



FRANKEL CENTER FOR JUDAIC STUDIES

Innovative teaching and research of Jewish societies across the globe

The Jean and Samuel Frankel Center for Judaic Studies is among the nation's premier institutions devoted to teaching and research in the field of Jewish studies. The Frankel Center's rich interdisciplinary approach to the study of Jewish societies across time and space and its diverse course offerings in biblical, rabbinic, and medieval Judaism, as well as in modern Jewish history, literature, and culture have established its international reputation. Housed within the Frankel Center, the Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies brings a group of the world's leading scholars to Ann Arbor for a year to collaborate in advancing scholarship in the culture, society, and religion of Jewish communities from antiquity to the present. In addition, the center hosts guest speakers, artists, and musicians from Israel, Europe, and the U.S. who enrich the intellectual and cultural life of the entire U-M community. Many of the center's undergraduates go on to careers in education, Jewish community service, and the rabbinate as well as law, medicine, business, and other fields. Building upon these impressive achievements, our program endeavors to enrich its vibrant undergraduate and graduate programs, chart new research and teaching directions that focus on 21st-century society, and demonstrate the enduring significance of Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan.

COMMUNITY BUILDING AND CO-CURRICULAR EXPERIENCES

The Frankel Center for Judaic Studies is committed to fostering Jewish life on campus and building a supportive and inclusive community for all its students and faculty. Community building takes time and resources, and this fund will allow us to enrich our extensive curriculum at the undergraduate and graduate levels with co-curricular events and programming, focused on student experiences, with the direct involvement of faculty. Expendable gifts of \$5,000-\$10,000 annually will enable the center to fund performances; student-driven lectures and clubs; student ambassador programs; and outreach to student organizations, on campus and across the Michigan community.

YIDDISH AND LADINO ENRICHMENT AND ENDOWMENT

The Frankel Center is one of the few places in the United States to offer both Yiddish and Ladino language instruction for beginners and intermediate students. Ladino, or Judeo-Spanish, is an important historical language for the study of Sephardic Jewry across Europe and the Mediterranean. This fund would enable our language instructors to develop pedagogical materials appropriate for 21st-century instruction—including hybrid courses that would attract undergraduate and graduate students across U-M and other Big Ten institutions. The fund would further support cultural programming in Yiddish and Ladino beyond the traditional classroom. Language instruction is central to a deep understanding of Jewish life and culture and supports the new generation of Jewish studies scholars. Expendable gifts of \$10,000–\$20,000 annually will enable the center to enrich the classroom experience in Yiddish and Ladino. An endowed fund of \$1M will ensure that Yiddish and Ladino instruction will be available at the University of Michigan in perpetuity.

GRADUATE STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS

The Frankel Center provides graduate fellowships (five-year funding packages) to support the doctoral studies of students working in areas that advance the field of Jewish studies. The center also offers a Graduate Certificate Program that enables students to gain further training with center faculty and deepen their knowledge and understanding in Jewish studies. Graduate students who explore areas of Jewish studies master several languages; travel to distant archives and libraries; and spend several years writing their dissertations. Support for graduate studies will enable our program to foster the next generation of scholars, teachers, and leaders. An endowed gift of \$1M will support a five-year graduate fellowship program, and an expendable gift of \$15,000 will support a three-year graduate certificate fellowship.

SUPPORT FOR GLOBAL JEWISH CULTURE AT U-M

The University of Michigan has a venerable tradition of supporting and promoting global innovation in the sphere of artistic creativity, and the Global Jewish Culture Fund would provide the resources to add a Jewish component to this tradition. Aimed at lesser-known cultural production in Europe, Asia, Latin America, and Africa, this fund would provide support for a variety of activities around a visiting distinguished Jewish writer, artist, musician, filmmaker, or photographer from underrepresented countries around the globe. Expendable gifts of \$10,000–\$50,000 annually will enable the center to sponsor short-term campus residencies of internationally acclaimed writers and artists whose work is related to Jewish themes and relevant to Jewish concerns. In addition, the center would promote their lectures, public readings, performances, and workshops for students, as well as support translation and sharing of their work in the U.S. These events will be of great interest to the U-M academic community, the Jewish community of the Detroit area, and the general public. An endowed gift of \$1M would provide for these opportunities in perpetuity.

STUDY ABROAD AND EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING FUND

International study programs, research projects, intensive language studies, and other Jewish studies travel experiences—throughout the globe and across the United—are essential ways in which students enrich their education and learn about other societies first-hand. Expendable gifts of \$10,000–\$50,000 annually to this fund will allow the center to give more students the resources needed to spend a summer or an entire semester learning in a setting outside of campus.

JUDAIC STUDIES STRATEGIC FUND

Expendable, undesignated gifts play an important role in the growth of the center. Contributions of any amount to the Strategic Fund make it possible to meet unexpected needs and opportunities, such as course development funds, seed funding for faculty research projects, digital humanities projects, support for publications and programming that highlight the center’s scholarship, collaborations with departments and schools across campus, and recruitment of premier faculty.

WAYS TO FUND YOUR GIFT

Your partnership connects the college’s rich past to a boundless and bright future. You can change lives with gifts of cash, pledges, or appreciated securities, and create a meaningful legacy through your bequest, trusts, gift annuities, and other planned gifts. Your generosity makes an impact on what’s next, for a better tomorrow.



“The opportunity to study alongside students from all over the world broadened my horizons and deepened my understanding of diverse perspectives. This transformative experience has shaped me into a more well-rounded individual. The memories and lessons from my time abroad will forever stay with me and I hope that one day I will have the opportunity to give back to someone else in the same impactful way.”

—Atara Kresch, '24, traveled to Israel to study at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

for what's next ▶

Look to Michigan

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