



FRANKEL CENTER FOR JUDAIC STUDIES

Using the tools of history, law, literature, and culture to investigate the broad sweep of nationhood, religion, language, and space

Today the Jean and Samuel Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, with its impressive Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies, has secured an enviable position among the nation's premier institutions devoted to teaching and research in Judaica. The Frankel Center's rich interdisciplinary approach to the study of Jewish civilization and its superb offerings in classical Judaism and modern Jewish literatures, in Yiddish, Ladino, Hebrew, and other languages, has brought it international renown. The important field of American Jewish studies also flourishes at the University of Michigan. To build upon these impressive achievements, the Frankel Center is endeavoring to enrich its vibrant programs, to chart new paths for the 21st century and enhance its prominence, and to demonstrate the enduring significance of Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan.

Each semester, a distinguished faculty offers a broad array of classes, giving 750 students an opportunity to explore the culture, history, and traditions of the Jewish people and their impact on world civilization. The center's 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 Jew communities from antiquity to the present. In addition, the center hosts visiting professors and guest speakers as well as artists and musicians from universities in Israel, Europe, and the U.S. who present seminars, concerts, exhibits, and lectures that 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.

Transformative gifts created Jewish studies at the University of Michigan in the 20th century and expanded it in the 21st century. In 1988, a major gift from Jean and Samuel Frankel, with support from the Jewish Welfare Federation of Detroit, led to the creation of an official Center for Judaic Studies. In 2005, another transformative gift from the Frankels funded the Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies, the largest such institute in the world. Now, as the center embarks on a course of innovation and expansion for undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate studies, it depends upon endowed and annual support to build programs and enhance its remarkable record of accomplishment.

INTEGRATION OF THE ARTS AND LITERATURE IN JEWISH STUDIES

In Europe, Asia, Latin America, and Africa, Jewish themes, images, and concerns have become increasingly popular among writers, artists, and filmmakers of diverse backgrounds yet much of this artistic production remains unknown to a wider American audience. The University of Michigan has a venerable tradition of supporting and promoting innovation and internationalism in the sphere of artistic creativity, and this fund would provide the resources to add a Jewish component to this tradition. The fund would provide support for a variety of activities to integrate a visiting distinguished Jewish novelist, poet, essayist, playwright, artist, musician, filmmaker, or photographer from Israel, the U.S., or other parts of the globe. Gifts of \$10,000 to \$50,000 annually will enable the center to sponsor annual 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.

YIDDISH AND LADINO LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION ENDOWMENT

The Frankel Center is one of few places in the United States to offer both Yiddish and Ladino language instruction. Ladino, or Judeo-Spanish, is an important historical Jewish language for the study of Sephardic Jewry across Europe and the Mediterranean. This fund would enable our language instructors to develop new pedagogical materials appropriate for 21st century instruction—including hybrid courses that would attract undergraduate and graduate students from other campuses—while offering additional cultural programming beyond the traditional classroom. Language instruction is central to a meaningful understanding of Jewish life and culture and enables the rise of a new generation of scholars. 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

Graduate study for both M.A. and Ph.D. students in Jewish studies requires the mastery of several languages, travel to distant archives and libraries, and an average of six to seven years of intensive work. Fellowships are essential for the center to attract the most promising graduate students, who will become the scholars, teachers, and leaders of the 21st century. Each fellowship will cover tuition, health care, and basic living expenses for one year. An endowed gift of \$1M or \$50,000 annually will establish one graduate fellowship.



STUDY ABROAD AND EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING FUND

Research projects, language studies, and other Jewish studies travel experiences—in the United States or abroad—are essential ways in which students enrich their education. Gifts of \$10,000 to \$50,000 annually to this fund will allow the center to give more students the resources needed to spend a semester learning in a setting outside of campus.

JUDAIC STUDIES DIRECTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Expendable, undesignated gifts play an important role in the growth of the center. Contributions of any amount to the Director's Discretionary Fund make it possible to meet unexpected needs and opportunities, such as seed funding for faculty projects, sponsorship of conferences highlighting the center's scholarship, collaboration with departments and schools across campus, and recruiting premier faculty.

WAYS TO FUND YOUR GIFT

Your gifts of cash, pledges, or appreciated securities change lives. Wills, estate, and planned gifts allow you to create a lasting legacy that will enable the best and brightest minds to experience a liberal arts education, solve problems in a changing world, and yield ideas and innovations that will make a difference in Michigan and around the globe.



"The professionalism and collegial atmosphere of the Frankel Institute has made this [fellowship] a tremendously fruitful experience. The weekly sessions particularly have been enlightening as I have gained valuable new insights into research techniques, writing habits, publishing, and general concerns to consider as scholars. Hearing other fellows' experiences, interests, and methodologies has made me a more intentional and conscious scholar."

—Rodney Caruthers II, Research Fellow, Frankel Institute for Judaic Studies, whose research focuses on what forms of Jewish customs and traditions were known in Ethiopia or practiced by Ethiopians during the Second Temple Period

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