



*Volume 15*

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## Rangar Cline and Family in Israel



Professors Rangar Cline and Jennifer Davis

Professor Rangar Cline and family recently returned from Jerusalem, where he spent most of the 2017-18 academic year on sabbatical as a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow at the Albright Institute for Archaeological Research in Jerusalem. While there, he was able to research his next book project, tentatively titled “Religious Travel and Evidence for the Holy Places in Late Antiquity.” His project examines how natural phenomena, souvenirs, pilgrimage narratives, graffiti, and monuments served to authenticate holy places for travelers to the area between the fourth and seventh centuries CE.

While in Israel, Cline worked at the Albright Institute and École Biblique in Jerusalem. He visited a number of archaeological sites related to pilgrimage and still-active pilgrimage destinations. Rangar’s project benefitted in particular from visits to sites in the Negev Desert, like Shivta and Avdat, both of which played an important role in facilitating pilgrimage during the Byzantine period. Also revealing was a visit to Hammat Gader, a Roman and Byzantine-era healing complex centered on its hot springs—today a modern water park. He also visited sites in northern Israel, like Cana, Tabgha and Banias, which were the focus of Byzantine pilgrimage and

that still attract visitors today. His research also took him outside of present-day Israel, to Madaba in Jordan, where he examined a sixth-century mosaic map of the Holy Land first built for a Byzantine basilica and now incorporated within a 19th century Greek Orthodox church.

Cline presented aspects of his research while in Israel. He gave a paper at a pilgrimage conference at Ben Zvi Institute in Jerusalem in December 2017, which will be published by the Institute, along with others selected from the conference. In early 2018 he presented his research to the Albright Institute.

Cline’s family joined him for the fall semester. His two daughters, Penelope (age 11) and Zoe (age 6), stayed with their parents. The children attended the Jerusalem American International School, which they thoroughly enjoyed and where they made a number of good friends. Although not exactly pilgrimage destinations, the kids especially liked the beach at Caesarea, snorkeling at Eilat, weekend brunch and ice cream on Yafo Street, and riding the trams and buses around Jerusalem with their Rav-Kav cards. Rangar’s daughters would like for him to return to Jerusalem – and for him to take them along.



Penelope and Zoe at Avdat in the Negev Desert

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# Thanks From the Director



Alan Levenson

The most exciting events of the previous year for the OU Schusterman Center were generated by my colleagues. I presented “David Ben Gurion, the Bible and Inseparability of Jewish and Israel Studies” in Graz, Austria, but the real thrill of this international conference was provided by the organizer, OU History/Schusterman Center colleague, Carsten Schapkow, recently named L.R. Brammer Presidential Professor. Along with Professor Klaus Hödl, who has spoken at OU, participants

engaged in an intense and provocative discussion on “Intersections of Israel and Jewish Studies.” We look forward to seeing the published volume – and the resulting conversations.

Professor Jill Hicks-Keeton and I took turns teaching a Presidential Dream Course, “Genesis in the Beginning.” I learned why “Dr. H-K” has already earned an ardent following at OU. The OU Schusterman Center proudly co-sponsored this year’s Puterbaugh Festival organized by *World Literature Today*. I enjoyed listening to professors Daniel Simon, Janet Ward, Karin Schutjer, and Carsten Schapkow – all active Schusterman Center faculty.

Congratulations also to Professor Robert Lemon, who taught a course based around the award-winning novelist and this year’s Puterbaugh Prize winner, Germany’s Jenny Erpenbeck, considered by many Europe’s greatest novelist. Bob, we are looking forward to a talk on Kafka at a JUST Lunch soon.

I rode my colleagues’ coat tails pretty far, but also spoke about my recent *Joseph: Portraits Through the Ages* (JPS/ University of Nebraska, 2016) at a variety of venues: colleges, churches, synagogues and the OKC Metropolitan Library. I returned as Visiting Scholar to CWRU in Cleveland June 3-7, 2018, lecturing on varied topics, such as “Antisemitism Today,” “America/Israel: Comparing ‘Biblical’ Nations,” and “Margaret Atwood’s *The Handmaid’s Tale* as Biblical Novel.” Former Cleveland students made up most of the 700 people who signed up for one of my talks, but I saw quite a few new faces too, and was glad to see my former institution, where I worked for 18 years, doing so well.

I published book chapters on mastering Hebrew in *Studies in Judaism and Jewish Education* (Trafford, 2017) and on the Bible commentary of Samson Raphael Hirsch in *Found in Translation* (Purdue University Press, 2018), and wrote a couple of other articles, still in queue.

I also organized and presented at a panel devoted to “Maurice Samuel 1895-1972” at last year’s Association of Jewish Studies conference, and will continue my biography of this unjustly forgotten author and speaker, hopefully meeting the University of Alabama Press’s 2020 deadline.

## Noam Stillman: A Note From Jerusalem



Noam Stillman

Our life in Jerusalem continues to be busy and fulfilling, and despite the great physical distance, our ties to OU are as strong as ever. I still direct one doctoral dissertation in Jewish History (Jesse Weinberg’s) and sit on two other doctoral committees (one in Jewish History and one in Modern Languages). I even was able to be back in Norman for Jacob Lackner’s successful dissertation defense. When asked for advice from colleagues, I still gladly give

it.

This was my last year at the Hebrew University as Visiting Distinguished Professor, and although I had no Oklahoma students in my graduate seminar, I did lecture to the OU students who came on a study tour of Israel and the Palestinian Authority this past May. To my surprise – a pleasant one – I was asked to return next year to the Hebrew U. as a regular adjunct faculty member and will give an undergraduate and a graduate course there next spring.

I wrote in last year’s note to the newsletter that 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. I still have trouble saying no and spoke once again at the Ben-Zvi Institute, at Ben-Gurion University to launch their new graduate program on Jewish and Christian History and Culture in the Lands of Islam and for the inauguration of the Noam and Yedida Kalfon Stillman Collection at the Ben-Gurion University Library, the Begin Center and several public programs, including the Moroccan Judeo-Arabic program at the National Library here in Jerusalem. I also gave the keynote address at a conference at the University of Maryland co-sponsored with Israel’s Bar-Ilan University, and also gave a talk at a conference at Notre Dame. Naturally, at all of these venues, I represent the University of Oklahoma.

Perhaps the greatest surprise – and certainly a great honor and source of satisfaction – was being named to succeed Bernard Lewis as chairman of the Academic Council of the Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa, the scholarly organization founded by Lewis and Fouad Ajami as an alternative to the highly politicized and academically bankrupt Middle East Studies Association.

If my health continues to hold out, I hope that the coming year will be as active and fulfilling as the previous ones.



# Presidential Dream Course Packs the House

Professors Alan Levenson and Jill Hicks-Keeton team-taught a Presidential Dream Course, *Genesis In the Beginning*. The public lectures for the course were each filled to overflowing, and our students enjoyed spending time at lunch, in the classroom, and at the public lectures. We hosted five great scholars who also turned out to be superstars – as classroom teachers, role models for our students (our lunch lottery worked like a charm), and riveting speakers. The only problem was room size, as the first two speakers had overflow crowds – we then moved to a larger venue. Our sincerest thanks to professors Ronald Hendel, Jon D. Levenson, Anthea Portier-Young, Christine Hayes, Mark Nanos, and to the OU Provost's Office—the best word to do justice to this PDC is Hebrew - *h'avvayah* (“a happening”).

We are pleased to reproduce (with permission) the Norman Transcript article by Adam Troxtell:

*An upcoming lecture series and University of Oklahoma course is asking people to suspend what they know about the Book of Genesis, at least for a little while.*

*“Genesis: In The Beginning” is both a Presidential Dream Course and a public lecture series that will begin Feb. 8 in the Community Room at Bizzell Memorial Library. Both have been put together by OU professors Alan Levenson and Jill Hicks-Keeton, who organized the course material and called on colleagues from all corners of the country to give free, public lectures on their expertise.*



Jon Levenson  
Harvard Divinity School

*“We hope the general public knows the book of Genesis,” Levenson said about the goal of the lecture series. “It’s a great opportunity to hear worldwide experts come to Oklahoma and talk about this important book of the Bible.”*

*Levenson, the Schusterman/Josey Chair in Judaic history, and Hicks-Keeton, who specializes in the New Testament, Second Temple Judaism and Judaism and Christianity in antiquity, are*

*far from new to the topics being discussed across five public lectures. They both have books that examine the story of the Jewish patriarch Joseph and the story of his marriage to Aseneth — Levenson’s was published in 2016 and Hicks-Keeton’s book is forthcoming.*

*As such, they have many contacts in the religious studies and history fields to call upon. Experts from Harvard, Yale, the University of Kansas, Duke and Cal-Berkley will give the lectures, and all were selected for both their knowledge and public speaking abilities.*

*“We wanted to invite speakers who are going to be engaging in person,” Hicks-Keeton said. “All of the scholars are speaking from within the standard of scholarship on Genesis,*



Christine Hayes  
Yale University

*which means none of them is espousing a Jewish, Christian or other religious view of the text.”*

*That is one of the points of the course and the lecture series: there are several different views of Genesis. That someone might see a different take on the first book of the Bible as offensive is not lost on either professor.*

*On the contrary, it comes with the territory, Hicks-Keeton said.*

*“I find that because I’m teaching Biblical studies in*

*an area where people come into the classroom with religious commitments, and sometimes they’re expecting even in the classroom for that religious commitment to be supported rather than challenged,” she said, “If I’m not making anybody mad, I’m not doing my job right.*

*“I would imagine that we would have a similar experience with a lecture series, because there are so many contested readings of the Bible and Genesis that you’re not going to make everybody happy.”*

*The lecture series will maintain an academic environment, teaching only about the historical aspects of the book and scholarly ventures about its origins and content.*

*“Context matters. There’s a devotional side to Bible reading, too, which I find valuable,” Levenson said. “But that’s not what you do in a university classroom.”*

*The class materials cover mostly ancient Jewish interpretations of Genesis, Hicks-Keeton said. The subject matter covers a time when the Bible was just starting to be collected.*

*“Jill and I have coordinated our primary materials to emphasize the periods in which the Bible really becomes the Bible in the sense that most people think of it,” he said. “In the 5th century BCE, I don’t think the Bible was the Bible.*

*“I think there were many ancient near-Eastern texts that were venerated by different religious communities, but I don’t think that’s quite what people mean when they think the Bible; a definite canon, a definite text, nothing can be added, normative on the community. So we’re focusing on the period in which this works itself out.”*

*Levenson said he hopes the course and the lecture series will help people understand what is said in Genesis and what is often put on the book without much merit.*

*“It doesn’t say anything about authorship, about words, text, historicism; and yet, Genesis ends up being one of those books people dump a whole lot of theological or faith-based stuff into,” he said.*

# Kudos and Congratulations



Carsten Schapkow

**Professor Schapkow** published "Das Spanienbild Ernst Tollers: Projektionsfläche von eigener Identität und engagiertem Handeln," *Spanienbilder aus dem deutschsprachigen Exil bei Feuchtwanger und seinen Zeitgenossen*, ed. Isabel Hernández, 235-252. Oxford: Peter Lang, 2018, and "Education and Reform. The Israelite Free School in the Context of Civic Emancipation," in *Key Documents of German-Jewish*

*History*. 29 November 2017; online: <http://jewish-history-online.net/article/jgo:article-196> (also available in German by the author). He co-organized the conference "Intersections Between Jewish Studies and Israel Studies in the 21st Century" at Karl-Franzens University in Graz/Austria. The edited volume of the conference papers will be published with Lexington Books in 2019. A follow-up conference is planned to take place in Tbilisi in 2020. Schapkow also was the co-organizer of the panel "Jewish Politics, Zionism, and the Fashioning of Sephardi Identities" in December 2017 at the 49th annual conference of the Association for Jewish Studies in Washington, D.C. where he gave a paper on Max Nordau's political Zionism. He also gave papers in Graz and Würzburg on political Zionism and Jews and the Russian Revolution. At OU he continued to collaborate with Lorne Richstone from OU's School of Music in a concert, "In Remembrance of Kristallnacht: Amsterdam/Auschwitz: Jewish Composers Persecuted by the Nazis," and with Dan Schwartz, also OU's School of Music, on the world premiere of his concert "The February 1941 Strike in the Netherlands". Professor Carsten Schapkow was appointed director of the Center for the Study of Nationalism in the David L. Boren College of International Studies. He also was awarded the title of L.R. Brammer, Jr. Presidential Professor in History.



Misha Klein

**Misha Klein** was elected to the Board of the Directors of the interdisciplinary and international Latin American Jewish Studies Association, and invited to join the Editorial Board of the new scholarly journal, *Latin American Jewish Studies*. In the past year, she has presented at both the international (Mexico City) and regional (New York City) conferences of the LAJSA. These presentations were based on her collaborative research with historian Michel Gherman from the

Interdisciplinary Center for Jewish and Arab Studies at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, a project which considers the changing concept of race in Brazil in light of transnational discourses on race, anti-Semitism, national identity, and political activism, and the social and political implications of these intersecting discourses for Brazilian Jews. She will present this research at the Brazilian Studies Association conference in Rio de Janeiro in July, and at the University of Campinas in São Paulo, Brazil.



Janet Ward

**Janet Ward**, professor of history and faculty director of the OU Humanities Forum, has been elected as the incoming vice president and president-elect of the German Studies Association (thegsa.org). This summer she is presenting a paper on the Nazis' spatial planning of the Holocaust in Lublin at the XI Congress of the European Association for Jewish Studies in Krakow. During her time in Poland, she will also conduct research in the Auschwitz archives.



Stephen Norwood

**Stephen H. Norwood**, professor of history and Judaic studies, is the editor of *New York Sports: Glamour and Grit in the Empire City* (2018), published in the Sport, Culture & Society series of the University of Arkansas Press. He also wrote two of the chapters in the book. Professor Norwood's edited anthology contains contributions from 14 leading sport historians, with several chapters devoted to the

history of Jews and Sports. The Orthodox Jewish periodical, *Ami Magazine*, published an interview with Professor Norwood in March that appeared under the title "When FDR Welcomed the Nazis." An article written by Dr. Refael Medoff in *The Weekly Standard* titled "Columbia vs. the Jews, Again," included an extended discussion of Norwood's book, *The Third Reich in the Ivory Tower*.



Lorne Richstone

In November **Lorne Richstone** prepared and performed his fourth interdisciplinary lecture-recital with Schapkow entitled "Amsterdam/Auschwitz: Jewish Composers Persecuted by the Nazis". The program highlighted compositions by five Jewish composers who either lived, or were born, in Holland. All perished in extermination camps. A link to the concert appears on the Leo Smit Foundation website, "Forbidden Music Regained". Richstone conducted intensive archival research on the composer

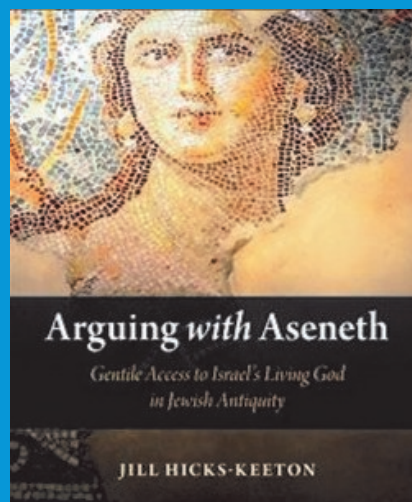
James Simon. Simon, regarded today by musicologists as the "lost" late romantic composer, was killed in Auschwitz in 1944. Richstone's research on Simon will take him to archives in the United States, Berlin and London. In March, Richstone performed a concert of Sephardic music at the Jewish Center for American Music in New York City. In April he performed with Michelle Price-Eiler in a concert celebrating Israel's 70th birthday. This program featured works by Israeli composers, including Paul Ben-Haim.



# Arguing with Aseneth Hits Bookshelves



Jill Hicks-Keeton



The Schusterman Center is thrilled to congratulate Jill Hicks-Keeton on the recent publication of her book with Oxford University Press, *Arguing with Aseneth: Gentile Access to Israel's Living God in Jewish Antiquity*.



Jacob Lackner

Last May, 2018 **Jacob Lackner** was awarded his doctoral degree in History. His dissertation, titled "Gender and Jewish Conversion to Christianity in Medieval France and Germany, 1096-1450," was completed under the guidance of Shmuel Shepkaru. This spring Lackner gave the final presentation of the Schusterman Center's JuSt lunch series. His course, "Holy War: A History of the Crusades," was offered through the University of Oklahoma's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

(OLLI). He currently is working on his book manuscript while writing a separate article titled "Animal, Vegetable, or Mineral? Medieval Jewish and Christian Dietary Laws and the Strange Case of the Barnacle Goose." This article will form the basis of a presentation he will be giving at the 2018 annual meeting of the Texas Medieval Association. We are fortunate to have Lackner stay on at OU for the 2018-2019 academic year as an adjunct professor of history.



Shmuel Shepkaru

**Shmuel Shepkaru** received the Arts and Humanities Faculty Fellowship, 2018. He wrote the chapter, "To Die For: The Evolution of Early Jewish Martyrdom," in *Martyrdom, self-sacrifice, and self-annihilation: Religious perspectives on suicide*, ed. Margo Kitts (Oxford University Press, 2018). He also published "Martyrdom in Second Temple Judaism," *T&T Clark Companion to Second Temple Judaism* (Bloomsbury Publishing, 2017), and presented several

lectures. In the summer, he spoke at Tel Aviv University and Haifa University about an exchange program with OU, which is in negotiations with Haifa. He delivered the paper, "The Crusaders' Victory in Jerusalem and Its Christological Interpretation in Relation to Jews and Judaism," at the 17<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Jewish Studies, the Hebrew University of

Jerusalem (August 7, 2017). He delivered a lecture at the University of Memphis, "Judaism and Christianity from Paul the Apostle to Pope Paul VI."



Andrew Porwancher

**Andrew Porwancher** spent the fall semester on sabbatical as a senior research fellow at Yeshiva University's Straus Center for Torah and Western Thought. In the spring, he served as the Garwood Visiting Fellow at Princeton University's James Madison Program. Over the course of both fellowships, he undertook research for his book, *The Jewish Founding Father: Alexander Hamilton's Hidden*

*Life*, which will be published in 2019 by Harvard University Press. He also is at work on a new book project, Theodore Roosevelt and the Jews.



Daniel Simon

**Daniel Simon** published an invited article, "Expanding the Map of Great Plains Poetry: Nebraska and Beyond," in the fall 2017 issue of *Great Plains Quarterly* and an interview with former U.S. poet laureate Ted Kooser in the November 2017 issue of *World Literature Today*, in a cover feature titled "Belief in an Age of Intolerance." Daniel's latest book, *Nebraska Poetry: A Sesquicentennial Anthology, 1867–2017*, was a finalist for the 2018 One

Book One Nebraska program and has been nominated for two other prizes. He also helped plan and host the spring 2018 Puterbaugh Festival, the 50th in the series' renowned history, featuring German novelist, playwright and opera director Jenny Erpenbeck. In 2018 Daniel will mark 10 years as editor in chief of WLT, the third-longest tenure in the journal's history.



# Who Says Texas and Oklahoma Can't Get Along?



Schusterman Center Faculties from UT Austin and OU

The OU Schusterman Center was well represented at the World Congress of Jewish Studies in August 2017. Professors Stillman, Levenson, Shepkaru, Willard, Grinberg and Ward, and Ph.D. student Jesse Weinberg all gave presentations. The World Congress is the “Brigadoon” of conferences – it meets once every four years in Jerusalem and scholars from all over the world come and share their research over the course of four to five days. The event is packed with lots of lectures and cultural events. The picture on the left captures a festive dinner held just outside the walls of the Old City of Jerusalem – the attendees are faculty from two Schusterman centers – UT and OU – colleagues, not competitors.



## Honoring Professor Michael Feige z”l

Professor Michael Feige, a leading scholar of Israel studies, was killed in a terrorist attack in Tel Aviv in June 2016. Professor Feige’s death is a loss first and foremost to his family and friends and a terrible loss for the community of scholars across the globe. It is no exaggeration to say that Michael was in a class of his own: he was a deeply admired scholar, a beloved colleague and an inspiring teacher.



Rhona Seidelman

While doing graduate work at Ben Gurion University, Professor Rhona Seidelman (assistant professor of Israeli history)

had the privilege to study with and work with Professor Feige.

In December 2017, Professor Seidelman spoke about Michael Feige to an audience of OU students, scholars and community members. She discussed his award-winning book *Settling the Hearts* (Wayne State, 2009), an ethnographic and historical study of the Israeli settler movement. She explored



Michael Feige z”l

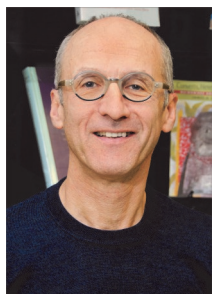
the relevance of his work in the contemporary American landscape of fierce political division. And she spoke warmly of Professor Feige as teacher, mentor and role model for young scholars of Israel studies.

Professor Seidelman ended her presentation by highlighting the power of Professor Feige’s legacy: “Recognizing that this is a person I have learned from, and whose loss many of us are mourning and has left many of us in shock, I wanted to use this opportunity to share the many valuable things that he offers us as a scholar and as a teacher. And, to my mind, this has also been a wonderful opportunity for us to enjoy the internationalism and connectedness that our academic world can give us.

There is something beautiful in the fact that we can bring the work of this professor from the

Negev desert in Israel to the plains of Norman Oklahoma. And even so far away, there’s so much we can learn from him.”

# Rescheduled Memorial Lecture Draws Crowd



James Diamond

Professor James Diamond, J.D., Ph.D., holds the Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Chair of Jewish Studies at the University of Waterloo. Professor Diamond has published dozens of articles and essays in religious studies and philosophy, delivered even more presentations, and authored four books, beginning with *Maimonides and the Hermeneutics of Concealment*, and most

recently, *Jewish Theology Unbound*. Oxford University Press, 2018. Professor Diamond writes for both scholarly and general audiences, from the philosophically abstruse to the music of fellow-Canadian Leonard Cohen. Professor Diamond spoke to a full audience on the theme: “Do We All Serve the Same God? The First Commandment” – an intriguing exploration of philosophical-theological differences from rationalism to mysticism, with special emphasis on the giants of medieval Spain (Al-Andalus).

## Save the Date: Upcoming Events

### 2018-2019 Brown-bag Lecture Series, Oklahoma Memorial Union, Frontier Room:

- Sept. 5** “What has Hanukkah to do with Hobby Lobby?: When Oklahoma’s Bible Goes to D.C.,” Jill Hicks-Keeton  
**Oct. 3** “Religious Travel and Evidence of the Holy Places in Late Antiquity,” Rangar Cline  
**Nov. 7** “Theodore Roosevelt and the Jews,” Andrew Porwancher  
**Dec. 5** “Figures of the Jews in Melville’s *Clarel*,” Brandon Katzir  
**Feb 6** “The Sulzers: Rediscovering a Musical Dynasty,” Lorne Richstone  
**Mar. 6** “Anti-Semitic Terror and Anti-Zionism: The Christian Front in America, 1935-1955,” Stephen Norwood  
**Apr. 3** “Learning from Rhetoric in the Study of Paul,” Nina Livesey  
**May 1** “The Farhud in Baghdad: An Iraqi Pogrom,” Jesse Weinberg

### Other Lectures/Events:

- Aug. 30** “Do We All Serve the Same God?,” James Diamond, 7 p.m., Heritage Room, OMU  
**Oct. 3** JuSt Film Festival, *Yidl mit den Fidl*, 7 p.m., Community Room, Dale Hall Tower 9<sup>th</sup> floor  
**Oct. 10** JuSt Film Festival, *Lang is der Weg*, 7 p.m., Community Room, Dale Hall Tower 9<sup>th</sup> floor  
**Oct. 17** JuSt Film Festival, *Hiding and Seeking*, 7 p.m., Community Room, Dale Hall Tower 9<sup>th</sup> floor  
**Oct. 24** JuSt Film Festival, *Menasheh*, 7pm, Community Room, Dale Hall Tower 9<sup>th</sup> floor  
**Nov. 15** “Jewish-Christian Messianic Expectations in a New World Setting,” Sina Rauschenbach, 7 p.m., Bizzell LL118  
**Feb 21** 19th Annual Yedida K. Stillman Memorial Lecture, Luis Cortest, 7 p.m., Heritage Room, OMU  
**Feb 28** *David Friedman (1893-1980) Retrospective Exhibition*, 6 p.m., Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art  
**May 2** Holocaust Memorial Day Concert, 7 p.m., Pitman Recital Hall, Catlett Music Center

## Luis Cortest to Present 19th Annual Memorial Lecture



Luis Cortest

This year’s YKS lecture will be delivered by the University of Oklahoma’s own Luis Cortest, professor of Spanish medieval literature. Luis has been a long-time supporter of and contributor to the Judaic Studies program in addition to his many roles at the university, including serving as chair of the Department of Modern Languages, Literatures and Linguistics from 1992-1999. Among Professor Cortest’s many writings he has published a critical edition of the *Arte para servir a Dios* by Fray Alonso de Madrid (1989), and *The Disfigured Face:*

*Traditional Natural Law and its Encounter with Modernity* (2008), a study of medieval and early modern natural law tradition. He published a modern edition of the 16th-century *Regimiento de la Vida* by the famed Jewish travelogue writer Moshe Almosnino (2011), and most recently, *Philo’s Heirs: Moses Maimonides and Thomas Aquinas* (2017), which will serve as the subject of the Feb. 21st lecture.





# 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



**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 (Emeritus)

**Rangar Cline**, Religious Studies

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

**Jill Hicks-Keeton**, Religious Studies

**Misha Klein**, Anthropology

**Nina Livesey**, Liberal Studies

**Tyson Putthoff**, Hebrew Bible/Anthropology

**William H. McDonald**, English

**Stephen H. Norwood**, History

**Andrew Porwancher**, Constitutional Studies

**Lorne Richtone**, School of Music

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

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

**Daniel C. Snell**, History

**Janet Ward**, History

**Scott Johnson**, Classics and Letters

**Shir Alon**, International and Area 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:

\$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

**We welcome all ideas to promote Judaic and Israel Studies at OU! Please call our office at [405] 325-6508 or email [tryce.hyman-1@ou.edu](mailto:tryce.hyman-1@ou.edu).**



# 2018-2019 Courses

As always, the Schusterman Center is proud to offer a broad selection of Judaic and Israel Studies courses to our students.

## Fall 2018 Courses:

HIST 3313	Israeli Culture Through Film	Yael Lavender-Smith
HIST 3993	The Evolution of Martyrdom	Lee Green
HIST 3253	Germany: Bismarck to Hitler	Carsten Schapkow
HIST 4003	Jews/Other Germans	Carsten Schapkow
HIST 1303	The History of Disease	Rhona Seidelman
HIST 2573	The History Sleuth	Rhona Seidelman
HIST 3423	War, Prosperity and Depression	Stephen Norwood
HIST 3973	Judaism – A Religious History	Alan Levenson
HEBR 1115	Beginning Hebrew	Yael Lavender-Smith
HEBR 1115	Beginning Hebrew	Ori Kritz
HEBR 2113	Intermediate Hebrew	Yael Lavender-Smith
HEBR 3113	Advanced Hebrew	Ori Kritz
HEBR 3513	Biblical Hebrew	Ori Kritz
MLLL 1053	Metamorphosis in World Lit.	Yael Lavender-Smith
RELS 1113	Intro to Religious Studies	Jill Hicks-Keeton
RELS 3193	Biblical Literature	Jill Hicks-Keeton

## Spring 2019 Courses:

HIST 3293	Antisemitism	Stephen Norwood
HIST 3403	Modern Israel	Rhona Seidelman
HIST 3563	Jerusalem	Rhona Seidelman
HIST 3653	American Jewish History	Ronnie Grinberg
HIST 3763	Genesis Through Jewish Eyes	Alan Levenson
HIST 3993	The History of Heaven and Hell	Jacob Lackner
RELS 1113	Intro to Religious Studies	Rangar Cline
RELS 3193	Biblical Literature	Jill Hicks-Keeton
RELS 3623	Apostle Paul: Life & Thoughts	Jill Hicks-Keeton
RELS 3843	Biblical Archeology	Rangar Cline
HEBR 1225	Beginning Hebrew (Cont.)	Yael Lavender-Smith
HEBR 1225	Beginning Hebrew (Cont.)	Ori Kritz
HEBR 2213	Intermediate Hebrew II	Yael Lavender-Smith
HEBR 3223	Advanced Hebrew II	Yael Lavender Smith
LSTD 4700	Women in the Bible and Quran	Nina Livesey

## Yael Lavender-Smith Presents



Yael Lavender-Smith hosted the annual Schusterman Center film festival and participated in the NAPH international conference. In February 2018, she gave a public lecture at the OU Medieval Science Fair / CMRS lecture series. In her talk “Conversion to Judaism in 17th Century Amsterdam: The Tragic Story of Uriel da Costa,” she presented findings from her newest research project on Uriel da Costa. Yael, her husband, Jordan, and her daughter Ariel recently welcomed an addition to their family, Sam Lavender-Smith. In addition to her Hebrew classes, Yael has proven her versatility by teaching “Israeli Culture Through Film” while Shmuel Shepkaru has been on AHF Fellowship, and will be debuting HIST 1573, The Artists’ Bible – the Schusterman Center’s first artistic forms general education course, next fall.

## Faculty Farewells

We wish continued success and enjoyment to Eve Tavor Bannet, George Lynn Cross Professor Emerita, in her retirement in Cleveland, Ohio, with her family. Eve blessed our program and our community over the years with erudition and panache.

We also wish continued success to Professor Sara Coodin, a Yiddish-speaking Montrealer now living in Washington, D.C. Sara also graced us with several lectures in her years here. We wish her and husband, Professor Kevin Butterfield, all the best in Washington.

# Study in Israel - Letter from Emmanuelle Chiocca

*I graduated in May 2018 with my Ph.D. in instructional leadership and academic curriculum. My dissertation, under the direction of Professor Lawrence Baines in the Jeannine Rainbolt College of Education, was entitled "Not Upgraded Tourism: A Case Study of the Effects of a Short-Term Study Abroad Experience in Israel." I explored the experiences of study abroad participants in Jerusalem and the perspective transformation they underwent during their sojourns, in the hope of providing insights for international curriculum development. I have accepted an assistant professor position at Duke Kunshan University in Kunshan, China, where I will be teaching applied linguistics and culture in the new liberal arts program. On the research side, I am currently working on an article based on my dissertation on the effects of curricula in international education and I am presently collecting more data, still with students studying in Israel. **Thank you, again, for this amazing opportunity in Jerusalem. I learned so much that I encouraged my friend Merima Hadzic to apply to the same program through the institute and she is currently at Rothberg School.***

*Very respectfully,*

*Emma*



2017-2018 Schusterman Study in Israel Scholarship winners  
Kathryn Diskerd and Emmanuelle Chiocca

## Congratulations to Our 2018-2019 Judaic and Israel Studies Scholarship Winners!

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

**Zarrow Family Scholarships** of \$2,500 each were awarded to **Joni Keaton**, **Avraham Revah**, and **Bobby Espinal**.

**Esther Rose Shnier Scholarships** of \$3,000 each were awarded to **Melissa Schein** and **Brooke Wambold**.

The **Norman Stillman Prize for Excellence in Judaic Studies** of \$1,800 was awarded to **Jesse Weinberg**.

**Schusterman Study in Israel Scholarships** of \$5,000 were awarded for summer 2018 to **Caleb Ball**, **Robert Ciarlante**, **Miriam Clark**, **Landon Davis**, **Meaghan Jakubovitz**, and **Merima Hadžić**. **Melissa Schein**, **Suzanna Dellinger**, **Hannah Grillot**, and **Brooke Wambold** will receive \$10,000 to study at Hebrew University for fall 2018; **Kevin Logan** and **Ella Watson** will each receive \$10,000 to study at Hebrew U for spring 2019.

## Undergraduate Student Spotlight



Brooke Wambold and Melissa Schein

The Dynamic Duo: Brooke Wambold MIS/economics major/Judaic studies, a self-confessed "numbers cruncher," also writes beautifully. Her essay "The Two Sides of David" offers an intelligent inquiry into a difficult biblical dilemma: the double introduction of David in I Samuel 16-17. Brooke, an Oklahoma Promise Winner, currently is studying at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Her friend, Melissa Schein, an accounting major, is also studying at Hebrew University in Israel, in her own words, "to be immersed in their culture, practice my Hebrew skills and learn ... Israeli culture... such a fantastic mixture between Middle Eastern and European culture."



# Graduate Student and Alum Spotlight



Walker Robins

**Walker Robins** served as the 2017-2018 Post-Doctoral Fellow to Brandeis University's Schusterman Center for Israel Studies, where he also taught two courses: "Christians and Israel," and "Jerusalem: Holy and Contested." Work on the monograph version of his dissertation "Between Dixie and Zion" continues, and is now in publication pending review. Walker published a number of other works, including academic articles and commentary pieces. These included an article for *Israel Studies* titled "Cultural Zionism and Binationalism Among American Liberal Protestant," and another for the *Journal of Church and State* titled "American Cyrus? Harry Truman, the Bible, and the Palestine Question." His commentary pieces for *The Washington Post* discuss the ascendancy of Evangelical Christianity as a determiner of U.S. foreign policy.



Morgan Creekmore

**Morgan Creekmore** graduated with a bachelor of arts in religious studies in 2013 and went on to receive her master's degree in history in 2015 from OU. After completing graduate school, she moved to Denver to pursue a career in public libraries. She regularly plans and teaches classes at the library to encourage civic engagement and lifelong learning. She is a member of the American Library Association.



Tryce Hyman

**Tryce Hyman** completed two master's programs in spring of 2018, one in history and another in international studies. He successfully published his first paper, "The Sword Model for Historical Analysis: The Jewish Insurgency in Mandatory Palestine - 1945-47," in *Small Wars Journal*. He also served as a copyeditor and proofreader for various academic works, including the volume *Jews and Germans in Eastern Europe: Shared and Comparative Histories*, edited by

Tobias Grill of LMU Munich and published by De Gruyter in 2018. Tryce joined the staff of the Schusterman Center in September, taking over duties from Katy Hall.



Hailey Franks

**Hailey Franks** completed her master of arts degree in History during spring of 2018. She has since begun coursework with the University of North Texas toward a master of science degree in information science. She also has taken a position as a park ranger at the Oklahoma City Memorial, where she thoroughly enjoys her interactions with people at the memorial itself. When in the office, Hailey gets to put her training as a historian to good use, as park rangers are tasked with

further researching the event and contextualizing it so they can answer questions to the best of their ability.



Jesse Weinberg

**Jesse Weinberg** spoke at four academic conferences dedicated to Jewish Studies, history and the Middle East. He presented "Anti-Semitism in Iraq," at the World Congress of Jewish studies in August 2017, a meeting that convenes every four years in Jerusalem. Later in October, he gave a second paper "The Growth of Anti-Semitism in Iraq," at the Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa at its annual conference in Washington DC. Weinberg also lectured on "The Muslim

Brotherhood's Road to War in 1948," in the same city for the Association for Jewish Studies. In March, he delivered a paper titled "The Rise of Anti-Semitism in Iraq" at Phi Alpha Theta, Oklahoma's Association for Professional Historians, at its Regional Conference in Edmond, Oklahoma. In May of 2019 he will deliver the final JuSt Lunch Lecture of the Academic Year, "The Farhud in Baghdad: An Iraqi Pogrom."

## JuSt Scholarship Application Deadlines

### Rosalyn W. Price Memorial Scholarship

March 8, 2019

### Zarrow Family Scholarship

March 8, 2019

### Esther Rose Shnier Scholarship

March 8, 2019

### Schusterman Study in Israel Scholarship

Feb. 8, 2019



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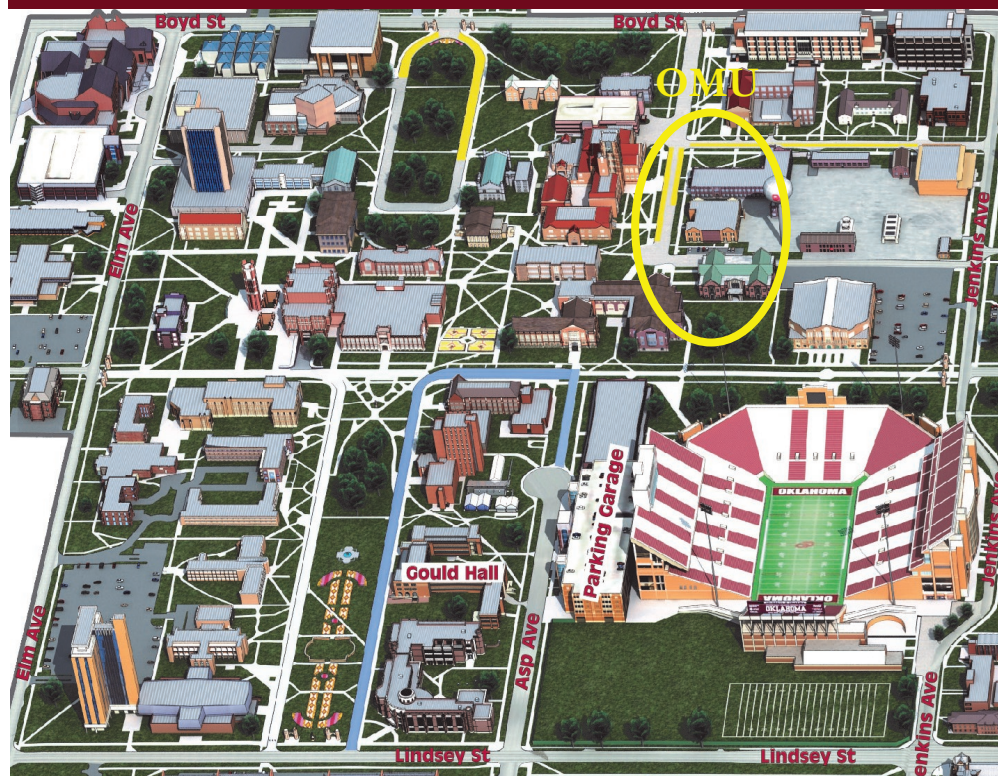
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## Brown-bag Lunches Held in Oklahoma Memorial Union



The 2018-2019 JuSt Lunches will be held in the Frontier Room, located on the second floor of Oklahoma Memorial Union, 900 Asp Ave.

The parking facility is directly north of 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 please visit [Judaicstudies.ou.edu](http://Judaicstudies.ou.edu) or contact Tryce Hyman at [tryce.hyman-1@ou.edu](mailto:tryce.hyman-1@ou.edu) or by phone: (405) 325-6508

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