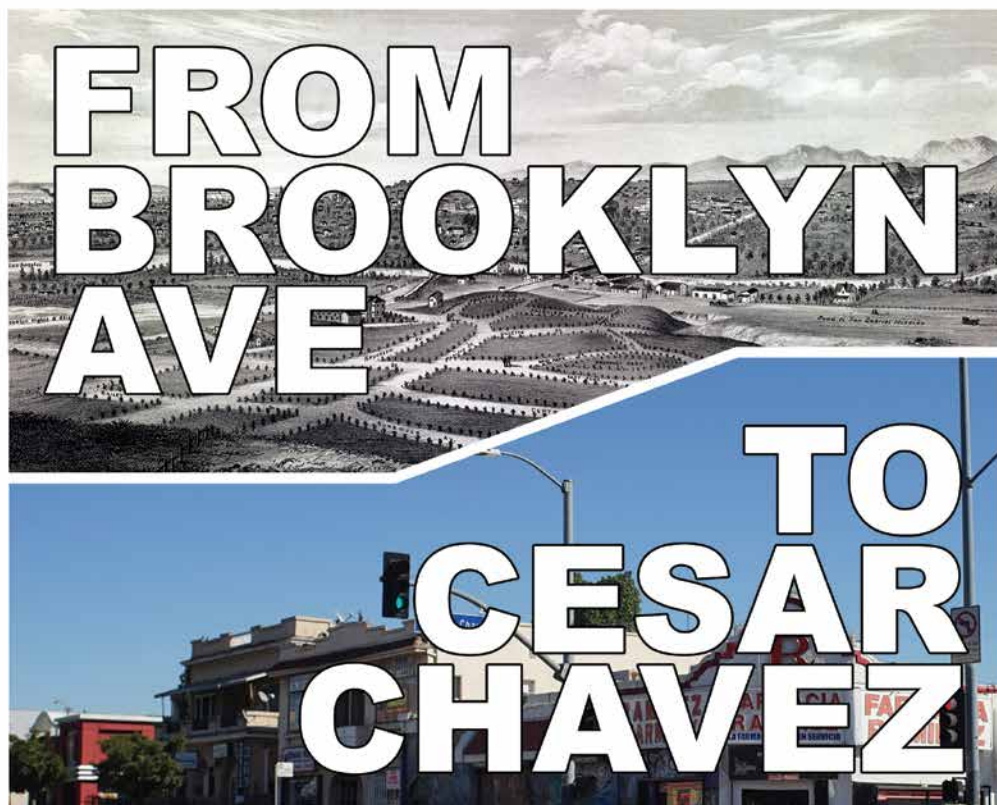


# at the **במרכז** center

**UCLA** Alan D. Leve Center for Jewish Studies



*JEWISH HISTORIES IN  
MULTIETHNIC BOYLE HEIGHTS*



NOVEMBER 6-9, 2016

**BOYLE HEIGHTS EXHIBITION**

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## FROM THE DIRECTOR: CONNECTING JEWISH STUDIES TO LOS ANGELES

Welcome to the 2016-17 academic year! This issue of *at the Center* highlights our upcoming multimedia exhibition, *From Brooklyn Avenue to Cesar Chavez: Jewish Histories in Multiethnic Boyle Heights*. It is my great pleasure to invite you to view this exhibition during the week of November 6-9th and to join in the formal naming and dedication of the UCLA Alan D. Leve Center for Jewish Studies.

The celebration will begin on Sunday, November 6th, with the opening of the exhibition and the screening of a new documentary film, *East LA Interchange*. Moving through space and time, the exhibition focuses on a single street in Boyle Heights and the surrounding urban, social, cultural, and demographic changes inscribed in its many layered histories and vividly recounted in the film.

As part of the Center's broader [Mapping Jewish LA](http://mappingjewishla.org) digital project (<http://mappingjewishla.org>), the exhibition also marks the formal launch of the [Hinda and Jacob Schonfeld Collection](#), a research and teaching archive dedicated to the history of Jewish Boyle Heights. The exhibition and selections from the collection will be on view in 306 Royce through Wednesday, November 9, and will coincide with the Center's Open House on Monday, November 7. At that time, the Center's new offices in 310 Royce Hall—the West tower—will be open for public viewing. And over the year, the Center will co-sponsor several cultural events in Boyle Heights, including a Yiddish poetry reading, an event on the history of labor activism, and a folk festival. I very much hope you can join us for these celebratory activities and that you have the chance to join me in thanking **Mr. Alan D. Leve** for his vision and generosity in investing in the future of Jewish Studies at UCLA.

I am also pleased to announce a \$100k gift from the [Sady Kahn Foundation](#) to launch a major initiative spearheaded by affiliated faculty member **Sarah Abrevaya Stein** (Maurice Amado Chair in Sephardic Studies and Professor of History) to develop a [Sephardic Archive at UCLA](#). This initiative represents one of the first North American efforts to gather the documentary materials of the Sephardic community. UCLA is not only among the premier academic centers for Sephardic Studies nation-wide but by virtue of its location in Los Angeles (home to one of the largest Sephardic communities in the country), UCLA is the ideal institution to pioneer a physical and digital archive of Sephardic culture.

I would also like to recognize and thank the [Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles](#) for its ongoing support of our undergraduate service learning courses, which have enabled the Leve Center to expand its suite of offerings immersing students in community organizations and civic engagement opportunities throughout Los Angeles. This coming year, we will support courses in which students interview Holocaust survivors, work with Israeli artists, interact with seniors at a History Fair, and do research on the Iranian-Jewish community.

We have nearly fifty public programs this year, including a book launch and symposium celebrating the work of Holocaust historian **Saul Friedländer**, as well as a major conference dedicated to Jewish music and social activism. We are also delighted to recognize English graduate student **Deb Donig**, our first [Fritz, Jenny and Gustav Berger Holocaust Fellow](#), and welcome **Daniel Stein Kokin** to UCLA, our [Viterbi visiting assistant professor of Mediterranean Jewish Studies](#). I look forward to seeing you at the Leve Center's Grand Opening events in November and our many programs over 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

at the **במרכז**  
**center**  
UCLA Alan D. Leve Center for Jewish Studies

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Vivian Holenbeck  
design  
David Wu



# NEEDED: BOYLE HEIGHTS PHOTOS AND *TCHOTCHKES*



Our challenge in creating this exhibit—as in any effort to document the lives of everyday Americans—is finding historical materials to substantiate residents’ experiences. While famous politicians, artists, athletes and business people keep extensive records of their lives, keenly aware of the public interest in their contributions to American society, most of us do not think of ourselves as subjects of history.

Fortunately, ours is not the first effort to document the history of Jewish life in Boyle Heights. Those efforts began decades ago when the [Southern California Jewish Historical Society](#) (SoCal JHS) spearheaded a campaign to preserve the neighborhood’s largest synagogue, the Breed Street Shul, which had been closed owing to structural damages inflicted by the 1994 Northridge Earthquake. A few years later, the SoCal JHS (now known as the [Breed Street Shul Project](#)) worked with the [Japanese American National Museum](#) on another major project, collecting memories and artifacts from Boyle Heights’ former residents that became the basis for a 2002 exhibit. Over the course of several years, they organized an Oral History Project, training high school students, community volunteers and graduate students to conduct over 50 interviews with former neighborhood residents, as well as holding a series of photo collecting events and community forums. These items are now part of the museum’s permanent collection and, along with the archives of the SoCal JHS and smaller archival collections at the [Los Angeles Public Library](#) and the [UCLA Library Department of Special Collections](#), provide a deep reservoir of resources for scholars, students, and members of the public interested in learning more about the neighborhood’s history.

UCLA’s Alan D. Leve Center for Jewish Studies has worked to forge strong, collaborative relationships with these institutions and will be drawing on their holdings for our exhibit. But we are also interested in accessing new and hidden pools of historical materials out in the community that can deepen our understanding of the neighborhood’s past. We are interested in **photographs, letters, yearbooks, scrapbooks, keepsakes from camps and clubs, newspapers and ritual objects**. These materials will become part of a digital exhibition at [www.mappingjewishla.org](http://www.mappingjewishla.org). If you or your family has a tie to Boyle Heights and you have memories or materials you would like to share, we would love to talk with you about how to make them part of the **Hinda and Jacob Schonfeld Collection**, a research and teaching archive based at UCLA and dedicated to the legacy of Jewish Boyle Heights.

**Caroline Luce**

Ross Post-Doctoral Fellow

Research & Digital Projects Manager

[collectingjewishla@gmail.com](mailto:collectingjewishla@gmail.com)

## LEVE CENTER ADVISORY BOARD



Photo: David Wu

**Leve Center Advisory Board members honored Professor Emeritus Arnold Band and his wife Ora** at a dinner following his delivery of the 2016 Arnold Band Distinguished Lecture in Jewish Studies, supported by Sheila and Milt Hyman. The founding director of CJS, Band has taught at UCLA for 56 years. From left: Jim Keir, Lori Keir, Laura Leve Cohen, Alan D. Leve, Todd Presner, Arnold Band, Ora Band, Milt Hyman, and Sheila Hyman.

AL FINCI, *chair*

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LAURA LEVE COHEN

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*Learning a history lesson from a book or lecture is one thing. Hearing about it from someone who experienced the event is different—more meaningful and memorable. So say the 64 students involved with four **service learning courses** facilitated by the Leve Center in 2015-16.*

Photo: David Wu



## JEWS IN LOS ANGELES (HISTORY/JEWISH STUDIES M181SL)

Searching for objects and stories from the Jewish community of Boyle Heights to contribute to UCLA's "Mapping Jewish L.A." digital history project and to the Leve Center's Boyle Heights exhibition, students of **Dr. Caroline Luce** held a **History Fair** at the **Los Angeles Jewish Home** attended by nearly 100 residents and volunteers. The students interviewed residents and learned how to digitize artifacts, use census records and maps, and capture oral histories. They were joined by **Professor Mark Kligman**, the UCLA Mickey Katz Chair in Jewish Music, **Professor Barbara Drucker**, Associate Dean of Community Engagement and Arts Education, and the entire Leve Center team.

## RUSSIAN JEWS OF L.A. (JEWISH STUDIES 177 / RUSSIAN 191)

Russian-speaking Jews who settled in West Hollywood in the late 1980s and early 1990s were the subject of student research for a future "Mapping Jewish LA" exhibition. In the words of **Dr. Naya Lekht**, instructor for **Russian Jews of L.A.**, the civic engagement "proved to inspire not only the students, but me as well."

Dr. Lekht's students worked with a variety of community partners including **Russian Chabad**, the **Los Angeles Association of Russian World War II Veterans**, **Association of Engineers & Scientists**, the **Russian-language Library**, the **Southern California Council for Soviet Jews**, and the **West Hollywood Landscape Project**. One highlight of the course was participating in the annual veterans' parade at Plummer Park, shown here.



Courtesy of Naya Lekht

## IRANIAN JEWS IN L.A. (SOCIOLOGY 191V)

Iranian Jews in L.A. is taught by **Dr. Saba Soomekh**, Associate Director of Research at the Leve Center. "One of my greatest satisfactions is when my Iranian Jewish students tell me they sit at Shabbat dinner and talk about Iranian history with their parents and that their family members are in tears because they are so excited that their American raised children are learning about their Iranian and Iranian-Jewish culture and heritage."

Soomekh's students interviewed Shervin Korramian (left) of **JQ International**, Mastaneh Moghadam who works on domestic violence issues, Shanel Melamed of **30 Years After**, Rachel Sumekh of **Swipe Out Hunger**, Rabbi Ed Feinstein of **Valley Beth Shalom**, and Rabbi Yoshi Zweiback of **Stephen Wise Temple**.

Photo: David Wu





## INTERVIEWING HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS IN THE DIGITAL AGE

(GERMAN 19)

**Professor Todd Presner**, Sady & Ludwig Kahn Director, has been teaching this remarkable class since 2010 in partnership with **Hillel of UCLA's** Bearing Witness program and the **Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles**. Students learn about the Holocaust through eyewitness testimony and learn the basics of conducting oral histories.

Presner's students call the opportunity to form relationships with survivors "life-changing," and survivors also find their interactions with students deeply rewarding, with many returning year after year. Here **Erica and Emil Jacoby** are thanked at the conclusion of the course.

## ucLADINO PROMOTES SEPHARDI AND MIZRAHI LANGUAGES



As the new director of ucLADINO, **Max Modiano Daniel**, a Ph.D. student in History, will convene the student organization's annual Judeo-Spanish Symposium titled, *Community and Continuity*, March 1-2, 2017. Now in its 6th consecutive year, the conference is the

country's foremost space for students, scholars, and community members to connect and share original research on Judeo-Spanish known variously, as *Djudezmo*, *Ladino*, and *Haketia*. It is cosponsored by the Leve Center and the UCLA Department of Spanish and Portuguese.

The two-day gathering will examine the way Ladino has worked to constitute different kinds of communities, as well as issues regarding transmission, survival, and linguistic and cultural continuity. Featured speakers will include **Professor Devi Mays** (University of Michigan—Ann Arbor) an expert on Sephardic migration to Mexico and **Professor Monique R. Balbuena** (University of Oregon) author of *Homeless Tongues: Poetry and Languages of the Sephardic Diaspora* (Stanford University Press, 2016).

Conference highlights last year included a **Community Panel**, a performance and sing-along with community singers *Kantigas Muestras*, and the opportunity to share and record personal experiences and memories of the language as part of the UCLA Sephardic Archive Initiative. More information for presenters and those interested in attending the conference is available at

<http://www.ucLadino.com>. Community members are also invited to participate in ucLADINO's **weekly language workshops** led by experienced graduate students. No previous knowledge is necessary, though some Ladino or Spanish is helpful.

Originally from Chicago, Daniel completed his BA at Columbia University and the Jewish Theological Seminary in American studies and Jewish literature, where he wrote his honors thesis on the image of Sephardic Jews in modern Jewish culture. After graduation, he served as a Jewish Service Corps Fellow in Kishinev, Moldova, where he taught and did community work through the Joint Distribution Committee.



**Al Finci** with **Payton Phillips Quintanilla** at ucLADINO's Chanukah party. Now chair of the Leve Center Advisory Board, Finci grew up speaking Ladino in Sarajevo. Phillips Quintanilla, a PhD candidate in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, co-directed ucLADINO in 2015-16 with Cheri Robinson.

Courtesy Payton Phillips Quintanilla



# GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS

## ■ Inaugural Fritz, Jenny and Gustav Berger fellow in Holocaust studies looks at global literature of unspeakable atrocity in light of the Holocaust

**DEB DONIG** [English Literature] is the first recipient of this full year fellowship which was established as a planned gift by Ellen Goodhill in memory of her parents and brother who fled Nazi-occupied Europe by way of Shanghai. The award will allow Donig to focus on completing her dissertation, *Leave Nothing to the Imagination: Global Forms of Unspeakable Atrocity after 1945*. The project looks at "ineffability," or the claim that an experience is beyond language or unspeakable.



Deb Donig

Photo: David Wu

Donig argues that in the wake of the Nuremberg trials of 1945-46 through the Eichmann trial in 1961, "ineffability" becomes a way of claiming that an event of massive human suffering and violence warrants address as a human rights violation. Working alongside this historical and legal history, Donig examines the literature of atrocity after the Holocaust, specifically in postcolonial contexts, and their appeal to conventions of ineffability established by the Holocaust. Using ineffability to connect diverse sites of atrocity, Donig's work examines the advantages and the consequences of comparative approaches to atrocity and contributes to a growing discourse linking postcolonial studies with Holocaust studies.

Donig earned a BA from UC Davis in English, and MAs from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst and UCLA. She has held fellowships at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum in Jerusalem, the Leo Baeck Institute at Humboldt University in Berlin, and the University of Cape Town. With support from the Leve Center, the UCLA English Department, and the Graduate Division, she has done research at the Library of Congress, the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission Archives, the Lily Library at the University of Indiana, the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas, the New England Holocaust Memorial, and the Jewish Museum in Berlin.

## ■ Thomas Lifka outstanding dissertation award goes to Rachel Schley



Rachel Schley

The UCLA Department of History has awarded the Thomas E. Lifka Prize for dissertations filed in 2014-15 to **RACHEL SCHLEY** [PhD History] for her dissertation, *The Tyranny of Tolerance:*

*France, Religion, and the Conquest of Algeria, 1830-1870*. Professors **Caroline Ford** and **Sarah Abrevaya Stein** co-chaired her committee.

## ■ Jack H. Skirball fellow to teach course on Jews in Los Angeles politics

Photo: David Wu



Max Baumgarten

**MAX BAUMGARTEN** [History] is focusing on the history of Jewish politics and American cities, and his dissertation explores the pathways that led Los Angeles' Jews to both engage and disengage from local civic affairs in the late 20th century. As the recipient of the year-long Jack H. Skirball Fellowship, Max will teach an adult education course at the **Skirball Cultural Center** in Fall 2016 on **Jewish Politics: Jewish Los Angeles**. The course will examine the ways in which local politicians sought to understand Jews as an identifiable voting bloc and investigate how Jewish organizations and individuals responded to and shaped debates over racial integration and gentrification. [www.skirball.org/programs/classes](http://www.skirball.org/programs/classes)

Baumgarten is also a publicly engaged digital historian, as he spearheaded the project **"Sourdough & Rye"** at [www.historypin.com](http://www.historypin.com) and is curating an exhibit about the Beverly-Fairfax neighborhood for **Mapping Jewish LA**. (See p. 19) Baumgarten received national recognition this year as a finalist for the Association of Jewish Studies Dissertation Completion Fellowship. A native of Los Angeles, he earned his BA in History from UC Berkeley.

## ■ Jason Lustig wins national AJS dissertation completion fellowship

Photo: David Wu



Jason Lustig

**JASON LUSTIG** [History] has been awarded a prestigious fellowship from the **Association of Jewish Studies**. As one of seven winners selected nationally, he will receive a generous stipend and participate in a professional development workshop focused on presenting scholarly research to a wide public. The fellowship is supported through a grant from Legacy Heritage Fund.

Lustig's dissertation, **"A Time to Gather": A History of Jewish Archives in the Twentieth Century**, examines a network of Jewish archives in Germany, the United States, and Israel/Palestine. Lustig looks at the place of archives in the development of Jewish studies as an academic discipline and the cultural politics of Jewish life both before and after the Second World War. Lustig is a graduate of Brandeis University, where he received his MA degree in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies.

### LEAVE A MEANINGFUL LEGACY

There are many ways you can help the Leve Center advance its mission, and any gift can be made in memory or in honor of a special person or occasion.

For more information or to discuss options, please contact:

**Sarah Murphy**  
Director of Development  
[smurphy@support.ucla.edu](mailto:smurphy@support.ucla.edu)  
310-794-9005

# GRADUATE STUDENT TRAVEL AWARDS

## ■ Bluma Appel travel grants fund eight

**MICHAEL CASPER** [History] for research in Lithuania and Israel on the creation of Jewish political culture in interwar Lithuania, 1918-1940.



Andrew Danielson

**ANDREW DANIELSON** [NELC] to work with the Jaffa Cultural Heritage Project and visit archeological excavation sites in the Negev and Arava regions of Israel.

**ARNON DEGANI** [History] for dissertation research in Israel on the nature of Zionism, Palestinian nationalism, and the conflict between the two.

**DEB DONIG** [English Literature] to investigate South African transcripts documenting the debates about how to fashion the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, held in Cape Town, and trace how the Nuremberg trials figured into this structure.

**LINDSAY KING** [History] to visit the Central Archive for the History of the Jewish People and the National Library of Israel in Jerusalem to research Jewish theater critics, literary critics, and humorists who contributed and were often the main editors of German-language publications in Vienna, 1830-1860.



Batsheva Dancers perform Martha Graham's "Diversion of Angels" (1965)

Photo: Jacob Agor

**ANDREA WANG MOHR** [World Arts and Cultures] for archival research at the New York City Public Library for the Performing Arts and the Martha Graham Center of Contemporary Dance on Graham's service as artistic advisor to Israel's Batsheva Dance Company.

**MOLLY ORINGER** [Anthropology] to study interactions between Jewish tourists and Arab service workers in Jerusalem and discover what both parties gain from these encounters.

**JEREMY PERETZ** [World Arts and Cultures] to work with an Israelite Comfa group in Guyana, called The House of Ezra, and research how Jewish practices coalesce with local religious systems.

## ■ Three receive Chaskel and Sara Roter summer research travel grants

**BENJAMIN RATSKOFF** [Comparative Literature] participated in the Kent Summer School in Critical Theory (Paris) as part of his research on the Holocaust in the Black radical tradition.

**ELIZABETH VANDYKE** [NELC] a scholar of Hebrew Bible, spent her first trip to Israel visiting Iron Age archeological sites and museums, researching how a largely oral society adapted to the new tool of the alphabet.

**JAMIE ZELECHOWSKI** [Germanic Languages] did summer research in Berlin at the film and press archives of the Kinemathek and Bundesarchiv (Federal Archive), as well as the Deutsches Polen-Institut (German Poland Institute) for her dissertation on the Shoah's depiction in post-War German and Polish films (1945-1970).

## ■ Maurice Amado program awards two summer research fellowships

**JEREMY PERETZ** [World Arts and Cultures] for research on syncretic Judaism in Guyana.



**MAX DANIEL** [History] to study Mediterranean and Middle Eastern Jews in Los Angeles.

Photo: David Wu



## ■ Sarah & Eugene Zinn memorial scholarship for Holocaust studies



**MILES MISTLER** [2016, English Literature] for work with the Museum of Tolerance editing over 100 hours of raw interviews with survivors who volunteer at the museum, enabling the videos to be used in classroom programs and a future exhibition.

## ■ Hermine & Sigmund Frey scholarship

**JESSICA BEHMANESH** [2017, Iranian Studies and Jewish Studies] is fascinated to study Aramaic with Professor Yona Sabar since her parents are Kurdish Jews. Her project involves comparing literature written in Aramaic with the grammar of the Neo-Aramaic tongue of Sanandaj.

**ELIZABETH HO** [2017, Jewish Studies] attended Ben Gurion University's Summer Ulpan and taught classes in Hebrew Language and Jewish Culture at an international Christian Church in Irvine under the supervision of Professor Nancy Ezer.

## ■ Olive Tree Initiative sends students to visit Israel, West Bank, and Jordan



**BRAD FINGARD** [Political Science] and **NATANEL ALMANY** [Political Science] 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 (OTI). Founded at UC Irvine, OTI is a university-based organization that promotes conflict analysis and resolution through rigorous academic preparation, experiential education, and leadership development.

## STUDENTS MAKE NEWS



**Elizabeth Ho** and **Martin Luther Chan** love to speak Hebrew and their enthusiasm is catching. Ho, a Jewish studies major, and Chan, a graduate student in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures (NELC), teamed up in Winter quarter to organize a **Chinese-Hebrew Café** through the Leve Center's **Student Leadership Council**. Over seventy students showed up to socialize over Kosher Chinese noodles, enjoyed a humorous talk by a visiting Chinese scholar, and then learned some simple conversational phrases in both Hebrew and Chinese. Ho and Chan taught Chinese while **Liat Menna** and **Amit Liran** taught Hebrew. The event was cosponsored by the **UCLA Confucius Institute** and the **UCLA Y&S Nazarian Center for Israel Studies**.

Building on that success, **Jessica Behmanesh**, an Iranian Studies major and Jewish studies minor (shown hugging Elizabeth Ho), chaired a **Persian-Hebrew Café** in the Spring. UCLA Iranian studies Professor **Latifeh Hagigi** spoke about Persian language and culture while some 50 students enjoyed kosher kabobs, Persian rice, and sweets. Students also got the chance to try learning to speak in both languages. The event was cosponsored by the Leve Center's Student Leadership Council and NELC's **Iranian Studies Program**. More Hebrew Cafés are planned.

Chan also organized a weekly Hebrew conversation table at UCLA Hillel, that he calls **Café Ivrit**. Lunch was provided with support from the Leve Center, the Nazarian Center and Hillel. Over the summer Chan taught UCLA's intensive Hebrew summer school course while Ho went to study at an Israeli Ulpan.

Menna is founding president of **Students Supporting Israel (SSI)**. The Student Leadership Council cosponsored two programs with SSI, a talk by **Penina Meghnagi Soloman** who emigrated to Israel from Tunisia, and a lunch with **Abe Haak**, a Jordanian who blogs for the *Times of Israel*.

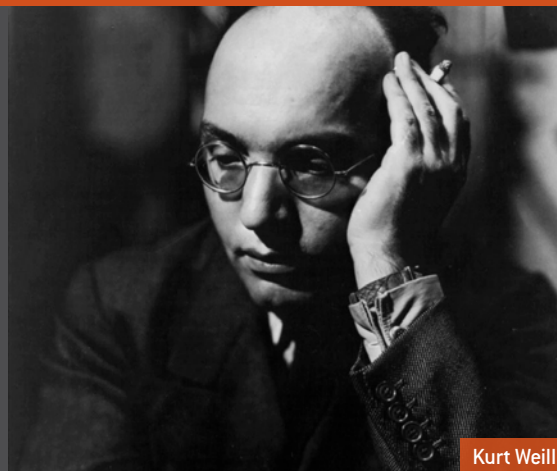
The Student Leadership Council also screened the documentary, **Above and Beyond**, which tells the dramatic story of how a group of Jewish American pilots, in secret and at great personal risk, smuggled planes out of the U.S. and flew for Israel in its War of Independence. Afterwards, Director **Roberta Grossman** participated in Q & A. The Nazarian Center cosponsored the event which was open to the community.

# UPCOMING PROGRAMS

## MUSIC SYMPOSIUM TO CELEBRATE RABBI JOACHIM PRINZ & COMPOSER KURT WEILL



Rabbi Joachim Prinz with Martin Luther King, Jr.



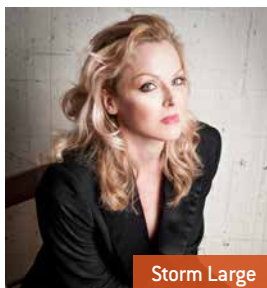
Kurt Weill

The **UCLA Mickey Katz Endowed Chair in Jewish Music** will partner with the **Leve Center** to present a unique program that situates Jewish music in a social and historical context, featuring presentations by leading scholars and performances of a seldom heard repertoire.

A UCLA symposium, **"Championing Civil rights and Resisting Injustice: Rabbi Joachim Prinz and Kurt Weill,"** on **January 22, 2017**, is part of the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra's **Lift Every Voice** festival. It will anchor the themes of the three-week music series historically and culturally by bringing together distinguished historians, musicians, and musicologists for panel discussions. The morning program will explore pre-war Berlin and the German-Jewish cultural milieu. The afternoon will focus on Prinz and Weill in the US and their social justice and civil rights activism. Special guest, Rabbi Jonathan Prinz, will provide an informal talk on his father's legacy and his own work over lunch.



Hudson Shad



Storm Large

The day will conclude with a Royce Hall performance of the US premiere of Weill's "Song-Suite for Violin and Orchestra" (arr. Paul Bateman), and the West Coast premiere of a new violin concerto "I Will Not Remain Silent" composed by Bruce Adolphe, inspired by Rabbi Joachim Prinz's life, as well as Weill's *The Seven Deadly Sins*,

a satirical sung ballet, composed by Weill to a German libretto by Bertolt Brecht in 1933, and performed by LACO with Chanteuse Storm Large (of Pink Martini) and New York-based vocal quartet Hudson Shad.

The symposium is convened by **Mark Kligman**, UCLA Mickey Katz Endowed Chair and professor of Musicology and Ethnomusicology, **Todd Presner**, Sady and Ludwig Kahn Director of the Leve Center and professor of Germanic Languages, **Jeffrey Kahane**, Director of the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, and **Raymond Knapp**, Professor and Chair of Musicology.

"Rabbi Joachim Prinz and Kurt Weill were both born in Germany and fled the Nazi regime. In America they reestablished their careers and were dedicated to civil rights and fighting injustice," Kligman noted. Rabbi Prinz fought racial injustice in America, supported the state of Israel, and held leadership positions in the American Jewish Congress. In the 1950s and onwards he saw the plight of African Americans and other minorities in the context of his own experience under the Nazis as he forcefully explained in his address at the 1963 March on Washington. Weill, a rising composer in Germany, became one of Broadway's most enduring songwriters, and songs such as "Mack the Knife" and "Lost in the Stars," spoke to civil rights issues in America as well as in Europe.

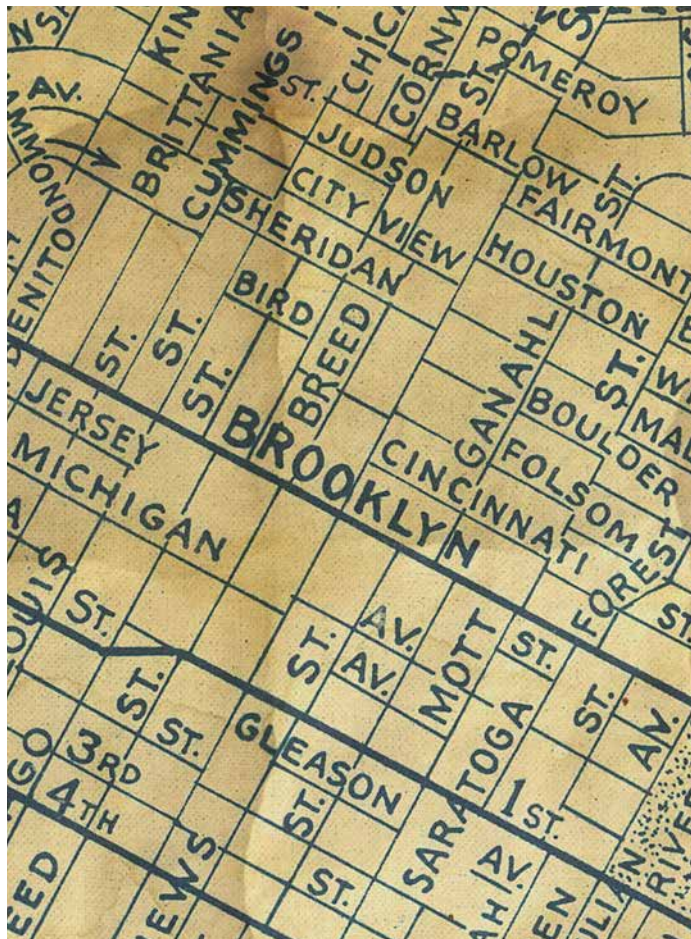


## BOYLE HEIGHTS EVENTS AIM TO ENGAGE COMMUNITY WITH

Preparation for the exhibition **From Brooklyn Avenue to Cesar Chavez: Jewish Histories in Multiethnic Boyle Heights** has required the Mapping Jewish LA (MJLA) team to extend the scope of its collecting efforts beyond campus and seek out new and hidden reservoirs of memories and materials in the community.

To do so, means forging strong and collaborative partnerships with a variety of individuals, organizations, and stakeholders both in and outside of Boyle Heights. As part of this effort, the Leve Center is pleased to collaborate with **Yiddishkayt** to organize a series of three events in Boyle Heights and East Los Angeles. Each program will highlight a theme from the exhibition that will be explored more fully in a digital MJLA project—language and literature; work and labor; and art and music.

In addition to entertainment, each event will include a panel of leading scholars in dialogue with current practitioners and stakeholders. A mini-exhibition of work from the digital project is intended to encourage public participation and collaboration. The hope is that each event will function as an open forum for memory sharing and reflection, where all involved can engage in a thoughtful discussion about Boyle Heights' past and present as a means of contemplating its future. The series is made possible in part thanks to a grant from the **UC Humanities Research Institute**.



### LANGUAGE, LITERATURE AND LUGAR [PLACE]: WRITING BOYLE HEIGHTS

Sunday, Dec. 4, 2016 – TBA – 2PM



Once home to Jewish, Chicano/a, Japanese, Italian, Armenian, Russian, and African American migrant communities, Boyle Heights is a prime example of Los Angeles' kaleidoscopic multicultural history. Join us for an afternoon of multilingual poetry and prose spanning Yiddish poets such as Hirsh Goldovsky and Henry Rosenblatt who settled in the neighborhood in the 1920s, to Sesshu Foster, Clement Hanami, and Veronica Reyes who documented life in the neighborhood in the 1970s and 1980s, to poets working in Boyle Heights today. Writing Boyle Heights is part of a collaborative event series that explores the neighborhood then and now, taking Boyle Heights as a local space to explore converging multilingual cultures.

# MAPPING JEWISH LOS ANGELES PROJECT

## 100 YEARS OF GARMENT WORK IN LA: AN INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION Sunday, March 5, 2017 – UCLA Labor Center – 2PM



Beginning in 1907, when a group of Jewish tailors organized the city's first branch of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, and continuing today in the work of the Garment Workers Center, immigrant women have played a leading role in the struggle to rid Los Angeles of sweatshops. This afternoon of multilingual music, art, and testimony will celebrate International Women's Day and explore the over 100-year history of garment work in Los Angeles and the struggles for economic justice that continue in the city today.

## BOYLE HEIGHTS FOLK FESTIVAL Sunday, June 4th, 2017 – Breed Street Shul – 2PM



Today Boyle Heights is remembered as a space where many cultures have come together. The history of organizations and events created in the neighborhood reflect a grassroots phenomenon of cultures built from below by ordinary people. Join us for an afternoon of multilingual music, art, and food celebrating the variety of folk traditions that converged in Boyle Heights and the new sounds and styles that are emerging today from its uniquely multiethnic cultural landscape.

### BOYLE HEIGHTS PROGRAM COLLABORATORS:

**UCLA**  
Alan D. Leve Center for Jewish Studies

YIDDISHKAYT | ייִדישקייט

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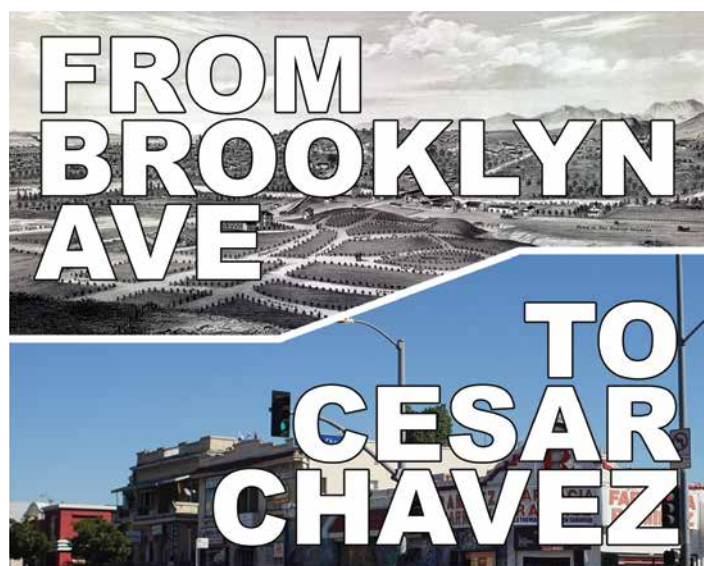


BOYLE HEIGHTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

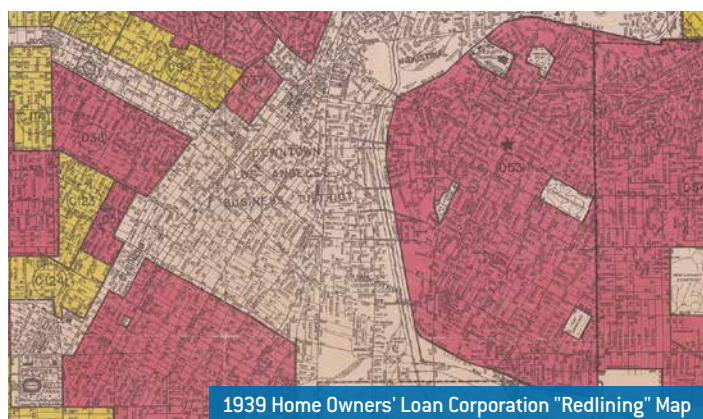


**Brooklyn Avenue**—named in 1876 to entice new residents from the east to settle in Los Angeles' Boyle Heights—was renamed to honor **Cesar Chavez** in 1994, reflecting the area's shifting demographics as well as its long history of community activism. Today, the neighborhood's main street embodies the contest between the golden dreams of neighborhood residents, real estate developers, and government leaders that has so influenced its history. Focusing on this single avenue to explore the neighborhood's Jewish histories, this physical and digital exhibition moves through both time and space, revealing the urban, social, economic, and cultural changes inscribed in Boyle Heights' layered histories.

Realized as part of the Mapping Jewish L.A. Project  
<http://www.mappingjewishla.org>



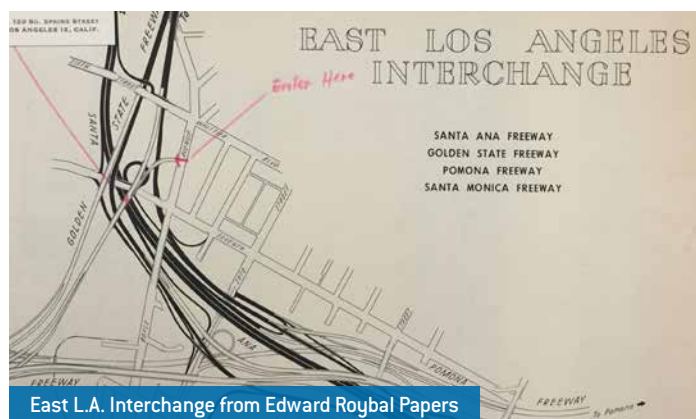
JEWISH HISTORIES IN  
MULTIETHNIC BOYLE HEIGHTS



1939 Home Owners' Loan Corporation "Redlining" Map

In the 1930s, Boyle Heights was home to about a third of Los Angeles' Jewish population—some 10,000 households—and the highest concentration of Jews west of Chicago. Jewish community life flourished with dozens of synagogues, charitable institutions, cultural organizations, schools, community centers, and Jewish-owned businesses, from bakeries to movie theaters. This vibrant Jewish community emerged in a multiethnic context. As one of the most diverse neighborhoods in Los Angeles, Boyle Heights was also called home by tens of thousands of Mexican, Japanese, Armenian, Italian, Russian, and African-American families.

The exhibition highlights both the diversity of Jewish experiences in Boyle Heights and the ways in which this

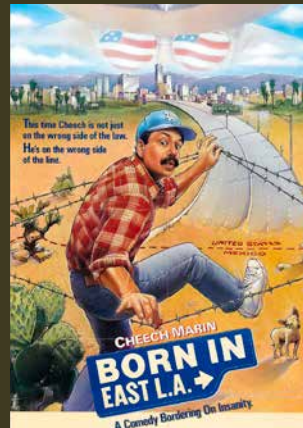
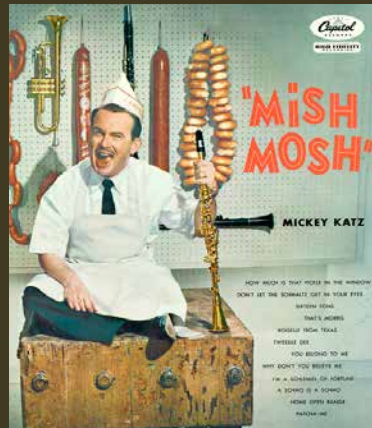


East L.A. Interchange from Edward Roybal Papers

immigrant neighborhood was the seedbed for all its residents to forge new American identities. Using digital technologies and archival materials, it emphasizes five themes—**Language and Literature, Religion and Community, Music and Arts, Education and Youth, and Labor and Activism**—to show how Jews and other residents participated in civic life, and constructed community. The exhibition spotlights such key institutions as the Soto-Mission JCC, the Menorah Center, synagogues, the Jewish Home for the Aged, Mt. Sinai Hospital, and the Workman's Circle, and such key events as the opening of Hollenbeck Park, real estate redlining, high school student protests, and the construction of streetcar lines and freeways.

# FIVE THEMES

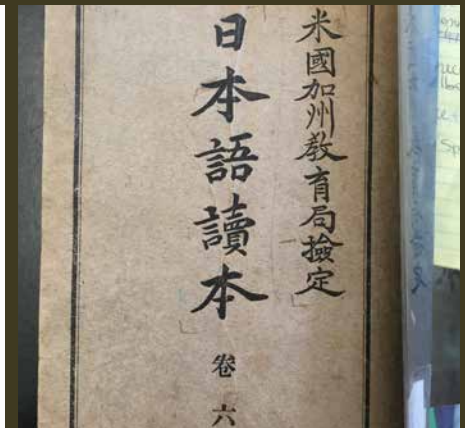
## MUSIC & ART



The residents of Boyle Heights, most of whom were immigrants and their American-born children, sought to preserve the cultural traditions of their countries of origin while also experimenting with new modes of expression. Jews used music and art to honor their heritage, resist assimilation, and cultivate collective identity. Along with other area residents, they reflected on events unfolding at home and abroad, making sense of the world around them

and exploring new sounds and styles to situate themselves in the cultural landscapes of Los Angeles. This portion of the exhibit spotlights the variety of artistic and musical traditions that converged in and emerged from Boyle Heights, the institutions and organizations that nurtured music and art in the neighborhood, and the artists and musicians who called the neighborhood home.

## LANGUAGE & LITERATURE

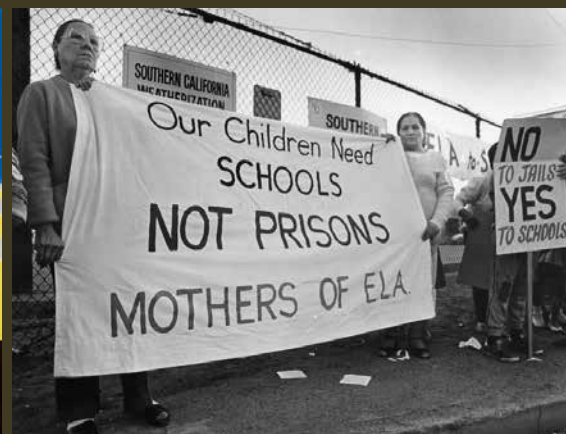


While the majority of Boyle Heights' immigrant residents could read, write, and speak English, many preferred to express themselves in their *mama loshn* (mother tongues), which for the Eastern European Jews who settled there was Yiddish, a vernacular language that combined German, Hebrew, and Slavic words and forms. Jews in Boyle Heights published Yiddish newspapers, books,

and literary journals, organized Yiddish-based reading circles, theater troupes, and political parties, and founded Yiddish language schools to pass on the language and culture to their children. The Japanese, Russian, and Spanish speaking residents of the neighborhood established schools, presses, and organizations of their own.



## POLITICS & ACTIVISM



Boyle Heights has a long tradition of vigorous community activism, and area residents have engaged in politics at the local, state, and national levels. Underrepresented in established party politics, Jews and their multiethnic neighbors often took to the streets, asserting their power through collective action, from labor and left-wing organizing to student protest and anti-war demonstrations. Through

mass meetings and relief drives, they raised their voices in response to local, national, and international events and worked together for positive changes at home and abroad. These efforts inspired community solidarity that transcended racial and ethnic differences, inspiring lifelong commitments to public service, and proud political careers.

## EDUCATION & YOUTH



Dozens of educational programs, schools, and libraries engaged the youth of Boyle Heights, many of whom were the American-born children of immigrants. In addition to those run by the state, there were language schools, religious schools, and community centers. Though created and run by parents in the hopes that their children would retain a strong sense of Jewish identity,

these spaces also became important sources of autonomy and independence for young people, places where they could create their own organizations and make their own contributions. At public school, on the playground, and at area libraries, the multiethnic youth of the neighborhood learned and played together, forming strong inter-ethnic bonds that often endured long after they moved away.

## RELIGION & COMMUNITY



Religious, charitable, and social service organizations in Boyle Heights provided vital aid to the area's immigrant residents as they adjusted to American life. At the same time, local businesses thrived, with dozens of Jewish-owned restaurants, bakeries, retail stores, and theaters. These diverse institutions became a central point of unity and pride for Angelenos, Jewish and non-Jewish. Social service institutions targeted the area's immigrant residents by offering citizenship classes, English language classes, and instruction in childrearing and homemaking that

aimed to teach immigrant mothers and their children how to live like "proper" Americans. Jewish charitable organizations infused their programs with religious traditions, attending to the spiritual needs of the neighborhood's elderly and less fortunate as well as offering indispensable services based on the best practices of modern social science. So, too, did the area's dozens of synagogues and churches address the practical concerns of their congregants, adapting their styles of worship to address the realities of urban American life.

## THE BROOKLYN AVENUE TO CESAR CHAVEZ MIXTAPE

Jonathan Banfill, PhD student in Comparative and International Education



Photos: Jonathan Banfill

My project presents the street's history using sound rather than images or text. I designed several auditory pieces to represent the street as a sensory experience.

The majority of the recordings are short audio portraits of key places along the street— restaurants, the Breed Street Shul, the Evergreen Cemetery, and the Freeway.

There are also two longer sound collages. The first represents a walk I took from Evergreen Cemetery to the Freeway overpass, one end of Cesar Chavez Avenue to the other. This is an edited walk, just showing the main sound events that I encountered, but it is stitched together as a kind of temporal narrative of moving down the street on a warm Sunday afternoon. The goal was to capture the sense of movement of sounds

appearing in the auditory field, be it from a passing car or a song coming out of a store, and how the body of the walker moves past. Each sound is fleeting, appearing faintly, growing in volume and nearness at different velocities, and then passing as both the walker and the sound separate.

The second collage mixes historical sounds, such as oral histories, pieces of music, news reports, and lectures about Boyle Heights with more field recordings, to present a temporally layered, 'auditory portrait' of the street. All in all, this was an exciting project to participate in and create! But you don't have to wait until November to hear my sounds portraits at the entrance to the physical exhibition, you can hear it online now!

**Soundscape:** <https://www.mappingjewishla.org>



# MAPPING JEWISH LOS ANGELES

## YIDDISH POETRY IN L.A.

### RECOVERED & TRANSLATED FOR THE FIRST TIME

**"Dos Duremland baym yam"**—*Los Angeles, literally the "Southland by the sea"—was home to a literary community that thrived here from the early 1900s to the late 1960s and produced nearly 100 Yiddish books, a dozen newspapers, and several journals.*

Seven of these authors are now attracting long overdue attention with the launch of the Leve Center's digital anthology, *Recovering Yiddish Culture in Los Angeles* at [www.mappingjewishla.org](http://www.mappingjewishla.org). The exhibition includes selected works in the original Yiddish and English translation, and **Executive Editor Caroline Luce** plans to add more writers in the future.

Luce was aided in translating the poems and short prose pieces by a number of volunteers including **Hershl Hartman** and **Tamar Schneider Levin**, who both grew up speaking Yiddish, as well as students **Ella Rogers-Fett** and **Michael Casper**, and UCLA Yiddish Instructor **Miriam Koral**. Each author is presented as a "path"



linking biographies and scholarly analysis to literary selections and bibliographies of related works, most of which are available from the UCLA Library and the Yiddish Book Center's Steven Spielberg Digital Library. The exhibit was featured in the *Jewish Journal* on May 25, 2016.

## **Ebiker Yam — Eternal Sea**

**Rosa Nevodovska**

Miri Koral, Translator

From *Azoy vi ikh bin (As I Am)*, Los Angeles: 1936

*Sea, sea, eternal sea! I've come to speak with you today—  
To grasp your endless striving, your wordless ceaseless talk...  
Cramped in town, I'm here to part ways with the city's restraints,  
And beside you, sea, I seek truth, beside you today I seek accord.*

*My eyes calm in the vast expanse. Your ceaselessly striving is nearby—  
Wide as your waves, sea, is my little human heart.  
Our cities, like you, oh, sea, brim with people and life—  
Multicolored are our lives and at times night-black.*

*What will you, my sea, what will you impart today?  
Are you truly freed? Or are you stifled by your endless coast?  
Waves and foam and noise—in infinite, tumultuous haste—  
Between continents in continual back and forth.*

*Listen, listen, sea, to my human-tongue!  
And let your vast waters rock my anguish and my ache.  
My sadness that near you is stilled and quenched like sun,  
Hangs over me again in town—as din, as echo, as scream.  
Sea, eternal sea! I've come to speak with you today—  
To grasp your endless striving, your foamy, ceaseless talk.  
I stand beside you, sea, unable to take my leave;  
Your endless unrest, like mine, seeks and is unable to find accord.*

## ROSA NEVODOVSKA,



[1890-1971] was born in the Polish border town of Bialystok and began her writing career working for a newspaper there. In 1928, she arrived in New York and

shortly after moved to Southern California where she rented a beachside apartment in Venice for \$12 a month. She was a close friend of Chaim Shapiro, a prominent Labor Zionist leader and leading voice in the fight against Hitler and rising anti-Semitism in 1930s Los Angeles.

# Oranges (Marantsn)

Chaver Paver

Caroline Luce, Translator / Hershl Hartman, Editor / Evelyn Rucker, Illustrator  
Selection from *Zalmen the Cobbler*, Los Angeles: 1955

**A**fter so many years in California, I am still in awe of the golden fruits, which keep growing so simply in Los Angeles, even in the yards of poor people.

It's likely because of the first orange that I tasted in my life many, many years ago in my childhood. I was sick, I don't remember with what, so my father the cobbler brought me an orange whose aroma filled the entire household. My little brothers and little sisters gathered around with big eyes and looked on as my mother peeled the orange with great ceremony. I, the sick one, the chosen one of the house, so to speak, sucked down an entire half orange. My mother divided the second half between the rest of the family so that they could make a blessing over it. The peel, however, was as precious as the orange itself. My mother took the peel and squeezed a drop of juice into each of the children's eyes, as an assurance of good eyesight. Afterwards, she set aside the peel in a saucer in the little kitchen cabinet until it was well dried out, and Friday she ground it up and added it into the dough of the *khale* [challah].

You may therefore well imagine my wonderment when I caught sight of entire groves of trees running past the train window, branches laden with oranges that looked like round pieces of gold among the dark green leaves. The leaves of the oranges are somehow always dark green. And even greater was my wonderment, when, at my landsman Noah the Baker's, on Ganahl Street, I found an orange tree growing in his front yard, as well. I stayed for the first few days with my landsman Noah the Baker on Ganahl Street. He owned a small wooden cottage—a bungalow, they call it—and resided there with his wife and two year old son. The little one had been born in Los Angeles.

And just as much as he was proud of his baby, who was born in California, so too was he proud of the orange tree that grew in his yard. Right after he had brought me to his little house on Ganahl Street and first of all showed me his baby, he then took me outside to the yard to show me his orange tree.

**Story continues:** <https://www.mappingjewishla.org>



## CHAVER PAVER



was the pen name of **Gershon Einbinder** (1901-1964). Best known for his children's stories and plays, Einbinder was born in Bershad, Russia (now Ukraine) and came to New York in 1923. He moved to Los Angeles shortly after his most famous book *Labzik: Stories of a Clever Puppy*, was published in 1935. In the book, Labzik and his young owners navigate the streets

of New York, fighting against crooked politicians, brutish policemen and greedy employers, and learning lessons about social justice along the way. *Zalmen der Shuster* (Zalmen the Cobbler) is an epic account of the immigrant experience based on the lives of a couple he had met in Los Angeles.



# Come, My Beloved (*Lekha Dodi*)

H. Goldovsky

Hershl Hartman, Translator

Selection from *Undzer gas - Our Street*, Part 1, published in *Pasifik* no. 2 (June, 1929)

*Murmuring of Lekha Dodi from shuttered market booths and stores*

*Is swallowed in the sounds of a passing trolley-car.*

*A few dressed-for-Sabbath grandma-grandpa couples*

*Go by in shadows from afar.*

*All the houses have been cleaned and all the tables set.*

*Somewhere in an unknown window a Sabbath-candle flickers on the sill,*

*And a cantor, in the midst of singing, stops —*

*The radio has shamed him to be still.*

*A lonely loner walks about here.*

*His wife and children a memory back in the old home —*

*He touches their photo in his inner pocket,*

*Winking at the prostitute, lost while on the roam.*

## H. GOLDOVSKY



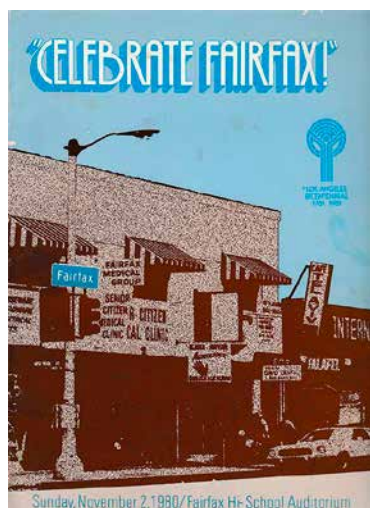
[1892-1948] was born **Hirsh Goldoski** in Retshitsa, Belorussia. The city was then a center of Hasidism, and was home for a time to Rabbi Shalom Dov Ber Schneerson, rebbe of Chabad-Lubavitch, and a large yeshiva. At the age

of 20 he left town, traveling to Germany and then on to the U.S. where he soon became involved with the nascent Labor Zionist movement. A few years later he headed west, living in Kansas, Nebraska, and Iowa before settling in Los Angeles where he published a book of poetry about his westward journey, appropriately titled *Preyri-land* [Prairie Land] and became a leader in the city's Yiddish cultural scene centered in Boyle Heights.

## COMING EXHIBITION

### In Search of Fairfax

Max Baumgarten, Curator



*In Search of Fairfax* explores the history of Los Angeles' Fairfax District from the 1930s through the present day. Blending together quantitative data and qualitative analysis, the exhibition will allow users to navigate the Fairfax District from a variety of perspectives, highlighting the contributions of both Jews and non-Jews.

While recognized as "the most Jewish stretch of pavement in Los Angeles"

and the "emotional center of Jewish life in Los Angeles," the Fairfax district has attracted an array of micro-communities and subcultures. Early on these included upwardly mobile Jewish migrants from Boyle Heights, Chicago, and New York, followed

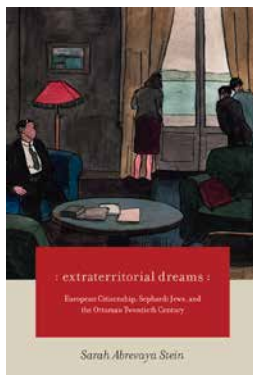
by Middle Eastern and Soviet Jews, and counterculture artists and activists. Rounding out the mix: Vietnamese refugees, plus African-American, and Hispanic students at Fairfax High School. The goal of the exhibit is to demonstrate how multiple narratives and experiences can exist within a neighborhood that is typically seen as monoethnic and thus prompt viewers to reflect upon the question, what exactly makes a neighborhood "Jewish"?

## MAX D. BAUMGARTEN



[Ph.D. Candidate, History] is the 2016-17 Jack. H. Skirball Fellow in Modern Jewish Culture with the Leve Center. He is completing his dissertation, **From Watts to Rodney King: Peoplehood, Politics, and Citizenship in Jewish Los Angeles, 1965-1992.**

# NEW PUBLICATIONS



## EXTRATERRITORIAL DREAMS: EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP, SEPHARDI JEWS, AND THE OTTOMAN TWENTIETH CENTURY

**Sarah Abrevaya Stein**

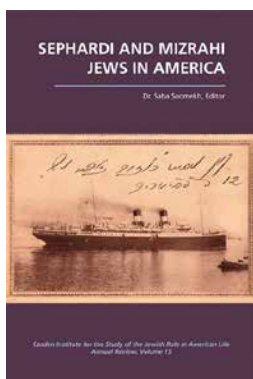
University of Chicago Press, 2016

We tend to think of citizenship as something that is either offered or denied by a state. Modern history teaches otherwise. Reimagining citizenship as a legal spectrum along which individuals can travel,

*Extraterritorial Dreams* explores the history of Ottoman Jews who sought, acquired, were denied or stripped of citizenship in Europe in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries—as the Ottoman Empire retracted and new states were born—in order to ask larger questions about the nature of citizenship itself.

**Sarah Abrevaya Stein** traces the experiences of Mediterranean Jewish women, men, and families who lived

through a tumultuous series of wars, border changes, genocides, and mass migrations, all in the shadow of the collapse of the Ottoman Empire and the ascendance of the modern passport regime. Moving across vast stretches of Europe, the Middle East, Asia, and the Americas, she tells the intimate stories of people struggling to find a legal place in a world ever more divided by political boundaries and competing nationalist sentiments. From **Jacques Azose**, a poor youth who reached France as a stowaway only to be hunted by the Parisian police as a spy, to **Silas Aaron Hardoon**, a wealthy Baghdadi-born man in Shanghai who willed his fortune to his Eurasian Buddhist wife, Stein tells stories that illuminate the intertwined nature of minority histories and global politics through the turbulence of the modern era.



## SEPHARDI AND MIZRAHI JEWS IN AMERICA

**Saba Soomekh, editor**

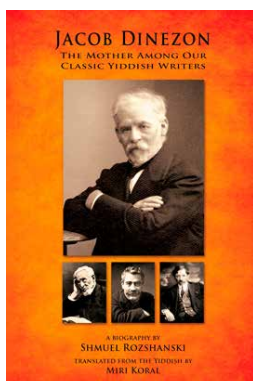
Purdue University Press, 2016

*USC Casden Institute for the Study of Jews in American Life Series, vol. 13*

This volume of original essays by ten academics, artists, writers, and civic and religious leaders focuses on diverse cultural, religious and linguistic perspectives on the Sephardi and Mizrahi experience in America. No

longer are Sephardic and Mizrahi Jews dealing with anti-Semitism and second-class citizenship of their homeland, but now in America, they must cope with how to preserve and navigate their culture, language, history and heritage while dealing with assimilation—not only into a dominant American society, but into a dominant Ashkenazi society.

**Soomekh**, an ethnographer, interviews **Elaine Lindheim** and **Sam Tarica** from the Maurice Amado Foundation, linguist **Bryan Kirschen** provides a chapter about the sociological history and diglossia of the Sephardim in the United States, and historian **Devin E. Naar** discusses Sephardic identity in the United States. **Molly Fitzmorris** profiles Ladino women who currently live in or near Seattle while **Joyce Zonana** reflects on what it means to have an Arab-Jewish identity. Aviva Ben-Ur examines Sephardi/Ashkenazi tensions beginning in late-17<sup>th</sup>-century America. Other well-known Los Angeles contributors include **Rabbi Daniel Bouskila**, **David Suissa**, architect and art gallery owner **Shulamit Nazarian**, and novelist **Gina Nahai**.



## JACOB DINEZON: THE MOTHER AMONG OUR CLASSIC YIDDISH WRITERS

**Shmuel Rozshanski / Miri Koral, translator**

Yiddish Storyteller Press, 2016

In this Yiddish biography written in 1956 and translated into English for the first time by Yiddishist **Miri Koral**, the renowned literary historian **Shmuel Rozshanski** makes the case for including Jacob Dinezon in the “family” of classic Yiddish writers. Based on his

extensive research and review of Dinezon’s poignant stories and

novels of Eastern European shtetl life, Rozshanski concludes that Dinezon deserves to be recognized as a major figure in the development of Yiddish as a literary language. If, as scholars suggest, **Sholem Abramovitsh** is the grandfather, **I. L. Peretz** the father, and **Sholem Aleichem** the grandson of modern Yiddish literature, then Rozshanski insists that **Jacob Dinezon** should be considered the “mother” for his gentle, kindhearted, and emotional approach to storytelling and to his readers.





## Probing the Ethics of Holocaust Culture

EDITED BY  
CLAUDIO FOGU, WULF KANSTEINER,  
AND TODD PRESNER

## PROBING THE ETHICS OF HOLOCAUST CULTURE

**Claudio Fogu, Wulf Kansteiner, and Todd Presner, editors**

Harvard University Press, 2016

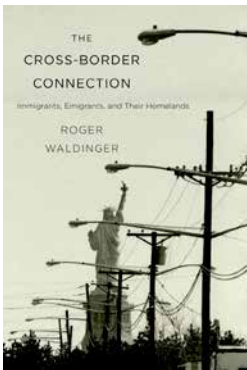
Depictions of the Holocaust in history, literature, and film became a focus of intense academic debate in the 1980s and 90s. In 1990, historian **Saul Friedländer** convened a major conference at UCLA to debate the stakes of history, truth, and the Holocaust.

That conference gave rise to a seminal book in Holocaust Studies, *Probing the Limits of Representation*. Nearly 25 years later, this “sequel” volume assesses the global impact of those debates, the current state of the field, and the ethical issues at the heart of Holocaust culture, including museums, monuments, testimonies, as well as works of literature, art, history, film, and philosophy.

Beginning with the decades-long debate between **Hayden White** and Friedländer on the nature of history and narrative, *Probing the Ethics of Holocaust Culture* is a searching reappraisal of the critical works and controversies that have shaped Holocaust studies over a quarter century. This landmark volume brings international scholars of the founding generation of

Holocaust Studies—including Friedländer, **Christopher Browning**, **Peter Eisenman**, and **Omer Bartov**—into conversation with a new generation of historians, artists, and writers who have challenged the limits of representation through their scholarly and cultural practices. These include **Dirk Moses**, **Daniel Mendelsohn**, **Judith Butler**, **Michael Rothberg**, and **Yael Hersonski**.

Focusing on the public memorial cultures, testimonial narratives, and artifacts of cultural memory and history generated by Holocaust remembrance, the volume examines how Holocaust culture has become institutionalized, globalized, and variously contested. Organized around three interlocking themes—the stakes of narrative, the remediation of the archive, and the politics of exceptionality—the essays in this volume explore the complex ethics surrounding the discourses, artifacts, and institutions of Holocaust remembrance. From contrasting viewpoints and, in particular, from the multiple perspectives of genocide studies, the authors question if and why the Holocaust should remain the ultimate test case for ethics and the unique reference point for how we understand genocide and crimes against humanity today.



## THE CROSS-BORDER CONNECTION: IMMIGRANTS, EMIGRANTS, AND THEIR HOMELANDS

**Roger Waldinger**

Harvard University Press, 2015

**Roger Waldinger** addresses a paradox at the core of international migration: emigrants departing one society become immigrants in another, tying those two societies together in a variety of ways. In nontechnical language, he explains how

interconnections between place of origin and destination are built and maintained and why they eventually fall apart.

Newcomers moving away from the developing world find that migration is a good thing, letting them enjoy the benefits of residence in the developed world, some of which they send to relatives back home in the form of remittances. Residing in a democratic state, free from the long arm of their place of origin, emigrants mobilize to produce change in the homelands they left. Emigration states, in turn, extend their influence across

boundaries to protect nationals and retain their loyalty abroad. Time, however, proves corrosive, and in the end most immigrants and their descendants become progressively disconnected from their home country, reorienting their concerns and commitments to the place where they actually live.

Although widely studied, cross-border connections remain misunderstood, both by scholars convinced that globalization is leading to a deterritorialized world of unbounded loyalties and flows, and by policy makers trying to turn migration into an engine of development. Not since Oscar Handlin's classic *The Uprooted* has there been such a precisely argued, nuanced study of the immigrant experience.

# FACULTY PROFILES

## ■ Expert on war and political violence joins Sociology Department



Photo: David Wu

**Aliza Luft, Assistant Professor in Sociology**, recently earned her doctorate in sociology with a Ph.D. minor in political science from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Her dissertation analyzed how French Bishops saved Jews during the Holocaust by defecting from Church support for Vichy anti-Semitism.

Luft has done comparative-historical research on war, violence, and other forms of contentious politics in Rwanda, France, Israel, and the United States, examining how people chose to support and participate in violence, or mobilize resistance. Luft has served as a research assistant for the UN Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate, the Transitional Justice Database Project, and as a consultant for the US Agency for International Development. She has taught at UC Berkeley (where she earned an MA in education), at UW Madison, and at Fordham University. She has presented widely on her work, including at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Harvard Kennedy School, the Carr Center for Human Rights, and Columbia University's Jewish Women on Campus. Luft has held fellowships with the Saul Kagan Claims Conference, the CUNY Graduate Center, the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a Chateaubriand/Fulbright Fellow, and in Global Studies at UW Madison. Her work has been published in several academic journals and encyclopedias, in addition to the *Washington Post* and the award-winning website, [Political Violence at a Glance](#).

## ■ NELC lecturer wins Distinguished Teaching Award and CCLE Grant

**Jeremy D. Smoak**, a Continuing Lecturer in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, is one of six Academic Senate faculty and three non-Senate faculty selected to receive the **2016 Distinguished Teaching Award**, one of UCLA's highest honors. He will be recognized during the annual Andrea L. Rich Night to Honor Teaching ceremony on Oct. 20, 2016, co-hosted by the Academic Senate and the UCLA Office of Instructional Development.

Smoak teaches courses in Hebrew Bible, Israelite religions, and ancient Near Eastern literature. His popular course **Jerusalem: The Holy City** inspired him to identify and digitize a set of historical maps, architectural drawings, and images of Jerusalem to provide a cost-affordable alternative to traditional text-based atlases. In collaboration with **Dr. Alice Mandell**, who also teaches the course, Smoak received an **Instructional Development Program CCLE grant** to develop a *Digital Atlas of Jerusalem*. This second phase of the project has the larger goal of creating new avenues of exploration and inquiry about the role that space plays in religious expression. By combining digitized maps of Jerusalem with an annotated list of pilgrimage itineraries, the Digital Atlas will help students conceptualize what ancient writers from diverse traditions and



Photo: David Wu

regions experienced as they visited and lived in the holy city. Smoak's research is also supported by a **Chaskel and Sara Roter Summer Research Award** from the Leve Center.



## ■ Judaica librarian visits China on collecting mission for research library

The Leve Center provided partial support for **David Hirsch, Jewish and Middle Eastern Studies Librarian**, to visit China twice through a **Stephen O. Lesser Chinese Travel Grant**. Hirsch visited the Glazer Institute for Jewish and Israel Studies in Nanjing, and the Center for Jewish Studies Shanghai where he acquired materials in Chinese by Chinese scholars that testify to the Chinese interest in both Jews and Israel. This interest began to develop in the 1980s and has intensified recently along with stronger economic and diplomatic ties between Israel and China. From the Shanghai Jewish Ghetto Museum he obtained documents pertaining to life in the Ghetto during the World War II period. To collect materials from the contemporary expat Jewish communities which document the growth of a new diaspora community, he visited Chabad, the Sephardic Yeshiva, Kehillat Shanghai, and the Conservative/Liberal synagogue in Shanghai. Hirsch made a second trip to China as a guest of the **Beijing International Book Fair** and spoke at the Center for Judaic & Interreligious Studies at Shandong University.



Photo: David Wu

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Professor of Musicology and Ethnomusicology.

#### EFRAIN KRISTAL

Chair and Professor of Comparative Literature.

#### DAVID N. MYERS\*

Sady and Ludwig Kahn Chair in Jewish History  
Professor of History.

#### TODD S. PRESNER\*

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

#### KENNETH REINHARD

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

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#### WILLIAM SCHNIEDEWIND\*

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#### JEREMY SMOAK

Lecturer in Hebrew Bible and Ancient Near East.

#### SUSAN SLYOMOVICS

Professor of Anthropology and Near East Languages and Cultures.

#### SARAH ABREVAYA STEIN\*

Maurice Amado Chair in Sephardic Studies, Professor of History.

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Professor of Political Science and Director of the Center for Middle East Development.

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#### HERBERT DAVIDSON

Distinguished Emeritus Professor of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures.

# VISITING FACULTY

## ■ Medieval and early modern scholar is UCLA Viterbi Visiting Professor



Photo: David Wu

**Daniel Stein Kokin** is the 2016-17 **Viterbi Visiting Assistant Professor of Mediterranean Jewish Studies**. His research interests span Jewish and Renaissance studies. Working primarily on Medieval and early Modern Jewish-Christian relations as reflected in linguistic discourse and visual imagery, Stein Kokin has published on Renaissance humanism, Christian Kabbalah, and Jewish visual culture, the last of which will form the basis of a mini-symposium he will convene on April 27, 2017.

Stein Kokin has also written about Israeli film. He is the editor of *Hebrew between Christians and Jews* (De Gruyter) which will be released in 2017, and is also co-editor and translator from Latin with Brian C. Copenhaver and Fabrizio Lelli of a forthcoming volume of the *I Tatti Renaissance library, Renaissance Cabala: Introductory Texts* and is completing a book project entitled *The Hebrew Question in the Italian Renaissance*.

## ■ German scholar to visit China for collaborative exhibition project

**Renata Fuchs**, lecturer in the Department of Germanic Languages and a research fellow with the Leve Center, is currently participating in an interdisciplinary project that is a collaboration of the **UCLA Confucius Institute, Fowler Museum, UCLA Department of Germanic Languages**, and the **Leve Center**. Her role is to translate and analyze the autobiography of the German-Jewish photographer, **Eva Sandberg Siao**, and to prepare a conceptual framework that will be used when exhibiting Sandberg Siao's work at the Fowler and other museums.

Fuchs holds a PhD from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Her research areas include the Romantic era, contemporary German literature, German-Jewish literature, Holocaust studies, women's studies, literary multilingualism and translation studies, and minority literatures.



As a research fellow at the Leve Center, Fuchs organizes and leads the 2016-17 *German-Jewish Book Series, Jewish Identity in Works of German-Jewish Women Writers*. Fuchs will discuss innovative works of Jewish women writers and explore how and why authors have expressed themselves through different genres

and styles (poems, short stories, novellas, novels, plays). The series is in English and is open to the community with meetings on **November 29, 2016, February 28, 2017, and April 4, 2017**.

RSVP: [cjsrsvp@humnet.ucla.edu](mailto:cjsrsvp@humnet.ucla.edu) or call (310) 267-5327.



Courtesy Erik Siao

Sandberg Siao, who had fled Nazi Germany to Moscow in the 1930's and eventually married and settled in China, became one of the few non-Chinese women living and working in China at that time. During spring 2017, Fuchs will be conducting project-related research in Beijing examining Sandberg Siao's diary and uncatalogued photographs. Her research travel is funded by the **UCLA Confucius Institute Faculty Grant**.



## ■ New service learning class to focus on Israeli artists in Los Angeles



**Anat Gilboa**, lecturer in Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, is an art historian specializing in early-modern art, Jewish and Israeli visual culture, and film. In Winter 2017 Gilboa will offer a service learning course on the **Role of Creativity in Rebuilding the Israeli**

**Community in Los Angeles** in connection with the Leve Center's **Mapping Jewish LA Project**, the **Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles**, and the **Jewish Artists Initiative of Southern California**.

The course will examine the history and ethos of the Israeli émigrés in LA, their various motives for migration, ethnicity, class and occupation, religiosity, and connection to the local

Jewish community. Students will look at trends of migration and voyage, displacement and integration, and the creativity involved in rebuilding and reconstructing lives in Los Angeles, and will survey and document social reciprocity and partnership with Los Angeles Jewry. Students will have an opportunity to apply their knowledge through service learning by interviewing local Israeli artists and Israelis working in the Hollywood film industry. Students' work and interviews will be incorporated into an exhibition at [www.mappingjewishla.org](http://www.mappingjewishla.org).

Gilboa received her PhD in art history from the Radboud University Nijmegen in the Netherlands. She is a native Israeli herself, and is the author of an exhibition catalogue *My Heart is in the East, and I am in the Farthest West* (University of Nebraska, 2014), and a book, *Images of the Feminine in Rembrandt's Work* (Eburon, Delft, 2003). Her current research emphasis is on core themes that define modern Israeli identity and its complex representation in Israeli visual culture.

### VISITING FACULTY & LECTURERS 2016-2017

#### MARTIN LUTHER CHAN

Lecturer in Hebrew

#### RENATA FUCHS

Research Fellow, UCLA Alan D. Leve Center for Jewish Studies,  
Lecturer in Germanic Languages

#### ANAT GILBOA

Lecturer in Near Eastern Languages and Cultures

#### DANIEL STEIN KOKIN

Viterbi Visiting Assistant Professor of Mediterranean Jewish Studies

#### CAROLINE LUCE

Michael & Irene Ross Post-Doctoral Research Fellow,  
Lecturer in Labor Studies

#### NAHID PIRNAZAR

Lecturer in Iranian Studies

#### SABA SOOMEKH

Lecturer in Sociology and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures

### LEVE CENTER FELLOWS 2016-2017

#### MAX BAUMGARTEN

Jack H. Skirball Fellow in Modern Jewish Culture,  
Lecturer in History

#### MAX DANIEL

Maurice Amado Fellow

#### DEB DONIG

Fritz, Jenny, and Gustav Berger Fellow in Holocaust Studies

#### CHRIS SILVER

Maurice Amado Fellow, Manager of "Sephardic Archive"

# LEAD GIFT FROM SADY KAHN FOUNDATION

ENABLES UCLA TO BUILD AN ARCHIVE OF SEPHARDIC JEWISH PAST FOR THE FUTURE



Photo: David Wu

**UCLA is already an unparalleled institution for the study of Mediterranean and Middle Eastern (or Sephardic) Jewry. Now, through the recently launched Sephardic Archive Initiative and a lead gift from the Sady Kahn Foundation, it is building a digital and physical archive to match.**

The UCLA Sephardic Archive Initiative is directed by Professor of History and Maurice Amado Chair in Sephardic Studies **Sarah Abrevaya Stein**, a scholar possessing at once a local focus and a global expertise. Stein is well poised to safeguard and steward some of the most significant collections of Sephardi Jewish life—hitherto unseen—in the world. These collections, which span the southern Mediterranean, Middle East, and beyond, and reveal details of Sephardic Jewish life not found in traditional archives,

connect Los Angeles and California to locations around the globe. As Stein has noted, collecting, preserving, conserving, and availing these collections for present and future scholars and members of the community is an imperative. “Given that the material sources of interest are now acutely vulnerable and at risk of being lost forever—often languishing in garages and other facilities ill equipped for preservation—time is of the essence,” she said.

## HONOR ROLL

The UCLA Alan D. Leve Center for Jewish Studies is extremely grateful for the generosity and visionary support of our alumni, parents, and community members who have helped build a vibrant program for research, teaching and life-long learning in all facets of Jewish Studies. Thank you!

### **MANHIGIM (Leaders)**

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BARBARA & RICHARD BRAUN  
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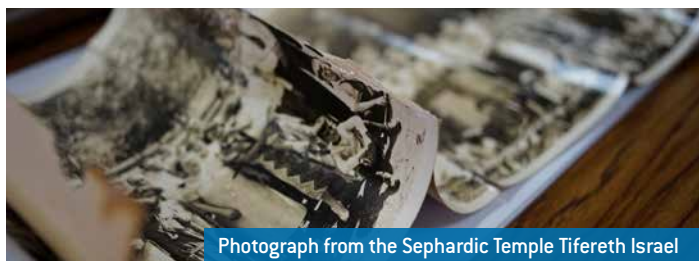
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HARRIET & MANUEL GLASER  
JOSEPH GOETZ  
BARBARA & DAVID L. GREEN





Photograph from the Sephardic Temple Tifereth Israel

The initiative, which has already begun identifying and inventorying material sources related to Los Angeles' diverse Sephardic heritage, will soon catalog these sources in tandem with the **UCLA Library and Special Collections**, and has near term plans to make selections immediately accessible digitally. These pioneering efforts to create an archive of Sephardic culture are intended to ensure that the rich history of Los Angeles' Sephardi Jews remains relevant for generations to come.

**Professor Todd S. Presner**, Sady and Ludwig Kahn Director of the Leve Center, noted that the Center is honored to further remember Sady Kahn in this way. An immigrant to Los Angeles, Sady Kahn "made a new life in California without forgetting her own history: a story evocative of so many of Los Angeles' Sephardic families."

Stein said the new gift will allow her to intensify efforts that took shape this past year through the initial sponsorship of the **Leve Center Advisory Board** and the **Viterbi Program in Mediterranean Jewish Studies**. Thanks to the gift, Project Manager **Chris Silver**, an advanced PhD candidate in the Department of History, has been named the **Sady Kahn Fellow**.

Silver is overseeing a partnership with the **Sephardic Temple Tifereth Israel (STTI)**, a near-100 year old institution, to bring their remarkable archive to UCLA. "That partnership will keep the rich heritage of Sephardim alive for generations to come," remarked Michael Hattem, son of the synagogue's visionary founding archivist Maurice I. "Bob" Hattem.

With rare papers dating to the late nineteenth century, photos from the early twentieth century, and mid-century home recordings of long-forgotten musical traditions, Silver said the STTI archive represents one of the most important repositories of material on Los Angeles' Sephardic past. The UCLA Sephardic Archive Initiative is now working to keep those memories alive.

In order to move forward with the Initiative's ambitious goals, Professor Stein has convened a **Community Advisory Board** whose members are keenly interested in preserving this history. She and her team of graduate students and professionals are now in the process of working with board members to identify collections of considerable interest spread throughout the Los Angeles area.

In addition, over the next two years, the Sephardic Archive Initiative will build a parallel digital platform, engage students with the archive through a service learning class, and host an international symposium on "Sources of the Sephardic Past."

Anyone with family documents, photographs, recordings, or objects pertaining to Sephardic history who might consider sharing them with the Initiative, is invited to contact Chris Silver at [sephardic@humnet.ucla.edu](mailto:sephardic@humnet.ucla.edu).

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DIANE & GEORGE WOLFBERG  
JASON YOUDEEM

 **AMITIM (Fellows)** 

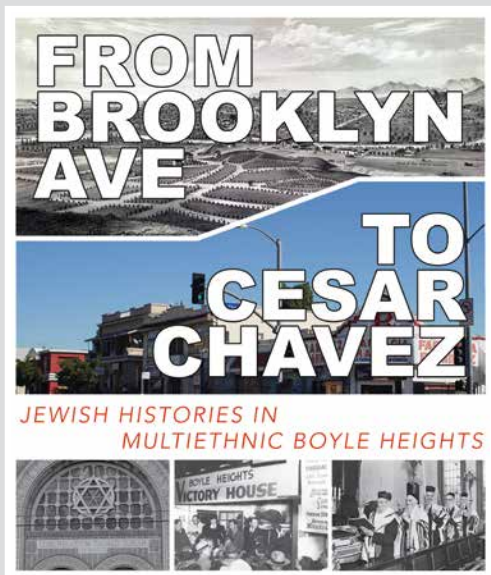
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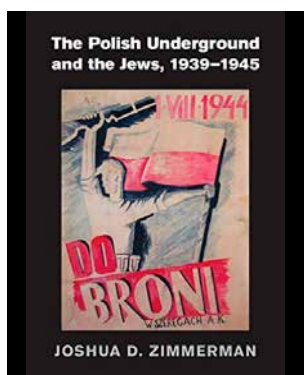
# CELEBRATE OUR GRAND OPENING & EXHIBITION

NOVEMBER 6-9, 2016



- SUNDAY, NOV. 6, 2016 • 306 & 314 ROYCE HALL
  - 12PM: **EXHIBITION OPENING:** "FROM BROOKLYN AVENUE TO CESAR CHAVEZ: JEWISH HISTORIES IN MULTIETHNIC BOYLE HEIGHTS"
  - 2PM: **FILM SCREENING:** "EAST LA INTERCHANGE" FOLLOWED BY Q&A WITH **BETSY KALIN** (DIRECTOR)
- MONDAY, NOV. 7, 2016 • 306 & 314 ROYCE HALL
  - 10AM - 4PM: **EXHIBITION: OPEN FOR VIEWING**
  - 4PM - 6PM: **OPEN HOUSE**
- TUESDAY, NOV. 8, 2016 • 306 ROYCE HALL
  - 10AM - 4PM: **EXHIBITION: OPEN FOR VIEWING**
- WEDNESDAY, NOV. 9, 2016 • 306 ROYCE HALL
  - 10AM - 3PM: **EXHIBITION: OPEN FOR VIEWING**

Exhibition Supported by the  
UCLA Library Department of Special Collections  
Jewish Historical Society of Southern California  
Breed Street Shul Project  
Alan D. Leve Endowment for Public History & Outreach



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2016 • UCLA FACULTY CENTER • 4PM

THE 1939 SOCIETY LECTURE IN HOLOCAUST STUDIES

## Wounds of History: The Polish Underground and the Jews during World War II

Joshua Zimmerman (Yeshiva University)

Sponsored by the  
UCLA Alan D. Leve Center for Jewish Studies  
Supported by  
The 1939 Society Program in Holocaust Studies  
Cosponsored by the  
UCLA Department of Germanic Languages  
UCLA Department of History



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2016 • TBA • 4PM

JEWISH HISTORIES IN MULTIETHNIC BOYLE HEIGHTS

## Language, Literature and Lugar: Writing Boyle Heights

An afternoon of multilingual poetry and prose

Collaborators  
UCLA Alan D. Leve Center for Jewish Studies  
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