

# FRANKELY SPEAKING

Jean & Samuel Frankel Center for Judaic Studies • April 2016



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Photo by Tamar Lamm

# Symphony of Jewish Languages

By Jeffrey Veidlinger, Director of the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies and Joseph Brodsky Collegiate Professor of History and Judaic Studies



Photo by D.C. Goings

In 1918, the Jewish literary critic Isidor Elyashev, better known by his pseudonym Bal-Makhshoves, interceded in the language wars of his time with an influential piece on Jewish multilingual cultural traditions. “We have two languages and a dozen spirits from other foreign languages, but only a single literature,” he asserted. The reader, he continued, “who seeks to become acquainted with the currents of Jewish life, to comprehend the spirit of the Jewish masses and the individual, how it is expressed in Jewish literature, that reader does not separate Hebrew writers from Yiddish ones....All are representatives of our literature, all embody a piece of Jewish life in their writings; all of them are Jewish artists.” In an echo of Heinrich Heine’s 1840 declaration that the Bible is a portable homeland for the Jews, Bal-Makhshoves declared that the Jewish territorial homeland is its literature.

Bal-Makhshoves was responding in part to remarks made by the Yiddish writer Yitskhok Leybush Peretz in his 1908 speech to the Czernowitz Conference, a gathering in the Austrian (now Ukrainian) city convened to declare Yiddish a national tongue of the Jewish people: “We stroll in the evening in the streets and from various windows

stream out the sounds of different languages, all kinds of folk music. We want to have our own window: our own distinct motif in the folk symphony.” One hundred years later, in his 2008 book *Klezmer America: Jewishness, Ethnicity, Modernity*, our own Frankel faculty member **Jonathan Freedman** looked toward klezmer music rather than the symphony to write about Jewish culture. Klezmer, he suggested, with its “relentless and even definitional hybridity” and “ceaseless and even foundational revisionism” can be seen as a metaphor for the modern American Jewish experience.

At the Frankel Center, we too recognize that Jewish cultures—now generally spoken of in the plural—are expressed in a variety of languages. They include not only Yiddish and Hebrew but also Arabic, Aramaic, Czech, English, German, Ladino, Polish, and Russian, to name only a few of the languages our faculty teach. This diversity is one of the factors that gives Jewish literatures and cultures such universal resonance.

**Shachar Pinsker**, for instance, just published *Women’s Hebrew Poetry on American Shores*, a book that reminds us of the many locales in which Hebrew poetry is written. Pinsker’s forthcoming book will similarly challenge our associations

between language and space by exploring the writers who penned their works in Yiddish in Berlin, in Hebrew in Odessa, as well as in German, English, Russian, and Polish. **Mikhail Krutikov** looks at how the Ukrainian and Lithuanian capitals of Kiev and Vilna were depicted in the Yiddish, Russian, Polish, and Ukrainian-language writings of Jewish authors, while **Jindřich Toman** is exploring how Jews expressed imperial and national identities in Czech literature in the 1830s and 1840s. **Maya Barzilai** works at the intersection of Hebrew, German, and Yiddish writings, and **Julian Levinson** is writing on Jewish self definitions and bibliophilism in the context of American Protestantism. Issues of space, place, and language are also explored in *Languages of Modern Jewish Cultures: Comparative Perspectives*, edited by **Joshua Miller** and **Anita Norich**, a volume that emerged out of the 2011 Frankel Institute theme year on Jewish Languages.

Whether our students are learning Hebrew, participating in our Yiddish or Ladino reading groups, or studying one of the other languages offered at U-M, the Frankel Center helps them access a variety of Jewish literatures and situates them within the aural soundscape of Jewish cultures. ■

# Dissertations of Distinction

**M**ichael S. Bernstein, who was killed at the age of 36 in the 1988 Pan Am 103 bombing over Lockerbie, Scotland, unquestionably led a life of distinction. After graduating from U-M with honors, he earned advanced degrees from Johns Hopkins University and the University of Chicago Law

School. He went on to join the Office of Special Investigations (OSI), the Nazi-hunting unit of the U.S. Department of Justice, where he was appointed assistant deputy director. Bernstein was responsible for the deportations of seven former Nazis who had entered the United States illegally.

This month, we salute the first two recipients of the newly created Michael S. Bernstein Dissertation Award. Our awardees are past graduate students who honor his memory with their excellence of scholarship, research, and contribution to Judaic Studies.

Photo by Sarah Nesbitt



**Sara Feldman**

**MA:** Judaic Studies

**PhD:** Near Eastern Studies

**“Fine Lines: Hebrew and Yiddish Translations of Alexander Pushkin’s Verse Novel *Eugene Onegin*, 1899–1937”**

**About her dissertation:** “My dissertation is about the ways in which Jewish writers from Eastern Europe used their knowledge of Russian literary history as a means of building up their own literary culture in Jewish languages. I examine

19th- and early 20th-century Yiddish and Hebrew translations of the Russian verse novel *Eugene Onegin*, which is notoriously difficult to translate. These texts allow me to examine both the overt pronouncements that they make about Jewish cultural development and the actual problems and achievements of their projects.”

**About studying at U-M:** “I became interested in Jewish Studies because I suspected that the contemporary phenomenon of ‘Off the Derech’ Jews—those who leave Orthodoxy—had its predecessor in 19th- and early 20th-century Eastern European Jewish culture. I wanted to explore the relationships between Jewish and Russian culture as well as the iconoclastic development of modern

Hebrew from its roots in liturgical language. I chose Michigan not only because of its strengths in Hebrew and Russian, but also because Michigan was an outstanding place for Yiddish.”

**Future plans:** “I am currently working to build up the Hebrew and Yiddish programs at the University of Illinois, where I teach language courses and have begun hosting a film series. After publishing a monograph based on my dissertation, I intend to pursue my research interests in Russian-Jewish cultural intersections as well as in contemporary Orthodox/Off the Derech culture. I will also continue to pursue activities for the preservation of Yiddish and for the protection of public higher education.” ■



**Josh Friedman**

**Graduate Certificate:** Judaic Studies

**PhD:** Anthropology

**“Yiddish Returns: Language, Intergenerational Gifts, and Jewish Devotion”**

**About his dissertation:** “I’ve always been interested in the connections between global capitalism and Jewish

cultural production. In my dissertation, I explored this topic by asking how American Jewish philanthropy has impacted Yiddish culture in the United States. Transformations unfolding within the world of Yiddish serve as windows into social, economic, and political processes that strike at the heart of American Jewish life.”

**About studying at U-M:** “I studied religion at Wesleyan University, and was involved in Jewish life there. Afterwards, I worked briefly within the American Jewish nonprofit sector. These contexts foregrounded questions about American Jewish life that I wanted to pursue on a deeper level. I knew that Michigan

offered one of the best anthropology departments and one of the strongest Jewish Studies programs in the country. It was a perfect fit.”

**Future plans:** “My first publication based on my research will be released soon, and I plan to continue publishing in academic forums as I work toward transforming my dissertation into a book. I ultimately want to be a college professor. My own academic mentors, at Wesleyan and Michigan, had a major impact on me: intellectually, professionally, and personally. In my research and teaching, I want to do the same for undergraduate and graduate students.” ■

# Bosmat Nossan: Lady Gaga

**An Israeli dancer and choreographer teaches the particulars of Gaga movement at U-M.**

Imagine a group of dancers wiggling, twisting, stretching, and contorting their bodies into various seemingly awkward positions while never ceasing to move. That's how "Gaga movement" may appear to the uninitiated; yet according to Frankel visiting artist Bosmat Nossan, it's really about an exploration of the body.

"In a Gaga class, you move freely and try to listen to what that movement creates in your body," she explained. "And then you try to take over, to control it, to develop your skills through being more aware and engaging different muscles in specific actions. Your passion to move initiates the movement and helps you explore what the range of the movement can be."

Nossan, who is a visiting Frankel Center artist, is teaching Gaga movement to students in U-M's Department of Dance through April. She will also be presenting a lecture and performance, "The Influences of Gaga," at the 15th annual Ann Arbor Jewish Film Festival on April 13. The event, which takes place at 2 pm at the Michigan Theater, 603 East Liberty, is co-sponsored by the Frankel Center, the Israel Institute Schusterman Visiting Artist Program,

U-M's Center for World Performance Studies, and the Department of Dance. It is the first in the Frankel Speaker Series, a new program geared toward students and made possible by an anonymous donor.

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**— Bosmat Nossan**

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Nossan was a dancer with the internationally acclaimed Batsheva Dance Company in Tel Aviv, where artistic director Ohad Naharin originated Gaga movement. Prior to that, she toured internationally with the Inbal Pinto and Avshalom Pollak



Photo by Itay Waiser

Dance Company. A preeminent Gaga teacher for many years, Nossan's own choreography has been presented at festivals throughout Israel and commissioned by the Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company.

"Gaga technique is all the rage in the dance world now, and dancers are traveling the globe to study this technique," noted Department of Dance Chair Jessica Fogel. "In a Gaga class, each dancer generates his or her own movement vocabulary in response to the guidance of the teacher. Through their studies with Bosmat, our students are gaining a new awareness of how to dance from within, translating verbal imagery and prompts from Bosmat into highly individualized and expressive movement."

Nossan, who is visiting Ann Arbor for the first time, hopes that her students will learn much more than dance technique from her Gaga classes. "I want them to develop an awareness of listening while dancing—listening to their bodies, to space, and to other people. I want them to experience all the possible ways one can move," she said. "And I want them to enjoy the pleasure of learning about themselves and what they can do." ■

# The “Frankely Judaic” Podcast

It is no longer necessary to be in Ann Arbor to enjoy the scholarship presented by fellows of the Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies. Just boot up a laptop, tablet, or smartphone—and listen.

The new “Frankely Judaic” podcast, now available on iTunes and SoundCloud, highlights some of the innovative research being conducted by Frankel scholars, showing how humanities research is relevant to listeners’ lives today.

“The ‘Frankely Judaic’ series is a great way to translate academic research on Jewish topics for a wider lay audience,” said Jeremy Shere,



Jeremy Shere

who hosts the podcast. “So much academic research, while often fascinating, is rarely accessible to people outside the academy.

‘Frankely Judaic’ harnesses the power of audio, and the rising tide of podcasting generally, to enable anyone to engage with the talented scholars doing cutting-edge work in Judaic Studies.”

The author of *Renewable: The World-Changing Power of Alternative Energy*, Shere is familiar to radio audiences from NPR’s “A Moment of Science” and “Sound Medicine.” After graduating from the University of Michigan, he completed a PhD in English and Jewish Studies at Indiana University.

**2015-16: “Secularization/Sacralization”**

The screenshot shows three podcast episodes from the 2015-16 season, each with a play button, a waveform, and a duration of 13:45. The episodes are:

- Shaul Kelner, "The Soviet Jewry Movement"
- Guy Stroumsa, "The Secularized Study of the Abrahamic Religion..."
- Kirsten Fermaglich, "A Rosenberg by Any Other Name"

“We envisioned the ‘Frankely Judaic’ podcast as much more than just an interview or a recording of a lecture,” explained Jeffrey Veidlinger, director of the Frankel Center. “Each episode of ‘Frankely Judaic’ is professionally produced and edited to present scholarly research in an accessible and entertaining form that makes you want to listen. They are a great way of learning in the car, or while jogging, biking, or even doing the dishes.”

The first podcast episode, “A Rosenberg by Any Other Name,” asks why so many American Jews changed their names in the 20th century. In order to find out, Shere speaks with Kirsten Fermaglich, a fall 2015 fellow of the Frankel Institute and associate professor of history at Michigan State University. Other episodes explore the American movement to free Soviet Jewry (with Shaul Kelner) and the relationship between Judaism, Christianity, and Islam (with Guy Stroumsa).

“The scholars I’ve interviewed for the podcast have been not only articulate and passionate about discussing their work, but also excited at the prospect of their scholarship reaching a wider audience beyond the gates of academia,” Shere said. “Personally, as a former academic and current

**“‘Frankely Judaic’ harnesses the power of audio, and the rising tide of podcasting generally, to enable anyone to engage with the talented scholars doing cutting-edge work in Judaic Studies.”**

**– Jeremy Shere**

writer and producer, I feel that this project offers great value for anyone interested in Judaism, Jewish history, Jewish sociological studies, and related topics.” ■



# Graduating Class of 2016

## Undergraduates - Minors



**Daniel Gordon**

Major: Political Science

*"Through my involvement in the Jewish community on campus in conjunction with my Judaic Studies courses, I have been able to expand my knowledge of Jewish history, become more proficient in Hebrew, and grow my understanding of the variety of Jewish practices and beliefs."*



**Tessa Shapiro**

Majors: Biopsychology, Cognition, and Neuroscience

*"Studying the incredibly rich history of Judaism, as a religion, culture, and people has helped and inspired me to better understand the present."*



Photo by Luna Anna Archey

**David Weinfeld**

Majors: Biopsychology, Cognition, and Neuroscience

*"I decided to study Judaic Studies to continue to learn about my religion, its history, and its place in modern society."*



**Maya Levine**

Major: International Studies

*"Being a Judaic Studies minor at U-M has allowed me to broaden my understanding of my heritage and inspired me to be a Jewish leader of my generation."*



**Marti Silver**

Majors: Biopsychology, Cognition, and Neuroscience

*"I was interested in the different classes that the university offered and wanted to learn more about our past."*



Photo by Luna Anna Archey

**Kayla Winer**

Major: Psychology

*"I enjoyed learning what I thought I've always known from a different perspective."*

They hail from places like New York, Michigan, and Washington, DC, and they plan to go on to medical school, the nonprofit world, and the military. We are proud to introduce this year's diverse cohort of Frankel Center graduates.

## Undergraduates - Majors



**Polina Fradkin**

Majors: Judaic Studies and International Studies

Minor: Russian

*"My gap year in Israel cultivated my interest in Judaic Studies, and from it I have gained a deeper knowledge of Jewish history, culture, and philosophy from some of the most incredible professors of my college career."*



**Daniel Pearlman**

Majors: Judaic Studies and Political Science

Minor: Art History

*"As a freshman, I never anticipated majoring in Judaic Studies, but as I took more classes, I realized that this is a field I am passionate about."*

## Graduates - Master's



Photo by D.C. Goings

**Kelly Onickel**

*"I converted to Judaism when I was 21, and at U-M, I have gained a much broader education in the literature, history, language, and theologies of Judaism."*



Photo by Leisa Thompson

**Sam Ujdak**

*"The interdisciplinary approach I found in Judaic Studies continues to open doors to new methodologies, entire bodies of subject matter for study, and deeply fruitful professional relationships."*

## Graduate Certificates



Photo by Luna Anna Archey

**Jason Zurawski**

PhD: Near Eastern Studies

*"Studying Judaic Studies at the Frankel Center while earning my PhD in Near Eastern Studies has reminded me of the larger implications of my work, revealed new ways of reading ancient Jewish literature, and opened up new possibilities for understanding the complicated and diverse world of the Second Temple period."*



# A Degree in Judaic Studies

Whether by remembering Anne Frank or working with drones, Frankel Center alumni lead diverse and meaningful careers.



**Name:** Robin Axelrod

**Education:** BA in Judaic Studies from U-M, 1983; JD from Wayne State University, 1987; MSW and Certificate in Jewish Communal Service and Judaic Studies from U-M, 1997

**Title:** Director of Education at Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus, Farmington Hills, MI; founder of Axelrod Consulting

## Job responsibilities:

“My primary focus is on the 65,000 guests who visit the Holocaust Memorial Center (HMC) each year, particularly the 30,000 of whom are students. Our visitors come from all over the world. On any given day, the museum is filled with visitors of all races and religions. The education department touches students in three distinct ways: by preparing students prior to visiting the museum; by teaching them during their visit; and by continuing their learning once they return to the classroom.

“We also educate people outside the museum in a variety of settings. For example, our ‘Anne Frank Journaling Project’ is designed to teach young people about the power of expression. Perhaps the most poignant and meaningful place we took the project was to the Macomb County Juvenile

Justice Center. Incarcerated children ranging from ages 10–17 understood confinement and the lack of freedom in ways that others could not.”

## About studying at the Frankel Center:

“Majoring in Judaic Studies afforded me the opportunity to take a wide variety of courses ranging from Hebrew language, literature, and poetry to a class on the Arab-Israeli conflict that culminated in a weekend-long experiential simulation game. Most of my classes were small, which allowed me to really get to know my professors, each of whom fostered a sense of intellectual curiosity. I delved into subjects that I already loved and explored material that I had not known existed. The research and critical thinking skills I learned at U-M, particularly while writing my senior thesis, prepared me

well for law school and, later, for grad school. Indeed, they are essential tools that I use to this day.”

## Special projects:

“One of the most cherished parts of my job at the museum is teaching about the life and legacy of Anne Frank. The Holocaust Memorial Center is one of 11 sites in North America to house a sapling from the original tree outside the window of the Franks’ hiding place in Amsterdam. Anne Frank wrote about the tree several times in her diary, describing the comfort it provided her while in hiding. Her gifted writing skills and unrealized hopes of a rich future have profoundly impacted me since I first received a copy of her diary when I was 13. Beyond my work at HMC, I am a consultant to a variety of nonprofit organizations. My consulting involves curriculum development, organizational advancement, and individual mentoring and coaching. I love working with people around the country.”

## Advice to students who are considering studying Judaic Studies:

“Go for it! Judaic Studies can provide a solid foundation upon which one can build an exciting and fulfilling career. Whether that career is in law, teaching, the rabbinate, politics, medicine—anything, really—the analytic skills one learns in many Judaic Studies courses will prove invaluable and last a lifetime.” ■





**Name:** Max Slutsky

**Education:** BA in Judaic Studies and political science from U-M, 2010

**Title:** Special Assistant to the Administrator at the Federal Aviation Administration, Washington, DC

**Job responsibilities:**

“I work closely with the Federal Aviation Administrator on operational and policy matters. In this position I draft, edit, and review briefing materials in support of the Administration’s priorities and coordinate policy matters between the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the U.S. Department of Transportation. I also serve as an advisor on policy decisions presented to agency leadership.”

**About studying at the Frankel Center:**

“U-M’s Judaic Studies program offered a balance between traditional religious-oriented classes and courses that addressed social, cultural, and political issues relating to the Jewish community. This balance reflected my academic interests and drew me into the program. In particular, one of my favorite courses was Professor Karla Goldman’s ‘Jews and Social Justice,’ where we examined Jewish involvement in different social and political movements.

“I graduated in 2010 and almost immediately went to Israel for a government fellowship through the Menachem Begin Heritage Center. After that, I worked for the Obama campaign as their national Jewish

outreach coordinator. And that’s how I wound up in my position at the FAA, as an appointee of the Obama administration. I used what I learned from both of my majors—political science and Judaic Studies—in both my jobs in Israel and in the United States.”

**Special projects:**

“My position ends when the Obama Administration concludes in 2017 and so, for better or for worse, I know the end date of this position. But in a way knowing when the experience ends keeps me motivated to get things done between now and then. One topic I’m currently working closely on focuses on unmanned aircraft systems, more commonly known as drones. These

could range from extremely small systems to those operated for much larger tasks, like fighting wildfires. There are many different ways to use drones, which present challenging questions like, how do you balance the needs of two vastly different aviation communities—manned and unmanned—with limited airspace and also maintain an environment where innovation is able to thrive? We are spending a lot of time and resources on this, and that’s something I will continue to work on very closely throughout the year.”

**Advice to students who are considering studying Judaic Studies:**

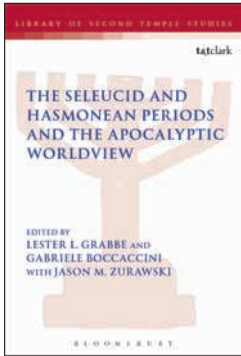
“Focus on the things that you are going to enjoy and want in the future. If you are interested in rabbinic or scholarly work, focus on biblical classes. If you are more interested in the social sciences, I recommend courses from Professor Goldman and Professor Dash Moore. I occasionally get a strange look from people when they hear that I work for the FAA, but have a Judaic Studies degree. My experience in the Judaic Studies program helped me develop as a writer and analytic thinker—skills needed no matter what industry or in what sector you work. I would highly encourage those to consider this program whether you intend to pursue a career in the Jewish communal sector or elsewhere.” ■

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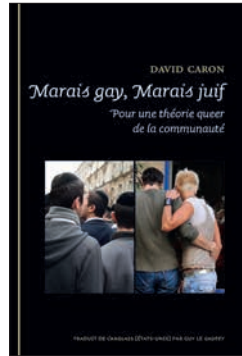
—Max Slutsky

# Frankel Ink

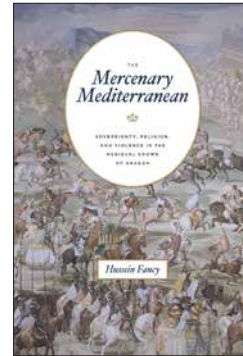
A sampling of some of the latest scholarly publications written or edited by our faculty and fellows.



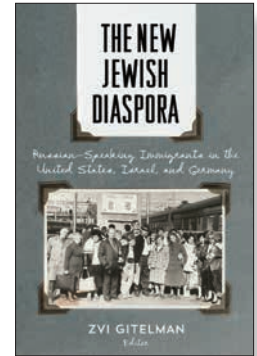
**Gabriele Boccaccini, Lester Grabbe, Jason Zurawski**  
*The Seleucid and Hasmonean Periods and the Apocalyptic Worldview*



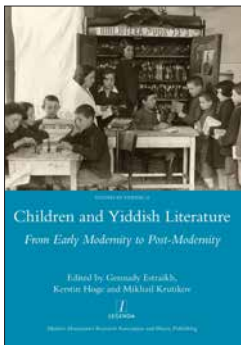
**David Caron**  
*Marais gay, Marais juif: Pour une théorie queer de la communauté.*



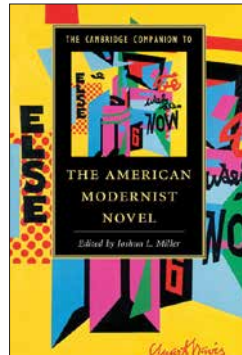
**Hussein Fancy**  
*The Mercenary Mediterranean: Sovereignty, Religion, and Violence in the Medieval Crown of Aragon*



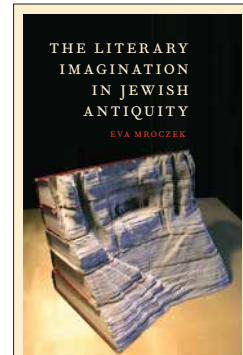
**Zvi Gitelman**  
*The New Jewish Diaspora: Russian-Speaking Immigrants in the United States, Israel, and Germany*



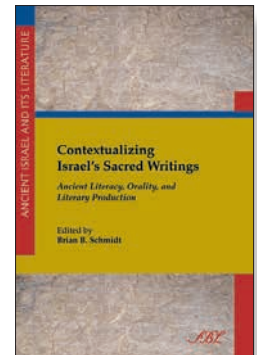
**Mikhail Krutikov**  
*Children and Yiddish Literature: From Early Modernity to Post-Modernity*



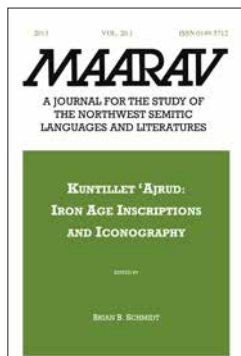
**Joshua L. Miller**  
*The Cambridge Companion to the American Modernist Novel*



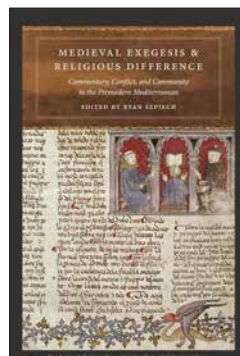
**Eva Mroczek**  
*The Literary Imagination in Jewish Antiquity*



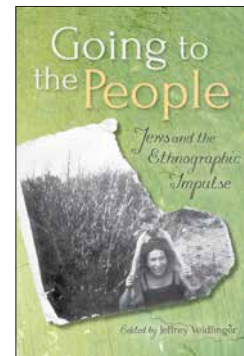
**Brian Schmidt**  
*Contextualizing Israel's Sacred Writings: Ancient Literacy, Orality, and Literary Production*



**Brian Schmidt**  
*Kuntillet 'Ajrud: Iron Age Inscriptions and Iconography*



**Ryan Szpiech**  
*Medieval Exegesis and Religious Difference: Commentary, Conflict, and Community in the Premodern Mediterranean*



**Jeffrey Veidlinger**  
*Going to the People: Jews and the Ethnographic Impulse*

# MAZEL TOV!

## Graduate Students

**Joanna Mazurkiewicz** received a Rackham International Student Fellowship for 2015–16.

**Kelly Onickel** received the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies Simeon Brinberg Outstanding Student Award Prize.

**Sam Shuman's** review of Maya Balakirsky Katz's book, *The Visual Culture of Chabad*, was published in *Images: A Journal of Jewish Art and Visual Culture*.

## Faculty

**Maya Barzilai** presented her paper, "The Golem of New York: Popular Culture for Jewish Immigrants," in a panel on "Jews, Jewishness, and Popular Culture" at the January MLA Convention in Austin, Texas.

**Zvi Gitelman** was awarded a short-term fellowship at the Herbert Katz Institute for advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. He recently lectured at a Limmud event in Birmingham, England, as well as at the "Jewish Parents Academy" in Brooklyn, New York.

**Mikhail Krutikov's** book, *Children and Yiddish Literature: From Early Modernity to Post-Modernity*, is dedicated in memory of **Shlomo Berger**, a past fellow at the Frankel Institute, whose chapter appears in the book.

**Ellen Muehlberger** has been awarded a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities for the 2016–17 academic year. She is also a recipient of the College of LSA's Class of 1923 Memorial Teaching Award. Her latest article, "Simeon and Other Women in Theodore's Religious History," appeared in the December issue of the *Journal of Early Christian Studies*.

**Shachar Pinsker's** recent published articles include "A Modern (Jewish) Woman in a Café: Leah Goldberg and the Poetic Space of the Coffeehouse,"

in *Jewish Social Studies*; and "Warsaw in Hebrew Literature 1880–1920: New Perspectives," in *Studia Judaica*.

**Brian Schmidt** has been appointed series editor of the Society of Biblical Literature's *Archaeology and Biblical Studies* monographs.

**Jeffrey Veidlinger** was elected a vice president of the Association for Jewish Studies, and published "Tsene-rene: In the Language of Ashkenaz" in *AJS Perspectives*. Together with **Mikhail Krutikov** and **Geneviève Zubrzycki**, he is co-editor of the new book series, "Jews in Eastern Europe," with Indiana University Press.

## Visiting Faculty

**Shelley Perlove's** article, "Rembrandt and the Bible: Visual Exegesis," appeared in the *Oxford Encyclopedia of the Bible and the Arts* (2015).

## Fellows

In November, **Jeffrey Abt** presented a lecture at the Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies, Columbia University.

## Past Fellows

Artist **susan c. dessel** recently presented "Brick in a Soft Hat: Activist, Suffragist, Crusader, Martha Gruening '1909'" at Smith College.

**Lois Dubin's** article on Trieste appeared in *Enzyklopädie jüdischer Geschichte und Kultur/ Encyclopedia of Jewish History and Culture* (2015). In October, she gave a lecture on "Diversity on the Frontiers: The Jews of the 18th Century Free Port of Trieste—and Beyond" at the *Gli ebrei nella storia del Friuli-Venezia Giulia: Una vicenda da lunga durata* international conference.

**Jennifer Glaser's** new book is *Borrowed Voices: Writing and Racial Ventriloquism in the Jewish American Imagination* (2016)

**Richard Kalmin's** recently published articles include "'Manasseh Sawed Isaiah with a Saw of Wood': An Ancient Legend in Jewish, Christian, Persian, and Arabic Sources" in *The Archaeology and Material Culture of the Babylonian Talmud* and "Zechariah and the Bubbling Blood: An Ancient Tradition in Jewish, Christian, and Muslim Literature" in *Jews and Christians in Sasanian Babylonia*.

**Hana Wirth-Nesher's** new book is *The Cambridge History of Jewish American Literature* (2015).

## Alumni

In February, **Nick Block** organized the international symposium "Contested Jewish Futures" at Emory University's Tam Institute for Jewish Studies, where he presented "Tales of the German-Jewish Future: Fear, Destruction, and Yiddish Takeovers."

**Anna Cichopek-Gajraj** received an honorable mention from the 2015 Barbara Heldt Prize for the best book by a woman in Slavic/Eastern European/Eurasian Studies for *Beyond Violence: Jewish Survivors in Poland and Slovakia, 1944–48* (2014). She also received the 2016 Shofar Zakhor Award from the Phoenix Holocaust Survivors' Association for exhibiting and carrying the work of Holocaust education, Holocaust remembrance, and community interaction.

**Erica Lehrer's** article, "Thinking through the Canadian Museum for Human Rights," appeared in *American Quarterly* (2015).

**Emily McKee's** latest book is *Dwelling in Conflict: Negev Landscapes and the Boundaries of Belonging* (2016).

**Avery Robinson** has been awarded a fellowship at the New York-based Mechon Hadar.

**Kaitlin Schuler** is a new reporter for the Medill News Service.

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## Coming Soon

Highlights of the Irwin Alterman Haggadah Collection will be on display in the Frankel Center beginning in early April.

The collection was recently acquired by the U-M Library with the help of the Frankel Center, and includes more than 1,800 Haggadahs, which is believed to be the largest Haggadah collection of any American public university. The unique compilation belonged to the late Irwin Alterman of West Bloomfield, and was donated by his widow, Marilyn McCall Alterman.



Photo by Luna Anna Archey

For more information about our events,  
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