



*The University of Oklahoma*  
**The SCHUSTERMAN CENTER**  
*for JUDAIC and ISRAEL STUDIES*

*Volume 14*

*Fall 2017*

## Supporting Our Students



**Study in Israel Scholarship Winners**

From left: Kanaan Goldstein, Callie Spencer, Jeremy Nowak, Jocelyn Viviani, Elizabeth Stewart, Caleb Ball, Aaron McCracken, Jacob Farber, Kathryn Diskerud, Emmanuelle Chiocca, Benaiah Moffitt, Elizabeth Anderson, Brennan Stephens, Cyarah Hoursey, Joni Keaton

*By any measure, the OU Schusterman Center had our most successful year, with a steady stream of initiatives from our faculty, enthusiasm from our students — more than 400 enrolled in Judaic- or Israel -related courses each semester, generous sponsorships from various OU departments and colleges, steadfast support from the Jewish community, and extraordinary commitment from the Schusterman Family Foundation, which enabled 20 students to travel to Israel this year for advanced studies. Despite deficit holes and revenue shortfalls, we were able to support our students more than ever, awarding more than \$100,000 in scholarship funds.*

*With profound thanks to all,*

*Alan Levenson and Ronnie Grinberg, Editors*

## ***Congratulations to Our 2017-2018 Scholarship Winners!***

The **Rosalyn W. Price Memorial Scholarship** of \$1,000 was awarded to **Chelsea Schilling**.

The **Zarrow Family Scholarships** of \$2,500 each were awarded to **Kanaan Goldstein, Avraham Revah and Jesse Weinberg**.

The **Esther Rose Shnier Scholarship** of \$3,000 was awarded to **Joni Keaton and Callie Spencer**.

The **Norman Stillman Prize** of \$1,800 was awarded to **Jacob Lackner**.

The **Schusterman Study in Israel Scholarships** of \$5,000 each were awarded to **Elizabeth Anderson, Caleb Ball, Cyearah Hoursey, Aaron McCracken, Brennan Stephens and Elizabeth Stewart**, all of whom went to the Jezreel Valley dig site. **Emmanuelle Chiocca, Kathryn Diskerud, Benaiah Moffitt, Jim North and Jeremy Nowak** received \$5,000 each to study at Hebrew University during the summer. **Jacob Farber, Callie Spencer, and Jocelyn Viviani** will receive \$10,000 to study at Hebrew University in the fall while **Kanaan Goldstein and Joni Keaton** will each receive \$10,000 to study at Hebrew U in spring 2018.

"I am beyond ecstatic to have your confidence and to be awarded this scholarship! Thank you so much for allowing me to study in Jerusalem!"

- Emmanuelle Chiocca *Chiocca is seeking her Ph.D. in instructional leadership and academic curriculum and will be taking relevant courses at Hebrew University. Originally from France, she studied at Yavneh and already has a working knowledge of Hebrew.*

"Thank you so much for helping me throughout the scholarship process. I can't tell you how amazing it feels to be believed in this way. I'm so looking forward to the rest of this experience. Thank you again, so very much!"

- Kanaan Goldstein *Goldstein is hoping to enter rabbinic school and then return to the Armed Services as a U.S. Navy Chaplain.*

"Thank you to the Judaic Studies Department, to the committee and to Dr. Levenson, Dr. Kritz and Dr. Seidelman. I am grateful and excited to have been awarded this scholarship, and the tremendous opportunity to study in Israel this summer. When I began study at OU last semester, I had no idea that taking Hebrew would introduce me to further classes in Judaic Studies, and the remarkable people I have been honored to know and learn from. So, again, thank you, thank you, thank you!"

- Jim North *OU, Gaylord College of Journalism*

"I want to extend to you my greatest thanks for this scholarship and opportunity to study abroad in Israel this summer. Without this assistance, it is unlikely that I would have been able to go to such a fantastic and historic country or even have the financial means to study abroad at all. I am excited to be able to represent the University of Oklahoma in Jerusalem and take courses on the history and contemporary politics of Israel... Again, thank you all for your decision, and I am ecstatic that I was chosen to receive this award. I plan to take many pictures of my time in Israel, and I will make sure that I send them to the Schusterman Center either via email or through social media as soon as I can."

- Jeremy R. Nowak *Nowak is a double major in information technology and political science in the College of International and Area Studies.*

## **Carsten Schapkow, Editor for New Lexington Studies in Jewish History, Historiography, and Memory**



Carsten Schapkow

Please join us in congratulating Carsten Schapkow on his new position as the series editor for Lexington Books Series *Lexington Studies in Jewish History, Historiography, and Memory*.

This series aspires to transcend disciplinary and methodological boundaries, welcoming original scholarship that advances our understanding of the modern Jewish experience.

The series will cover all geographical areas and all periods in modern Jewish history by welcoming scholarly contributions, including cultural history, intellectual history, transnational Jewish history, global Jewish history and memory studies. They welcome original monographs and edited volumes as well as English-language translations.

### **Inside This Volume:**

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## Andrew Porwancher and Daniel Simon Join Our Affiliate Faculty

Andrew Porwancher is a core faculty member of OU's Constitutional Studies program and is pleased to be part of the Schusterman Center's associated faculty. Currently, he is working on a book that combines his interests in constitutional and Jewish history titled *The Jewish Founding Father: Alexander Hamilton's Hidden Life* (under contract with Harvard University Press). The book uncovers new evidence that Hamilton was born Jewish on his native Caribbean island of Nevis. While he did not outwardly identify as a Jew in his adult life in the United States, Hamilton enjoyed a closer relationship with American Jewry than any other founder. In an era when Old World anti-Semitism lingered in the new, Hamilton was unapologetic in his defense of Jews and their faith.



Andrew Porwancher

In the course of undertaking research for this project, Porwancher completed a Gilder Lehrman Fellowship this past winter, which allowed him to pursue archival research in New York City. The prior year, he received a Lapidus Fellowship from the American Jewish Historical Society. He looks forward to finishing *The Jewish Founding Father* while on sabbatical this upcoming year. In the fall of 2017, he will serve as a Senior Research Fellow at Yeshiva University; in the spring of 2018, Porwancher will be a Garwood Fellow at Princeton University. His research into Hamilton's Jewish origins has received media coverage from *Tablet Magazine*, *The Jewish Chronicle*, *The Jewish Advocate*, and *The Times of London*.

Porwancher received his doctorate from the University of Cambridge, his master of arts degree from Brown University, and his bachelor of arts degree from Northwestern University. He hails from Princeton, New Jersey.

Daniel Simon is assistant director and editor in chief of *World Literature Today*, OU's renowned literary magazine. Simon joined the staff of WLT in 2002, after previous editorial positions at the University of Oklahoma Press and University of Nebraska Press. He received his doctorate in comparative literature — with an emphasis in translation studies — from Indiana University, Bloomington, in 2000. At OU, in addition to his full-time work for WLT, he serves as an adjunct professor in the English Department and on the affiliate faculty of the Department of International and Area Studies and the Schusterman Center.



Daniel Simon

A poet and translator, Simon's verse chapbook, *Cast Off* (Edwin E. Smith Publishing, 2015), was nominated for the PEN Center USA, Nebraska Book, Oklahoma Book, and Independent Publisher awards. His second poetry collection, *After Reading Everything* also was nominated for multiple awards (London's Eyewear Publishing in spring 2016). His poems appeared in the anthologies *World English Poetry* (2015) and *Oklahoma Poems . . . and Their Poets* (2014). Most recently, 14 of his poems appear in *Poetry International* (2017). His work has been translated into German, Greek, Spanish and Turkish. *Nebraska Poetry: A Sesquicentennial Anthology, 1867–2017*, with poems by Tillie Olsen, Karl Shapiro and eighty other poets, coincides with Nebraska's 150th anniversary of statehood 2017.

Simon's professional memberships include the Academy of American Poets, PEN American Center, the Association of Writers & Writing Programs, and the Nebraska Center for the Book. Simon lives in Norman with his wife and three daughters.

## Hebrew Professor Yael Lavender-Smith Reflects on Her First Year at OU

I arrived at OU in the summer of 2016 as the coordinator of the first- and second- year Hebrew language courses. During my first year, the Hebrew program opened a second beginners class, for both the fall and the spring semesters. Working closely with Ori Kritz, the head of the Hebrew Program, I hosted several events throughout the year. As part of Arts and Sciences Week at OU, the Hebrew program held a tasty and well-attended Challah Bread Tasting Event. Our students also maintained a lively Hebrew club that met once a month. During these gatherings, we would watch an Israeli film, play games in Hebrew or cook Israeli food. In the spring semester, I served as an adviser for the "Israel through Literature" book club. Additionally, Ori and I organized an online learning project in which our first-year Hebrew students worked in small groups with Israeli students from Kibbutzim College in Israel. Faculty and students ended each semester with laughter and delicious food at a local Mediterranean restaurant.

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The Hebrew program's close collaboration with the Schusterman Center for Judaic and Israel Studies has been especially fruitful. Students deepen and expand their knowledge of Jewish history and Israeli culture by taking the wide variety of classes that the Schusterman Center offers. In addition, several Hebrew students — Jacob Farber, Kanaan Goldstein, Joni Keaton, and Callie Spencer — won the prestigious Study in Israel Scholarship, and each will have the enriching experience of spending a semester in Israel during the 2017-2018 school year.

The best part of coordinating the Hebrew program and teaching Hebrew at OU is getting to know the students. The Hebrew program maintains small classes, which allows me to work closely with students. My purpose is not just to teach the language, but also to make students know that I care deeply about their success. Since I know that students succeed best when they are truly interested in the subject and enjoy it, I learn what students' interests are and incorporate them into the curriculum. Thus, we read from the Hebrew Bible, listen to Israeli rock songs and play Hebrew Scrabble, among many other fun, student-centered activities.

It has been a privilege to teach Hebrew at OU. I look forward to connecting with even more students and to supporting their development as engaged members of our community.



From left (top): Jim North, Callie Spencer, Allison Williams, Miki Fritz, Madison Roth, Kanaan Goldstein, Jacob Farber, Kevin Logan  
From right (bottom): Jordan Craig, Yael Lavender-Smith, Ori Kritz, Wyatt Hebblethwaite

## Kudos and Congratulations



Alan Levenson

Schusterman/Josey Chair and Program Director Alan Levenson spent much of the year promoting his new book, *Joseph: Portraits Through the Ages* (JPS/University of Nebraska, 2016). Levenson spoke in Dallas, Williamsburg, Virginia, Cleveland, Ohio, and New York City as well as several places within Oklahoma, including Oklahoma City University, Oklahoma Christian University, the OKC Federation's Jewish University at Temple Bnai Israel,

and at OU twice. He wrote on-line articles on Joseph for *The Torah/Project TABS* and for *Bible and Interpretation*. Levenson contributed a survey of "Jewish Bible Scholarship" for the Oxford Bibliography Series. Rowman and Littlefield issued a revised, paperback edition of *The Making of the Modern Jewish Bible*. Levenson's book chapter on Jewish intellectuals migrating from Eastern Europe to Israel via Germany "The Triple Immersion: A Singular Moment in Jewish Intellectual History?" appeared *Three-Way Street: Jews, Germans and Transnationalism* (University of Michigan Press, 2016). He presented reflections on his teacher at a special session dedicated to the late Jacob Neusner, a pioneer in rabbinic and religious studies, at the Association of Jewish Studies in San Diego. He will be presenting papers on the Orthodox Bible commentator Samson Raphael Hirsch at the World Congress of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem (August 2017) and on the American author and lecturer Maurice Samuel at the next Association of Jewish Studies in December.

Levenson served as The Bronfman Distinguished Visiting Professor at the College of William & Mary (October 2016), a week-long intensive teaching and mentoring appointment at America's second oldest college.

Levenson also hosted the OU Sightseeing Sooners first trip to Israel, March 16-27. This group of 14 OU alumni saw the sites from modern Tel Aviv to ancient Beit Shean — and of course, eternal Jerusalem. Levenson's enthusiasm for classroom teaching remains on full display: he spent a week last July in Chicago teaching graduate students at Spertus Institute; taught a literature course, "A Few Good Jews: Heroes and Antiheroes in the Modern Novel," at OU/OLLI and he offered his first Advanced Studies course in Weisbaden, Germany, in June, 2017.

**Janet Ward** co-hosted a symposium with Andrew Porwancher, assistant professor of classics and letters, (for a packed Weitzenhoffer Theatre audience!) about Alexander Hamilton's Jewish origins in the Caribbean, with excerpts from the Musical "Hamilton" performed by students from OU's Musical Theatre program. Speakers included critic Peter Filichia and OU Musical Theatre faculty member Shawn Churchman. In summer 2017, Ward's World Congress



Janet Ward

## Kudos and Congratulations (Continued)

conference paper focuses on Israeli commemoration of the Holocaust, a part of her book project on “Sites of Holocaust Memory.”



**Ronnie Grinberg**

**Ronnie Grinberg** was awarded an OU Arts and Humanities Faculty Fellowship and an OU Faculty Investment Program grant (declined) for 2017-18 to complete her book manuscript on the New York intellectuals. Grinberg also was named the 2017 Kevy Kaiserman Memorial Summer Fellow at the Myer & Rosaline Feinstein Center for American Jewish History at Temple University. In June 2016, she chaired two panels at the Biennial Scholars Conference on American Jewish History at the Center for Jewish History in New York. In December, she presented a paper titled “Town Bloody Hall: The New York Intellectuals and Second Wave Feminism” at the Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference in San Diego. She will present an expanded version of that paper at the World Congress of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem in August 2017.

**Carsten Schapkow** published “Debates about Jews and Judaism during the Great War: Reconsidering Gustav Landauer’s, Fritz Mauthner’s and Erich Mühsam’s Attachment to Germany during WWI” (*quest. Issues in Contemporary Jewish History, Milano* 9-2016) and “Henriette Herz’ sephardisches Judentum und die deutsch-jüdische Kultur zwischen Aufklärung und Romantik,” *Die Kommunikations-, Wissen,s- und Handlungsräume der Henriette Herz (1764–1847)*, (Göttingen: Vandenhoeck&Ruprecht 2017). His 2015 book *Role Model and Countermodel: The Golden Age of Iberian Jewry and German-Jewish Culture during the Era of Emancipation* (Lexington Books 2015) was featured in *New Books in Jewish Studies*. Schapkow lectured at multiple international venues this past year, including twice in Berlin, Munich (Germany), Hohenems (Austria), and in Toledo (Spain). His talks focused on such topics as Jewish identity politics during WWI, Iberian-Jewish history as perceived in German-Jewish culture, and on the question of loyalty in Jewish culture.



**Carsten Schapkow**

**Shmuel Shepkaru**, Schusterman Professor of Jewish Religious and Intellectual History, was invited to serve as the medieval consultant and section editor for a future U.S. Holocaust and Human Rights Museum. He chaired a session on “Music From the Bible to the Brahmsians” for the Association of Jewish Studies annual conference in San Diego;

wrote an entry on “Martyrdom” for the Encyclopaedia of Second Temple Judaism; and completed another chapter for the upcoming book, *Martyrdom, self-sacrifice, and self-immolation: religious perspectives on suicide* to be published by Oxford University Press. His various courses, including Israeli Culture Through Film, History of Heaven and Hell, Evolution of Martyrdom, remain, as always, student favorites.



**Shmuel Shepkaru**



**Rhona Seidelman**

Many thanks to **Rhona Seidelman** for organizing the OU Schusterman Center’s annual film festival, which this year showcased Israeli cinema. She also developed and introduced two new popular courses to the curriculum: Modern Israel and History of Disease. She spoke at a well-attended campus-wide event on antisemitism that was held at the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History in the spring, which was organized in response to current events. Her talk was titled “Experiencing Antisemitism: Historical and Personal Reflections.” In April, she participated in the Inaugural Haruv USA Summit on Child Abuse and Neglect in Tulsa, where she chaired the panel “Faith Based Approaches to Child Maltreatment.”

Congratulations to **Luis Cortes**, whose book *Philo’s Heirs: Moses Maimonides and Thomas Aquinas*, is in the final stages of publication at Academic Studies Press. The book should be out by September.



**Luis Cortes**

Congratulations to **Jill Hicks-Keeton**, who presented a paper at the annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature entitled “Paul the Mapmaker: Jewish-Christian Battles over the Centrality of Jerusalem” and a paper at the annual meeting of the



**Jill Hicks-Keeton**

Southwest Commission on Religious studies titled “Paul’s Gentile Mission and Jewish Identity: The Evidence of Joseph and Aseneth.” She also gave a talk, “The Secret Life of Joseph’s Wife,” at Emanuel Synagogue in Oklahoma City as part of the Jewish Federation’s Jewish University.

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## Kudos and Congratulations (Continued)



**Gershon Lewental**

**Gershon Lewental** presented a paper at the Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa (Washington, D.C.) and chaired a panel at the World Congress of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem in August. He is preparing to return to D.C. twice this fall to organize a panel and present papers at the upcoming Middle East Studies Association and Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa

meetings. In 2017, he published "The Death of Rostam: Literary representations of Iranian identity in early Islam" in *Iranian Studies* and an encyclopedia entry on "Rostam B. Farrok-Hormozd" in the esteemed *Encyclopædia Iranica*. He also celebrated two major milestones in the past year: on Dec. 7th 2016, he and his wife, Sitora, welcomed into the world Yasminah. In February 2017, he accepted a position as assistant professor in the Department of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies at Shalem College, Israel's first and only liberal arts college. While this means that he will be leaving OU, he is looking forward to a final semester on campus in fall 2017 and hopes to keep in touch with OU colleagues and welcome them to visit the Holy Land!

Congratulations to **Nina E. Livesey** (College of Professional and Continuing Studies) for publishing her second book, *Galatians and the Rhetoric of Crisis: Demosthenes, Cicero, Paul*

(Polebridge Press, 2016). In this comparative study, Livesey argues that Paul's rejection of Torah observance for gentiles is best explained by his rhetoric, by the contours of his arguments. She presented two papers at the 2016 meeting for the Society of Biblical Literature one titled, "Is Freedom an Existential Category in Ancient Discourse?" An aspect of her recent book and will be published in *Biblical Interpretation* (Brill). "Difference and Similarity" and "Border Lines: The Partition of Judaeo-Christianity," responded to Daniel Boyarin's views on the Jewish-Christian "parting of ways" and will appear in *Forum*.



**Nina Livesey**

**Mara Willard** gave a number of community talks this year, including "From Judaism to Jewish Culture: Hannah Arendt's Conversion" for the Jewish Federation of Oklahoma City's Jewish University and "Own most: Handing down the Tradition to Ourselves," for the Morningstar Center for Spiritual Living in Norman. She participated in a panel at OU on "Religion and the Refugee Ban: Navigating the News."

Willard also contributed three thought pieces: "Good News for Religious Pluralism... Sort of, Religion and its Publics," Virginia Center for the Study of Religion, University of Virginia; "Theo-Politics in Flux: the 'Alt-Right' on God, Christendom, and the Nation," Contending Modernities, Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame; and "What's Good for the Goose



**Mara Willard**

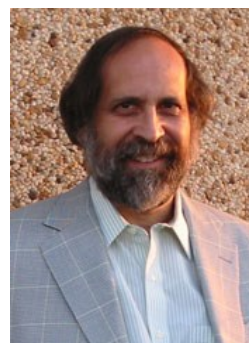


**Misha Klein**

Administration Could Be Disastrous for the Gender Administration," Berkley Forum on Religion, Diplomacy, The Berkley Center for Religion, Peace & World Affairs, Georgetown University.

Congratulations to **Misha Klein**, whose book *Kosher Feijoada and Other Paradoxes of Jewish Life in São Paulo* (University Press of Florida) came out in paperback.

Congratulations to **Stephen Norwood** for publishing "Convergent Anti-Zionisms: The American Far Left and Far Right," in Robert S. Wistrich, ed., *Anti-Judaism, Antisemitism, and Delegitimizing Israel* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2016); "Antisemitic Terror, Defeatism, and Anti-Zionism: Coughlinism and the Christian Front, 1934-1955," and "Entertaining Nazi Warriors in America, 1934-1936," in Eunice G. Pollack, ed., *From Antisemitism to Anti-Zionism: The Past and Present of a Lethal Ideology* (Boston: Academic Studies Press, 2017). Norwood's work on the Black Legion and on the Christian Front also was cited extensively by Rick Perlstein in his article on American conservatism in the *New York Times Sunday Magazine*.



**Stephen Norwood**



**Karin Schutjer**

Congratulations to **Karin Schutjer**, who was invited to deliver a presentation on her book, *Goethe and Judaism: The Troubled Inheritance of Modern Literature*, for a plenary session at the German Jewish Studies Workshop held at Notre Dame University this past February.

# Noam Stillman: A Note From Jerusalem



Noam Stillman

Our year and a half in Jerusalem has been both personally fulfilling and even busier than we ever expected. Although more than 8,000 miles from OU, our ties have been continuous. In my graduate seminars at the Hebrew University as visiting distinguished professor, both this spring semester and last year, I have had a Sooner student. I also had an OSU student in my undergraduate class. The Oklahoma-Jerusalem connection is as strong as ever, and this summer the Hebrew University's Rothberg School took note of the large number of OU students who are arriving now. Just a few months ago, we celebrated the opening in the School of Social Work here funded by the Schusterman Foundation.

Israel is a culturally and intellectually vibrant place, and were Dinah and I to accept all the many speaking invitations for conferences, symposia and lectures here and there, we would never get any of our research and writing done. (Truth be told, she is better at saying no than I am, and she successfully limits much of her activity to the French Cultural Center – Centre Romain Gary – here in Jerusalem.) I have given over the past year and a half two keynotes for an international conference at the Ben-Zvi Institute, (which apparently is available on YouTube, although I haven't seen it) and a national one at Bar-Ilan University as well as

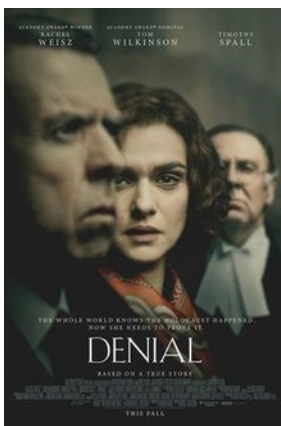
invited lectures at Tel-Aviv University, Oranim College, and the American Cultural Center in Jerusalem (also on YouTube) and guest talks at the Kivvunim Program for Intermediate-Year High School/College students, and the Hebrew University's Departments of Islamic & Middle East Studies and Arabic Language and Literature.

Perhaps the most time-consuming, but deeply rewarding task that I took on was serving on the History Subcommittee of the Bitton Commission of the Israeli Department of Education. Our mandate was to come up with recommendations for the better integration of the history and cultural heritage of the Jews of the Middle East and North Africa into the middle school and high school curriculum. I found myself reading ninth– through 12– grade textbooks for the first time in I don't know how long – perhaps more than half a century! Were I an Americanist, I might have had such an opportunity to render such service to the greater public back in the States, but my field of specialization – i.e., the history and culture of the Jews of the Islamic world – is perhaps too exotic. But not here!

We especially are looking forward to the large contingent of OU colleagues and our doctoral student, Jesse Weinberg, who will be delivering papers at the quadrennial World Congress of Jewish Studies here in Jerusalem in August. It speaks very highly indeed of OU's Schusterman Center for Judaic & Israel Studies that it is so well represented at the Congress which brings together thousands of scholars from all over the world.

**The Schusterman Center wishes to congratulate Ori Kritz on her promotion to full professor.**

## 2017 JuSt Film Festival





## Core Faculty and Their Courses



**Alan Levenson**

Judaism: A religious History  
Genesis Through Jewish Eyes



**Shmuel Shepkaru**

History of Heaven and Hell  
Evolution of Martyrdom



**Rhona Seidelman**

Arab/Israeli Conflict  
History of Disease



**Carsten Schapkow**

Jews and Other Germans  
The Holocaust



**Gershon Lewental**

Middle East Through Film  
Middle East Since WWI



**Ronnie Grinberg**

Modern American Women  
Jews in Hollywood



**Ori Kritz**

Hebrew 1 & 2  
The Bible as Literature



**Yael Lavender-Smith**

Hebrew 1 & 2  
Conversational Hebrew

## Associate Faculty

**Benjamin Alpers**, Honors College

**Eve Bannet**, English

**Ranger Cline**, Religious Studies

**Sara Coodin**, Classics & Letters

**Luis Cortest**, Modern Languages (Spanish)

**Jill Hicks-Keeton**, Religious Studies

**Misha Klein**, Anthropology

**Nina Livesey**, Liberal Studies

**William H. McDonald**, English

**Stephen H. Norwood**, History

**Andrew Porwancher**, Constitutional Studies

**Karin L. Schutjer**, Modern Languages (German)

**Daniel Simon**, Editor, *World Literature Today*

**Daniel C. Snell**, History

**Janet Ward**, History

**Mara Willard**, Religious Studies

## Why the 18s?

"18" is the numerical value of the Hebrew word "life," and is customary to donate in multiples of 18. It's a toast to life (l'hayim) and a harmless bit of folk belief. (It's also a good way of keeping tabs on charitable donations — when the Police Benevolent League says you gave \$36 last year — not \$35 — you can believe them.) Following are some of your favorite JuSt events and what they cost:

**We welcome all ideas to promote Judaic and Israel Studies at OU! Please call our office at (405) 325-6508 or email [katyhall@ou.edu](mailto:katyhall@ou.edu).**

\$18 To Show Your Support of Judaic Studies at OU  
\$36 To Sponsor a JuSt Lunch Event  
\$54 To Buy a Film  
\$360 To Sponsor a Student's Travel to a Conference  
\$1,800 To be an Honorary Host for an Invited Speaker  
\$3,600 To Sponsor Next Year's JuSt Newsletter  
\$18,000 To Sponsor a Graduate Student



# 17th Annual Yedida Stillman Memorial Lecture



John Efron

This 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Yedida Kalfon Stillman Memorial Lecture was established through the generosity of family, friends and colleagues to honor the memory of the late Yedida Kalfon Stillman, a beloved teacher and world-renowned scholar, who died in February 1998. The first memorial lecture was given in 2001 by Paula Sanders of Rice University, who was introduced by OU President David Boren. The YKS Memorial lecturers have all been distinguished scholars in fields related to the late Professor Kalfon-Stillman's wide-ranging interests in Middle Eastern and Sephardic history and culture. Yedida and her husband, professor emeritus Norman (Noam) Stillman, worked together for many years at Binghamton University in New York and together founded the Judaic Studies program here at OU. Born in Morocco and raised in Israel, Kalfon-Stillman authored several of the definitive studies in her field, including *Arab Headress from the Birth of Islam to Modern Times*. Her works are still read, cited and even published by Noam Stillman. Stillman now resides in Israel but was able to attend this year's lecture.

Efron holds the Koret Professorship of Jewish History at the University of California, Berkeley. Efron grew up in Melbourne, Australia, graduated from Monash University, earned a master of arts degree at NYU and his doctorate at Columbia University. In the tradition of this series, Efron is an accomplished linguist, at home in Hebrew, German and Yiddish.

Professor Efron is the author or editor of six books, including *Defenders of the Race: Jewish Doctors and Race Science* (Yale University Press, 1994), *Medicine and the German Jews: A History* (Yale University Press, 2001), and Efron *The Jews: A History*, third edition, which has become the standard textbook in the field.

Efron spoke with erudition and wit about his most recent work, *German Jewry and the Allure of the Sephardic* (Princeton, 2016), to an enthusiastic audience, more than 50 in the Regents' room. Efron focused on the issues of facial beauty, synagogue architecture and historiography as three representative areas in which the Sephardic allure operated heavily on the German Jewish imagination. While 19th century German Jews did not seek to recreate the Golden Age of medieval Spain, they did envision it as a useful countermodel to the supposed decrepitude of Eastern European Jewish life.

## Lorne Richstone: Hitting All the Right Notes



Lorne Richstone and Janice Meyerson

Professor Lorne Richstone was born and raised in Montreal, Canada. From 1982 to 2006, he was vocal and opera coach at the Deutsche Opera Berlin, Germany, where he played under a host of prominent conductors and appeared in performance with many of the world's leading singers. Professor Richstone joined the University of Oklahoma School of Music in 2006 and has been the driving force in three successful musical programs. Our programs for 2017 and 2018 show Richstone's range of interests: "From Amsterdam to Auschwitz: Jewish Composers Persecuted by the Nazis" (Nov. 9th 2017) and in 2018, "From Bialystock to Broadway." The Schusterman Center is profoundly grateful for his contribution, and in Professor Richstone's own words:

"Songs of Devotion and Desire: The Musical Heritage of Spain" was the third collaborative event I presented together with the Schusterman

Center for Judaic and Israel Studies and the School of Music of the Weitzenhoffer Family College of Fine Arts. Through research in libraries around the world over many years, I discovered a wealth of Sephardic art songs, many of which have never been performed before in North America. The recital was preceded by Luis Cortest's illuminating lecture on Sephardic history and culture. Performing a recital of Jewish music with Janice Meyerson has long been a dream of mine ever since we met during a production of "La Gioconda" in Berlin during the late 1980s. We discussed working on a recital of Jewish songs together back then, and finally after 30 years, we found the perfect opportunity.

## Center Says Goodbye to Walker Robins



Walker Robins

*Walker Robins has been a major contributor to the Schusterman Center (redesigning our website and logo); an exceptional doctoral student (winning a Graduate Teacher Award and a Doctoral Dissertation Award); and colleague (teaching U.S. History, Judaic studies courses and OLLI classes). He will be sorely missed, and we wish him and his wife Katy continued success in Boston.*

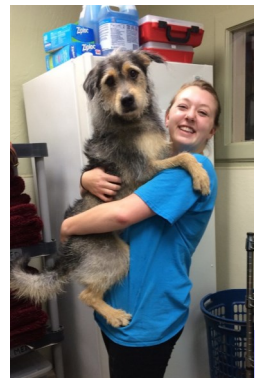
**Walker Robins** served as a lecturer with the OU History Department and Institute for the American Constitutional Heritage in the 2016-2017 academic year. He also taught several classes with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, including "Religion in the Arab-Israeli Conflict." In February, his article, "Jacob Gartenhaus: The Southern Baptists' Jew," appeared in the *Journal of Southern Religion*. Next fall, Robins will serve as the Israel Institute post-doctoral fellow in Israel Studies at the Schusterman Center for Israel Studies at Brandeis University, where he will work on converting his dissertation, "Between Dixie and Zion: Southern Baptists' Palestine Questions," into a book and teach in the Department of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies.

## Graduate Student Spotlight



Jacob Lackner

Congratulations to **Jacob Lackner**, who was awarded the Nancy Mergler Dissertation Completion Fellowship from the College of Arts and Sciences at OU and the Noam Stillman Prize for Excellence in Judaic Studies by OU's Schusterman Center. Lackner will complete the research for his dissertation this summer with a trip to the National Library of Israel in Jerusalem. A chapter from his dissertation, titled "Violent Men and Malleable Women: Gender and the Conversion of Jews to Christianity in Medieval Sermon Exempla," appeared in *Nashim: A Journal of Jewish Women's and Gender Studies*. Lackner also presented a paper titled "A Positive Form of the Jewish Other? The Conversion of Jewish Men to Christianity in *The Golden Legend*" at the Texas Medieval Association Conference in September 2016. Lackner taught several classes at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at the OU, including: "Holy War: The History of the Crusades," "Abraham's Heirs: Medieval Jewish-Christian Relations" and "Medieval Christianity: Its History and Practices." He was invited to participate in OLLI's "Bedlam Learning Series" in February at St. Luke's Methodist Church, where he gave a talk titled "Religious Tolerance in the 'Dark Ages'? Positive Relationships Between Jews and Christians in the Medieval Period."



Hailey Franks



Leah Pace

**Hailey Franks** spent the 2016-17 academic year studying in Israel at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Two classes she especially enjoyed were "Reading Jewish Medieval Exegesis" with Professor Eran Viesel and "Kabbalah: Myth and Mysticism" with Iris Felix. She has traveled all over the country and especially enjoyed visiting Caesarea. "Walking along the Roman and Crusader ruins," she reports, "was absolutely surreal for me." Franks was invited to attend the Origeniana Duodecima conference in June at Hebrew University. The theme of the conference was "Origen's Legacy in the Holy Land-A Tale of Three Cities: Jerusalem, Caesarea and Bethlehem."

**Leah Pace** completed a paper with Ben Keppel titled "Black Education throughout the Long Civil Rights Movement." In it she examined scholarship on African American education from Reconstruction to the Brown v. Board of Education Supreme Court decision in 1954. She continues to work on her thesis on Jewish women in the civil rights movement and plans to conduct archival research in the personal papers of civil rights activist Faith Holsaert at Duke University.



Jesse Weinberg

Congratulations to **Jesse Weinberg** for winning the Zarrow Family Scholarship in Judaic Studies to deliver a lecture titled "Anti-Semitism in Iraq, 1918-1942," at the World Congress of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem in August. He also received a research grant from the Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa to visit archives while in Israel. In October, he will present a paper based on his research at ASMEA's conference in Washington, D.C. Weinberg also received the Anne Hodges & H. Wayne Morgan Award to visit archives in England.



# Professor Cline to Spend 2017-18 Year in Israel

In June and July, Rangar Cline (Religious Studies) began his year in Israel by leading eight OU students to take part in the excavations at Legio, the base of Rome's Sixth Legion (Ferrata), which was stationed in the Jezreel Valley next to Megiddo in the second and third centuries CE. Five of the OU students received scholarships from the Schusterman Center for Judaic and Israel Studies. The group excavated for three weeks and spent five days prior to the excavation visiting archaeological sites, museums and modern towns in northern Israel.

In August, Cline will travel to Jerusalem with his wife, Jennifer Davis Cline, an associate professor of history, and daughters Poppie and Zoe. Cline received a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship from the Albright Institute of Archaeological Research in Jerusalem, which will allow him to spend a sabbatical year in Israel working on his book project, *Sacred Travel in the Roman Empire and the Making of Christian Pilgrimage*. The book examines the motivations and economic consequences of pilgrimage in the late Roman empire, between ca. 200 and 600 CE. While in Israel, Cline will use the library resources of the Albright and other Jerusalem institutions, examining collections of pilgrimage souvenirs at the Israel Museum and studying the ways in which pilgrims would have travelled to their destinations in the late Roman and early Byzantine periods.



Ranger Cline

Cline and his family will be staying at an apartments for visiting fellows at the Albright Institute, a building near Jerusalem's Old City that dates to the era of the British Mandate. He hopes the Albright and its garden courtyard will make an inspiring place to compose his book and exchange ideas with other scholars. The girls are looking forward to attending the Jerusalem American International School during the 2017-18 school year. Jennifer will teach her OU courses on-line while writing her book about libertines in old regime France and its American colonies. Cline will be tweeting about the summer excavations and research in Jerusalem at @Clinerangar and blogging about it at <http://underthemediterraneansun.blogspot.com>.

## Save the Date: Upcoming Events

### 2017-2018 Brown-bag Lecture Series Continues Diverse Offerings:

- Sept. 6** David Levy, "Mark Twain and the Jews"
- Oct. 4** Philipp Lenhard, "A History of Friendship: Hannah Arendt and Anne Mendelssohn-Weil, 1921-1975"
- Nov. 1** Peter Gries, "Liberals, Conservatives, and Israel: The Partisan American Politics of Palestine"
- Dec. 6** Rhona Seidelman, "Negotiating Israeli Memory: The Legacy of Professor Michael Feige"
- Feb. 7** Carsten Schapkow, "Max Nordau: Early Zionism and the Sephardic Mystique"
- Mar. 7** Ronnie Grinberg, "We Must March My Darlings: Being a Woman New York Intellectual"
- Apr. 4** Jonathan Shames, "Mahler and Other Musical Matters"
- May 2** Jacob Lackner, "Violent Men and Malleable Women in Medieval Sermons"

### Other Lectures/Events:

- Oct. 18, 25, Nov 1** Film Festival Screenings: *Usphizin*, *A Week and a Day*, *Disturbing the Peace* (respectively)
- Nov. 9** "Amsterdam to Auschwitz: Jewish Composers Persecuted by the Nazis," Concert and Lecture
- Feb. 8** Presidential Dream Course Lecture Series: *Genesis and Science*, Ron Hendel
- Feb. 20** Presidential Dream Course Lecture Series: Anatheia Portier-Young
- Feb. 22** **18th Annual Yedida Kalfon Stillman Memorial Lecture**, James Diamon
- Mar. 13** Presidential Dream Course Lecture Series: *Inheriting Abraham*, Jon Levenson
- Apr. 12** Presidential Dream Course Lecture Series: *Reading Paul in Abraham*, Mark Nanos
- Apr. 19** Presidential Dream Course Lecture Series: *What's Divine about Divine Law?* Christine Hayes

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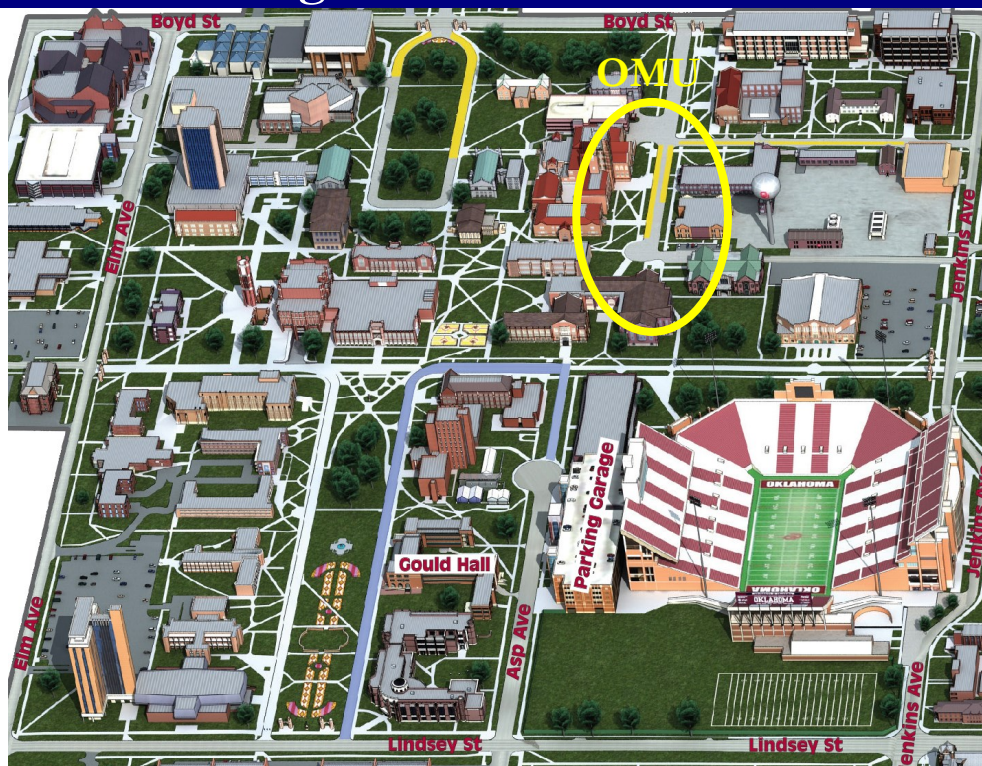
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### **Brown-bag Lunches Held in Oklahoma Memorial Union**



The parking facility is directly north from the Oklahoma Memorial Union.

Parking passes will be available at all brown-bag Lunches

We look forward to welcoming our faithful regulars from Oklahoma City, and new friends, too!

**For more information about our events please visit [Judaicstudies.ou.edu](http://Judaicstudies.ou.edu) or contact Katy Hall at [katyhall@ou.edu](mailto:katyhall@ou.edu) or (405) 325-6508**

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