana known as the Sefwis, that claims a spiritual linkage to Judaism. During the summer she collected interviews conducted by Gabrielle Zilkha, a documentary filmmaker from Toronto, and mined colonial ethnographies in the British National Archives.



DANIELLE CANDELORA [NELC] visited both Israel and Turin, Italy to study ancient Egyptian artifacts relating to the Hyksos, immigrant Levantine dynasts who ruled Northern Egypt for about a century before being expelled by a southern Egyptian king. She noted that the first century Romano-Jewish scholar Josephus associated the Hyksos expulsion with the Exodus narrative. MICHAEL CASPER [History] presented at both the Association of Jewish Studies conference in San Diego and a conference at the Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies at the University of Cape Town, South Africa.

MAX DANIEL [History] participated in a workshop at the University of Colorado Boulder to read handwritten Ladino documents in the complex Solitreo script.

LINDSAY KING [NELC] was part of a seminar at the Oxford Centre for Jewish Studies and did research at the Reuters Archive and the British Library.

MELISSA MELPIGNANO [WAC] conducted research at the New York Public Library for her dissertation on the role of dance in Israel— in the kibbutz, the army, and the concert stage.

JACOB DAMM [NELC] traveled to Israel in connection with the Jaffa Cultural Heritage Project, for which he is chief ceramicist and an excavator.

ROSANNA LU [NELC] visited antiquities museums in Berlin to research documents and artifacts that reference the Deep in ancient Near Eastern inscriptions and art.



BENJAMIN RATSKOFF [Comp. Lit.] did an archival research project in preparation for his dissertation, titled "Jewish Violence and Richard Wright's *Native Son*." Noting that the defense lawyer's famous speech in *Native Son* appears to be modeled directly after Clarence Darrow's defense of Leopold and Loeb, Ratskoff studied the same Chicago archives on the notorious Jewish murderers that Wright himself examined in 1938 as well as related documents framing the murderers as racial/sexual deviants.



MEGAN REMINGTON [NELC] immersed herself in Modern Hebrew at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

SIMONE SALMON [Ethnomusicology] is working on the Emily Sene Collection of home-recorded Turkish Sephardic music created by her great grandparents. While most of the 105 tapes are housed at UCLA, Salmon visited Israel's national archives to hear additional Sene tapes that had been filed under the wrong artists' name and consequently overlooked by scholars.

UNDERGRADUATE KUDOS

NADIA BEN-MARZOUK [NELC] worked in Jaffa to prepare for publication metal artifacts from the Jaffa Cultural Heritage Project. The materials analyzed were uncovered by Jacob Kaplan in the 1970s but languished in storage after his death.

ANDREW DANIELSON [NELC] conducted research in Jordan at the Town of Nebo Archaeological Project.

BENJAMIN RATSKOFF [Comp. Lit.] participated in the Summer Program of Yiddish Language and Literature in Berlin. The program is organized by the Paris Yiddish Center-Medem Library, the Institute of Jewish Studies at the Free University of Bruxelles, and the Institute for East European Studies at the Free University of Berlin.

Maurice Amado grants support projects in Ladino language, local Sephardic history, and San Diego's Jewish Mexican-Americans

KALEB ADNEY [History] to explore memoirs in Ladino housed in the Jewish Museum of Thessaloniki for his research into tobacco production under the Ottoman Empire.



SIMONE SALMON [Ethnomusicology] to attend a Soletrero workshop at the University of Colorado, Boulder on the cursive form of Ladino that resembles Arabic script.

MAX DANIEL [History] to research U.S. Sephardic communities in the mid-to-late 20th century, with a primary focus on Los Angeles.

MAX GREENBERG [History] to examine oral histories of Sephardic immigrants to Mexico City in the archives of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem as part of a larger project on San Diego's Jewish Mexican-American community.

Sarah & Eugene Zinn memorial scholarship for Holocaust studies



JOYCE CHANG [Applied Math] to research and write a blog "Living Memories: The Functions and Effects of Holocaust Memorials in California."

HALLIE ROSSIN [Theater, Film & TV] to participate in a educational trip to Poland through the Jewish Awareness program.

Hermine & Sigmund Frey scholarship

MARY HOFF [English] Researched oral histories of Jewish labor leaders in the garment industry for a digital exhibition on Mapping Jewish Los Angeles.

WILLIAM TAYLOR [African American Studies] for critical exploration of how young Ethiopian Jews utilize elements of hip-hop culture as hidden transcripts that convey the navigation and articulation of their multi-cultural identity, plight, and other social circumstances as non-traditional Israelis.

ELIZABETH HO [Jewish Studies] participated in the Middlebury College (VT) intensive Hebrew summer program.

DARION OULIGUIAN [Linguistics] & **SALVATORE MARTINEZ** (STEM) participated in a three week visit as "student diplomats" to Washington D.C., New York City, Israel, the West Bank, and Jordan with the Olive Tree Initiative.

DOIKAYT INSPIRES JEWISH STUDIES IN THE COMMUNITY

My approach to public history is inspired by the Yiddish concept of *doikayt* ("hereness"), first advanced a century ago by the Bund (*Der algemeyner yiddisher arbeter bund in Lite, Poyln un Rusland*—the General Union of Jewish Workers in Lithuania, Poland, and Russia). Inspired by revolutionary ideals, Bund activists dedicated their lives to educating and organizing Jewish workers throughout Eastern Europe to fight for their economic, civil, and political rights. Rather than concern themselves with debates about Jewish sovereignty and statehood, they emphasized *doikayt*, building their movement *shtetl* by *shtetl*. By immersing themselves in the local community and prioritizing local needs and concerns they hoped to empower Jewish workers to engage in the larger struggle against the Tsarist regime.

The Bund recognized Yiddish as a crucible: deeply embedded in the secular and religious traditions of the past as well as in the practical realities of everyday life in the present, Yiddish was both a language and a culture that connected Jews locally and across continents and oceans, and they adopted it as the medium of their struggle to create a brighter future for Jews throughout the diaspora.

I chose to study Los Angeles—and the history of the Yiddish culture and community organizing here—as a means of putting *doikayt* into historical practice. History too is a crucible: it is both written and lived, surviving in the dialogue between those who remember and those who seek the memory of what they themselves cannot remember. Local, community-based public history projects can serve as a medium by which to stimulate this dialogue. By creating modes of remembrance that are collaborative and inclusive, that foster intergenerational and interethnic understanding, and that cultivate civic engagement, I too hope to inspire people to make positive change in their communities.

Digital technologies enable the development of new, non-hierarchical and cooperative online spaces for the preservation, discussion and discovery of history, expanding the dialogue in the local community and across the globe. For me, the **Mapping Jewish Los Angeles Project** is a way of practicing *doikayt* and I am immensely thankful to the Leve Center and the **Michael and Irene Ross Endowment for Yiddish and Jewish Studies** for their support of this work.



"There where we live, there is our country" proclaims the Yiddish headline at the top of this Bund poster from Kiev, ca. 1918. (YIVO)



Hershl Hartman, educational director of the Sholem Community, reads "Boyle Heights" (1929) by Yiddish poet Hirsh Goldvosky, who lived in the neighborhood from the late 1920s until his death in 1948. Caroline Luce read Hartman's English translation of the work.

CAROLINE LUCE

Ross Postdoctoral Fellow; Research and Digital Projects Manager and the Chief Digital Curator of the Mapping Jewish Los Angeles Project

STUDENTS CELEBRATE 100 YEARS OF LOS ANGELES GARMENT WORK



Students print t-shirts at the labor event with an image that they designed. The shirts were offered in exchange for donations to the Garment Workers Center.



Photos: David Wu

Professor Carole Frances Lung of Cal State LA, participating through her alter ego "Frau Fiber," created a hands-on quilting activity.

Students in **Caroline Luce's** service learning class on the history of Los Angeles' labor movement celebrated that history at the UCLA Downtown Labor Center on March 5, 2017, which also marked International Working Women's Day. A diverse mix of about 75 people attended the event including current members of the Garment Workers Center.

Luce opened the program by describing the intersections of Jewish history, Chicano history, and the history of the garment workers' struggle in Los Angeles. Students read Spanish and English translations of Morris Rosenfeld's Yiddish poem "In the Factory" (1914) and an original poem inspired by the piece. **Cristina Vazquez**, International Vice President of Workers United, related her experiences in the garment industry and outlined the new obstacles garment workers face in a globalized economy, issuing a rousing call for those in attendance to stand with *los costureros* (garment workers) in their fight against sweatshops. **Eric Gordon** and **Ruth Judkowitz** from the Workman's Circle (*Arbeter Ring*) finished the formal program with a sing-along of labor anthems, including "*Arbeter Froyen*" (Working Women), "Union Maid," and "Solidarity Forever," performed in Yiddish, English, and Spanish.

Afterwards, guests could explore the 100-year history of garment work through a variety of interactive features. Dr. Luce's class prepared a digital and physical timeline in English and Spanish of the century long struggle of garment workers in Los Angeles that will become an exhibit for Mapping Jewish Los Angeles.

Funding was provided by the UC Humanities Research Institute.

LEVE CENTER'S STUDENT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL'S HEBREW CAFES PROMOTE DIVERSITY AND IMPRO

When I first began my undergraduate career as a Chinese-American student majoring in Jewish Studies, I noticed that while Chinese events on campus typically drew in students of all cultural backgrounds, Jewish studies events often only had a few non-Jewish students in attendance. Out of a desire to both diversify my field of study and also to share the incredible things I was learning with a wider audience, I proposed the **Hebrew Café** series.



ELIZABETH HO

(2017, Jewish Studies) is the past president of the Leve Center's Student Leadership Council. She has spent the last two summers in intensive Hebrew language programs and intends to eventually become a professor.

Increasing diversity in any field takes time and intentional effort—it does not simply happen on its own, yet also cannot be forced. Through the Café, I was determined to make diversity something easy, enjoyable, and celebrated. By inviting one department per quarter to share an evening of language and culture exchange, the Leve Center's Student Leadership Council began to see partnerships between Hebrew and Farsi, Chinese, Spanish/Ladino, and Arabic. Students of all backgrounds began interacting with one another. One language at a time, we allowed for students to share about themselves while learning about others. As the current climate in America continues to polarize, divide, and complicate relations between people of differing backgrounds, projects like the Hebrew Café that celebrate diversity and build partnerships grow increasingly important.

SERVICE LEARNING COURSES BUILD ON THE LEHRHAUS CONCEPT OF "LERNEN"



Dr. Jason Lustig (left) is teaching a new course, "Jewish Thought, Politics, and Ethics." Partners for other service learning classes have included Holocaust Survivor Etta Moss, a resident of the Jewish Home shown with Professor Barbara Drucker, and Shervin Khorramian from JQ International.

For the German Jewish philosopher Franz Rosenzweig (1886-1929), education is not an accumulation of skills or materials, but the ability to understand the diversified world in which we live and the power to translate this understanding into action. Although offered an opportunity to be a professional historian, Rosenzweig chose instead to address real-world concerns by directing an institute of adult Jewish education known as the **Frankfurt Lehrhaus**. There, he innovated a dialogic model of learning premised on traditional Jewish understanding of the word *lernen*, which in German means to learn but in Yiddish means both to learn and, reflexively, to teach. Studying together, Rosenzweig recognized, is not only an interactive form of learning but also a means of creating community.

For the last nine years, I have worked with instructors to create innovative courses focused on dialogue both among students and with active members of the Los Angeles Jewish community. Our students have interviewed—and formed relationships with—Holocaust survivors, seniors at the Jewish Home, founders of Jewish Iranian organizations, Israeli artists now living in Los Angeles, and Jews from the former Soviet Union. They partnered with a wide range of organizations including Jewish Family Service, 30 Years After, Yiddishkayt, the Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust, and the Workman's Circle (*Arbeter Ring*), and others. In reflection papers afterwards, both Jewish and non-Jewish students often remark on a newfound sense of community and many report that these courses have been life changing.

A new course this year, Jewish Thought, Politics, and Ethics: From Theory to Practice taught by Dr. Jason Lustig, surveys Jewish intellectual history and examines how these ideas continue to play an active role today. Students read primary sources from ancient Alexandria to modern-day America, and are asked to deeply consider in critical perspective how and why we study Jewish history. We are grateful to the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles for supporting service learning through their Campus Programs initiative.

MARY ENID PINKERSON

Community Affairs Coordinator

VE CAMPUS CLIMATE

Recently, I've come to notice that "Jewish" is no longer simply an identifying word for a religion, culture, history, or people, but now has become a charged term in which politics overshadows all other aspects. This frustrates me because it wasn't until I visited Israel, that I understood how multidimensional, relevant, beautiful, and personally relatable the word "Jewish" really is.



DARION OULIGUIAN

(2020, Linguistics) is the current president of the Leve Center's Student Leadership Council. This past summer he was a "student ambassador" on the Olive Tree Initiative's study trip to Jordan, Israel, and the West Bank.

This is why I was so excited to hear about the

Hebrew Café program and knew I wanted to be a part of it. The turnout and interactions at each Hebrew Café became larger and larger, culminating with the most recent Hebrew-Arabic Café. It was amazing to see Arab and Jewish students, who obviously had their own biases, eating together, seeing the commonalities between their two languages, and beginning to understand their shared humanity, instead of their divided politics.

As the incoming president, I am determined to share the culture and language of the Jewish people with the rest of the campus through more Hebrew Cafés, and also to lead an event that illustrates the shared histories of the Jews and Armenians. Wherever culture or language intersectionality occurs on campus, I intend to incorporate the Jewish culture.

FILM GIVES HOUSTON'S IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES A VOICE



Yehuda Sharim (Photo: Tommy LaVergne, Rice University)

Yehuda Sharim's documentary we are in it (www.weareinitfilm.com) will be screened by the Leve Center at 4pm, October 26. The film features engrossing scenes from the everyday lives of five recent immigrants to Houston: Karla, Serges, Hussein, Nancy, and Tutu. Sharim also co-founded Houston in Motion (www.houstoninmotion.org), a multipronged project to document and engage with the city's refugee and migrant communities, and will be able to provide an update on Houston's reconstruction after hurricane Harvey.

How did you become interested in working with refugees?

It's always been the focus of my work. I'm from a family of refugee immigrants—my parents immigrated to Israel from Iran. It was a different experience than refugees face in Houston in 2016, but I'm aware of the struggles that are acts of migration. It's about reinventing oneself in a new place, reinventing home when you don't know what home is.

When I came to Houston, I began contacting refugee resettlement organizations and met my producer and collaborator, Yan Digilov, of the Firestarter Group, who is a Russian immigrant. Our project is working with communities to humanize and give a face to their experiences. Harris County receives more refugees than any other county in a state that received more refugees than any other in the country last year. Houston is the world right now.

What are the biggest refugee communities in Houston, and what support do refugees get when they arrive?

They are Afghan, Cuban, Burmese, Somali, Congolese, Iraqi, Mexican, Guatemalan, Salvadoran, Nicaraguan, Syrian, Iranian and Bhutanese. It's a big mix. Last fiscal year, the U.S. admitted 68,000 refugees. There are five resettlement agencies here, and they're doing an incredible job. Most of the people who work there have been refugees themselves. Thirty years ago, these agencies had funds to aid resettlement for two years, but now, they can only help refugees for three to six months, so there is a big gap.

Tell me about a particular individual who's made an especially meaningful impression on you.

One Congolese refugee I met, Riziki Muloba, spent 20 years in a refugee camp. In the days of the civil war, you'd run back and forth to the forest for refuge. You go to Kenya, then to another camp in Ethiopia or elsewhere. You don't know where your dad or some of your siblings are. It's just you and your mother and younger sisters. Ten years down the road, you find yourself in Houston, in your mid-20s and with no education. He was fascinated at the idea of making films and started working with our film crew.

Other than the documentary film, what other goals do you have for this project?

We want to know about the refugees' short- and long-term experiences. What happens to these people three or five years down the road? Are they staying in Houston or moving someplace else? What are the outcomes? Are they employed? We are developing surveys and maps that can help gather and communicate such information. We're also working on an app that connects refugees to resources like transportation, mental health, and education, which we'd offer in multiple languages. There are local ethnic communities that are growing, and they want to support one another.

-adapted from Rice Magazine



YEHUDA SHARIM

earned his Ph.D. from UCLA's World Arts and Cultures/Dance department. His dissertation chronicled the creation of Sephardic-Mizrahi identity in the run-up to Israel's creation. He also holds two master's degrees in performance studies: from Goldsmiths College—University of London, and New York University. Today Sharim is a postdoctoral fellow at Rice University and will join the faculty at UC Merced as of July 2018.

NEW PUBLICATIONS



SONG OF THE WHITEWASHER: AN ANTHOLOGY OF WORKS ON JEWISH WISDOM AND MODERN HEBREW LITERARY HERITAGE Lev Hakak

Hadassa Word Press, 2016

The short stories, Jewish proverbs, folktales, and essays in this eloquent collection remind

readers that a single life is fleeting and small, and yet each individual is connected to something larger and more constant than themselves. While many of these stories are centuries old, their simplicity and clarity manage to bridge the distance both between past and present and between individual virtues and the strength of a community. Like any good book, Hakak's does not provide answers. Instead, it asks the right questions—the same questions our ancestors asked themselves, and the ones our grandchldren will likely ask themselves, as well.



READING MODERN HEBREW POETRY AND PROSE Lev Hakak Hadassa Word Press, 2017

The prose fiction of S.Y. Agnon, Modern Hebrew Literature's only Nobel Laureate, a discussion of internationally acclaimed

writer A.B. Yehoshua, and classic Israeli movies are among the topics covered in this collection of writings. We meet a man and a woman undergoing a marriage crisis, a young man who gives up love because of the dominating older generation, a criminal who turns to faith on his way to execution, and more. The book also traverses the roots of Modern Hebrew Literature in the poetry of medieval Spain, rabbinic folktales, and Holocaust survivors' memories as it takes us on a literary voyage into the souls who converged to form a new nation-state on ancient soil.

HONORS & AWARDS



DAVID HIRSCH RECEIVES ACCOLADES FROM PEERS

Mazel Tov to Librarian David G. Hirsch who received the David H. Partington Award from the Middle East Librarians Association (MELA) in appreciation for his years of tireless collecting unique material in diverse languages and from a daunting range of cultures during his great many voyages throughout the world. He was also acclaimed for his

scholarship and service to the profession.

Hirsch is no ordinary librarian. He has been Librarian for Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, as well as Judaica and Armenian Studies, Central Asian Studies and South Asian Studies since 1989. While on leave from UCLA, Hirsch worked at United Arab Emirates University (1999-2000) and advised the Abu Dhabi National Library (2009-2011). He is not only proficient in the primary languages of the Middle East, Arabic, Persian, Turkish, and Hebrew, but knows Spanish, French, Italian and some Armenian, as well, allowing him to network and facilitate international cooperation while collecting in-depth. Along the way, Hirsch has presented for the U.S. State Department in the UAE, Oman, Senegal, and Mali.



ELLEN DUBOIS TO DELIVER 124TH FACULTY LECTURE

Distinguished Professor of History and Gender Studies Ellen Dubois has been awarded the Faculty Research Lectureship by the Academic Senate. She will deliver a public lecture on February 13, 2018. Dubois's research focuses on the history of U.S. women with a focus on political history. She has written on the woman suffrage movement in the

United States and of the history of American feminism, among other subjects.



DAVID N. MYERS TO LEAD CENTER FOR JEWISH HISTORY

David N. Myers, the Sady and Ludwig Kahn Professor of Jewish History, is the new President and CEO of the Center for Jewish History. Located in New York City, the Center is home to five institutions whose archives comprise more than 500,000 volumes. Myers will remain on the UCLA faculty through his tenure there.



A CENTURY OF TRANSNATIONALISM Roger Waldinger and Nancy Green, editors University of Illinois Press, 2016

Looking back over the past century and more, this collection of articles by sociologically minded historians and historically minded sociologists

highlights both the long-term persistence and the continuing instability of home country connections. Encompassing societies of origin and destination from around the world, *A Century of Transnationalism* shows that while population movements across states recurrently produce homeland ties, those connections have varied across contexts and from one historical period to another, changing in unpredictable ways. Any number of factors shape the linkages between home and destination, including conditions in the society of immigration, policies of the state of emigration, and geopolitics worldwide.

Internationally oriented and advancing arguments likely to stir scholarly controversy, *A Century of Transnationalism* offers scholars and students alike leading-edge works that illustrate—and complicate—the important questions driving today's study of migration.

Contributors: Houda Asal, Marie-Claude Blanc-Chaléard, Caroline Douki, David FitzGerald, Nancy L. Green, Madeline Y. Hsu, Thomas Lacroix, Tony Michels, Victor Pereira, Mônica Raisa Schpun, and Roger Waldinger.



THE STAKES OF HISTORY: ON THE USE AND ABUSE OF JEWISH HISTORY FOR LIFE David N. Myers

University of Chicago Press, 2018

Why do we study history? What is the role of the historian in the contemporary world? These questions prompted David N.

Myers' illuminating and poignant call for the relevance of historical research and writing. His inquiry identifies a number of key themes around which modern Jewish historians have wrapped their labors: liberation, consolation, and witnessing. Through these portraits, Myers revisits the chasm between history and memory, revealing the middle space occupied by modern Jewish historians as they work between the poles of empathic storytelling and the critical sifting of sources.

History, properly applied, can both destroy ideologically rooted myths that breed group hatred and create new memories that are sustaining of life. Alive in these investigations is Myers' belief that the historian today can and should attend to questions of political and moral urgency. Historical knowledge is not a luxury to society but an essential requirement for informed civic engagement, as well as a vital tool in policy making, conflict resolution, and restorative justice.



SARAH A. STEIN WINS SECOND National Jewish Book Award

Sarah Abrevaya Stein, professor of History, has won the National Jewish Book Award for Sephardic culture for the second time in three years. Stein's book, *Extraterritorial Dreams: European Citizenship, Sephardi Jews, and the Ottoman Twentieth Century* (University of Chicago Press, 2016) traces the experiences of Mediterranean Jews who lived through a tumultuous series of wars,

border changes, genocides, and mass migrations as the Ottoman Empire retracted and new states were born.



AOMAR BOUM RECEIVES BEN-SIMHON PRIZE

Aomar Boum, associate professor of Anthropology, is the recipient of the 2017 Ben-Simhon Prize for his active and intensive research of Moroccan Jewish communities in Morocco and worldwide, and his contribution to the improvement of Jewish-Muslim relationships, among other achievements. The award was made by the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and the

World Organization of North African Jewry.

AFFILIATED JEWISH STUDIES FACULTY

CAROL BAKHOS*

Profess<mark>or of Near Eastern Languages and</mark> Cultures Director, Center for the Study of Religion

ARNOLD J. BAND

Professor Emeritus of Hebrew and Comparative Literature

AOMAR BOUM*

Associate Professor of Anthropology

LIA BROZGAL* Associate Professor of French and Francophone Studies

AARON BURKE Professor of Near Eastern Archaeology

ELLEN DUBOIS Distinguished Professor of History and Gender Studies

NANCY EZER

Senior Lecturer in Hebrew

SAUL FRIEDLÄNDER Distinguished Emeritus Professor of History

JESSICA GOLDBERG Associate Professor of History

LEV HAKAK Professor Emeritus of Hebrew Literature

DAVID H<mark>IRSCH</mark>

Jewish and Middle East Studies Librarian, YRL Bibliographer, NELC



JEWISH HISTORY: A VERY SHORT INTRODUCTION David N. Myers Oxford University Press, 2017

How have the Jews survived? For millennia, they have defied odds by overcoming the travails of exile, persecution, and recurring plans for their annihilation. At every turn in their history, not

just in the modern age, Jews have adapted to new environments, cultures, languages, and social norms. It is through these bountiful encounters with host societies—indeed, through a process of assimilation—that Jews came to develop distinct local customs, speak many different languages, and cultivate diverse musical, culinary, and intellectual traditions.

Left unchecked, the Jews' well-honed ability to absorb from surrounding cultures might have led to their disappearance. And yet, the route toward full and unbridled assimilation was checked by the nearly constant presence of hatred toward the Jew. Part of the ironic success of antisemitism is its malleability, its talent in assuming new forms and portraying the Jew in diverse and often contradictory images—for example, at once the arch-capitalist and revolutionary Communist. Antisemitism not only served to blunt further assimilation, but, in a paradoxical twist, affirmed the Jew's sense of difference from the host society. This book examines how assimilation and antisemitism have contributed to the survival of the Jews as a highly adaptable and yet distinct group.



NINETTE OF SIN STREET: A NOVELLA BY VITALIS DANON Lia Brozgal and Sarah Abrevaya Stein, Editors Stanford University Press, 2017

Published in Tunis in 1938, *Ninette of Sin Street* is one of the first works of Tunisian fiction in French. Ninette's author, Vitalis Danon, arrived

in Tunisia under the aegis of the Franco-Jewish organization the *Alliance Israélite Universelle* and quickly adopted—and was adopted by—the local community.

Ninette is an unlikely protagonist: Compelled by poverty to work as a prostitute, she dreams of a better life and an education for her son. Plucky and street-wise, she enrolls her son in the local school and the story unfolds as she narrates her life to the school's headmaster. Ninette's account is both a classic rags-to-riches tale and a subtle, incisive critique of French colonialism. That Ninette's story should still prove surprising today suggests how much we stand to learn from history, and from the secrets of Sin Street.

This volume offers the first English translation of Danon's bestknown work. A selection of his letters and an editors' introduction and notes provide context for this cornerstone of Judeo-Tunisian letters. Seed money for the project was provided by the Leve Center's Michael & Irene Ross Endowment Fund.

*Faculty Advisory Committee member

GIL HOCHBERG

Professo<mark>r of Comparative Literature and Ge</mark>nder Studies (on leave)

ELEANOR KAUFMAN*

Professor of Comparative Literature, English, and French and Francophone Studies

MARK KL<mark>igman*</mark>

Mickey K<mark>atz Endowed Chair in Jewish Musi</mark>c, Professor of Musicology and Ethnomusicology

MIRIAM KORAL

Lecturer in Yiddish

EFRAIN KRISTAL

Professor of Comparative Literature and Spanish & Portuguese

ALIZA LUFT

Assistant Professor of Sociology

DAVID N. MYERS*

Sady and Ludwig Kahn Chair in Jewish History, Director of Luskin Center for History and Policy, Professor of History

TODD S. PRESNER*

Professor of Germanic Languages and Comparative Literature, Chair of the Digital Humanities Program, Sady and Ludwig Kahn Director, UCLA Alan D. Leve Center for Jewish Studies

KENNET<mark>H REINHARD</mark>

Associate Professor of Comparative Literature and English, Director of UCLA Program in Experimental Critical Theory

MICHAEL ROTHBERG

Professor of English, Comparative Literature, and 1939 Society Samuel Goetz Chair in Holocaust Studies

TEOFILO F. RUIZ

Distinguished Professor of History, Robert and Dorothy Wellman Chair in Medieval History

YONA SABAR

Professor Emeritus of Hebrew and Aramaic

WILLIAM SCHNIEDEWIND*

Kershaw Chair of Ancient Eastern Mediterranean Studies, Professor of Biblical Studies and Northwest Semitic Languages

JEREMY S<mark>MOAK</mark>

Lecturer in Hebrew Bible and Ancient Near East

STEVEN SPIEGEL

Professor of Political Science, Director of the Center for Middle East Development

SARAH ABREVAYA STEIN*

Maurice A<mark>mado Chair in Sephardic Studies a</mark>nd Professor of History

ROGER WALDINGER

Distinguished Professor of Sociology, Director of the Center for the Study of International Migration

YASEMIN YILDIZ

Associate Professor of Germanic Languages and Comparative Literature

JONATHA<mark>n M. Zasloff</mark>

Professor of Law

VISITING FACULTY & LECTURERS 2017-2018

DANIEL STEIN KOKIN

Visiting Assistant Professor in Israel and Jewish Studies

CAROLINE LUCE

Michael & Irene Ross Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, Chief Curator of "Mapping Jewish L.A.," Lecturer in Labor & Workplace Studies

JASON LUSTIG

Lecturer in History

SABA SOOMEKH

Lecturer in Sociology and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures

LEVE CENTER FELLOWS 2017-2018

MICHAEL CASPER

Fritz, Jenny and Gustav Berger Fellow in Holocaust Studies

MAX DANIELS

ucLADINO/Maurice Amado Fellow, Manager of Sephardic Archive project

MARK SMITH

Ross Research Fellow

MICHAEL SUNKIN

Summer Intern

MICHAEL ROTHBERG NAMED 1939 SOCIETY SAMUEL GOETZ PROFESSOR



Michael Rothberg joined UCLA in Spring 2017 as the holder of the **1939 Society Samuel Goetz Chair in Holocaust Studies** and as professor of English and comparative literature after an international search following the retirement of Saul Friedländer, distinguished emeritus professor of history.

Professor Rothberg received his B.A. from Swarthmore College with Highest Honors in English and Linguistics and a Ph.D. from the CUNY Graduate Center in Comparative Literature. He also studied at the Center for Film and Literary Criticism in Paris and in the Literature Program at Duke University.

He comes to UCLA from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where he was founding director of the Initiative in Holocaust, Genocide, and Memory Studies. This year he will teach a senior seminar on The Holocaust: Literature, History and Theory, a course on Literatures of Trauma, and a graduate seminar on Memory and Violence, as well as an Introduction to Literary Theory.

Currently, Rothberg is completing *The Implicated Subject: Beyond Victims and Perpetrators*, forthcoming from Stanford University Press. The book seeks to develop a new framework for thinking about historical and political responsibility in the face of mass violence and exploitation, and was inspired, in part, by Primo Levi's notion of the "gray zone." With Yasemin Yildiz, he is writing another book that focuses on the intersections between migration and the confrontation with National Socialism and the Holocaust in contemporary Germany.

He is the author of *Multidirectional Memory: Remembering* the Holocaust in the Age of Decolonization (2009), published by Stanford University Press. It has been translated into Polish, and a French version is also forthcoming. Rothberg has also published *Traumatic Realism: The Demands of Holocaust Representation* (2000) and co-edited *The Holocaust: Theoretical Readings* with Neil Levi.

Rothberg serves on the editorial board of the journals *Memory Studies* and *Studies in American Jewish Literature*. He is also part of the Network in Transnational Memory Studies and a partner in Mnemonics: Network for Memory Studies, an international collaborative initiative in graduate education.

YASEMIN YILDIZ JOINS GERMAN AND COMPARATIVE LITERATURE DEPARTMENTS



Photo: David Wu

Yasemin Yildiz, Associate Professor of German and Comparative Literature, specializes in the literary and cultural aspects of migration and minority discourses, especially Turkish-German and German-Jewish. Previously, she held a tenured position in German at the University of Illinois and taught at Harvard University.

Professor Yildiz earned her M.A. in German Literature from the Universität Hamburg where she wrote her thesis on the Holocaust testimonies of Jean Améry and Ruth Klüger. She received her Ph.D. in German Studies from Cornell University.

Her book, *Beyond the Mother Tongue: The Postmonolingual Condition* (Fordham University Press, 2012) won the Modern Language Association's 2012 Scaglione Prize in Germanic Languages and Literatures and received Honorable Mention for the Laura Shannon Prize for Contemporary European Studies.

Currently, she is working with Michael Rothberg on Inheritance Trouble: Migrant Archives of Holocaust Remembrance (forthcoming from Fordham University Press). This book project explores the effect of transnational migration on cultural memory by assembling and analyzing a wide range of work by immigrant writers, artists, and activists based in Germany relating to National Socialism, the Holocaust, and World War II.

Another project investigates the circulation of life stories of women cast as Muslim in contemporary Europe. Yildiz's research so far finds that the increased employment of the stock figure of the "Muslim woman" in the 2000s takes on new functions relating to a redefinition of European values, subjects, and attachments.

In 2016, Yildiz was awarded the DAAD Prize for Distinguished Scholarship in German and European Studies. This honor is jointly given by the German Academic Exchange Service and the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies to a scholar in the humanities every three years.

This year she will be teaching a course on the changing place of Germany in Europe from the immediate postwar period to the current refugee crisis, as well as a graduate seminar on **Migration and Memory** and an undergraduate course, **Grandparents: Between History and Memory**, which examines how personal ties shape an engagement with the past.

LEVE CENTER STAFF



VIVIAN HOLENBECK

Assistant Director has been with the Leve Center for over 20 years, first joining as a work-study intern. Contributing to the Leve Center's growth and serving as its institutional memory, Vivian has a keen understanding of the working of the Center and has seen it grow from a small operation to the robust and active center it is today. Overseeing all aspects of the Leve Center from budgets to personnel to operations to programming, she has earned a solid reputation for running a smooth and efficient operation. Vivian's favorite mode of relaxation is attending concerts and music festivals, and as her colleagues can attest, talking about her cats.



DAVID WU

Digital Projects & Marketing Coordinator has been with the Leve Center for over 10 years serving in a number of roles, including Program Coordinator and Financial Administrator. David, who also goes by "Wu," has truly found his niche as the creative mind behind the center's brand, including this Newsletter, the website, and as part of the artistic team that helped design the physical exhibition, "From Brooklyn Ave to Cesar Chavez: Jewish Histories in Multiethnic Boyle Heights". Beyond Wu's artistic abilities, his colleagues would agree that his greatest asset is his disposition. Always a team-player, calm despite the Leve Center's hectic pace, his presence is a familiar and welcome sight by friends and guests—especially guest speakers who encounter technical difficulties! You might also spot his wife, Yon Jeung Shin, and son, Ethan, at one of the events.



MARY E. PINKERSON, Ph.D.

Community Affairs Coordinator has been with the Leve Center for 10 years, growing many of its initiatives and research projects. Mary has been deeply involved with organizing and motivating the Student Council and overseeing its programs and activities as well as working with professors and community partners to develop service learning courses. Always resourceful, she secures many of the grants that enable the Leve Center to host its various programs and expand its projects. Mary teaches Mind/Body Movement on the weekend and takes trips to Israel whenever she can to visit her children and grandchildren.





Program Coordinator, first joined the Leve Center on a temporary basis. Her superb organizational and multi-tasking skills were quickly noticed and greatly appreciated. Five years later she is a full-time staff member and logistics lead for Leve Center events. Chelsea is responsible for organizing all programs at one of the most active centers on campus. Her attention to detail as well as her affable demeanor make her a great colleague and a valuable asset to the Leve Center. From stylish décor to delicious food selections, Chelsea has thoughtfully chosen each item. On her off time, Chelsea frequently bakes delectable cupcakes and other treats for grateful friends and colleagues.





Financial and Payroll Officer, joined the Leve Center a little over 3 years ago. She represents the backbone of the Leve Center, ensuring that all payments are processed timely and accurately per University policy. Over the last year especially, Reina has facilitated the Leve Center's growth by skillfully navigating the bureaucratic channels at the University level as the Leve Center expanded its footprint. Colleagues appreciate her whimsical sense of humor and very thorough professionalism. Perhaps the one thing that those who are lucky enough to visit Reina's office will remember is her extensive Star Wars collection which is proudly displayed.



CAROLINE LUCE, Ph.D.

Ross Postdoctoral Fellow and Research & Digital Projects Manager, first joined the Leve Center as a Graduate Student Researcher helping catalogue an archive through Special Collections. An early contributor to the Mapping Jewish LA project, her exhibits on *The White Plague in the City of Angels* and *Hugo Ballin's Los Angeles* provided a strong foundation to the project and transitioned into her current role at the Leve Center. Her passion and strong work ethic were essential in creating the Leve Center's first-ever physical exhibition "From Brooklyn Ave to Cesar Chavez: Jewish Histories in Multiethnic Boyle Heights" as well as in building relationships in the community. Caroline will now be working on her book, *Yiddish in the Land of Sunshine: Jewish Radicalism, Labor and Culture in Los Angeles, 1900-1950*, and spending more time with her dog Spot.

UC PRESS, CENTER FOR JEWISH HISTORY, AND THE LEVE CENTER ANNOUNCE FIRST DIGITAL, OPEN ACCESS BOOK SERIES IN JEWISH HISTORY AND CULTURE





Alan D. Leve Center for Jewish Studies



The Leve Center and the Center for Jewish History (CJH) are partnering with UC Press to launch an innovative new series in **Jewish History and Culture**. Part of the University of California Press' **Luminos** initiative, all the books will be digital, open access publications, making them globally available free of charge. As digital publications, they may also include significant multimedia qualities, such as film, music, digital maps, and other forms of interactivity. The series will be the first of its kind in Jewish Studies and seeks to publish a wide-range of books by both emerging scholars and senior scholars. More information about the Luminos initiative can be found at: www.luminosoa.org.

David N. Myers and Todd Presner, the series editors, note their goals for the series reflect the opportunities afforded by open access digital publishing. One of the chief goals will be to solicit cutting-edge research that has a multimedia quality and that pushes new conceptual and methodological horizons. They welcome manuscripts that utilize the digital platform's capacity to integrate visual and auditory materials as well as the capacity to annotate, contextualize, and interpret primary materials in new ways. Presner also remarked that given the global reach of the digital platform, he expects that scholars who publish in the series will see a significantly increased impact for their work. "Because the digital platform is truly open and globally accessible, audiences for Jewish studies scholarship can be found anywhere in the world where an internet connection exists."

Myers and Presner emphasize that all books published in the **Luminos Jewish History and Culture series** go through the same peer review process as print books and receive the same editorial treatment, design, and marketing as other books published by the University of California Press. The digital books will also be available in print-on-demand formats (sold at cost), with multimedia materials hosted online.

Myers and Presner will be working with the following **Editorial Board Members: Lia Brozgal** (UCLA, French and Francophone Studies), **Rachel Deblinger** (UCSC, Digital Scholarship Commons), **Nathaniel Deutsch** (UCSC, History), **John Efron** (UC Berkeley, History), **Jessica Goldberg** (UCLA, History), **Mark Kligman** (UCLA, Ethnomusicology), **Ross Melnick** (UCSB, Film and Media Studies), **Sarah Abrevaya Stein** (UCLA, History), and **Rachel Miller** (Director of Archive and Library Services, CJH). The Leve Center (in conjunction with funding from several endowed chairs, including Kahn, Ross, Amado, 1939, and Katz) and the Center for Jewish History will work with authors to offer publishing subventions to support junior faculty who wish to publish their research in the new series.



DAVID N. MYERS

is President and CEO of the Center for Jewish History in New York City and is the Professor of History and holder of the Sady and Ludwig Kahn Chair in Jewish History at UCLA. He is the author of five books, most recently, *Jewish History: Very Short Introduction* (Oxford, 2017), and the forthcoming *The Stakes of History: On the Use and Abuse of Jewish History for Life* (Yale).



TODD S. PRESNER

is Professor of Germanic Languages and Comparative Literature at UCLA, where he is also the Sady and Ludwig Kahn Director of the Leve Center and Chair of the Digital Humanities Program. His most recent books include: *Probing the Ethics of Holocaust Culture*, eds. Wulf Kansteiner, Claudio Fogu, and Todd Presner (Harvard, 2016); and *HyperCities: Thick Mapping in the Digital Humanities* (Harvard, 2014).

SEPHARDIC ARCHIVE ACQUIRES TWO MAJOR COLLECTIONS



The UCLA Sephardic Archive Initiative blossomed with several landmark achievements in its second year. The Initiative realized two major archival gifts, began preparing a digital exhibit marking the centenary of the Sephardic community of Los Angeles with support from the Maurice Amado Foundation, and received a grant from the University of California Humanities Research Institute to hold a Sephardic Antique Roadshow at the Young Research Library on Sunday, March 11, 2018.

Run in cooperation with the Leve Center and the Library, the project aims to secure donations to UCLA Special Collections of significant repositories of Los Angeles' Sephardic history and culture, thereby preserving this material and availing it internationally.

The latest acquisition, the Moreno and Dagmar Gabay Sephardic Book Collection, consists of roughly one hundred rare books printed in the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries in the Jewish printing capitals of Ottoman Izmir, Salonica and Istanbul, as well as in Venice and Livorno. Among the works are volumes of the *Me'am Lo'ez*, a

popular biblical commentary in Ladino [Judeo-Spanish] consisting of eighteen volumes produced by a dozen authors from 1730 to 1899. The collection will be accessible once processing and preservation are complete.

The historic **Sephardic Temple Tifereth Israel (STTI) Archive**, which includes a rich trove of photographs, papers, audio-visual materials and rare books dating to the mid-19th century, has also found a permanent home at UCLA. The move was technically speaking some

two years in the making following a meticulous process of cataloguing by the Sephardic Archive team (including **Chris Silver** and Leve Center Digital Projects Manager **Caroline Luce**). But in many ways, the movement of historical materials began well over a century ago. Morris Passy's travel papers from the Ottoman Empire, issued in 1911 and preserved in the STTI collection, illuminate a Sephardic history of Los Angeles that has long been marked by movement.

As Los Angeles' various Sephardic synagogues and institutions began to coalesce in the late 1950s—eventually transforming into STTI—the movement and transfer of archival material was part of the process. The past was understood to anchor the future. The same was true when the congregation settled into the home it has known for some four decades at Wilshire Blvd. and Warner Avenue. There, **Maurice I. "Bob" Hattem**, an archivist and historian whose family had been among the most prominent members of Sephardic Los Angeles, undertook a project to organize its archive.

On June 15, 2017, **Mike Hattem**, Bob's son and Sephardic Archive Initiative community board member, was on hand to witness the archive move one last time. As over a century of Sephardic Jewish history wound its way up the hill to UCLA, a sense of *I'dor v'dor* ("from generation to generation") was palpable.

The final move of the archive comes just in time to mark the centenary of the founding of *La Communidad* (the Community), the institution established in 1920 which grew into STTI. To that end, the Sephardic Archive Initiative is constructing a digital exhibit to capture a moving history—hitherto unknown—that may very well change how we think about Sephardic life in the United States, Jewish life in Los Angeles, and the contours of the City of Angels itself.



SARAH ABREVAYA STEIN,

Project Manager **Max Daniel**, and Judaica Librarian **David Hirsch** examine a volume of the **Moreno and Dagmar Gabay Sephardic Book Collection** in Special Collections at Young Research Library. Stein, professor of history and holder of the Maurice Amado Chair in Sephardic Studies, directs the Sephardic Archive initiative. Max Daniel, the head of ucLADINO and a doctoral student in Sephardic history, succeeds Chris Silver as project manager.

KATHLEEN AND TED BUCHALTER: A COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

New endowment to support undergraduate awards that help build understanding between Jewish and non-Jewish students



Pharmacist Ted Buchalter loved living and working near UCLA according to his grandnephew David Sunkin, who remarked that Uncle Ted "couldn't attend UCLA because it didn't have a pharmacy school." Instead, Buchalter worked his way through USC, earning his B.S., Pharmacy in 1934.

To honor the memory of Buchalter and his wife, the Buchalter Family

Trust recently established the **Ted and Kathleen Buchalter Centennial Scholars Endowment for Jewish Understanding** with a generous gift of \$100,000. Under the terms of the UCLA Centennial Scholars Match Initiative, UCLA Chancellor Gene D. Block will establish a matching fund of \$50,000 in their names that will function as an endowment. Proceeds from both funds will be used for undergraduate scholarships to enable students to participate in extracurricular and co-curricular educational programs such as the Olive Tree Initiative (OTI), Yiddishkayt's Helix Project, and for research awards connected with service learning courses and language study.

According to Professor Todd Presner, Leve Center Director, "Students return from educational trips abroad and tell us their lives have been transformed. Many more would like to participate in such trips but lack the funds. These scholarships will enable students to enrich their learning of both Jewish and non-Jewish cultures." He noted that students who participate in service learning courses are also transformed by the educational experience of working with community partners.

In addition to the content of these programs—the Israeli/ Palestinian conflict for OTI, pre-Holocaust Yiddish culture for Helix, or service projects in connection with community organizations—an important byproduct of all these activities is the development of relationships that promote understanding between Jewish and non-Jewish students.

David Sunkin believes these are goals his uncle would strongly support, noting that Buchalter's mother was a Yiddish speaker. Buchalter is remembered for his dedication to his customers, his family, and the larger community, having served as a Navy pharmacist in the Pacific during World War II. An active member of Wilshire Boulevard Temple, he owned several Los Angeles pharmacies, including one in Westwood. His wife helped out by handling the cosmetics counter. When Buchalter sold the Mickey Fine pharmacy in Beverly Hills in 1995, he stipulated that he be permitted to continue working there. And so he did until his death in 1997 at the age of 83.

Buchalter's youth was not easy. Growing up in St. Paul, Minnesota, he and his brother sold newspapers on the street to help their single mother make ends meet. When the family moved to Los Angeles in the late twenties, UCLA was just a decade old. Now the university is preparing to celebrate its centennial and the Buchalter endowment will help ensure that its students continue to thrive.

For more information about the UCLA Centennial Scholars Match Initiative, contact Sarah Murphy, Executive Director of Development, smurphy@support.ucla.edu.



LEAVING A MEANINGFUL LEGACY

There are many ways you can help the UCLA Alan D. Leve Center for Jewish Studies advance its mission, and any gift can be made in memory or in honor of a special person or event. For more information or to discuss options, please contact Executive Director of Development Sarah Murphy, smurphy@support.ucla.edu or 310-794-9005. The UCLA Center for Jewish Studies is extremely grateful for the generosity and visionary support of our donors who have helped build a solid foundation for research, teaching, and life-long learning in all facets of Jewish Studies. Thank you!

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