



**SCHUSTERMAN CENTER FOR
JUDAIC AND ISRAEL STUDIES**
The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA®

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Letter from **Alan Levenson**

Schusterman/Josey Chair in Judaic Studies

leader for the Megiddo dig, and a new cohort of M.A. students who began August 2020.

All our faculty (core and affiliated) remain highly engaged. Carsten Schapkow continues his remarkably productive, international career. This year he's Visiting Professor at the University of Potsdam. We miss him already. Ronnie Grinberg spoke at the Center for Jewish History in NYC. Ronnie was the only junior faculty, nationwide invited to a special session on the "New York Intellectuals," the subject of her research. She also interviewed Pamela Nadell for the inaugural podcast for *The Journal of Women's History*, now housed in OU's History Department, and participated with Professor Karlos Hill (Chair, African-American Studies) in a conversation sponsored by the Interfaith Alliance of Oklahoma City. Rhona Seidelman published *Under Quarantine* (Rutgers University Press, 2020) and presented "Claiming My Egypt" at the Association of Jewish Studies. Shmuel Shepkaru and Alan Levenson continued to represent the center in myriad ways; both are in the final stages of preparing book manuscripts. Tryce Hyman continues to administer our center with exceptional skill and commitment; students and faculty alike have relied upon his problem-solving in this pandemic and he has not disappointed. In our little world, nobody has.

Wishing you all a healthy, heedful and productive year.

Our year altered abruptly with the recognition that the coronavirus was a global pandemic. We were able to celebrate the publication of Dr. Rhona Seidelman's painfully relevant *Under Quarantine* at our March JuSt Lunch. The evening before, we hosted professor Pamela Nadell (American University), who spoke about her book *America's Jewish Women* for our 20th annual Yedida Kalfon Memorial Lecture. But we had to postpone our 25th anniversary celebration with Professor David Levy and other notables until December 2, 2020. Zoom links will be forthcoming for this and all our fall events. April and May were consumed with going online with our classes and helping our students scramble for academic alternatives for the summer. The Charles and Lynn Schusterman Foundation generously allowed us to allocate funds to help students take online courses at Hebrew University and at the University of Oklahoma.

The pandemic and the recognition of systemic racism qualify as "epoch-making events," to use philosopher Emil Fackenheim's phrase. Although it feels like the distant past, the "before" is worth recalling: the OU Schusterman Center was having a very successful year, with plenty of students, terrific and diverse events, enthusiastic applicants for our Study in Israel programs, including one with Dr. Tyson Putthoff as OU's

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Update From Jerusalem

Noam Stillman

Emeritus Professor and
Founding Director



As in much of the world, this has been a year here in Jerusalem like none other in recent memory. As at OU, the Hebrew University closed its gates, and I after the first week of the spring semester, which only begins here in March, taught my annual course via Zoom, an application that I never heard of previously, but now wish that I owned stock in the company. I also attended Jesse Weinberg's successful dissertation defense on Zoom and was delighted that my last American Ph.D. student was now a colleague. I was supposed to lecture in London in March, chair the opening of a symposium at Bar-Ilan University here in Israel, and to give the keynote address at a colloquium at the Ludwig-Maximilians Universitaet in Munich in June, where I had held the Allianz Guest Professorship, but all of these were put on indefinite hold for the time being.

Prior to the closure of most everything due to the pandemic, I gave the keynote address at a colloquium in Paris on the Jews of the North African French Protectorates. I published a long review article in *Jerusalem Studies in Arabic and Islam*, and continued editing the expanding online edition of the *Encyclopedia of Jews in the Islamic World*, as well as working on various editorial and academic boards.

My thoughts and prayers are, of course, always with OU, and I hope that I shall be able to visit campus again before too long.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Noam Stillman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.



Statement from the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation on Recent Acts of Racism in the United States

This is a painful time in our country. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought enormous suffering and exacerbated societal inequities we have long known existed.

The past months have also been a stark and painful reminder of the urgent need to address racism in this country and continue the work of racial equity. We have seen Black Americans targeted in their homes, parks and other public spaces. We have seen unarmed Black Americans killed while armed protestors storm capitol buildings unscathed.

We recognize that there is no neutral when it comes to racism, and those who benefit from the status quo must actively work against it. Structural racism and both explicit and implicit bias underpin so many societal issues—from access to a high-quality education, to adequate health care, to the right to vote, to family-sustaining wage jobs and healthy working conditions, and clearly in the

implementation of our criminal justice system. We need to examine all the ways systems have been built to protect power and privilege for some at the expense of others.

Our foundation stands with the Black community and with communities of color. We are committed to working toward a more just and equitable society through learning and through action. We are investing in increasing equitable access to an excellent education, in reforming a biased criminal justice system, in providing access to health care and reproductive justice for women of color, in removing barriers to exercising the right to vote and in supporting Jews of Color in the Jewish community.

It is not enough, and we are committed to doing more. We know many of our partners and network members are active in working toward racial equity and hope many more people will join.

KUDOS & CONGRATULATIONS



Alan Levenson

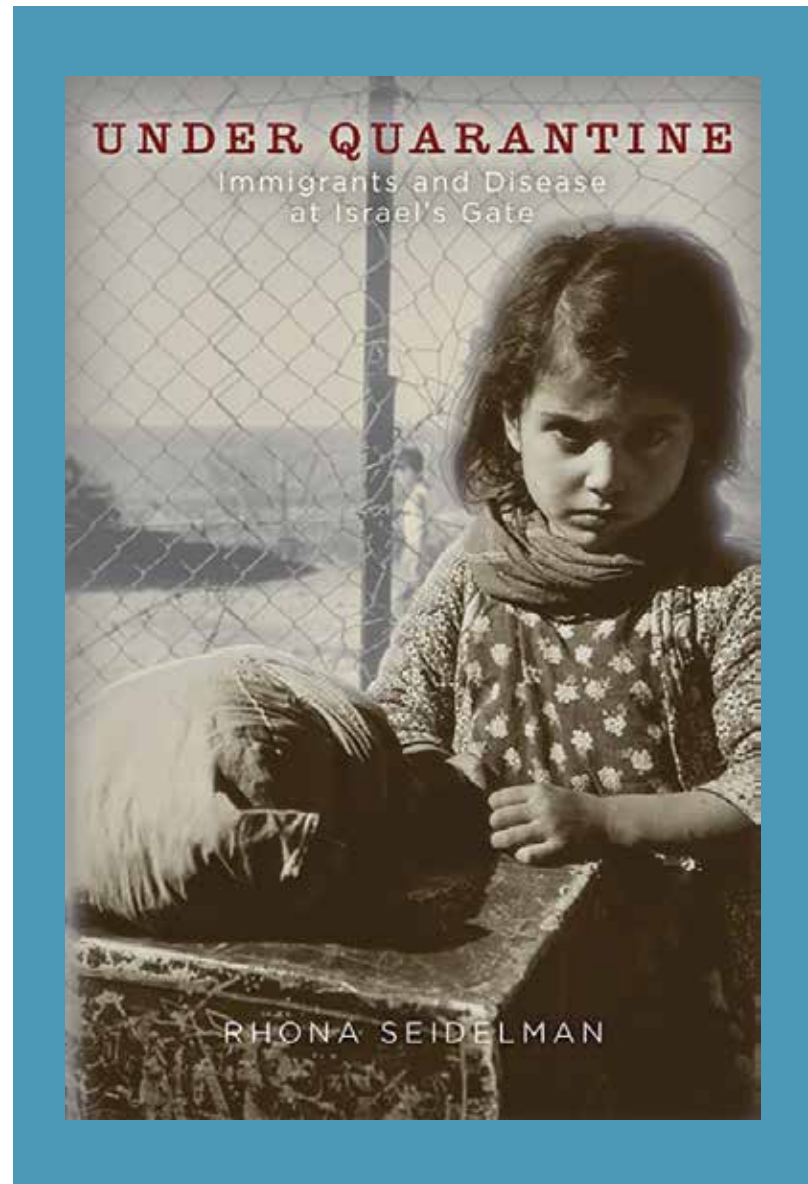
Alan Levenson traveled to the University of Manchester and Brandeis University on a Senior Faculty Summer Fellowship to complete archival research on a book project titled “Maurice Samuel (1895-1972): Life and Works of a Jewish Contrarian.” Samuel wrote

on Zionism, Yiddish, Jewish-Christian relations and the Bible, supporting himself as a freelance lecturer, author and translator. Raised in Rumania and Manchester, Samuel served in the U.S. Army in WWI and belonged to a group dubbed the “other” New York Intellectuals. Levenson gave talks on this Jewish generalist in Austin, Boston and at the Midwest Association of Jewish Studies. He debuted the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute course “Comparing Biblical Nations: Israel and the United States,” and returns this fall to teach “Four Jewish Short Stories.” Levenson’s essay, “Invidious Distinctions: Hebraism and Hellenism,” appeared in *Jewish Quarterly Review* (2020). Mainly, he worked for the center, welcomed guests (at least until COVID-19 struck), celebrated his son’s graduation from OU and prepared for the arrival of the Schusterman Center’s new graduate student cohort (see page 17).



Rhona Seidelman

Rhona Seidelman published her first monograph, *Under Quarantine: Immigrants and Disease at Israel’s Gate* (Rutgers UP), which was celebrated by Schusterman Center and colleagues with a reception in early March with a JuSt Lunch talk. *Under*



Quarantine tells the story of Shaar Ha’aliya, Israel’s central immigration camp as of 1949. Focusing on the conflicts surrounding the camp’s medical quarantine, the book argues that we cannot fully understand Israel until we understand Shaar Ha’aliya and its complicated role as the country’s largest center of arrival for hundreds of thousands of immigrants. In late March, Seidelman had a chance to reflect on how the history of quarantine can help us during this difficult time of pandemic on a blog forum initiated by *Jewish Quarterly Review*. She presented a new project, “Claiming My Egypt,” at the annual conference for the Association

of Jewish Studies. “Claiming My Egypt” is a scholarly, autobiographical examination of identity among the children of Jewish Egyptian émigrés. Seidelman is excited to be continuing this project as an OU Arts and Humanities Forum Fellow. By chance, the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic overlapped with her spring undergraduate course “The History of Disease.” The students’ essays on the historical context of COVID-19 were a bright spot in this unsettling period. It was encouraging to see these young people making important arguments for how the history of public health could be applied to improve our current health crisis.



Carsten Schapkow

Carsten Schapkow

celebrated the publication of his edited volume *Jewish Studies and Israel Studies in the 21st Century: Intersections and Prospects* (Lexington Books 2019) with a well-attended book talk cosponsored by the OU's

David L. Boren College of International Studies and the Center for the Study of Nationalism. Schapkow also published the book chapter “Die Russischen Revolutionen von 1917: Ein Wendepunkt aus jüdischer Perspektive” in *Die Wahrnehmung der Russische Revolution 1917. Zwischen utopischen Träumen und erschütterter Ablehnung*, edited by Frank Jacob (Berlin: Metropol, 2019). Schapkow’s “Iberisch-sephardisches Judentum in der Wissenschaft des Judentums: Aneignung, Abgrenzung, kulturelle Vermittlung” appeared in *Jüdische Übersetzer als Akteure interkultureller Transformationen*, edited by Rafael Arnold (Heidelberg: Winter Verlag 2019). In November 2019, Schapkow co-organized a workshop at Nord University in Bodø, Norway, focusing on Nationalism in

a Transnational Age. The edited workshop volume will be published later in 2020 with de Gruyter publishers Berlin. He also organized a new lecture series as director of the Center of the Study of Nationalism, which the Schusterman Center cosponsored.



Ronnie Grinberg

Ronnie Grinberg

participated in a number of public talks in 2019-20. In honor of Martin Luther King Day, she and professor Karlos Hill, chair of African-American Studies at OU, had a conversation about the relationship between antisemitism, anti-Black

racism and white nationalism at an event sponsored by the Oklahoma City chapter of the NAACP and Temple B’nai Israel. In early February, she was honored to be invited by the Center for Jewish History in New York City to take part in a screening and panel discussion of the 2000 documentary film, *Arguing The Word*, alongside the film’s director, Joseph Dorman, Princeton historian David A. Bell and *New York Times Book Review* editor Barry Gewen. Later that spring, Grinberg interviewed professor Pamela Nadell about her new book, *America’s Jewish Women: A History from Colonial Times to Today*, winner of the 2019 National Jewish Book Award, for a podcast produced by the *Journal of Women’s History*, now edited by colleagues at the University of Oklahoma. Grinberg was also awarded a Junior Faculty Fellowship from OU’s Office of the Vice President of Research and Partnerships to support the completion of her book manuscript on the “New York Intellectuals,” under contract with Princeton University Press.

KUDOS/CONGRATS *(continued)*



Misha Klein

Misha Klein resurrected her course “The Anthropology of Jews and Jewishness” for both undergraduate and graduate students. She published an article in Portuguese with Brazilian colleague Michel Gherman, the first publication from their

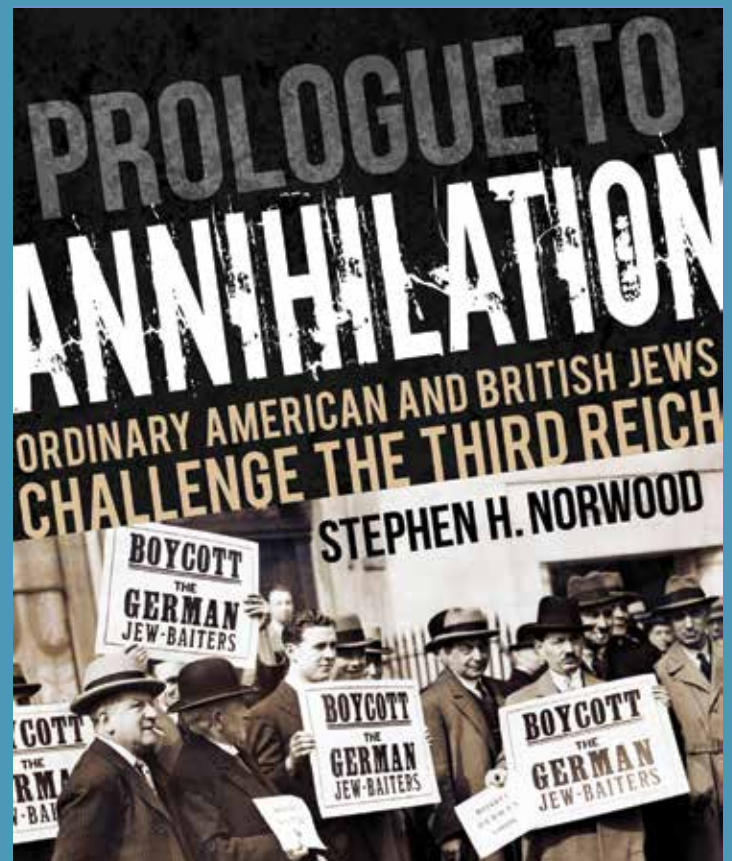
joint research project in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The title translates as: “Between ‘Converts’ and ‘Disconverts’: The Case of the Influence of the Brazilian New Right on the Jewish Community in Rio de Janeiro,” published in the Argentinian journal *Estudios Sociales del Estado*. Klein’s joint research project produced the Cultural Colloquium Lecture “Race, Politics, and the Rupturing of the Jewish Community in Brazil, or What Happened ‘That Night’ in Rio,” hosted by OU’s Department of Anthropology. She also attended the sixth regional conference of the Latin American Jewish Studies Association, where she presented the paper “‘Judeu Sionista Não Apoia Fascista!’: Protest and the End of Community Consensus.” (The rhyming Portuguese translates as “Zionist Jews Don’t Support Fascism!” which was one of the chants at the protest discussed.) Klein served as a panelist on antisemitism for the “Defeating Stereotypes” session of the “Beloved Community” series sponsored by the Human Rights Commission of the City of Norman in December 2019. She was also the recipient of the 2019 Oklahoma Universal Human Rights Award by the Oklahoma Universal Human Rights Alliance. Klein continued to serve on the Board of Directors of the Latin American Jewish Studies Association, and as the coordinator for its international conference in Curaçao, originally scheduled for June 2020, but postponed until 2021.



Stephen H. Norwood

Stephen H. Norwood’s sixth book is at press. *Prologue to Annihilation: Ordinary American and British Jews Challenge the Third Reich*, a volume in the series “Studies in Antisemitism,” is slated for release with Indiana University Press next August.

His article, “White Devils, Satanic Jews: the Nation of Islam from Fard to Farrakhan,” coauthored with his wife, professor Eunice G. Pollack, was published in *Modern Judaism* in May. Norwood presented conference papers on aspects of the history of antisemitism at the annual convention of the American Historical Association in New York City (January 2020), at the International Conference on Contradictions and Tropes of Antisemitism at the University of Arizona (February 2020) and at the Biennial Conference of American



Jewish Historians (May 2020). He also published op-eds on antisemitism in the *Jerusalem Post*, *Algemeiner* and *History News Network*.



Andrew Porwancher

Andrew Porwancher

continued to make progress on two book projects, *The Jewish World of Alexander Hamilton* and *Theodore Roosevelt and the Jews*, both under contract with Princeton University Press. He also gave lectures on Jewish topics

at Middlebury College and the Charles Schusterman Jewish Community Center in Tulsa. Harvard University recently named Porwancher the Ernest May Fellow in History and Policy for 2020-2021. He will spend the year in residence at the Belfer Center, housed within the Harvard Kennedy School, completing work on his Roosevelt book project for Princeton University Press.



Tyson Putthoff

Tyson Putthoff's *Gods and Humans in the Ancient Near East* is slated for imminent release in August, having been delayed due to the global pandemic. Putthoff was prepared to lead the OU students at an archaeological site at Megiddo in Israel over the

summer pre COVID-19. He continues work on his two book projects. One explores the anthropology of Paul. The other, *Monstrous Humans in the Ancient Near East*, is now under contract with Cambridge University Press.



Daniel Simon

Daniel Simon taught "How to Edit and Publish a Literary Magazine" for the Department of English for the 15th year in a row and worked with Arts & Sciences, Journalism and Fine Arts to spearhead a new minor in Editing & Publishing.

In November, he chaired the organizing committee commemorating the 50th anniversary of Tomás Rivera, the famous Chicano educator and author, having received his Ph.D. from OU. As editor-in-chief of *World Literature Today*, he secured grants from Oklahoma Humanities and OU's Faculty Investment Program for the planned campus-wide commemorations of the Tulsa Race Massacre centennial throughout the 2020-2021 academic year, in partnership with the Department of African & African American Studies. His newest book project, *Dispatches from the Republic of Letters*, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Neustadt International Prize for Literature, is due out in October 2020. The book will include the acceptance speech or keynote talk by all 25 laureates to date (1970-2018) as well as encomia by the jurors who nominated them.



Nina E. Livesey

Nina E. Livesey was invited to give a paper for the international research group EVTL (Epistolary Visions of Transformational Leadership). Presenters were to have convened at the end of March for a conference in Southern Denmark. Due to COVID-19, the conference

was postponed until this fall in a virtual format. All

KUDOS/CONGRATS *(continued)*

presenters will be brought to Denmark at the completion of this group's three-year project, likely in 2022.



Karin Schutjer

Karin Schutjer's 2015 book *Goethe and Judaism: The Troubled Inheritance of Modern Literature* saw a German translation released in May 2020 under the title *Goethe und das Judentum: Das schwierige Erbe der modernen Literatur*. The book was translated by Ulrike Bischoff and published by Wallstein Press in Göttingen.



Rangar Cline

Rangar Cline and his family visited the Albright Institute for Archaeological Research in Jerusalem in summer of 2019, where he advanced work on his project studying pilgrimage souvenirs from the Roman and Byzantine periods, aspects of which

he presented at the International Society of Biblical Literature Conference in Rome that same summer. While in Jerusalem, the Clines were able to visit some of their favorite places from when they lived there in 2017-18 during Rangar's sabbatical year. While in Israel, he also assisted with the excavations at Legio, the base for Rome's VI Legion, located next to Megiddo in the Jezreel Valley and dated to the second to third centuries C.E. The excavations focused on the Principia, the house of the legionary commander, where excavators found a shrine associated with the legionary standards as well as the commander's personal latrine. Rangar had two chapters appear in edited volumes during the past year, one on pilgrimage to water sources in the Holy Land, and one on early Christian relics and death pollution. More information about both can be found at his website: rangarcline.com.



Janet Ward

Janet Ward organized a panel series last summer on "Fascism, America, and Human Rights" at the Memory Studies Association's conference in Madrid and continued her Holocaust memory studies research in Berlin and Budapest. She gave a

TEDxOU talk in September (“Mother of Exiles’: The Statue of Liberty and the Legacy of the Holocaust”). At the German Studies Association’s most recent conference in Portland (October 2019), she co-organized a three-day seminar on “The Nazi Legacy for Today’s America.” In fall 2019, Ward also conducted Holocaust research at the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) archives in New York City; she presented on “Tel Aviv Bauhaus and the White City Myths” in the OU JuSt Lunch series; and she gave an invited lecture at Brigham Young University’s Humanities Center. In the New Year she co-organized a round-table at the American Historical Association’s annual meeting in New York City on “The Nazi Legacy in the Trump Era: Research, Pedagogy, and Public Engagement.” This round-table was the focus of an *Inside Higher Ed* article. In early 2020, Ward participated in a workshop at the Goethe University Frankfurt organized by the Human Rights and Memory Working Group. She currently serves as the German Studies Association’s elected vice president, helping to organize this association’s first-ever “virtual” conference for fall 2020. Ward’s two-year term as GSA president commences in January 2021 (www.thegsa.org).

scholarly and public interest. Work on her current book project “Who Owns the Bible?” is ongoing, and she published several articles, including “The ‘Slave Bible’ is Not What You Think” in June for *The Revealer*.



Kanaan Goldstein

Kanaan Goldstein, Class of 2019 alumna and winner of the Stillman Prize for Excellence in Judaic Studies, has been accepted in the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Wyncote, Pennsylvania. All of us at the Schusterman Center are very proud of her accomplishment

and wish her the very best on her path through rabbinical school!

Congratulations also to **Jacob Lackner** and **Leah Pace**, who were married over the summer. The couple met as graduate students of the Schusterman Center, and we are all very happy for them. Jacob Lackner finished his doctoral degree with us in 2018 and serves on our associated faculty as a lecturer.



Jill Hicks-Keaton

Congratulations to **Jill Hicks-Keaton** on gaining tenure at OU over the summer. Her book, *Arguing with Aseneth: Gentile Access to Israel’s Living God in Jewish Antiquity* won the 2020 Manfred Lautenschlaeger Award for Theological Promise. Hicks-Keaton’s

recent edited volume, *The Museum of the Bible: A Critical Introduction*, continues to generate considerable



Jacob Lackner and Leah Pace

STUDENT NEWS

Congratulations also to all Schusterman Center majors/minors and grad students who were awarded scholarships:

Jacob Jeffery (Judaic History M.A.) won a Study in Israel Scholarship.

Karsyn Johnson (Judaic & Israel Studies minor) won a Study in Israel Scholarship.

Collin Markoski (Judaic & Israel Studies minor) won a Study in Israel Scholarship.

Kaylee Lynn Maxey (Incoming Judaic History M.A.) won an Esther Rose Schnier Scholarship.

Quincy McSpadden (Hebrew minor) won a Study in Israel Scholarship, an Esther Rose Schnier Scholarship, and a Rosalyn W. Price Memorial Scholarship.

Kaitlyn Morrison-Henson (Incoming Judaic History M.A.) won a Study in Israel Scholarship, an Esther Rose Schnier Scholarship, and a Rosalyn W. Price Memorial Scholarship.

Graham Aryeh Wall (Judaic Studies major) won The Norman Stillman Prize for Excellence in Judaic Studies.

Ella Watson (Judaic & Israel Studies and Hebrew minor) won a Study in Israel Scholarship.

Congratulations to our wonderful graduating students:

Noah Gordon (Judaic & Israel Studies minor) completed his Psychology B.A. in December.

Spencer Friedman (Judaic & Israel Studies minor) completed his Mathematics B.A. in December, and has gone on to take the position of Hillel at the University of Oklahoma's engagement coordinator. We are happy he's staying local!

Callie Spencer (Hebrew minor) completed her B.A. in Journalism in December.

Graham Aryeh Wall (Judaic Studies major) will pursue an Education M.A. at NYU while teaching social studies in Albany, New York. (See opposite page).

Jesse Weinberg (History Ph.D.) successfully



Jesse Weinberg

defended his dissertation, *The End of Eden: Anti-Semitism in Iraq, 1917-51*, which explores the rise of antisemitism in 20th-century Iraq, how it evolved into a powerful force in governing circles and gave rise to mass violence, discriminatory

legislation and an official desire to eliminate the country's Jewish population. Congratulations and good luck to our newly minted Dr. Weinberg!

LETTER FROM G.S. ARYEH WALL

I have been so incredibly blessed to be a part of the Schusterman Center for Judaic and Israel Studies during my time at OU. Every single day, I was challenged and empowered in my personal and academic life in a myriad of ways both in and out of class: from conversations with non-Jewish peers about holiday observances and traditions to diverse JuSt Lunches and lectures to discussing Hallmark Chanukah movies with Tryce and Dr. Levenson! Classes pushed me to think about and articulate Jewish culture and history in ways I had never considered, to tell our stories and advocate for our community in a rapidly changing world. But even beyond my time on campus, the Schusterman Center continues to empower me. They have supported me through graduate school applications and confusion and uncertainty, as plans changed and life happened. They've been my family, even attending my rather-spontaneous "traditional" Zoom wedding amidst this pandemic! Thanks to them (and thanks to you), I've been accepted into the teacher residency at New York University, and will be spending the foreseeable future as a secondary social studies teacher in Albany, NY. I am excited to bring the culture of the Schusterman Center to my students: the collegial atmosphere, the diversity of sources and opinions, the honest and dedicated effort to understanding and contextualizing history as not just the stories of the victors, and most of all, the endless love and support. I am smarter, stronger, and better-prepared for life not just as a teacher, but as a Jew, a husband, a father, and a citizen of the world because of my time and relationships with the center.

- G.S. Aryeh Wall



*Love in the time of COVID-19:
Aryeh and Emmitt marry via a Zoom ceremony attended by friends and family.*

EVENTS

2019-2020 HIGHLIGHTS
30 EVENTS | 1,600+ ATTENDEES

During the course of the past year, the Schusterman Center for Judaic and Israel Studies at the University of Oklahoma was thrilled to present or cosponsor 30 events, engaging students and the community at large.



Musician Lainie Fefferman performs *White Fire* at Pitman Recital Hall



Pamela Nadell delivers the 25th Annual Yedida K. Stillman Memorial Lecture at Oklahoma Memorial Union

ZOOM INTO FALL WITH US!

In consideration of the health and safety of students, faculty and our community at large—all Schusterman Center events for fall 2020 will be held via Zoom.

If you are already on our email lists, you will receive Zoom invitations for upcoming events, and postcard reminders will still be sent as usual. Events for spring 2021 will, circumstances permitting, be held on campus (expect an update mailer letting the community know).

If you want to be added to our email list, please send an email to judaicstudies@ou.edu.

Fall 2020 JuSt Lunches

1st Wednesday of the Month @ Noon
[via Zoom for Fall]



Sept. 2 | “The Jefferson Bible: Enlightenment Oddity, American Artifact”

with Alan Levenson via Zoom

Oct. 7 | “It’s All Syriac To Me: The Most Important Language You’ve Never Heard Of”

with Scott Johnson via Zoom

Nov. 4 | “Hannah Arendt’s Concept of Antisemitism”

with Kaleigh Bangor via Zoom



Fall 2020 Special Events

Americans and the Holocaust

with Daniel Greene

Oct. 21 | Noon via Zoom

Celebrating 25 Years of Judaic and Israel Studies at the University of Oklahoma

with David Levy

Dec. 2 | Noon via Zoom



YouTube

Many of our JuSt Lunches, Guest Lectures and events from our Lecture and Concert Series can be found online. Visit: ou.edu/cas/judaicstudies/social-media

GRAD STUDENT COLUMN



My name is Rachel Lopo and I am a doctoral candidate in the Educational Leadership and Policy Studies Department here at the University of Oklahoma. For my dissertation, I plan on studying what types of partnerships exist between Judaic Studies (JuSt) departments and their local Jewish communities. I chose this topic because of my interest in Jewish community development and JuSt in academia. I am particularly interested in how these two entities foster partnerships with one another from the perspective of Jewish community members and JuSt faculty alike.

Interest in university and community partnerships is growing, according to the expanding literature on the topic. However, a gap still remains within the available literature on university-community partnerships which focuses explicitly on JuSt partnerships with their local Jewish community. This study attempts to fill in this gap in the literature

to better comprehend how Jewish communities and JuSt departments operate. Qualitative research methods such as interviews with participants will be used to gain in-depth understanding of the various attitudes and perspectives on such partnerships.

Current literature on university-community partnerships posits that there are both benefits and challenges in forming such relationships, and this assertion also holds true for partnerships between JuSt departments and Jewish communities. For my dissertation, I would like to explore the various benefits and challenges which are specific to JuSt and Jewish community partnerships. In addition, a large proportion of the available research on Jewish communities or JuSt departments focuses on areas of the U.S. which have large Jewish populations, thus excluding the perspectives of the Jewish communities and JuSt faculty in the South and Midwest. For this reason, I will focus on partnerships in midwestern or southern Jewish communities and JuSt programs.

The significance of this study is to provide a resource for stakeholders in the creation of future JuSt and Jewish community partnerships and to better understand this relatively unexplored topic. Ideally, research on partnerships between Jewish communities and JuSt departments will serve not only as a pertinent resource for stakeholders, but also as a reference for community development and institutional responsibility on the university's behalf. As interest in university-community partnerships grow, so too will the need for scholarship as a guide to forming relationships between universities and communities.

WELCOME GRAD FELLOWS

We are proud to announce the creation of our new Schusterman Center Graduate Fellowship for Judaic/Israel History. This two-year fellowship is designed to prepare promising M.A. students for top-tier Ph.D. programs in Judaic and Israel Studies, and includes support for intensive language training and conference travel. We welcome our first cohort of four fellows:



Kaylee Maxey

Kaylee Maxey studied plant genetics and history as an undergraduate at OU. In 2019, she presented her paper, “German-Jewish Identity Politics throughout WWI” at the annual Phi Alpha Theta conference. Maxey also served two semesters as

an undergraduate teaching assistant in Schapkow’s courses “Jews and Other Germans” and “The Holocaust.” Her research will focus on questions of Jewish identity politics in Germany before and after the Holocaust.



Kaitlyn Morrison-Henson

Kaitlyn Morrison-Henson hails from Mustang, Oklahoma. She completed a Planned Program B.A. with the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Oklahoma in Conflicts and Cultures, with a minor in Judaic and

Israeli Studies. She served as a summer TA with

Shepkaru leading up to her time as a Graduate Fellow. Morrison-Henson’s M.A. research will focus on Jews during the Medieval period.



Michael Powell

Michael Powell is from Park Ridge, Illinois. At Marquette University he majored in History and minored in public history, and was part of the Disciplinary Honors in Humanities program and a member of Phi Alpha Theta. His honors

senior thesis, *Social Dynamics in the Dachau Concentration Camp*, was the culmination of two years of research during which he gained experience with both sides of archival work, as an archivist and as a researcher at Marquette University.



Jonah Roberson

Jonah Roberson is pursuing his M.A. in Judaic History focusing on modern German-Jewish history. Roberson graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 2020 with a B.A. in history. During the summer

of 2019, Roberson received a Digital Scholarship Undergraduate History Internship. His project, “Polish Identity During the Partitioned Years,” covers from the 16th century, when the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth was the largest country in Europe, to the 20th century.

OUR STORY

The Schusterman Center for Judaic and Israel Studies at the University of Oklahoma began as the *Schusterman/Josey Judaic Studies Program* with the establishment of the Schusterman/Josey Chair of Judaic History and the coming of Noam and Yedida Stillman to OU in 1995. From that modest beginning, Shmuel Shepkaru joined the program in 1997, and a Judaic Studies minor was established shortly thereafter. Ori Kritz arrived in 2003, enabling the establishment of a Hebrew minor in 2005. Carsten Schapkow joined the faculty in 2005 as well.

In 2007, the program expanded to become the *Schusterman Program in Judaic and Israel Studies*, including the establishment of a Judaic Studies Bachelor of Arts in 2008 and the creation of the endowed positions of Schusterman/Josey Professor of Jewish Intellectual & Religious History, initially held by Alan Levenson, and the Schusterman Chair of Modern Israel Studies.

In 2014, the program expanded again, becoming a center and gaining its present title. Rhona Seidelman filled the Schusterman Chair in Modern Israel Studies in 2015.

That same year also saw the retirement of founding director Noam Stillman and the addition of Ronnie Grinberg in American Jewish History. In 2019 the center successfully established a Judaic/Israel History major field for the History Master of Arts program, as well as the *Schusterman Center Graduate Fellowship in Judaic/Israel History*, which welcomed its first cohort of four M.A. Fellows in fall 2020.



Early program logo, circa 2007. Note the letters aleph/tav, a play on "A to Z."



Charles and Lynn Schusterman, circa 1997.



Noam Stillman delivers a JuSt Lunch, circa 1997.

CORE FACULTY



Alan Levenson
Professor | Schusterman/Josey
Chair in Judaic Studies



Shmuel Shepkaru
Associate Professor |
Schusterman Professor of
Jewish Intellectual and
Religious History



Ori Kritz
Professor of Hebrew and Jewish
Literature | Head of the Hebrew
Program



Carsten Schapkow
Associate Professor | L.R. Brammer
Jr. Presidential
Professor in History



Ronnie Grinberg
Assistant Professor | American
Jewish History & Gender Studies



Rhona Seidelman
Assistant Professor |
Schusterman Chair of Modern
Israel Studies

ASSOCIATE FACULTY

Benjamin Alpers
Associate Professor
Honors College

David Chappell
Rothbaum Professor of Modern
American History

Rangar Cline
Assistant Professor of Religious
Studies

Luis Cortest
Professor of Spanish

Jill Hicks-Keeton
Assistant Professor of Religious
Studies

Misha Klein
Associate Professor of
Anthropology

Jacob Lackner
Visiting Lecturer in History

Scott Johnson
Associate Professor of Classics
and Letters

Nina Livesey
Associate Professor of American
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Why Scholars (Still) Go to the Archives

Director Alan Levenson

The English-educated author/lecturer Maurice Samuel became one of the premier American Jewish humanists at mid-twentieth century. Samuel left Manchester UK in 1914 a pacifist. Three years later, he joined the American Army, served in Intelligence in WWI and became a United States citizen. Samuel shuttled between New York City and British Palestine in the 1920s, then spent his most creative years as an author on the lecture circuit in the 1930s–1960s. An immigrant and a contrarian, Samuel wrote twenty nonfiction books, four novels and numerous translations in four languages. He was a well-known American Jewish public intellectual at mid-century. His third wife, Edith Brodsky, editor of a well-loved Jewish children’s magazine *Keeping Posted*, settled him on the Upper West Side, organized his professional life, published three of his books posthumously and insured that Samuel’s correspondence, photos and book contracts found their way to the American Jewish Archives in Cincinnati rather than a New York City dumpster. Samuel’s mid-century fame notwithstanding, like many foreign-born intellectuals, he never secured a university posting or institutional status. Brandeis University awarded him an honorary doctorate in Humane Letters, but did not offer him a job. His life offers a unique window into the possibilities of 20th century American Jewish culture.

Samuel contributed to four unrelated, but important

domains. First, Samuel introduced many American readers to the world of classical Yiddish literature. Although he translated from French, German, and Hebrew, his fame as a translator comes from his Yiddish renderings; most of all, *The World of Sholom Aleichem*. Stated differently: no Samuel, no “Fiddler on the Roof.” Second, Samuel presented the Zionist cause for forty years. For Samuel, Zionism offered a secular vehicle for Jewish culture, not a nation-state. He condemned the Arab riots in 1929; he condemned Israeli settlements in 1968. Third, Samuel conducted twenty years of radio conversations over the Bible with Columbia University’s professor Mark van Doren on NBC’s widely broadcast “The Eternal Light.” Samuel also wrote three books on the Bible as literature, including *Certain People of the Book*, still oft-cited. Fourth, he defended Jews and Judaism against many detractors. Samuel succeeded in an era when it was possible to be a public intellectual without being an expert.

I travelled to Manchester in the United Kingdom during July 2019, conducting research at the Manchester University archives and at the Manchester City Central Library. I will return to what I found at each of these locations, but I also saw many of the buildings—from the Strangeways Jail to the fashionable Midland Hotel to the Corn Exchange, which were landmarks in Samuel’s day. I spent an afternoon at the Museum of Science and Technology, ostensibly for school kids, but actually a sophisticated presentation of the various industries—textiles above all—which earned Manchester the moniker “Cottonopolis.” This museum gave me the nuances of the various occupations created by this industry, one reason Great Britain kept its doors open to Jewish

immigration from Eastern Europe.

I spent two days at the Manchester Central Library reading school, community and philanthropic reports generated by the Jewish community. The most valuable source was unquestionably the school logs, mandated by the English Education Ministry. The Southall Primary School records allowed me to trace the growing school population, the gender breakdown of students and teachers, the neighborhoods in which the teachers lived, the gradual shift from teachers with English names to teachers with identifiably Jewish ones. The Southall records allowed me to read assessments of visiting inspectors about the intelligent, but often unruly children in the immigrant neighborhood of Strangeways, who tended “to ask too many questions.” This material, however valuable, provided background to Samuel’s upbringing. (As a youngster, Samuel’s name would have been pronounced “Morris,” English-style. In America he was introduced more fashionably as “Maur-eece.” To his old buddies, he remained “Moish,” the usual Yiddishized pronunciation of “Moses.” Naming Samuel offers a synecdoche for the challenges of placing his biography on the proper shelf.)

My time in the Manchester University Archives allowed me to solve a more particular mystery. Having attended Manchester University (1911-1914), Samuel was on track to complete a civil service degree, a promising entrée for any immigrant into the world of the British Foreign Office. But Samuel left without taking his degree. Why? Biographical sketches have not known what to do with this oddity: some speculated that he ran out of scholarship support, but three years ought to have sufficed to complete his degree. Samuel’s

autobiography, *Little Did I Know* (1963), explains that he took enough classes, simply not enough in his major; this answer turns out to be true, but cagily incomplete. In fact, Samuel launched a jeremiad in the student publication *Manchester University Magazine* in 1914, accusing the students of being careerists and the faculty of being aloof. Given the hostile responses in the next issue, Samuel probably derailed his own path to becoming a British Jewish gentleman and launched his journey to becoming an American Jewish advocate. Thanks to the dusty copies of the equivalent of the *OU Daily*, I was able to solve a central mystery in Samuel’s story.

Afterword: this visit to Manchester, generously funded by a Senior Faculty Summer Fellowship, came after external funding and research visits to the American Jewish Archives (AJA), in Cincinnati. At the AJA, I read correspondence between Samuel and others, looked at numerous book reviews in English and Yiddish, unavailable otherwise, saw photographs preserved by Edith Brodsky and had a peek at the inventory of Samuel’s library—to name a few items. The thirty-six boxes of material in Cincinnati allowed me to check draft copies of book manuscripts, including Chaim Weizmann’s *Trial and Error*. Samuel redacted Weizmann’s “autobiography” considerably: he was something less than a ghost writer, but more than an editor. Finally, I used a speaking invitation from UT Austin to spend a day at the Harry Ransom Archive, looking at the correspondence between Samuel and Alfred A. Knopf, his long-time publisher. For this one project, to be published by University Alabama Press, I used three archives, each visit adding a crucial details to the picture of *Maurice Samuel: The Last Jewish Humanist*.



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Congratulations to 2020 winners Brendan Adams, Joseph Adib-yazdi, Jeremy Barton, Daryl Callaway, Timothy Edwards, Brendon Golin, Kevin Grane, Hudson Harder, Jacob Jeffery, Karyson Johnson, Lucy Kates, Sarah Marcus, Collin Markoski, Quincy McSpadden, Kaitlyn Morrison-Henson, Jim North and Ella Watson!

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G.S. Aryeh Wall with his certificate for the Stillman Prize for Excellence in Judaic Studies.

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Study in Israel Scholarship students Kathryn Diskerud and Emmanuelle Chiocca.

The Schusterman Center for Judaic and Israel Studies at the University of Oklahoma was realized through a generous grant from the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation in 2014.

Alan Levenson has been working with the University of Oklahoma's Office of Development in putting together a program to help ensure the continuing work of the Center: *Friends of the OU Schusterman Center for Judaic and Israel Studies*.

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Cover Image: Rhona Seidelman presents a JuSt Lunch Lecture over her new book.