From the Interim Director

As my year as Interim Director of the Borns Jewish Studies Program (JSP) comes to a close, I look back and find myself astonished at the continued breadth and energy of our extraordinary faculty, students, staff, and supporters. Recalling the rich variety of courses and events that comprised this year, I saw, as never before, the invaluable role of Jewish Studies (JS) in helping students think about the ever-shifting world around them. My first class session of fall 2017 coincided with a solar eclipse; and as I looked out over more than a hundred students who would devote a part of their studies to the many angles of Jewish identity, the metaphor of moving from temporary darkness to enlightenment proved an apt metaphor. Just as my colleagues regularly face crowds of students seeking knowledge in Hebrew Bible, Jewish/Christian/Muslim comparative studies, the Holocaust, and other important topics, so did I recognize the weight of my responsibility to give students a meaningful insight into our world, with JS as the lens.

By the end of the spring, with a late snowfall imminent (and cold metaphors already overused), I welcomed 110 students, colleagues, parents, advisory board members, and other supporters at our annual gala dinner as we celebrated our year together and launched our graduates with pride. It was a great moment, an affirmation of all that we do to help students go out and change the world.

An outstanding program is so because of its people, and each year’s magazine cover features another impressive group for us to recognize. This year, the assembled students and faculty range the gamut: The first Director of the JSP, Alvin Rosenfeld, is observing a half-century at Indiana University (IU) — and the establishment of both a professorship and a scholarship in memory of his beloved wife Erna. Morgan Morales and Sean Sidky represent our active JS Graduate Student Association (JSGSA), which among other things, held its sixth international conference in February. Master’s degree student Emily Franchy, our Stolnitz Award winner, highlights the program’s continued excellence in Yiddish study; and Steven Kaplin who just completed the M.A. in JS and is now pursuing the Ph.D. in Religious Studies (RS) at IU, represents another of our superb graduate students. Sarah Imhoff and Jason Mokhtarian celebrated their final months as assistant professors after successful bids for tenure and promotion; and our program’s Director, Mark Roseman, was named a Distinguished Professor. And Assistant Director, Carolyn Lipson-Walker, whose boundless energy and devotion have been such a gift to the Borns JSP for the past quarter century, received a coveted IU Professional Staff Merit Award — as well as her own named scholarship so generations of future students can benefit from her outstanding work with the program. Every year’s new round of honors and achievements brings a new set of faces: Look back over your collection of JSP magazines, and in aggregate, you can see a distinguished and impressive history.

I then urge you to read closely through this issue, to see the rest of our year — from our many stimulating speakers and visitors, to our incubation of Or Matias’s brand new musical The Wave (look for it at a theater near you!), to an international conference on prominent mid-twentieth century German brothers and philosopher/activists Gershon and Werner Scholem, to our first-ever extension of the Joan and Samuel New Institute into Chicago, to our successful co-nomination of IU Folklore Ph.D. alumna and Polin Museum Chief Curator Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett for an honorary doctorate, to the establishment of Olamot: The Center for Scholarly and Cultural Exchange with Israel — to my knowledge the first center of its kind in the US! Throughout, we have aimed to think BIG: in scholarships for our students and support for our faculty, in our numerous campus-wide partnerships, and in our national and international reach.

As I hand the reins back to Mark Roseman, let me say what an honor it has been to spend these months with an incredible staff, a brilliant faculty, and inspiring students. Keeping up with the shifting times requires hard work, but the Borns JSP is up to the task — with many more milestones to come.

Judah Cohen, Interim Director
Lou and Sybil Mervis Chair in the Study of Jewish Culture
Associate Professor, Jewish Studies and Musicology
Erna B. Rosenfeld Professorship and Scholarship Created

We are pleased to announce that The Erna B. Rosenfeld Professorship and The Erna B. Rosenfeld Scholarship in JS were established this past year to honor the memory of Professor Alvin Rosenfeld’s wife of fifty years.

With a significant gift from Alvin, and a generous gift from The Samerian Foundation, The Erna B. Rosenfeld Professorship will create a faculty position whose holders will have exceptional qualifications and expertise in teaching and scholarship in the area of antisemitism, with a strong preference for post-Holocaust or contemporary antisemitism. The professorship will provide a legacy of support to maintain IU’s prominent position as a center of excellence in the study of antisemitism.

The Erna B. Rosenfeld Scholarship, an annual scholarship open to IUB graduate and undergraduate students, was created to encourage serious study of the manifestations, character, and consequences of anti-Jewish hostility, especially in the post-Holocaust period. These scholarships for study and research on antisemitism are made possible by donations from Alvin Rosenfeld, Dr. Myron and Myrna Weinberger, and many others. The first Erna B. Rosenfeld Scholarship was awarded for the 2018-2019 year.

Erna worked for IU for over 35 years, receiving the Professional Staff Merit Award for her work as the Area Coordinator for IU Residence Life. Erna was born in Romania in 1939 and knew first-hand some of the horrors and displacement of World War II. Perhaps for that reason, she became an unusually caring, generous-hearted person and did a great deal for countless numbers of people in need, including thousands of IU international student families.

Ensuring Our Future for Generations to Come

Significant New JS Endowments Established

As part of the IU Bicentennial Campaign, generous individuals made significant contributions, establishing new JS endowments that will ensure that the Borns JSP can continue to educate and nurture future generations of leaders in Jewish communities and beyond.

Dr. Stephanie Borns-Weil and Alex Borns-Weil, of Brookline, MA, have given a Bicentennial Scholarship endowment for JS undergraduates and graduate students. A Bicentennial Scholarship in LAMP and JS, endowed by Frank Selby, of Wilmington, DE, will support students pursuing both JS and the Liberal Arts Management Program certificate.

Myrna and Dr. Myron Weinberger, of Indianapolis, endowed the Weinberger Family Scholarship to support future Jewish Studies students.

A new endowment begun for The Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism (ISCA), by a major gift from Kathleen and Professor Leslie Lenkowsky, of Bloomington, with a matching gift from The Achelis and Bodman Foundation and other donors, will support ISCA in teaching about, monitoring, analyzing, and disseminating knowledge about global threats to Jewish communities and Jewish life.

The Gurin Family Fund

Parents of outstanding IU alumnus Benjamin Gurin (2012), Robin and Leonard Gurin, of Fishers, IN, have created The Gurin Family Fund, to be used for JS student expenditures for travel to academic conferences, general scholarships, and other needs to support students and faculty. Ben will be ordained as a rabbi by Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in spring 2019. This past year, he spent in Pardes Institute’s Kollel program in Jerusalem. Robin and Leonard are IU graduates and members of the JSP advisory board. See photo on page 10 (with Provost Robel as well as Ben’s wife Myra Meskin).
2018-2019 Upcoming Events

FALL 2018

Lotus World Music & Arts Festival Concert with Josh “Socalled” Dolgin, Canadian rapper and record producer
His recordings include “The Socalled Seder,” “Bubermiseis,” “Solomon & Socalled Hiphophasene,” “the-funk-meeting-klezmer “Tweet Tweet,” and “Isaac Babel’s Tales from Odessa” (A Socalled Yiddish Musical).
—Presented in partnership with support from The Lou and Sybil Mervis Chair in Jewish Cultural Studies
Saturday evening, September 29

“Symposium: Antisemitism in the 21st Century”
Sponsored by the Indianapolis Jewish Community Relations Council in collaboration with IUPUI, the IU Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism, and The Borns Jewish Studies Program.
For more information, contact the JCRC (info@indyjcrc.org)
Wednesday, October 10 • 8:30 am – 3:30 pm • Indianapolis

“The Co-Present in the Holocaust: Replacing the Western Ally as a Bystander?”
Two lectures by Professor Tony Kushner, University of Southampton and Dr. Aimee Bunting, Godolphin and Latymer School, UK
Helen & Martin Schwartz Lectures in Jewish Studies
Tuesday, October 23 “The Co-Present: Space in Auschwitz and Belsen”
Wednesday, October 24 “The Co-Present: Performing Memory”
Both lectures will begin at 5:30 pm • Global & International Studies Building, Room 1060

“Leipzig” by Wendy Graf
Jewish Theatre of Bloomington’s fall production of a multi-award winning play explores the journey of an Irish Catholic family in Boston. When the mother descends into Alzheimer’s and begins praying in Hebrew, she unwittingly reveals her long-held secret that she is Jewish, a child refugee of the Holocaust. Directed by Jenny McKnight, IU Department of Theatre, Drama, and Contemporary Dance
Pearl Schwartz Program Fund in Judaism and the Arts
October 25 & 27, November 1 & 3 • 7:30 pm
October 28 • 3:00 pm
Rose Firebay, Ivy Tech John Waldron Arts Center

SPRING 2019

“Marking and Seeing Jewishness”
7th Annual Jewish Studies Graduate Student Association Conference. Keynote lecture by Professor Susannah Heschel, Eli Black Professor of Jewish Studies, Dartmouth College.
February 7-8, 2019 • Dogwood Room, Indiana Memorial Union

“A Retrospective of the Films of Avi Nesher: Israeli Cinema as World Cinema”
A weeklong visit by noted Israeli filmmaker Avi Nesher which will include a public lecture, a meeting with students, and Q&As after film screenings.
Olamot: Center for Scholarly and Cultural Exchange with Israel and the IU Cinema
February 18-22 • IU Cinema

“Contending with Antisemitism in a Changing Political Climate: An International Scholars’ Conference”
Convened by the Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism
March 23-26 • Indiana Memorial Union

“The Future of Jewish Studies”
Borns Jewish Studies conference organized by Professors Sarah Imhoff and Aziza Khazzoom
April 4-5 • Global & International Studies Building, Room 1060

Professor Simone Lässig, Director of the German Historical Institute
Dorit and Gerald Paul Lectures for the Study of Germans and Jews
Tuesday, April 9 • Oak Room, Indiana Memorial Union, IU Bloomington
Wednesday, April 10 • Indianapolis
Both lectures will begin at 5:30 pm
2018–2019 Faculty – Graduate Student Workshops/Book Launches

Friday, September 7
“The View From Oran: A Jewish Port at the Dawn of French Algeria”
Professor Josh Schreier, Vassar College

Friday, September 21
“Contested Notions of Lashon Ha-Ra among the Early Rabbis”
Dr. Charles Bernsen, Borns JSP Visiting Scholar

Friday, October 20
“Why Are There No Mermaids in the Mishna?”
Professor Mira Wasserman, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College

Friday, November 2
“Global Jewish Foodways: A History”
Professors Hasia Diner, New York University and Simone Cinotto, University of Gastronomic Sciences, Italy

Friday, November 30
Beyond the Racial State: Rethinking Nazi Germany
Book Launch with Distinguished Professor Mark Roseman, Borns JSP and Department of History

Friday, January 18
“Anti-Semitic Soviet Policing after Stalin and the Response of the Soviet Yiddish Writer”
Charles Bonds, History Ph.D. candidate and JS minor

Friday, February 1
“Dahn Ben-Amotz and Multiple Identity Politics”
Roy Holler, Comparative Literature Ph.D. candidate and JS minor

Friday, February 15
“Haskalah, Jewish Nationalism and the Multi-National Middle Class in the Late Ottoman Balkans”
Dr. Tamir Karkason, Olamot Fellow

Friday, March 1
“Family Secrets in Double Life: Secret Doubt and the Internet among Ultra-Orthodox Jews”
Professor Ayala Fader, Fordham University

Friday, March 29
Jewish Religious Music in Nineteenth-Century America
Book Launch with Professor Judah Cohen, Borns JSP and Department of Musicology

We Welcome 2018-2019 Visiting Scholar
Charles Bernsen

Charles Bernsen is the Borns JSP’s Visiting Scholar this year teaching “Modern Jewish European History,” “Introduction to Jewish History: From Spanish Expulsion to the Present,” and a graduate course on “Black-Jewish Relations since the Civil War.” He completed his Ph.D. dissertation, “Lashon-ha-Ra (The Evil Tongue) and the Problem of Jewish Unity,” (Vanderbilt University) which explored how prohibition against lashon ha-ra served to limit discourses of intolerance in both the ancient rabbinic texts in which it arose and Sefer Hafetz Chaim, a 19th century legal code and commentary on lashon ha-ra by Lithuanian Rabbi Israel Meir Kagan. Bernsen’s current project examines a contemporary American Haredi social movement based on Kagan’s work, with the self-professed aim of eradicating lashon ha-ra and thereby hastening the messianic age.

Dr. Bernsen’s research interests include Jewish history and thought, American Jewish identities, American Jewish culture, theory and method in the study of religion, religious pluralism, the ethics of public discourse, and media ethics. We welcome him and his wife Deborah White to the Borns JSP!
In its first year of operation (2017-2018), the Borns JSP’s Olamot: The Center for Scholarly and Cultural Exchange with Israel enjoyed a number of remarkable achievements thanks to the hard work of its founding Director, Professor Noam Zadoff. Olamot’s main goal is to facilitate closer ties between the Borns JSP and Israeli academics and artists by enriching IU Bloomington with a series of Israel-related initiatives on campus. In a time of increasing academic boycotts of Israeli institutions of higher learning, Olamot’s mission of strengthening the ties between IU and Israeli universities has never been more important.

In 2017-18, Olamot succeeded in creating a new book series through IU Press that will fund the translation of innovative scholarly books from Hebrew into English, thereby making the best of Israeli scholarship accessible to an English-speaking audience. The Center is thrilled to announce the upcoming publication of the first two books in this series, both written by distinguished Israeli scholars: The Jewish Eighteenth-Century: A Biography, 1700-1750 by Shmuel Feiner and Jews of Bar-Ilan University, and Germans against Germans: A Jewish History, 1938-1945 by Moshe Zimmermann of HUJ.

Another major initiative of Olamot is to bring visiting scholars to IU Bloomington (IUB) each academic year to teach two classes. In its first year, the Center hosted the renowned translator Dr. Jeffrey Green to serve as the Visiting Scholar.

Under the guidance of the Center’s new director Professor Jason Mokhtarian, Olamot is excited to welcome Tamir Karkason (HUJ), a distinguished young historian of Sephardic Jewry, who will teach two courses in Israel Studies in the spring semester. This year will also see an expansion of Olamot’s programming, including inviting several guest lecturers and the visit of a noted Israeli director Avi Nesher in conjunction with IU Cinema.

With the generosity of Barbara and Joseph Alpert of Indianapolis, The Center for Scholarly and Cultural Exchange with Israel Fund was established. Olamot invites you to visit its new website (https://olamot.indiana.edu/) and to support and expand its mission of bringing more Israel-related activities to the IU campus.

### Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism

Now in its 9th year, the Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism (ISCA) sponsors annual courses and public lectures on antisemitism on the IUB campus and is actively engaged in several major research projects on a global scale. One of these involves ISCA scholars in qualitative research among more than 150 Arab and Kurdish refugees who have recently arrived in Germany from Syria and Iraq. The study focuses on problems of antisemitism, Islamism, and integration. A preliminary report of the project’s findings was presented in Berlin in December, 2017. An English translation of this report should be available in the near future.

In cooperation with the U.S. Department of State and under the guidance of Günther Jikeli, ISCA’s Associate Research Scholar, a number of IU students engaged in a spring 2017 project, “Best Practices to Combat Antisemitism on Social Media”. The students did intensive research into messages of hatred and incitement on social media, and attempted to devise ways to address them effectively. This was a preliminary attempt to investigate this important, but still understudied area, that will continue under Dr. Jikeli’s direction this coming year.

Another ISCA project of global reach took place in India in October and November of 2017, when Alvin H. Rosenfeld, ISCA’s Director, served as scholar-in-residence and visiting lecturer at universities in Calcutta and New Delhi. The aim of this project is to help advance the study of the Holocaust and of antisemitism at Indian universities, whose curricula, to date, for the most part, do not include coverage of these subjects. Future collaboration between ISCA scholars and Indian colleagues carry the promise of increasing interest in both subjects among Indian students and faculty members. In addition, ISCA scholars presented lectures on antisemitism at universities and other institutions in America, France, Germany, and Israel.

In March, 2019, ISCA will host “Contending with Antisemitism in a Changing Political Climate,” its 4th international scholars’ conference on antisemitism in the last 8 years. The previous conference, “Anti-Zionism and Antisemitism: The Dynamics of Delegitimization,” drew some 70 scholars from a dozen countries. Expectations are that the next conference will be at least as large and diverse. A major aim will be to better understand today’s antisemitism against a backdrop of rising nationalism and illiberalism on the right, new forms of intolerance and anti-liberal movements on the left, and militant deeds and demands within radical sectors of political Islam. A volume of selected conference papers should be forthcoming in 2020.

In close cooperation with IU Press, ISCA is engaged in the publication of important new research through the book series Studies in Antisemitism, edited by Alvin H. Rosenfeld. To date, ten volumes have been published, and others are forthcoming. They include Resurgent Antisemitism, Deciphering the New Antisemitism, and the forthcoming Anti-Zionism and Antisemitism.

We are also especially pleased to note the publication of three numbers of Antisemitism Studies, edited by the Canadian scholar Catherine Chatterley and published by IU Press.

For further information about the activities of ISCA, see https://isca.indiana.edu.
Mark Roseman, JSP Director, Promoted to Distinguished Professor

During the 2017-2018 year, Mark Roseman, Director of the Borns JSP, was promoted to the university’s highest academic rank for scholars and researchers — Distinguished Professor. Since the rank was created and awarded to Menahem Pressler almost 50 years ago, there have been only 71 Distinguished Professors at IU. Mark is the first IU JSP member to receive this honor. Director of the Borns JSP, Pat M. Glazer Chair in JS, and now Distinguished Professor of JS and History, Mark is one of the most influential historians in his generation of modern German and the Holocaust. His books include the definitive account of the conference at which Nazi leaders planned the elimination of the Jews of Europe The Villa, The Lake, The Meeting and A Past in Hiding: Memory and Survival in Nazi Germany, winner of multiple awards, including the prestigious Geschwister Scholl Prize — about a young Jewish woman who went underground to escape capture in Nazi Germany. His four monographs have been translated into multiple languages, and he has edited five books on German history and published over 60 articles and book chapters. He is a former Levine International Scholar at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and has led the museum’s Silberman Seminar for university faculty. He has done us proud!

Carolyn Lipson-Walker, Assistant Director
Honored on 25th Year with 2017 IU Professional Staff Merit Award

Dr. Carolyn Lipson-Walker, Assistant Director of the Borns JSP, was honored by Provost Lauren Robel on her 25th year in the Borns JSP with the 2017 IU Professional Staff Merit Award. Professor Alvin Rosenfeld who served as Director during Carolyn’s first decade at the Borns JSP wrote about her: “Since January 4, 1993, she has been a crucial part of the program’s growth and success, from curriculum to development, and especially to the hundreds of students she has recruited, advised, and helped to launch into an astonishing array of careers. It would be difficult to find her match on this or any other campus.”

Current Director Mark Roseman wrote: “Any prospective, current or past student of the program will testify to Carolyn’s transformative commitment. She has helped make us into the dedicated learning community that we are. She sustains our wonderful majors and certificate students while they are here, and it is thanks to her that so many alumni have become life-long supporters and Friends after they have graduated.”

In honor of Carolyn’s quarter decade in the Borns JSP and to thank her, the Dr. Carolyn Lipson-Walker Outstanding Senior Scholarship was created in spring 2018.

Alvin Rosenfeld Celebrates 50 Years of Teaching at IU

Professor Alvin H. Rosenfeld, the first Director of the JSP who served in that capacity for 30 years, will mark his 50th year of teaching on the Bloomington campus during 2018-2019. In addition to Alvin’s gifted administrative leadership and vision in building an outstanding JSP program, he has passionately and skillfully taught thousands of students, so many of whom have been moved by his teaching, and departed from IU enlightened about the richness of Jewish culture and history, and also, about humanity’s potential for inhumanity. The depth of Alvin’s teaching legacy to IU and the Borns JSP is enormous.

He is the founder and Director of the JSP’s Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism and he marshalled resources to make IU Press a preeminent address for JS scholarship. A defining voice in the field of Holocaust literature and study of contemporary antisemitism, he has been an exemplar of scholarship, teaching, service, and leadership in JS. Kudos and our gratitude to Alvin!

Tamir Karkason will be the First Visiting Olamot Scholar from Israel

This coming spring, Tamir Karkason will be Olamot: The Center for Scholarly and Cultural Exchange with Israel’s first Visiting Teaching Scholar from Israel. He will teach an undergraduate course “Zionism and the State of Israel” and a graduate colloquium on “Israel: History, Society, Culture.”

Karkason is completing his dissertation at Hebrew University of Jerusalem (HUJ) entitled: “The Ottoman-Jewish Haskalah (Enlightenment), 1839-1908: A Transformation in Western Anatolia, the Southern Balkans and Jerusalem Jewish Communities,” under the supervision of Professor Yaron Ben-Naeh. This study focuses on a circle of ninety maskilim in the Ottoman Empire who were active between the 1830s and 1890s. Karkason’s project represents the first major work dedicated to the Jewish enlightenment in the Ottoman Empire.

Prior to his Ph.D. studies, he completed an M.A. at Tel Aviv University (2013). He is currently working on a monograph study, adapted from his M.A. thesis, exploring the connections between Eliezer Ben-Yehuda and the Sephardi community in Jerusalem.
2017-2018 Public Lectures, Performances, and Conferences

Academic Conferences and Workshops

— “Jewish Storytelling: Traditions and Transformations,” 6th Annual JS Graduate Student Association conference. Keynote speaker: Professor David Shneer, University of Colorado. Convened by JSGSA President Julia Riegel and VP Morgan Morales. Presenters included graduate students from IU (Jake Beckert, Steve Kaplin, Adah Hetko, Roy Holler, Meghan Paradis, Julia Riegel, and Lindsey Pullum-Foulks), McGill University, Carleton University, University of Augsburg, University of Chicago, University of Chicago Divinity School, and University of Ottawa.

— “Werner and Gershom Scholem: Two German Lives,” a book-symposium in celebration of the publication of Werner Scholem: A German Life by Mirjam Zadoff and Gershom Scholem: From Berlin to Jerusalem and Back by Noam Zadoff. Keynote address by Hannan Hever, Yale University. In addition, to Professors Zadoff, participants were: Steven Aschheim, HUJ; David Biale, UC Davis; Michael Brenner, American University; Eric Jacobson, University of Vermont; Martin Jay, University of California Berkeley; Shaul Magid, IU; Michael Morgan, University of Toronto/IU; Anson Rabinbach, Princeton University; Na’ama Rokem, University of Chicago; and Elliot Wolfson, UC Santa Barbara.

Performances/Arts

Our continuing commitment to showcase the arts:

Melvin and Betty Cohn JS Institute Fund

— Underwriting IU Jewish a cappella group Hooshir’s cd “Hoosh on Third”

Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism

— Showing of the film “The Children of Chabannes”
— Showing of the film “Son of Saul” and discussion with lead actor and poet Géza Röhrig in this Academy Award-winning film. Günther Jikeli led the discussion.
— Commission of new musical composition by Lauren Bernofsky (text “The New Colossus” by Emma Lazarus) performed by Anne Slovin, soprano, and Michael Gaertner, piano, at the Borns JSP Gala Dinner on April 15, 2018.

Public Lectures and Events

Joan and Samuel New Institute for the Study of Judaism and the Jews

— “Turning Points in Zionist History: From the Balfour Declaration to the Six-Day War and Beyond” at the Spertus Institute for Jewish Learning and Leadership in Chicago. With IU JSP professors, Judah Cohen, Sarah Imhoff, Shaul Magid, and Noam Zadoff.

Dorit and Gerald Paul Program in Jewish Culture and the Arts

— Dr. Boris Sandler, noted Yiddish writer and editor of Forverts (1998-2016), “The Influence of the Holocaust on the Work of the Postwar Generation of Writers in Bessarabia,” (in Yiddish) and film
screening of “Fridays at Leyvik House” with discussion led by Boris Sandler.

**Alvin H. Rosenfeld Chair in Jewish Studies**

- “Refugees, Art, and Journalism,” a panel with British cartoonist and activist Kate Evans, author of Threads: From the Refugee Crisis and American cartoonist and illustrator Sarah Glidden, author of Rolling Blackouts, in conversation with Professor Mirjam Zadoff.

**Lillian Solotkin Lecture**

- Carol Bakhos, UCLA, “What’s in a Name? The Use and Abuse of ‘Abrahamic’ in Interfaith Dialogue”.

**Co-sponsored Lectures and Events**

- Ariella Azoulay, Brown University, “Potential History of the Archive: A Micro Study of a Macro Institution”.
- Ruth Behar, “Entrusting Myself to the Beauty and Danger of Life: Journeys of an Ethnographic Writer”.
- “Centering the Periphery: Polish Jewish Cultural Production beyond the Capital” symposium. The 2018 Rutgers University Polish JS Workshop, Halina Goldberg, of IU’s Musicology and JS faculty, was one of the organizers of the symposium, which included “The Soundscapes of Jewish Modernity: Jews and Music in Polish Cities” concert.
- “Exemplary Affect: Rethinking the Roots of Modern Sensibility” workshop
- Benjamin Lawrence, University of Arizona, “Africa’s First Failed Asylum Seeker? Dugmore Boetie’s Abortive Apartheid Exile”.
- Diana Matut, University of Halle-Wittenberg, “Henekh Kon: Beyond ‘The Dybbuk’”.
- Zachary Zuckerman, University of Haifa, “Diaspora as a Model: On the Transfer of the Motif of ‘The Stateless Nation’ between Polish Nationalism and Zionism”.
- “Transatlantic Explorations in Polish and East European Studies” graduate student workshop at IU’s Europe Gateway in Berlin (with participation from Professor Mark Roseman and doctoral student Julie Riegel).

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**A Collaborative JS Faculty & Graduate Student Community 2017-2018**

**JS Faculty & Graduate Student Workshops**

Our faculty and graduate students join in an intellectual community:

- Debra Caplan, Baruch College, CUNY, “Reassessing Obscurity: Data, the Vilna Troupe, and Digital Humanities Praxis”.
- Sarah Ifft Decker, IU, “The Greener Grass: Gender, Acculturation, and Real Estate in Medieval Catalonia, 1250-1350”.
- Ellen Haskel, University of North Carolina, Greensboro, “Countenancing God: Facial Revelation and Ritual in the Zohar”.
- Joshua Lambert, National Yiddish Book Center, “Letters of Recommendation: Lionel Trilling’s Students and Postwar Jewish Literature”.

**Book and Journal Launches**

- Dr. Catherine Chatterly, University of Manitoba and Canadian Institute for the Study of Antisemitism and Editor-in-Chief of Antisemitism Studies, Volume 1 (IU Press, 2017).

**Study Groups**

- Aramaic Reading Group - led by Nathan Mastnjak.
- Graduate Student Colloquium on Antisemitism – led by Günther Jikeli.
Spotlight on our Scholarship

Restoring the Sound of the Nineteenth Century American Synagogue

by Professor Judah M. Cohen
Lou and Sybil Mervis Chair in the Study of Jewish Culture; Associate Professor, Jewish Studies and Musicology

Compared to the grand history of Jewish music in Europe, antebellum America might seem at first like a quiet backwater. The young nation lacked the resources to produce “great” music. Its Jewish population, still taking root, could only aspire to Europe’s majestic and well-developed practices. Logically, America could hold little role in the grand sweep of Jewish music until after World War II. My years of fieldwork with American Jewish cantorial students enforced this view: nineteenth century America rarely received any attention in cantorial education, save the occasional dervise remark that synagogue musicians of the time lacked knowledge and artistry and produced little of lasting value.

And then I looked at the historical record.

In Jewish Religious Music in Nineteenth Century America, I present a world of music that has long been buried. In doing so, I seek not only to reinstate America’s active role in transatlantic synagogue music development, but also to rethink our assumptions about the European nature of “Jewish music” and the longevity of the cantorate.

What America lacked in infrastructure, it balanced with an active and exploratory cultural and religious landscape. Jewish populations, like other minority religious denominations, began small but grew in number and resources during this time, from about 15,000 in 1840 to about 250,000 by 1880. In numerous communities small and large, they engaged deeply with the country’s emerging, dynamic musical voice. Europe had its conservatories; but America fostered a lucrative, welcoming, and liberal environment, more open to innovation than Europe as it laid the groundwork for its own musical institutions.

Current research emphasizes the importance of religious “reform” to the introduction of organ- and choir-based synagogue music, most prominently by composers in urban European synagogues such as Salomon Sulzer (Vienna), Samuel Naumbourg (Paris), Hirsch Weingraub (Königsburg), and Louis Lewandowski (Berlin). A closer look at communities in the U.S., however, reveals a broader canvas upon which Jews made their musical choices, closely by shifting the angles of the stories that we already tell, we can learn more. 

Forgotten names pervade the book, replacing silence with a meaningful soundtrack. G. M. Cohen, who travelled from New York to Chicago to Cincinnati, and then Cleveland where he published a pair of synagogue singing school manuals (The Sacred Harp of Judah [1864] and The Orpheus [1872]); Paducah, Kentucky minister G. S. Ensel, whose 1880 book Ancient Liturgical Music comprised America’s first large-scale scholarly account of Jewish musical history; Samuel Welsch, a student of Salomon Sulzer, whose tenure at New York’s Ahawath Chesed congregation from 1865-1880 raised the ante of cantorial music; and Baltimore cantor Alois Kaiser, also a Sulzer student, who collaborated with Welsch to create the four-volume compendium of synagogue music Zimrath Yah (1871-1886) and led America’s cantors in compiling America’s first national hymnal (The Union Hymnal, 1897). Their music once served as the sounds of the synagogue, accompanying the text of several different prayer books. As American Jewish liturgies consolidated in the run-up to the twentieth century, the music began to give way to the new sound of the Eastern European cantor.

Placed alongside the rise of singing society culture in the 1840s, and the development of a congregational singing movement in the 1880s, these interwoven portraits reintroduce a complex view of sound to an era that has long remained buried in Jewish history. Music gives us a new understanding of how people discussed the nature of American Judaism and its continuity (or non-continuity) with the mostly Central European lands from which its practitioners migrated. By looking at the American Jewish example, moreover, we can also broaden our understanding of the ways that various communities contributed to the growing American musical tapestry of the mid-nineteenth century.

Ultimately, I hope that this book provides a meaningful argument for the irreducible nature of music in Jewish life amid a changing and maturing American landscape. The nineteenth century bears some responsibility for historians’ continued tendency to relegate music to “specialists”: during that era, musicology became its own discipline, and the trend toward musical specialization became a pretext for cantors to form their own professional organizations, scholarly discourse, history, and musical aesthetics. Widening the circle to see how music pervaded the community as a whole, however, shows music’s more appropriate place during this era as a subject of enthusiastic general knowledge and discussion. In other words, by shifting the angles of the stories that we already tell, we can learn much about how we have come to define ourselves, and how we can see ourselves differently, if only we trusted our historical “ears” a bit more.

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IU Press – Jewish Studies Publications for 2018
by Dee Mortensen, Editorial Director of IU Press

Preparing this column affords me the pleasure of reflecting on events and activities from last year while looking forward to a new slate of exciting publications forthcoming from IU Press (IUP). In January 2018, Choice, a publication of the American Library Association, published its list of Outstanding Academic Titles. Two IUP JS titles were recognized for their overall excellence in presentation and scholarship, importance, distinction, and value in teaching: The IU JSP’s own Michael L. Morgan’s book, Levinas’s Ethical Politics (which began its life as a Helen and Martin Schwartz Lecture in JS) and our landmark bestselling Comprehensive Yiddish-English Dictionary.

IUP publications due out in the fall of 2018 include a strong list across all disciplines:

Our Studies in Antisemitism series, edited by Alvin H. Rosenfeld features two new books: Georges Bensoussan, Jews in Arab Countries: The Great Uprooting retells the story of what life was like for Jews in the Arab world since 1850; and a volume edited by Alvin H. Rosenfeld, Anti-Zionism and Antisemitism: The Dynamics of Delegitimization discusses the infused rhetoric that exceeds the boundaries of legitimate criticism of Israel and conflates anti-Zionism and antisemitism. Perspectives on Israel Studies, edited by S. Ilan Troen, will publish a three volume set, My Struggle for Peace: The Diary of Moshe Sharett, a remarkable political document offering insights into the young Israeli government; Alan Dowty’s, Arabs and Jews in Ottoman Palestine: Two Worlds Collide which reveals how events that occurred over 125 years ago shaped the conflict in the Middle East today; and, Moshe Shemesh’s, Palestinian National Revival: In the Shadow of the Leadership Crisis which offers an IDF insider’s view of the development of the movement.

The new Jews in Eastern Europe series, edited by Jeffrey Veidlinger, Mikhail Krutikov, and Geneviève Zubrzycki, will publish Harriet Murav’s book, David Bergelson’s Strange New World: Untimeliness and Futurity which considers one of the luminaries of Russian and Yiddish modernism; and, Alyssa Quint’s, The Rise of the Modern Yiddish Theater that focuses on the golden age of Yiddish theater as a way to understand Jewish life in late Imperial Russia.


The IUP Jewish Literature and Culture series, edited by Alvin H. Rosenfeld, is thriving with the publication of two important books: Alan Rosen’s, The Holocaust’s Jewish Calendars: Keeping Time Sacred, Making Time Holy which sheds new light on how Jews maintained connections to time even within the cauldron of the Holocaust; and Judith Ruderman’s book, Passing Fancies in Jewish American Literature and Culture which takes on the fraught question of who passes for Jewish in America.

Other new books include: Alejandro Paz’s, Latinos in Israel: Language and Unexpected Citizenship, which discusses how migrant populations start to belong and become recognized as citizens; Nina Caputo and Mitchell Hart’s edited volume, On the Word of a Jew: Religion, Reliability, and the Dynamics of Trust, an outstanding set of essays that reflect on the mechanics of trust in everyday interactions involving Jews; a new edition of Samuel Kassow’s, Who Will Write Our History?: Emanuel Ringelblum, the Warsaw Ghetto, and the Oyneg Shabes Archive, that incorporates information about the new film as well as new research; Alex J. Kay and David Stahel argue for a more comprehensive understanding of what constitutes Nazi violence and who was affected in their edited volume Mass Violence in Nazi-Occupied Europe; and The First Book of Jewish Jokes: The Collection of L. M. Bűscherthál, edited by noted humor and folklore scholar Elliott Oring, challenges readers to confront the Jewish joke from a genuine historical perspective.

Titles recently published in the spring of 2018 are: the revised and expanded edition of The Operation Reinhard Death Camps: Belzec, Sobibor, Treblinka by Yitzhak Arad; The United States Holocaust Memorial Encyclopedia Encyclopedia of Camps and Ghettos, 1933-1945: Camps and Ghettos under European Regimes Aligned with Nazi Germany, volume III; Holocaust Public Memory in Post-Communist Romania, edited by Alexandru Florian; Françoise Ouzan’s How Young Holocaust Survivors Rebuilt Their Lives: France, the United States, and Israel; Anti-Zionism on Campus: The University, Free Speech, and BDS edited by Doron Ben-Atar and Andrew Pessin; Jewish Family: Identity and Self-Formation at Home by Alex Pomer and Randal F. Schnoor; Aimée Israel-Pelletier’s On the Mediterranean and the Nile: The Jews of Egypt; The Jewish Economic Elite: Making Modern Europe by Cornelia Aust; In Search of the Hebrew People: Bible and Nation in the German Enlightenment by Ofri Ilany; Martin Buber’s Theopolitics by Samuel Hayim Brody; Levinas and the Trauma of Responsibility by Cynthia D. Coe; The Phenomenon of Anne Frank by David Barnouw (translated from Dutch); Silver Screen, Hasidic Jews: The Story of an Image by Shaina Hammerman; A History of Jews in Germany since 1945: Politics, Culture, and Society by Michael Brenner and others; and Framing Sukkot: Tradition and Transformation in Jewish Vernacular Architecture by Borns JSP graduate Gabrielle Anna Berlinger.

IUP JS books and journals — Aleph, Antisemitism Studies, History & Memory, Israel Studies, Jewish Social Studies, Nazism, and Prooftexts — are actively publishing new content. As always, they are available in electronic as well as print form.

Readers seeking further information or wishing to order books and journals may visit IUP’s website: iupress.indiana.edu; Indiana University Press, Office of Scholarly Publishing, Herman B Wells Library 350, 1320 E. 10th Street, Bloomington, IN 47405-3907.
With the expansion of activities and needs of the Borns JSP, we are delighted that the indispensable JSP Advisory Board continued to grow. We welcome newest members Gail Berman, Emily Borns, Leonard Gurin, and Robin Gurin.

The Borns JSP benefits from the vision, positive energy, and generosity of an excellent Executive Committee and Advisory Board. These leaders, who are deeply committed to JS at IU, have been essential for the Borns JSP’s success in community relations and fund raising. We are grateful to Andy Mallor, President of the Advisory Board, who works closely with the extraordinary Executive Director of Advancement for the College of Arts and Sciences Development office Travis Paulin and his team, and the board’s newly elected Vice President Drew Soshnick.

The advisory board met in Indianapolis on April 8, 2018. We are most grateful to our members for bringing their passion and experience to the program and our students:

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In Memoriam

The Borns JSP is deeply saddened by the deaths this past year of two long-time Robert A. and Sandra S. Borns JS Program Executive Committee members of our Advisory Board, two visionaries who were deeply devoted to the work of the Borns JSP. Few, if any, rivaled Lou Mervis and Len Goldstein in their energy, dedication, and success on our behalf. We will remember them with great respect and affection. Len and Lou were men whose enthusiasm, generosity, charm, and deep humanity made a lasting impact on JS and the world.

Leonard Goldstein | September 20, 1920 – April 20, 2018

Leonard Goldstein, of Fort Wayne, IN, spearheaded the campaign to establish the Alvin H. Rosenfeld Chair in JS (first held by Professor Jeffrey Veidlinger and now held by Professor Mirjam Zadoff) for which he worked tirelessly to raise $1,200,000 from 173 donors. As the JSP advisory board President for two terms, Len also initiated a successful campaign to create fellowships and scholarships that raised close to $2 million dollars for IU students. Len and his wife Rikki (Ruth) established the Leonard M. And Ruth K. Goldstein Matching-the-Promise Scholarship in JS, a four-year scholarship that was initially awarded to an incoming freshman in fall 2010. What motivated Len was his love for the study of Jewish culture, and his dedication to education, in general, and to the next generation.

A retired business executive (the founder of Midland, Inc.), his commitment to public service was apparent in his role as past president of the Fort Wayne Community School Board, serving during the critical years of racial segregation and busing controversies. He was a board member of the Indiana ACLU, and former president of the Arts United board. In 2008, Len Goldstein, a non-lawyer, received the Liberty Bell Award from the Allen County Indiana Bar Association for his outstanding service rendered to the Fort Wayne community. Fittingly, he was named in the inaugural group of honorees of the Indiana Jewish History Society’s Hoosier Legends. Nominated by the Borns JSP, Len received the prestigious IU Foundation’s Cornerstone Award in 2010, which recognizes an individual whose partnership has been instrumental in the success of a single IU campaign or fundraising initiative for a campus, program, or school.

Louis Mervis | August 26, 1934 – October 8, 2017

Inspired by Herman B Wells and guided by the Jewish principle of “tikkun olam” (repairing the world), Louis “Lou” Mervis (B.S. ’56,) and his wife Sybil’s exceptional generosity came in gifts of transformative endowments to the JSP, including a faculty chair and four scholarships for undergraduates. The establishment of the Lou and Sybil Mervis Chair in Study of Jewish Culture (held by Professor Judah Cohen) and a 4 year endowed scholarship for a Jewish sacred music student made possible the establishment of IU’s one-of-a-kind Jewish Sacred Music (pre-cantorial) program. Lou said that out of all his many philanthropic gifts over the years, the JSP scholarships and the Lou and Sybil Mervis Chair in Jewish Cultural Studies were the projects that meant the most to him.

For over 30 years, Lou and Sybil served as members of the JS Advisory Board and, since its inception, as key members of the program’s Executive Committee. After making the lead gift to the JS Israel scholarship campaign, they motivated other donors to support the endeavor, leading to ten endowed scholarships. Most recently, Lou and Sybil offered a challenge grant for the endowment and the construction of a much-needed new IU Hillel building that will further transform Jewish student life on the Bloomington campus in the future.

Lou built Mervis Industries, in his hometown of Danville, Illinois, into a multi-state business. He was a consummate civic leader and a valued mentor for many. In 2013, Lou and Sybil received IU Foundation’s President’s Medallion. Fittingly, to recognize their extraordinary dedication and service to IU, the Mervises were later awarded The Herman B Wells Visionary Award.

The week after Lou’s death, he was awarded the 2017 “Business Presentations Most Admired Person Award” by students in the Business Presentation course who had the pleasure to hear him speak.
Graduate Student News

We Welcome New Graduate Students to the Borns JSP

We are delighted to welcome new graduate students: M.A. students Hannah Mills (Holocaust history) and Eliana Schechter (American Judaism) and doctoral students Jakob Bruenig (RS) with an interest in the Holocaust and sexuality, and Klil Agassi (NELC) with an interest in contemporary Israel.

Graduate students at the annual JS gala dinner with Professor Sarah Imhoff, JSP Director of Graduate Studies

Axelrod Completes M.A. in JS and History; Bollman, Hetko, and Kaplin Complete M.A. in JS

M.A. Theses


Adah Hetko, “Lineage, Language and Community Commitment: Contemporary Yiddish Women Singers and their Development of Yiddish Identity”

Steven Kaplin, “Simcha Bunem and the Expanding Boundaries of Hasidism”

Collegial and Nurturing JS Graduate Community

The JSP’s graduate student community is an unusually lively and supportive one, led by its active graduate student association (JSGSA), meeting monthly throughout the academic year to share dinner, presentations of papers, and peer review. In February, 2018, the JSGSA sponsored its 6th annual international conference “Jewish Storytelling; Traditions and Transformations,” with a most animated and intriguing keynote, “Performance as Storytelling: The Radical Musical Life of Lin Jaldati” by Professor David Shneer of the University of Colorado. Conference presenters included four students from the University of Chicago, students from three Canadian universities, a student from the University of Augsburg, and many IU graduate students. Our graduate students participated in a nuts-and-bolts conversation with Jerry Singerman, University of Pennsylvania Press, about publishing a monograph, and met with Evgeny Finkel, The George Washington University, to discuss “The Historical Turn in Social Science Research: Questions, Theories and Evidence.” With support from an American Academy for Jewish Research Special Initiatives grant, the JSGSA continued a second year of shared workshops with Purdue University students — in spring 2018 on the Purdue campus. In Spring 2019, IU student Roy Holler will speak at Purdue, and Purdue student Marc Smith will present a lecture on the IUB campus.

Leading the JS graduate community for the 2018-2019 year will be JSGSA officers Morgan Morales, president; Meghan Paradis, vp, Jake Beckert, treasurer, and, Claire Woodward, secretary.
Our M.A. Students

Jacob Beckert’s research focuses on the history of the relationship between Jews in the U.S and Israel, with a focus on Zionism, nationalism, and conceptions of Homeland and Diaspora. At the spring JSGSA conference, he delivered a paper “There and Back Again: Conceptions of Homeland and Diaspora among American Jews after Returning From Living in Israel.” This year, his second year at IU, he will continue work on his thesis exploring the relationship between the ideology of Ahad Ha’am and Jewish American organizations. He looks forward to serving as treasurer of the JSGSA.

Emily Franchy, a second-year student, received a Title VIII Fellowship to begin the study of Ukrainian this past summer. She was the recipient of the 2018 George and Monique Stolnitz Yiddish Prize. Her thesis will focus on Holocaust memory and pedagogy in Eastern Europe.

In April, Adah Hetko defended her master’s thesis. Last spring, she presented a paper on her thesis research at the IU JSGSA conference and also co-presented with Dr. Judah Cohen at the IU Institute for the Digital Arts and Humanities Spring Symposium, on a project they developed to map the history of 19th century synagogue music. This fall, Adah began a fellowship at the National Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, Massachusetts.

Steve Kaplin completed his M.A. in JS in the spring and this fall he began coursework towards a Ph. D. in Religious Studies at IU. He studies modern Judaism, with an emphasis on Hasidism.

Morgan Morales, the 2018-2019 JSGSA president, will be going into her third year pursuing two master’s degrees — one in JS and one in History. Last year, she continued her study of Yiddish and began a research project on the Łódź Ghetto photography of Henryk Ross. This summer, with support from the Sara and Albert Reuben Scholarship, she conducted archival work for her thesis on shifting gender relations in German Jewish families between 1933-1938.

Jordan Sommers is entering his final year in pursuit of dual master’s degrees in Russian/East European History and JS. Supported by a Sara and Albert Reuben Fellowship, he spent summer 2018 in Ukraine, where he conducted archival research in preparation for his thesis. With funding from a Portable Title VIII Fellowship from the U.S. Department of State, he also studied advanced Ukrainian at Ukrainian Catholic University in L’viv.

Our Doctoral Minor Students

Roy Holler (Comparative Literature) is writing his dissertation, currently titled “Remembering to Forget: Passing in Hebrew Literature,” supervised by Professors Eileen Julien, Stephen Katz, and Chana Kronfeld (of UC Berkeley). Roy is the recipient of the 2018-2019 College of Arts and Sciences’ Dissertation Research Fellowship. During the last academic year, he presented papers at the AJS annual conference and the American Comparative Literature Association annual meeting.

Yehuda Magid (Political Science) is working on his dissertation on the topic of Israeli settler violence. Last year, he taught two political science courses at IU: “U.S. Foreign Policy” and “Ethnic Conflict: From Russia to ISIS to Israel Palestine.” His current projects examine the dynamics of vigilante violence, the behavior of pro-government militias, and the effects of protest campaigns and terrorism on patterns of state repression. He has developed a number of datasets related to these projects and he has conducted fieldwork in the West Bank to better understand the mechanisms underlying his quantitative data analysis.

Allison Posner (Comparative Literature) is living in Brooklyn, New York, and is working on her dissertation. She spent the summer

George and Monique Stolnitz Yiddish Prize

Emily Franchy

Emily Franchy, a first year M.A. student in JS, was awarded the 2018 George and Monique Stolnitz Yiddish Prize. Last fall, Emily joined a group of talented and hard-working graduate students who immersed themselves in studying Yiddish from scratch. The group made tremendous progress, but Emily truly excelled. A 2017-2018 recipient of the Robert A. and Sandra S. Borns Graduate Fellowship, her primary interests are modern, and in particular, Eastern European Jewish history, culture, and Yiddish music.

Emily Franchy and Professor Dov-Ber Kerler
of 2018 at the Yiddish Book Center as the Steiner Summer Yiddish Program teaching assistant. This fall, Allison will begin teaching English literature at HAFTR, a modern Orthodox yeshiva on Long Island.

Lindsey Pullum-Fouls (Anthropology) conducted ethnographic field research for her dissertation in both summer 2017 and 2018 with support from a Borns Family Fellowship grant-in-aid. Her research analyzes the discursive practices of belonging among Druze in Israel and the Golan Heights. She has presented her findings at national conferences on anthropology, Israel studies, and Middle East studies. She will be writing her dissertation this year.

Julia Riegel (History) is writing a dissertation titled “Musical Life in the Warsaw Ghetto: Sources from the Ringelblum Archive.” In the 2017-2018 academic year, Riegel attended international conferences in Warsaw and Berlin, served as the president of the JSGSA, and helped to organize the annual JSGSA conference.

With the support of a Fulbright Fellowship and a Saul Kagan Fellowship in Advanced Shoah Study, Meghan Riley (History) began her dissertation research in Paris. Her dissertation centers on American aid organizations in French concentration and internment camps during the Second World War and the Holocaust, and her advisor is Mark Roseman. In May 2018, she participated in the American Academy for Jewish Research Graduate Student Seminar at the University of Michigan. Last summer, she presented her work at the Saul Kagan Fellowship Conference in Jerusalem and participated in the Global Humanitarianism Research Academy, a competitive program that involves a week of discussions about the history of humanitarianism at the University of Exeter, followed by a week of research at the archives of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva. She will continue her research at archives in Paris, London, and the U.S. in the 2018-2019 school year, supported by funding from the Saul Kagan Fellowship in Advanced Shoah Studies, the American Academy of Jewish Research, the Borns JSP, and the IU Department of History.

Dale Spicer (Religious Studies) is preparing for his qualifying exams on critical disability theory, Judaism, the body and health, personhood, and the history of Islam. In spring 2018, he participated in the American Academy for Jewish Research Graduate Student Seminar at the University of Michigan. Last summer, she presented her work at the Saul Kagan Fellowship Conference in Jerusalem and participated in the Global Humanitarianism Research Academy, a competitive program that involves a week of discussions about the history of humanitarianism at the University of Exeter, followed by a week of research at the archives of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva. She will continue her research at archives in Paris, London, and the U.S. in the 2018-2019 school year, supported by funding from the Saul Kagan Fellowship in Advanced Shoah Studies, the American Academy of Jewish Research, the Borns JSP, and the IU Department of History.

Claire Woodward (Germanic Studies) is in her second year of the Ph.D. program and will complete the master’s portion this fall. She took two semesters of Yiddish last year, worked on narrative violence and side-taking in Fritz Breithaupt’s experimental humanities lab, and furthered ideas on conflict, identity, otherness, women, and minority representations in 20th century German literature and culture.

Juliane Wuensch (Germanic Studies) is writing her dissertation entitled “German-Jewish Female Identity and the Dream of an Egalitarian Society: A Comparative Study of Rahel Varnhagen, Rosa Luxemburg, and Hannah Arendt.” She works as an Associate Instructor for the Germanic Studies Department and the Kelley School of Business.

Ph.D. Alumni News

Mollie Ables (2016) is a Visiting Assistant Professor at Wabash College where she is teaching a senior seminar for music majors “Music, Faith, and Sacred Spaces” and a course “Music and Society.”

Mohammed Alghbban (2011), Associate Professor at King Saud University, directs the only Hebrew language program in the Gulf — a four-year degree program that culminates in his advanced literary translation course. On his Twitter account @Israel_issues, he translates Israeli headlines into Arabic and vice versa. His work was featured in Tablet magazine. He was a student of Professor Stephen Katz.

Jedidiah Anderson (2015), a Visiting Assistant Professor of Religion at Furman University, taught the university’s first Arabic class in fall 2017.

Erin Corber (2013) is Assistant Professor at Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia.

Devi Mays (2013), University of Michigan, contributed “Recounting the Past, Shaping the Future: Ladino Literary Representations of World War I,” in World War I and the Jews: Conflict and Transformation in Europe, the Middle East, and America, eds., Marsha Rozenblit and Jonathan Karp; and her article “Inherited Expedience,” appeared in the fall 2017 issue of AJT Perspectives (The Migration Issue).

Jolanta Mickute (2011) is Assistant Professor of History at Vytautas Magnus University in Lithuania. She is also academic director at Ethnic Kitchen (Pasaulio virtuvė) a non-profit organization that supports art projects and cultural intelligence enhancement training to strengthen integrated civil society in Lithuania. She published “The Vilner Troupe. 1916-30: A Transformation of Shund Theater: For the Sake of National Politics or High Art,” Jewish Social Studies 22, no. 3 (2017), and published with Joan Middendorf “What’s Feeling Got to Do with It? Decoding Emotional Bottlenecks in the History Classroom,” published online at Arts and Humanities in Higher Education.

Jill Smith (2004), John S. Osterweis Associate Professor of German, at Bowdoin College, is editing a volume on Jewish life post-1945 and post-1990 in Germany.

Margo Valles (2013), Assistant Professor of English at Michigan State University, was a Lilly Fellow during the 2017-2018 year.
For the 2018-2019 year, more than $130,000 of scholarship funding was awarded to JS majors, certificate students, JS minor, and Hebrew minor students and more than $87,000 of funding was awarded to graduate students.

Graduate Students

**Graduate Student Fellowships**
- Kilg Agassi (NELC) Borns Family Scholarship
- Jakob Breunig (RS) Borns Family Fellowship
- Hannah Mills (JS M.A.) Glazer Family Fellowship
- Eliana Schechter (JS M.A.) Graduate Studies in Yiddish Fellowship

**Grants in Aid of Research**
- Jacob Beckert (JS M.A.) Borns Family Fellowship Fund
- Nicollette van den Bogerd (Musicology) Borns Family Fellowship Fund
- Charles Bonds (History) The Alice Ginott Cohn, Ph.D. and Theodore Cohn (Yiddish) Fund
- Brian Hillman (RS) Borns Family Fellowship Fund
- Teresa Hoard-Jackson (Gender Studies) Sara and Albert Reuben Fellowship for Study of the Holocaust
- Morgan Morales (Dual M.A. in JS and History) Sara and Albert Reuben Fellowship to Support the Study of the Holocaust
- Meghan Paradis (History) The Inaugural Erna B. Rosenfeld Scholarship for Research on Antisemitism
- Lindsey Pullum-Foukis (Anthropology) Borns Family Fellowship Fund
- Meghan Riley (History) Sara and Albert Reuben Fellowship to Support the Study of the Holocaust
- Jordan Sommers (JS and History M.A.) Sara and Albert Reuben Fellowship to Support the Study of the Holocaust
- Kelly Webeck (Photography M.F.A.) Sara and Albert Reuben Fellowship to Support the Study of the Holocaust

**Friends of the Borns JSP Graduate Conference Funding**
- Brian Hillman (Religious Studies)
- Roy Holler (Comparative Literature)
- Yehuda Magid (Political Science)
- Lindsey Pullum-Foukis (Anthropology)
- Meghan Riley (History)

Undergraduate Students

**JS Undergraduate Scholarships**
- Harry Aaronson (Woodland Hills, CA) Robert A. and Sandra S. Borns Scholarship, Sandra and Stanley Trockman Scholarship
- Michelle Bennett (St. Louis, MO) Robert A. and Sandra S. Borns Scholarship (4 year) and Herb and Bernice Levetown Scholarship (4 year)
- Rebecca Bloom (St. Louis, MO) Karl and Rosey Krakovitz Scholarship (4 year) and Martha Ann Mervis Scholarship (4 year)
- Sarina Elsenbogen-Siegel (Evanston, IL) Selma Lee Mervis Young Scholarship for Jewish Sacred Music (4 year)
- Naomi Farahan (Carmel, IL) Irving Katz Scholarship
- Yotam Fisher-Pinsker (Ann Arbor, MI) Leonard and Ruth Goldstein Scholarship (4 year), Irving Glazer Scholarship (4 year), Robert A. and Sandra S. Borns Merit Scholarship, inaugural Erna Rosenfeld Scholarship (established by JSP faculty and staff)
- Clara Fridman (Carmel, IN) Robert A. and Sandra S. Borns Scholarship
- Maya Geller-Montague (Indianapolis, IN) Robert A. and Sandra S. Borns Merit Scholarship
- Ethan Goldberg (Dallas, TX) Robert A. and Sandra S. Borns Merit Scholarship
- Taylor Paige Guba (Indianapolis, IN) Roberta and Arthur Kroot Scholarship (4 year)
- Jordana Ichilov (San Antonio, TX) Karl and Rosey Krakovitz Scholarship (4 year), Robert A. and Sandra S. Borns Merit Scholarship
- Tahlia Korin (Indianapolis, IN) Robert A. and Sandra S. Borns Scholarship
- Leora Lindenbaum (Milwaukee, WI) Irving Glazer Scholarship (4 year), Henry Fischel, Ph.D. Scholarship
- Jacob Levy (Munster, IN) Robert A. and Sandra S. Borns Scholarship
- Aydin Mayers (Pleasantville, NY) Irving M. Glazer Scholarship
- Michael Mitgang (Newtown, PA) Robert A. and Sandra S. Borns Scholarship
- Jordan Schiff (Northfield, IL) Isadore Mervis Scholarship (4 year) and Robert A. and Sandra S. Borns Scholarship (4 year)
- Talia Schiff (Northfield, IL) Robert A. and Sandra S. Borns Merit Scholarship
- Merissa Schwab (Skokie, IL) Robert A. and Sandra S. Borns Scholarship
- Rachel Sendrow (Carmel, IN) Robert A. and Sandra S. Borns Scholarship
- Zoe Shir (Cooper City, FL) Edward M. Dayan Scholarship
- Jana Smilowitz (Alpharetta, GA) Robert A. and Sandra S. Borns Scholarship
- Tamar Tecktel (Henderson, NV) Robert A. and Sandra S. Borns Scholarship
- Margo Wagner (Snowmass Village, CO) Robert A. and Sandra S. Borns Scholarship and Percy Family Scholarship

**Spring 2018, Fall 2018, and 2018-2019 JS Undergraduate Israel Scholarships**
- Marina Bradley (HUJ, Dance Jerusalem) Marilyn R. Shevitz Overseas Study Scholarship
- Hannah Gilfix (HUJ) Fredric M. and Esther G. Fogle Overseas Study Scholarship
- Maryam Hindi (HUJ) Andrew C. and Jane A. Mallor Overseas Study Scholarship
- Mitchell Israel (HUJ) Karl and Rosey Krakovitz Overseas Study Scholarship; Louis L. and Sybil S. Mervis Overseas Study Scholarship, and Harry A. Alpert, J.D. & Jeanette Solotken Overseas Study Scholarship
- Meredith Grace Johnson (HUJ, Dance Jerusalem) David and Sylvia Zabinsky Overseas Study Scholarship, and Robert A. and Sandra S. Borns Scholarship, and Robert A. and Sandra S. Borns Scholarship
- Olivia Tokarski (HUJ, Dance Jerusalem) Irving and Sylvia Borns Fund for Overseas Study in Israel Scholarship
- Margo Wagner (HUJ, Jerusalem Sounds) Jeffrey B. and Iline S. New Overseas Study Scholarship

**Friends of the Borns JSP Undergraduate Conference Funding**
- Sarina Elsenbogen-Siegel (Evanston, IL)
- Clara Fridman (Carmel, IN)
- Maya Guthman (Bethesda, MD)
- Sydney Holt (St. Louis, MO)
- Jordana Ichilov (San Antonio, TX)
- Jacob Levy (Munster, IN)
- Jordan Schiff (Northfield, IL)
- Talia Schiff (Northfield, IL)
Undergraduate News

2017-2018 JS Graduates

JS Majors
With the 2017-2018 graduation, 325 students have completed the B.A. in JS since our major was established in 1992.

Dena Dave – Cincinnati, OH
Shayna Goodman (cum laude) – Santa Barbara, CA (Double degree: JS B.A. & Public & Environmental Affairs/Public Financial Management BSPA)
Toby Klein (with honors in JS) – Northbrook, IL
Hannah Morris (cum laude) - Memphis, TN

Outside Field in Music/Jewish Sacred Music
Shayna Plotnik – Framingham, MA

JS Certificate Students
The certificate program requires, at minimum, 8 courses in JS. Joining the 479 alumni of our certificate program (established in 1976) were graduates:

Gabi Glaser – Dunwoody, GA
Sage Greenstein – Miami, FL
Maya Guthman – Bethesda, MD
Sydney Holt – St. Louis, MO
Hannah Iskow (magna cum laude) – Rockville, MD
Talia Plotisky – Deerfield, IL
Samuel Sendrow – Carmel, IN

Jewish Studies Minor Student
The second student to complete the JS minor (which began in summer 2016) is:

Raya Seidman – Springfield, IL (a second-generation IU JSP student)

Hebrew Minor Students
The 15th class of students completing the JS minor in Hebrew:

Adi Reuveny – Bloomington, IN
Steven Sacks – Deerfield, IL
Abigail Sklar – Franklin, MI

Undergraduate Honors

Naomi Farahan received the College of Arts and Sciences’ most prestigious scholarship — The Palmer-Brandon Scholarship. She also is the sole undergraduate to be named to the search committee for the next Executive Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Professor Judah Cohen is also a member of the committee.

Only a tiny fraction of IU undergraduates attain the honor of being named to the College of Arts and Sciences Executive Dean’s List. In fall 2017, JS majors who were full-time students and earned at least a 3.7 GPA — Harry Aaronson, Michelle Bennett, Yotam Fisher-Pinssker, Ethan Goldberg, Taylor Guba, and Toby Klein — were named to the fall 2018 Executive Dean’s List.

News of This Year’s Graduates

Shayna Goodman is a student at She’arim seminary in Israel and plans to work in the Jewish community.

Hannah Iskow is a Student Life Associate at The American Hebrew Academy.

Toby Klein is pursuing a Ph.D. in Public Health and a master’s degree in Statistics and Data Analytics at the University of Arkansas.

Hannah Morris is serving in the IDF through the Garin Tzabar program.

Shayna Plotnik began her studies in the H.L. Miller Cantorial School at The Jewish Theological Seminary.

Samuel Plotnik began her studies in the H.L. Miller Cantorial School at The Jewish Theological Seminary.

Hannah Iskow of Rockville, Maryland, was awarded the 2018 Leonore and Louis Piser Prize, honoring the most outstanding JS graduating undergraduate who plans to pursue a career related to JS. A May 2018 magna cum laude graduate with a degree in Elementary Education and a certificate in JS, she feels passionately that Jewish education needs a surge of dynamism and she wants to make Jewish education accessible to all Jewish children, working with schools whose communities identify across the spectrum of observance and belief.

She spent one summer of college in an academic program at the Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, Massachusetts, working toward her JS certificate. She served as secretary of the JSSA and as president of Aish Bloomington.

This past summer, Hannah studied at Neve Yerushalayim in Israel and then worked for the Center for Talented Youth in Bethesda, Maryland. This year, she is a Student Life Associate at the American Hebrew Academy in North Carolina.

Hannah’s goal is to make Jewish education more relevant, dynamic, accessible, and interesting for students.

Piser Prize winner Hannah Iskow (2nd from left) with (from l-r) her mother Denise, her father Sheldon, and her brother Jonathan.
Modern Hebrew at IU

The Borns JSP is proud of our robust Modern Hebrew program directed by Ayelet Weiss. The study of Jewish languages (Hebrew as well as Yiddish) is a key component of our curriculum. Taught by our accomplished and expert Hebrew faculty, our Modern Hebrew language program offers language, literature, and culture courses. About 200 undergraduate and graduate students enroll in our 15 sections of elementary, intermediate, and advanced Modern Hebrew courses each year.

Classes are small and taught solely in Hebrew, allowing students to acquire and understand the language more rapidly. Our Hebrew faculty — Ayelet Weiss, Senior Lecturer; Michal Maoz-Levy, Senior Lecturer; and Dmitry (Dima) Romashov, Lecturer — provide our students with daily opportunities to speak, read, and write Modern Hebrew, in congenial, lively, and caring settings. Undergraduates pursuing Modern Hebrew through the 6th level, with study in Hebrew literature or culture, may complete a Minor in Hebrew.

2018 Henry A. Bern Memorial Essay Prize

Three IUB undergraduates won the 2018 Henry A. Bern Memorial Essay Prize: Zoe Crim (1st Prize) for her essay “A Comparative Analysis of the Privatization Efforts of Israel and Saudi Arabia”; Emily Vetne (2nd prize) for her paper, “Victims or Perpetrators: How Former Hitler Youths Work Through Their Childhoods under Nazi Rule”; and, JS major Jordana Ichilov (3rd Prize) for her essay “Is Israel a Part of the Middle East? A Comparison of Minority Treatment in Morocco and Israel”.

Both Zoe and Jordana wrote their prize-winning papers for Professor Aziza Khazzoom’s course “What is Middle Eastern? Perspectives Gained through Comparison with Israel.” Emily’s paper was written for Professor Mark Roseman’s course “History of the Holocaust.”

These winning papers can be found on our website at: http://www.indiana.edu/~jsp/undergraduates/bernWinners.shtml

High school seniors! Apply for up to $40,000 ($10,000 per year) scholarships for JS majors. Additional one-year scholarships for incoming JS majors and certificate students. Deadline: Thursday, January 17, 2019. See application details at: go.iu.edu/js_scholarships
Provost Robel Visits Our Hebrew University Students in Jerusalem

In February, 2018, Provost Lauren Robel was hosted for a special dinner by our longtime “Friends” for IU students at HUJ, IU alumni Terry and Ron Hendin. Provost Robel was on her maiden visit to Israel as part of an Indianapolis JCRC tour, led by the JCRC’s Director Lindsey Mintz, JS BA (1998). The 15 guests included current IU HUJ students and JS alumni and their families. That evening, there was a great deal of enthusiasm expressed about the growth and development of the Borns JSP and IU’s now longstanding relationship with HUJ.

This fall, among other IU students studying at HUJ, JS sacred music student Margo Wagner will be the first IU student to participate in HUJ and The Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance’s Jerusalem Sounds Program. The Borns JSP offers generous Presidential scholarships to IUB undergraduates studying in Israel.
Arts & Humanities

100 Level Courses
- Jews, Christians, Muslims—Imhoff
- A Question of Identity: The Case of Judaism—Cohen
- Religion and Law—Imhoff and Sullivan
- Who Wrote the Bible?—Marks

200 Level Courses
- Anne Frank & Hitler: Studies in the Representation of Good & Evil—Rosenfeld
- Guns and Roses: Representations of Soldiers and War in Modern Hebrew Literature—Katz
- Introduction to the Hebrew Bible—Mastnjak, Mokhtarian
- Israeli Cinema—Romashov
- Literature of the Holocaust—Rosenfeld

300-400 Level Courses
- Ghetto, Shtetl, and Beyond: Millennium of History and Society of Yiddish—Kerler
- The Hebrew Bible—Marks
- Jerusalem: The Holy City—Mokhtarian
- Jews, Christians & Others in Late Antiquity—Mokhtarian
- Job, from the Bible to Kafka and the Holocaust—Marks
- The Kibbutz in Fact and Fiction—Katz
- Magic and Witchcraft in the Ancient World—Mokhtarian
- Music in Judaism—Cohen
- Muslim Spain and Portugal: History and Memory—Decker
- Prophecy in Ancient Israel—Mastnjak
- Rabbinic Judaism: Literature & Beliefs—Mokhtarian
- Victims and Avengers: Readings in the Holocaust Literature of Israel—Katz
- Yiddish Life: On Page, On Stage, On Screen—Kerler

Social & Historical Studies

200 Level Courses
- Introduction to Jewish History: From the Bible to Spanish Expulsion—Decker
- Introduction to Jewish History: From Spanish Expulsion to the Present—Bernsen, M. Zadoff
- Israel: History, Society, Culture (An Introduction)—Karkason, N. Zadoff
- Israel Inequality in Context—Khazzoom
- Prostitutes, Homemakers, and CEOs: Israel and the Concept of Universal Women’s Experiences—Khazzoom
- The Urban Jewish Experience—Decker

300-400 Level Courses
- Antisemitism in Sociohistorical Perspectives—Jikeli
- Exploring Jewish Identity Today—Cohen
- Gender & Difference in Israel—Khazzoom
- The History of Genocide—Roseman
- History of the Holocaust—Kerler, Roseman
- The Holocaust and Politics—Bielskiak
- The Jewish Body: Race, Science, Beauty, & Ugliness—M. Zadoff
- Jewish History in (Auto)Biography—N. Zadoff
- Jews, Money, and Finance in Historical Perspective—Decker
- Modern Jewish European History—Bernsen
- Refugees & Migrants: From Ellis Island to Budapest Train Station—M. Zadoff
- Researching Antisemitism in Social Media—Jikeli
- What is Middle Eastern? Perspectives Gained through Comparison with Israel—Khazzoom
- Zionism and the State of Israel—Karkason, N. Zadoff

Languages

- Beginning Yiddish I & II—Kerler
- Intermediate Yiddish I & II—Kerler
- Intermediate Biblical Hebrew I & II—Mastnjak
- Elementary Hebrew I & II—Maoz-Levy, Romashov, Weiss
- Intermediate Modern Hebrew I & II—Maoz-Levy, Romashov, Weiss
- Advanced Modern Hebrew I & II—Maoz-Levy

Graduate Courses

- Colloquium in JS—Imhoff
- History of Black-Jewish Relations since the Civil War—Bernsen
- The Holocaust: History, Literature, and Popular Culture—M. Zadoff
- Jewish Dialogical Thinking—Morgan
- Multiple Voices of Israeli Society—Khazzoom

Recent and Forthcoming Course Offerings –2017-2018 and 2018-2019

Since Spring 1975, Jewish Studies enrollments have totaled 66,236.

New Course “Jerusalem: The Sacred City” will take IU students to Israel

In spring 2019, Professor Jason Mokhtarian will launch a new semester-long Bloomington-based course “Jerusalem: The Sacred City.” Developed through the Office of International Affairs Study Abroad Program Development Workshop, students in this semester-long course may opt to go to Jerusalem for one-week in May 2019 with Professor Mokhtarian to enhance their semester-long studies of Jerusalem’s political and religious history and its connection to the sacred texts of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Some funding for students will come from JSP Presidential Scholarships for study in Israel.
Alumni News

Joan Rothenberg (1985), was named a 2018 Health Care Hero by the Indianapolis Business Journal. An art therapist at St. Vincent Hospital, her own artwork includes Jewish ceremonial and illustrative art. Todd Zeldin (1987) is President of ACG Professionals, Inc. in Atlanta.

Karen (Becker) Sher (1990) is Director of Community Engagement at the Jewish Federation of St. Louis.

Jeff Linkon (1991) is Director of Operations at the Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis.

David Burkman (1993) brought his feature film about fraternity hazing “Haze” to IU, sponsored by Hillel.

Two distinguished College of Arts and Sciences and JSP alumni, were invited to lead career panels at C+nnect'18 career event: Andrew Goodman (1993), Partner of The Wolcott Group, Chicago, and Lisa Kohnke (1998), Director of Global Affairs in the Office of Mayor Rahm Emanuel of Chicago.

Rabbi Yael Splansky (1993), senior rabbi at Holy Blossom Temple in Toronto, was the ordination speaker for Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati on June 1, 2018.

Colin Hogan (1994) is Head of School, Learning Community Charter School in Jersey City, NJ. He was recognized as New Jersey Teacher of the Year in 2013. He is the president of the Kean University Diversity Council, the prejudice reduction and Holocaust education consortium for New Jersey schools.

Brian Shankman (1994) is Director of Regional Affairs and Development for AIPAC.

Jennifer Zwilling (1994) is Chief Strategy Officer for International Hillel and a member of the Borns JSP Advisory Board.


Rachel Daniels (1996) is Executive Coordinator at Temple Israel in Boston.

Matt Davidson (1996) is Executive Director at Kehillat Israel Congregation in Pacific Palisades, CA and a composer of Jewish and film music.

Jonathan Fass (1996) is Chief Operating Officer; Elyane and James Schoke Jewish Family Service of Fairfield County, CT.

Gina Lewald-Fass (1996) is Director of Religious School Bet Torah, Inc. in Mt. Kisco, NY.

Rabbi Ari Poster Moffic (1998) is Director of Cohere in Chicago.

Rabbi Scott Segal (1998) is Director of Lifelong Learning at Shir Hadash Reconstructionist synagogue in Wheeling, IL.

Iiene (Scholnick) Ausubel (1999) is Director of Development for NFTY.

Elise (Kleinman) Jaffe, (1999) Executive Director at Big Teeth Productions, was elected to the alumni board of the IU Media School.

Wendy Margolin (1999) is Communications Director for the Ida Crown Jewish Academy.

Lisa Kohnke (1998), at the IU C+nnect 18 career event.


Marci Ackerhalt-Price (2000) was recently named the Executive Director of the Indiana Chamber of Commerce Foundation.

Julie Brodsky, (2000) Assistant Vice President, JUF Young Families, received the Jewish United Fund/Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago’s 2017 Samuel A. Goldsmith Award given to exceptional young professionals who have shown outstanding performance at a Jewish agency in the Chicago area.

Jami Bachrad (2001) is Program Officer at Diane and Guilford Glazer Philanthropies.

Rachel Brand Charnick (2001) is Development Officer for the northern area of Hadassah Southern California.

Emily (Lipp) Sirota (2001) is running for Colorado State Representative, House District 9. She is Director of Admissions and Operations at Temple Emanuel Early Childhood Center in Denver.

Miriam (Pullman) Friedman (2002) is Director of Philanthropic Initiatives at Marcus JCC in Atlanta.

Jonathan/Yoni Lipnick (2002) is Dean of the Holy Land Faculty at the Israel Institute of Biblical Studies in Jerusalem and a doctoral student in Religious Studies at Harvard University.

Sarah Strnad (2002) is Operations Director at Lab Shul in NYC.

Jennifer Bell Hillel (2003) is Director of Development for the Israel Action Network for the Jewish Federations of North America.

Samantha Zadikoff (2003) is Youth and Family Programmer at Beth Hillel Congregation Beth Emunah in Wilmette, IL.

Cali Levin (2004) received a master’s degree in Security Studies from Georgetown University. She is a senior consultant with Deloitte’s Strategy Service Line, helping federal defense and civilian clients solve pressing strategic challenges.

David Lizzo (2004) is Director of Youth Engagement at Temple Beth Am in Seattle.

Leah Nahmias (2004) is Director of Programs and Community Engagement for Indiana Humanities.

Amalia Shiffris (2004) is Camper and Community Outreach Director, Camp Waldorf of Jewish Big Brothers and Big Sisters.

Rabbi Jennifer Gubitz (2005), Director of the Riverway Project at Temple Israel in Boston, received a 2018 grant from The Covenant Foundation to create and facilitate The Bridge: Deep Wisdom for Troubled Waters, a Jewish spiritual resilience curriculum for Generation Z, Millennials, and the latter years of Generation X.

Sarah Lawson (2005) is a staff social worker/therapist at The DC Center in Washington, D.C.

Miles Roger (2005) is Assistant Director of Religious Education at Washington Hebrew Congregation in Washington, D.C.

Continued on page 26
Rabbi Rachel Silverstein Schmelkin (2011) is Rabbi Educator at Congregation Beth Israel in Charlottesville, VA where she supported her congregants and the community during the August, 2017 violent and deadly Unite the Right rally.

Sarah (Wilenksy) Shukovsky (2011) is a graduate of Columbia University Law School and is the Advocate Counselor at Emma Lazarus High School in NYC. She married Adam Shukovsky on October 14, 2017.

Carly Valfer (2011) is Education Director at Congregation B’nai Tikvah in Deerfield, IL.

Dr. Jamie Ehrenpreis (2012) is a pediatric specialist at the Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood, Illinois.

Jody Gansel (2012) is Program Manager at Experiential Jewish Education Network in Boston.

Dana Levy (2012), LMSW, is a psychotherapist at The Lovett Center in Houston.


Dr. Aren Wilson-Wright (2013) is a television producer at ILTV in Tel Aviv.

Kristin Riebsomer (2013) is the Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation Justice For All Fellow at the Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati. She is a graduate of the Maurer School of Law.

Cantor Julie (Womack) Staple (2013) was ordained as a cantor by the Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in spring 2018. She is the Associate Cantor at Am Shalom in Glencoe, IL.

Ethan Bennett (2014) is Program Manager for OneVoice on Campus in their NY office.

David Bloom (2014) won the Best Sermon Prize at HUC-JIR Cincinnati. During his final year of rabbinical school (2018-2019), he will write a thesis on developing an ethics of reading with regard to violence as it appears in the Hebrew Bible.

Rachel Crouch (2014) is in her first year of the Hebrew Union College Masters in Jewish Education on their Jerusalem campus.

Peter Hull (2014) is a law student at Tulane University.

Maya Ohcana (2014) is Marketing Associate at Shorashim.

Adam Blue (2015) is JCC Maccabi Israel Program Manager at the JCC Foundation in NY.

Jodie Goldberg (2015) completed an M.A. in Jewish Education at The Davidson School at JTS in 2017, and is Teen Engagement Consultant and Project Manager at The Jewish Education Project in NYC.

Amanda Phillips (2015) completed the M.A. in Jewish Education at The Davidson School at JTS, and is the Assistant Director of the Lese Center for Living Judaism for grades 7-12 at Central Synagogue in Manhattan.

Briana Felsen (2016) is an AIPAC Fellow in Fort Lauderdale.

Tziporah Ladin-Gross (2016) is pursuing a master’s degree in Maritime Civilizations at the University of Haifa.

Frankie Salzman (2016) is Program Associate at the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Foundation in Atlanta.

Daniel Warshawsky (2016) made Aliyah to join the IDF through Nefesh B’Nefesh.

Sarah Wilensky Shukovsky (2011) is a graduate of Columbia University Law School and is the Advocate Counselor at Emma Lazarus High School in NYC. She married Adam Shukovsky on October 14, 2017.

Matt Albert (2005) is Outreach Network Co-Chair for the ADL of the Chicago region.

Rabbi Sarah Smiley (2005) is the new Assistant Rabbi at Congregation B’nai Jehudah in Overland Park, KS.

Sonya Weisburd (2005) is Associate Director, Volunteer Programs at the JCC of Washington, DC.

Matt Albert (2007) is Director of Board Operations at Hillel International in New York.

Iva Litvak (2007) is head of JS at the Jewish High School of Connecticut.

Dr. Abigail Schachter (2007) is a pediatrician in the Nashville, TN area.

Elizabeth (Carnuti) Shapiro (2007) is Director of Strategy and Planning for the American Diabetes Association.

Dawn Bilobran (2008) is principal and sole owner of 313 Historic Preservation in Detroit. She serves on the boards of Preservation Detroit, Belle Isle Conservancy, and the Michigan Historic Preservation Network.

Nina Loftspring (2009) is Hebrew School Principal at Town and Village Synagogue in NYC.

Traci Stratford (2009) is Program Manager and Reform School Advocate at PriZmah: Center for Jewish Day Schools.

Eric van der Vort (2009) is a doctoral candidate in Political Science at Syracuse University. Last year, he was an American Political Science Association Congressional Fellow.

Emily Thal Cohen (2010) is Director of Youth Education at Temple Sinai in Atlanta.

Saralyn McKinnon Crowley (2010) is pursuing a Ph.D. in Education Leadership and Policy at the University of Texas. Her husband Dr. Aren Wilson-Wright (2010) is a Postdoctoral Researcher at the University of Zurich studying the religious traditions of the Northern Kingdom of Israel.


Emily Berman Pevnick (2010) is a Senior Account Executive with Resolute Consulting in Chicago.

Matt Levitt (2011) is Chief Development Office for Ramah in the Rockies.

Lauren Rosenblum (2011) is Development Assistant at Jewish Big Brothers Big Sisters in LA.

Rabbi Rachel (Silverstein) Schmelkin (2011) (right) was awarded the 2018 Truah Human Rights Hero Award for showing bravery and leadership when white nationalists came to her city Charlottesville. She guided the community to stand up against hatred, bigotry, and violence.

Stacy Weissman Rudd (2005) is Outreach Network Co-Chair for the ADL of the Chicago region.

Rabbi Sarah Smiley (2005) is the new Assistant Rabbi at Congregation B’nai Jehudah in Overland Park, KS.

Sonya Weisburd (2005) is Associate Director, Volunteer Programs at the JCC of Washington, DC.

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Our Faculty


Sarah Ifft Decker is currently writing her first book, which explores the intersections between women’s labor and religious identity in the Jewish and Christian communities of Catalan cities between 1250 and 1350. She presented a chapter of this forthcoming work at a JSP faculty-graduate student workshop in March, and during summer 2018, she conducted supplementary archival research in the archives of Barcelona and other cities and towns in Catalonia. In fall 2017, she published her article “Jewish Divorce and Latin Notarial Culture in Fourteenth-Century Catalonia” in Boundaries in the Medieval and Wider World: Festschrift in Honor of Paul Freedman. Her article “Credit and Connections: Jewish Women between Communities in Vic, 1250-1350” will appear in the forthcoming edited volume Women and Community in Medieval and Early Modern Iberia. She also presented “For the Work of Her Trade: The Material Culture of Women’s Work in Medieval Catalonia” at the International Congress on Medieval Studies. In addition to the first half of the Jewish history introductory survey, she taught “Jews, Money, and Finance in Historical Perspective” and “Sacred Books of the Jews.” She also served as an external Honors Program examiner at Swarthmore College.

Halina Goldberg’s exhibit “In Mrs. Goldberg’s Kitchen” opened on April 10, 2018 at the University of Haifa, within the larger “Promised Land” presentation about Jewish life in Łódź.

Sarah Imhoff, who was promoted to Associate Professor in the Department of RS and in the JSP, recently published an article, “Why Disability Studies Needs to Take Religion Seriously” in Religions, and the chapter “Religion, Geography, and the Impossibility of Jewish Identity” in Theorizing “Religion” in Graeco-Roman Antiquity, edited by Nickolas Roubekas. She received a $50,000 graduate pedagogy grant from the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology.
and Religion for her initiative “Teaching Religion in the 21st Century Classroom.” She also continues to work on her book about Jessie Sampter, a queer disabled Zionist who lived in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. She is the excellent Director of Graduate Studies for the JSP.

As of June 1, 2018, Günther Jikeli began his new position as Associate Research Scholar at the Borns JSP, closely affiliated with the Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism (ISCA), where he continues as the Justin M. Druck Family Research Scholar. While Mark Roseman was on sabbatical, he taught “History of the Holocaust.” His research continues on attitudes among refugees, within a collaborative project with IU scholars Asaad Alsaleh and Haidar Khezri under the leadership of Alvin Rosenfeld, funded by the IU President’s International Research Grant. He has begun to research online antisemitism, which will be the focus of an undergraduate course in spring 2019. He published “Explaining the Discrepancy of Antisemitic Acts and Attitudes in 21st Century France,” in Contemporary Jewry (Vol. 37, Issue 2, 2017), and he is working with colleagues in France on an edited volume on antisemitism in France (in French). In 2017-2018, he gave presentations on contemporary antisemitism and online antisemitism at academic conferences, expert meetings, and at a synagogue — in Fort Wayne, IN, Texas, Berlin, Cologne, London, Munich, Stuttgart, and Vienna. In fall 2018, graduate student Daniel Miehling will spend a semester studying with him at ISCA/Borns JSP, funded by the German Academic Scholarship Foundation.


Dov-Ber Kerler gave a number of talks, invited lectures and presentations in Lithuania, Russia, and Poland. He conducted a few ethnographic Yiddish and Russian oral-history interviews in Poland and Moldova and kept a busy schedule of maintaining and curating IU’s Archive of Historical & Ethnographic Yiddish Memories (AHEYM) website, as well as a number of other internet-based projects. In July 2017, he offered a critical survey of contemporary “counterfactual history” trends from the vantage point of hypothetical alternative scenarios of the fate of Yiddish culture, entitled “From Actual to Counterfactual: Past Futures and the Present Afterlife of Modern Yiddish Culture” at the Vilnius Yiddish Institute, at Vilnius University. In August 2017, he gave an invited illustrated talk on “Yiddish: A Language in Contact Within and Without” at the Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania, Vilnius. In February 2018, he presented a talk on the seminal role of Mendele Moykher Sforim’s Yiddish writings and their fate in the last 100 years since his death, entitled “Hundred Years without Mendele, is He Still with Us?” at the 25th SEFER International Conference in JS in Moscow. He participated at a number of round-table discussion panels at the Interdisciplinary Research Workshop (Polin – Museum of the History of Polish Jews, Warsaw) on “Representations of Slavic-Jewish Relations in Museums and Internet Databases”, where he also presented the online AHEYM collection as a possible resource for those exploring contacts between Jews and non-Jews, titled “The Scope and Limits of an Ethnocentric Resource of East European Yiddish Memories and Its Possible Contribution to the Study of Interethnic Relations”. While in Warsaw, in June, 2018, he also conducted a few Yiddish oral-history interviews and was invited by Moscow and St. Petersburg ethnographers to join their expedition to Moldova in late June, focusing on collecting oral Jewish history of Ribnitsa in Russian or Rībniţa in Romanian, a city in Transnistria. He launched a new active Facebook group primarily in Yiddish, dedicated to dissemination of contemporary Yiddish literary creativity (poetry, prose, drama, criticism). It offers an array of links to new and contemporary printed Yiddish works which are accessible in a PDF format on the Internet. His other online projects include: a Yiddish resources portal YOR (Yiddish Online Resources) and the Facebook-based groups: “Yiddish Films & Films in and/or on Yiddish,” (sometimes dubbed as virtual “Yiddish Cinematheque”) as well as (Rare Yiddish Books), and “AHEYM.”


Nathan Mastnjak’s current book project, *The Scrolls of the Prophets*, examines the materiality of ancient Israelite prophetic literature. In addition to working on this book, Mastnjak wrote two articles that have been accepted for publication: “Prestige, Authority, and Jeremiah’s Bible,” which will appear in the *Journal of Religion*, and “Echoes of Rachel’s Weeping: Intertextuality and Trauma in Jer. 3:15,” which will appear in *Bavli Taanit*. His article “Jeremiah as Collection: Scrolls, Sheets, and the Problem of Textual Arrangement,” was published early in 2018 in *The Catholic Biblical Quarterly*. Mastnjak also presented several papers in 2017-18. His book *Deuteronomy and the Emergence of Textual Authority in Jeremiah* (Mohr Siebeck 2016) was the subject of a review panel at the national SBL conference, at which he also presented a paper titled “The Sun Also Rises: Psalm 57 as Pre-Dawn Ritual.” At the AJS conference, he presented a paper titled “The Problem of the Prophetic Book.” His paper “Theorizing Prophecy in Ancient Israel,” which he presented at the Midwest regional SBL meeting, won the 2018 Midwest Society of Biblical Literature Regional Scholar Award. In February 2018, Mastnjak gave closing remarks to the Borns JSGSA conference. During the academic year, Mastnjak taught Intermediate Biblical Hebrew, “Prophecy in Ancient Israel”, and “Introduction to the Hebrew Bible”. He also led an Aramaic reading group attended by both graduate and undergraduate students. For the 2018-2019 academic year, Mastnjak will be a Harry Starr Fellow in Judaica at Harvard University.

Jason Mokhtarian was promoted to Associate Professor in the Department of RS and JS, and appointed the Director of the Olamot Center for Scholarly and Cultural Exchange with Israel. Along with Noam Zadoff, he is the co-editor of a new IU Press book series – The Olamot Series in the Humanities and Social Sciences, which translates innovative Israeli scholarship into English. This past year, Jason was awarded a grant from IU’s Office of International Affairs to establish a study abroad program in Jerusalem for a new course “Jerusalem: The Holy City.” He will teach the class in spring 2019, followed by a one-week educational tour of Jerusalem, which he will lead. Jason is currently finishing a book manuscript on Talmudic medicine, and beginning a new one on the history of the Jews of Persia. He has several essays forthcoming in edited volumes and journals, including: “Iranian Loanwords in Talmudic Folklore from the Chapter of the Pious (Bavli Ta’anit 18b-26a),” in *The Aggada of the Babylonian Talmud and its Cultural World*, eds. Geoffrey Herman and Jeffrey Rubenstein (Brown Judaic Studies); “The Material Culture of the Jews in Sasanian Mesopotamia,” in *The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Jews and Judaism in the Late Ancient Period*, eds. Naomi Kolton-Fromm and Gwynn Kessler (Blackwell Publishing); and “Zoroastrian Polemics against Judaism and Islam in the Doubt-Dispelling Exposition,” in a special edition of the journal *Mizan*. This past academic year, Jason taught classes on Hebrew Bible, rabbinic literature, Jewish-Christian interactions, and Jewish magic, as well as a graduate readings course on Judeo-Persian literature. In spring 2018, he was awarded an IU Trustees Teaching Award.

Mark Roseman was on leave this year. In fall 2017, he was visiting guest professor at the Jena Center for Contemporary History, at the Friedrich Schiller University, Jena. There he taught a graduate seminar course on perpetrators of the Holocaust, as well as giving a public lecture. The Center will be publishing a collection of his essays. In March, he was honored by IU with a Distinguished Professorship, one of only four currently held by scholars of the humanities at IU. During the year, he finished the revisions of his book manuscript, tentatively titled, “Flowers for the Heinemanns,” a study of resistance and rescue in Nazi Germany. This will appear in summer 2019 with Metropolitan Books in the US and Oxford University Press in the UK, as well as with a German imprint of Random House. In June 2017, a special symposium was organized in Paris around the book manuscript, cohosted by the Centre de recherches historiques, EHESS-CNRS, and the George and Irina Schaeffer Center for the Study of Genocide, Human Rights, and Conflict Prevention. He also carried out archival work in Düsseldorf for a new project on perpetrators of the Holocaust. The journal of the Leo Baecck Institute, Jerusalem published a Hebrew version of his work on victim perceptions of the Holocaust, “גרמניו היהודים במחנה pracy: סולו הרחבתי על살ם בבריג.”

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Alvin H. Rosenfeld was on sabbatical leave during 2017-18, during which time he completed work on the edited volume, Anti-Zionism and Antisemitism: The Dynamics of Delegitimization, which is forthcoming with IU Press. He also made progress on The Longest Hatred Renewed: Reflections on Contemporary Antisemitism. A German translation of his article “What Precisely Is ‘Criticism of Israel’?” appeared in Antisemitismusforschung: edited by Marc Grimm and Bodo Kahmann.

Noam Zadoff’s book Gershom Scholem: From Berlin to Jerusalem and Back was published with Brandeis University Press. In January 2018, a one-day symposium in honor of the publication of this book and Mirjam Zadoff’s book Werner Scholem: A German Life, took place at IUB. In winter 2017, he was guest professor at the ETH Zurich. In summer 2018, he was a Visiting Fellow at the Institute for Contemporary History at the University of Innsbruck. During this academic year, he is an Israeli Institute Guest Professor at the University of Munich.
2018–2019 Borns JSP Faculty

James S. Ackerman
Professor (Emeritus), Religious Studies

Joëlle Bahloul
Professor (Emerita), Anthropology

Charles Bernsen
Visiting Fellow
Modern Jewish History, Jewish Ethnicity and Pluralism

Jack Bielasiak
Professor, Political Science, Russian & East European Institute
Politics of the Holocaust

*Judah M. Cohen, Director of Undergraduate Studies/ Director of Jewish Sacred Music Curriculum
Lou and Sybil Mervis Chair in the Study of Jewish Culture; Associate Professor, Jewish Studies and Musicology
Music in Jewish Life; American Music; Musical Theater; Popular Culture; Caribbean Jewish History; Diaspora; Medical Ethnomusicology

Sarah Ifft Decker
Visiting Post-Doctoral Fellow
Jews in Medieval Iberia, Medieval European history; Mediterranean history

Paul D. Eisenberg
Professor (Emeritus), Philosophy

Michelle Facos
Professor, Art History
Jewish Art; Jews in Scandinavia before 1915

Halina Goldberg
Professor, Jacobs School of Music; Musicology
Jews and Jewishness in 19th and 20th Century Poland; Jewish Musicians and Music; Jews in Łódź

Susan Guban
Distinguished Professor (Emerita), English

*Sarah Imhoff, Director of Graduate Studies
Associate Professor, Jewish Studies and Religious Studies
Gender and Judaism; Race and Jewishness; Rabbinic Literature; American Religious History

Jeffrey Isaac
Rudy Professor, Political Science

*Aziza Khazzoom
Associate Professor, Jewish Studies & Near Eastern Languages & Cultures
Israel Studies

*Shaul Magid (on leave 2018–2019)
Jay and Jeanie Schottenstein Chair in Jewish Studies; Professor, Jewish Studies and Religious Studies
Jewish Thought; Hasidic Judaism; Modern Jewish Religious Experience

Michał Mozes-Levy
Senior Lecturer
Modern Hebrew

*Herbert J. Marks
Professor, Comparative Literature
Biblical and Literary Studies

*Jason Mokhtarian, Director of Olamot: Center for Scholarly and Cultural Exchange with Israel
Associate Professor, Jewish Studies and Religious Studies
Late Antiquity Judaism; Talmud in its Iranian Context; Jews of Persia

Michael L. Morgan
Professor (Emeritus), Jewish Studies and Philosophy (teaching in fall 2018)

Dmitry Romashov
Lecturer
Modern Hebrew

*Mark Roseman, Director
Pat M. Glazer Chair in Jewish Studies; Distinguished Professor, Jewish Studies and History
History of the Holocaust; History of Antisemitism; The Holocaust; German-Jewish History

*Alvin H. Rosenfeld, Director of the Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism
Irving M. Glazer Chair in Jewish Studies; Professor, Jewish Studies and English
Literature of the Holocaust; American Jewish Literature

Jeremy Schott
Associate Professor of Religious Studies
Religion of the Late Ancient & Byzantine Mediterranean and Near East

*Dina R. Spechler
Associate Professor, Political Science
Comparative Foreign Policy; American, Russian, and Israeli Foreign Policy

Bronisława Volków
Professor (Emerita), Slavic & East European Languages and Cultures

*Ayelet Weiss, Director of Modern Hebrew Program
Senior Lecturer
Modern Hebrew

*Mirjam Zadoff (on leave 2018–2019)
Alvin H. Rosenfeld Chair in Jewish Studies; Associate Professor of Jewish Studies and History
History of the Jews of Central Europe; Modern Jewish Intellectual & Cultural History

*Noam Zadoff (on leave 2018–2019)
Assistant Professor, Jewish Studies and History
Modern Jewish Intellectual History; History of Israel

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Rabbi Joshua said, ‘Being a good friend.’”—Pirke Avot 2:9

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Apply for 2019–2020 graduate fellowships
Deadline: January 15, 2019
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