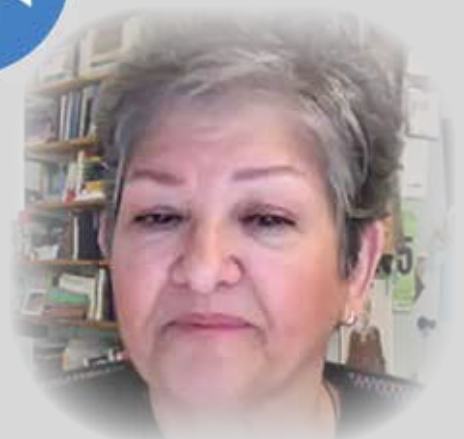




SCHUSTERMAN CENTER FOR JUDAIC AND ISRAEL STUDIES

The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA®

Volume 18 | Fall 2021





Letter from Alan Levenson

Schusterman/Josey Chair in Judaic Studies

Who'd have thought the most asked question of 2020-2021 would be: When are you getting vaccinated? Or that social distancing would

span three semesters? Students, faculty, friends and family had their lives disrupted; some got sick. We all became proficient in Zoom, even if pedagogic challenges remained and nobody discovered an adequate way to say "thank you" or even "goodbye." Nevertheless, we ran a robust program of cultural events, enrolled 1,113 students in our classes and continued our scholarly activities. How faculty with young children did this remains baffling to the rest of us. Our 25th anniversary celebration managed to be illuminating (thank you, David Levy) and festive. Professor Aimee Pelletier delivered a scintillating YKS Lecture on the Jews of Egypt from her home in Dallas. The OU Regents confirmed Rhona Seidelman's promotion, tenure and elevation to Israel Studies Chair. We will be

welcoming Dr. Hadas Cohen as the Visiting Israel Institute Teaching Fellow. Carsten Schapkow will be returning from a visiting professorship at Potsdam University. Our faculty continue to produce scholarship, win fellowships and national recognition – and teach our students, including our first cohort of M.A. candidates. We look forward to hosting the Western Association of Jewish Studies in March, welcoming Professor Ilan Stavans with our partners at *World Literature Today* and above all, seeing many of you in person, although Mr. Tryce Hyman will keep posting our events online. Once again, events drove some of our Israel studies summer scholarship winners to online versions, while others were able to navigate Israel's safety and security procedures to attend classes in person. While we pray for the peace of Jerusalem, let's hope this is the last end-of-year scramble in Norman for a long time.



Update From Noam Stillman

Emeritus Professor and Founding Director

By March of this year, over half of the people here in Israel were vaccinated, and daily life began returning to normal. My Spring Semester class was again on Zoom since many of the students in the Hebrew University International School

remained in their home countries. And I am now accustomed to lecturing on webinars and attending and giving lectures at conferences online, although I sorely miss doing these in a live, physical setting. I was one of the organizers of an international conference on the great Jewish novelist, sociologist and philosopher, Albert Memmi, under the auspices of the Ben-Zvi Institute here in Jerusalem, and was particularly proud that my former OU doctoral student, Nisrine El Maghari, now a professor at the

University of Kentucky, gave one of the papers. During the lengthy period when we were limited in our movements, I was able to write one article and book chapter for a volume of essays, and a short encyclopedia entry. I had a long-delayed article appear on an 18th-century anti-Jewish ode by a Moroccan mystic, as well as a major review article on the influence of Arabic on the Berber language, both admittedly for a rather specialized academic audience. It was a particular source of pride and pleasure that I was able to thank in the article our OU Judaic Ph.D. student and Schusterman Fellow, Jesse Weinberg, who wrote a dissertation on antisemitism in Iraq and brought to my attention parallels in Arabic poetry there. As the Mishnaic sages said, "I learned from all my teachers, even more from my colleagues, and from my students most of all."

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KUDOS & CONGRATULATIONS



Karin Schutjer

Karin Schutjer's article "Pluralism and the Modernized Jesus in Mendelssohn, Schiller, and Schleiermacher" was published in *Moments of Enlightenment: In Memory of Jonathan M. Hess*, a special volume of *Nexus: Essays in German Jewish Studies* produced by the German Jewish Studies Workshop at

Duke University. Schutjer is also slated to deliver the Schuterman Center's upcoming December JuSt Lunch Lecture.



Shmuel Shepkaru

Shmuel Shepkaru taught the history capstone course "Martyrdom: Jews/Christians/Muslims" in the spring, which was also cross-listed as a graduate seminar attended by the Schusterman Center's cohort of graduate fellows. He also delivered a talk on the history of Menashe Kadishman's "Sacrifice of Isaac," the large sculpture

located outside the entrance of the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art. This talk was given as part of the popular Coffee with the Collection lecture series run in collaboration between the museum and local roastery Black Camel Coffee.



Ronnie Grinberg

Ronnie Grinberg was invited to give a virtual talk for the Simon Dubnov Institute for Jewish History and Culture, in Leibniz, Germany, in cooperation with the Goldstein-Goren Center for American Jewish History at New York University. Her talk was one of four organized

as a lead-up to this year's conference on the theme of "American Jewish Political Thought: Transnational Varieties." She spoke about Midge Decter, Norman Podhoretz and the Making of an American Jewish Conservative Politics. Over this COVID year, Grinberg continued to work on her book manuscript about the New York intellectuals and Jewish masculinity, under contract with Princeton University Press. She did so while pregnant—during the pandemic—what she describes as a phantom pregnancy and birth. Her son, Reuben Wolf, arrived happy and healthy in October 2020. He joined his ecstatic older sister Paloma Yael. Her book will hopefully make "baby" number three in the not-so-distant future.

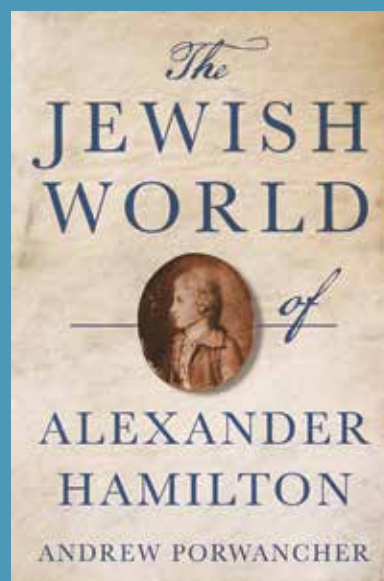


Andrew Porwancher

Andrew Porwancher

recently published his third book, *The Jewish World of Alexander Hamilton*, with Princeton University Press. He spent the past year serving as the Ernest May Fellow in History and Policy at Harvard University. This year, Porwancher is teaching at OU in the fall before returning to Harvard in the spring of

2022 to resume his fellowship and continue work on his next book, *Theodore Roosevelt and the Jews*, which is under contract with Princeton University Press.





Jill Hicks-Keeton

Jill Hicks-Keeton received tenure and was promoted to associate professor in 2020. She has just finished year one of two as a Presidential Teaching Fellow in the Honors College, where she is teaching courses about the Bible. In May, Hicks-Keeton was awarded a CAS Senior Faculty Summer

Fellowship, an SSHA seed grant from the VPR's office and a Humanities Forum Public Fellowship in support of her next book, tentatively titled *Good Book*. This past academic year Hicks-Keeton had public scholarship appear in *Religion Dispatches* and *The Revealer*. She also delivered invited talks at UCLA and UPenn on her scholarship dealing with the Museum of the Bible.



Misha Klein

Misha Klein spent her spring 2021 sabbatical writing, resulting in four articles related to Jewish themes slated for publication in the coming year, as well as an entry in the newly renamed *Shalvi/Hyman Encyclopedia of Jewish Women*. During COVID-19 restrictions, technologies for virtual

presentations allowed Klein to present on her current research in Brazil (in collaboration with historian Michel Gherman from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro) more often and in a broader array of contexts than usual (including in Brazil and Israel). She presented virtually at a conference sponsored by Ben-Gurion University (paper title: "Wrapped in the Flag: Conflicting Imaginings of Israel in Jewish Brazilian Political Activism"); at the AJS (roundtable title: "Ways of Knowing: Ethnographic Explorations of Jewish Cultures in Times of Change"); at an international Brazilian Studies conference sponsored by OU's IAS (paper title: "From Beacon to Siren: The Transformation of Brazil from Racial Utopia to Racist/Antisemitic Dystopia");

as a guest speaker in a course on "Imaginary Israel" at the University of Campinas in Brazil; to the Center for the Anthropology of Religion at the University of Campinas; and as a guest speaker for a community group on contemporary Judaism in São Paulo, Brazil. Klein was reelected to the board of directors for the Latin American Jewish Studies Association and appointed as a research associate with the Center for the Study of Religion, Spirituality, and Politics at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. She also received the Regents' Award for Superior Teaching from the University of Oklahoma.



Lee Green-Hall

The Schusterman Center thanks our new associated faculty member **Lee Green-Hall** for piloting our 1000-level class "The Jews: Abraham to Zionism." Designed initially by professors Shephkaru and Levenson, this class intends to introduce students to the fields of Judaic and Israel

Studies via the Schusterman Center's diverse array of faculty and a broad historical and cultural focus. An ABD in History, Green serves as an administrative assistant and advisor for the Department of Religious Studies and has been a supporter of the Schusterman Center for over a decade.



Rhona Seidelman

This year, **Rhona Seidelman** was delighted to receive an OU Arts & Humanities Forum Grant under the 2020-2021 theme of "Ruptures and Reconciliations." Her project "Claiming My Egypt," which was chosen for this grant, is an autobiographical/ scholarly essay that explores

questions of identity among the children of Egyptian Jews. She was glad to also have the opportunity to give several talks on her book *Under Quarantine*:

KUDOS/CONGRATS *(continued)*

Immigrants and Disease at Israel's Gate. One was as part of the series 'Plague and Quarantine, Past and Present Israel/Palestine' at the University of Colorado, Boulder. Another was with the Thomas and Diann Mann Distinguished Symposium Series on Jewish Migration and Displacement at Ohio State University. As part of OU's "Health and Humanity" series, Seidelman had the unique and moving opportunity to interview her father William Seidelman (Emeritus Professor of Family and Community Medicine, University of Toronto) about his work as a family physician in Ontario during the beginning of the AIDS epidemic and his scholarship on medicine during the Holocaust. This conversation, moderated by medical historian Sarah Tracy, explored the value of the history of medicine for medical practitioners. Seidelman had the chance to reflect on how her research on contagious disease and quarantine history could inform current pandemic and global quarantine experiences. This essay "Israel's Shaar Ha'aliya Camp Through the Lens of COVID-19: Does the History of Quarantine Matter?," was published in Jewish Social Studies. For the upcoming two years she will be in Israel, where Seidelman will have an affiliation with Ben Gurion University's Center for Health, Humanism and Society. She is excited about spending some time back at her alma mater, while introducing many guests from OU to the Negev.



Stephen H. Norwood

Professor **Stephen H. Norwood's** sixth book has just been published, (May 2021): *Prologue to Annihilation: Ordinary American and British Jews Challenge The Third Reich* (Indiana University Press). He also published several articles in American Jewish and Israeli newspapers,

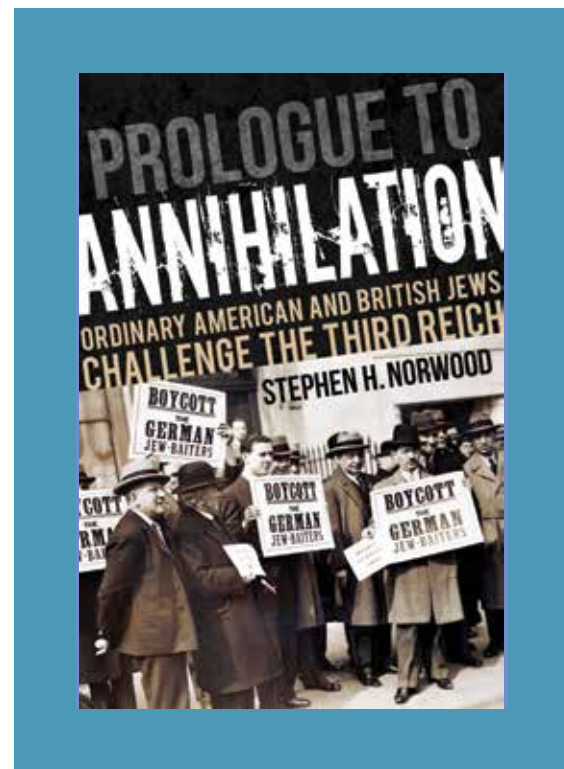
including "Targeting American Jews, Then and Now" (coauthor, Eunice G. Pollack) and "Andrew Yang Got It Right on BDS" (coauthor, Rafael Medoff). These articles appeared in Jewish News Syndicate, World

Israel News, Algemeiner, Los Angeles Jewish Journal, Jewish Voice, etc. He is giving an invited paper in July 2021 with Eunice G. Pollack on "Louis Farrakhan, the Nation of Islam, and the Delegitimization of Judaism," at the conference, Antisemitism in Today's America, at Indiana University.



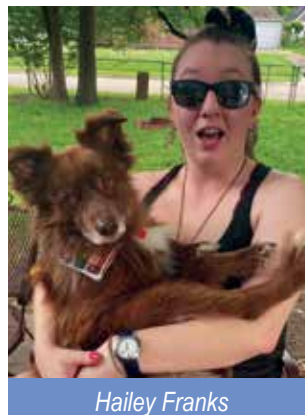
Carsten Schapkow

under the Holocaust. During his time in Potsdam and Berlin he co-organized the lecture series "Beyond Askenaz: Sephardim and Other Jewries" with Sina Rauschenbach and Jonathan Hirsch and the Workshop "Rural and Urban Jewries Between Tradition and Modernity" at the University of Bamberg. Schapkow has published two articles: "Wilhelm Herzbergs "Das Mädchen von Tanger" als Darstellung eines authentischen Judentums, in *Wilhelm Herzbergs Jüdische Familienpapiere (1868) Interdisziplinäre Lektüren eines Erfolgsromans*, ed. Manja Herrmann, 99-122. Berlin: de Gruyter 2020; "Max Nordau's View



Carsten Schapkow spent AY 2020-21 at the University of Potsdam and the Selma-Stern Center for Jewish Studies Berlin-Brandenburg. He taught the following classes at the University of Potsdam: Transformation of the Jews, German-Jewish History and Sephardim, The Holocaust, and Sephardim

on Sephardic Judaism and the Emergence of Political Zionism,” in *Sephardim and Aschkenazim*, ed. Sina Rauschenbach, 209-227. Berlin: de Gruyter 2020. He has two forthcoming edited volumes currently in the works with De Gruyter, both co-edited by Frank Jacob: *Nationalism in a Transnational Age: Irrational Fears and the Strategic Abuse of Nationalist Pride*, as well as *Nationalism and Populism: Expressions of Fear or Political Strategies?* Together with University of Potsdam colleagues Sina Rauschenbach and Jonathan Hirsch, Schapkow served as editor for the new book series *Gesellschaften und Kulturen des sephardischen Judentums / Sephardic Societies and Cultures* at Ergon Verlag, Würzburg.



Hailey Franks

Congratulations to M.A. program alumna **Hailey Franks**, who has returned to OU as the stacks and operations manager and Research Commons supervisor for the History of Sciences Collections. In this admin staff position, she will also be managing the student assistants and processing

the modern books and serials for the collection. Franks will also serve as first point of contact for activities in the public space.



Daniel Simon

Daniel Simon's latest book, *Dispatches from the Republic of Letters: 50 Years of the Neustadt International Prize for Literature* (Phoneme / Deep Vellum, 2020), which he edited, was named a finalist for a 2020 Foreword INDIES Award. He also received a 2020 Distinguished Performance

Staff Award, was nominated for the 2021 Ottaway Award for the Promotion of International Literature and co-chaired OU's coordinating committee that programmed a yearlong series of events, courses

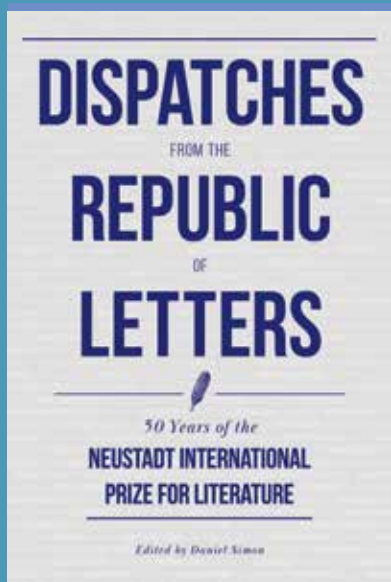
and special projects related to the centennial of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre. The Winter 2021 issue of *World Literature Today*, for which Simon is editor-in-chief, featured a special section on "Contemporary Hebrew Literature" that gathered the work of 11 writers from Israel and beyond.



Alan Levenson

Alan Levenson published two articles, "Forgotten Yiddishist: The Case of Maurice Samuel," *Modern Judaism* (Oct 2020), 285-315; and "Invidious Distinctions: Heinrich Heine & Matthew Arnold," *Jewish Quarterly Review* (Winter 2020), 102 -126. He completed a book

manuscript: *Maurice Samuel: Life and Letters of a Secular Jewish Contrarian*, scheduled to appear with the University of Alabama Press in 2022. He published an article for the widely read online journal *The Torah.com*, "Was the Documentary Hypothesis tainted by Wellhausen's Antisemitism?" Levenson spoke via Zoom at the Midwest Jewish Studies Association, the Western Jewish Studies Association and gave two presentations at OU: on the "Jefferson Bible" at a Schusterman Center JuSt lunch and on "Making Moral Improvement" for the Institute for Human Flourishing. He reviewed an absurd number of essay and book manuscripts while waiting for the end of the pandemic.



VISITING PROFESSOR



Welcoming Hadas Cohen, Ph.D.

The Schusterman Center is pleased to welcome Hadas Cohen as our incoming Israel Institute Teaching Fellow. Cohen received her bachelor of arts degree at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in Law, followed by a master of arts in human rights and international affairs from Columbia University. In 2014, she completed her doctoral degree in Political Science at The New School for Social Research in New York City.

Cohen's two-year teaching fellowship, sponsored by the Israel Institute, will bring four courses each year to the center's offerings as well as four Israel-centered events each year. She will also be hosting our annual film festival in October, which will focus on Israeli cinema with screenings of *Zero Motivation* (2014), *The Cakemaker* (2017) and *Not Here Not There* (2017).

Cohen will be presenting our November JuSt Lunch as well, with a lecture titled "Loyalty, Belonging and Treason: Questioning Israeli National Identity."

Cohen's offered courses will be held in collaboration between the Department of History and the Department of International and Area Studies. Her first pair of courses for the fall will be HIST 3403-001 Modern Israel and IAS 3473-001 The Arab-Israeli Conflict.

The arrival of Cohen in the fall semester represents the continuation of a strong relationship with the Israel Institute that dates back to 2015, when Gershon Lewental served as the University of Oklahoma's first Israel Institute Teaching Fellow. We hope to see many students and community members alike at the events Cohen's time with us will bring to enrich our programming.



ISRAEL INSTITUTE

STUDENT/ALUMNI NEWS

Congratulations to our majors/minors and grad students who were awarded scholarships:

Elizabeth Housley (Hebrew minor) won a Study in Israel Scholarship.

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 (Judaic History M.A.) won a Rosalyn Price Memorial Scholarship.

Quincy McSpadden (Hebrew minor) won a Study in Israel Scholarship.

Kaitlyn Morrison-Henson (Judaic History M.A.) won a Zarrow Scholarship.

Michael Powell (Judaic History M.A.) won a Zarrow Scholarship and a Rosalyn Price Memorial Scholarship.

Jonah Roberson (Judaic History M.A.) won the Norman Stillman Prize for Excellence in Judaic Studies.

Congratulations to our wonderful graduating students:

Suzanna Dellinger (Hebrew minor) completed her bachelor of business admin in December and has gone on to begin a masters of accountancy program at OU's Price College of Business.

Alumni News:

Aryeh Wall (Judaic Studies B.A., Class of 2020) has completed his master of arts in teaching at New York University.

Morgan Creekmore (Judaic History M.A., Class of 2015) has returned to her home town of Tulsa, where she teaches as a geography and history teacher and has opened her own yoga instruction studio.

CJ Mays (Judaic Studies B.A., Class of 2015) has embarked on a course of study at The Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, set to be completed in 2025.

Andrea Pemberton (Hebrew minor, Class of 2015) celebrated her first year as the executive director of Tulsa's Young Professionals (TYPROS) in February, a position she took on while completing her M.A. in Organizational Dynamics - Project Management at the OU-Tulsa Campus.

Hailey Franks (Judaic History M.A., Class of 2018) has returned to Norman, having taken a position at the University Libraries History of Science Collections.

**ALUMNI:
SEND US
YOUR UPDATES!**

**Email:
JUDAICSTUDIES@OU.EDU**

**Facebook & Twitter:
@OUJudaicStudies**

SPOTLIGHT



Many Thanks to Laurie Scrivener

Laurie Scrivener joined the OU Libraries in 1996 as the social sciences librarian and became the history & area studies librarian in 2004. She earned her Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) degree and a Bachelor's degree in History from OU. Scrivener's publications include the reference book *A Biographical Dictionary of Women Healers: Midwives, Nurses, and Physicians* (Oryx Press, 2002) and journal articles in *Journal of Government Information*, *Journal of Academic Librarianship* and *College & Research Libraries*.

"As the history and area studies librarian, I have had the privilege of working with the Judaic Studies program and Norman Stillman since I started at OU in 1996. I have tried to develop the Judaica collection by making sure that our automatic book-purchasing plan includes major Judaica publishers and subjects and by ordering books requested by Judaic Studies' faculty. The University of Oklahoma Libraries also has benefitted from donations of books, facilitated by Noam Stillman, and by Levenson. I am proud that the University of Oklahoma Libraries has become a place considered worthy of such substantial gifts. I look forward to many more years of working with the Judaic Studies program." - Laurie Scrivener

The Schusterman Center has enjoyed an excellent working relationship with Laurie Scrivener from its early beginnings; when we were little more than the Schusterman/Josey Chair in Judaic History, she has been there to support the research of our students. Recently, she developed the library guide for Dr. Shepkaru's cross-listed senior capstone/graduate seminar "Martyrdom: Jews/Christians/Muslims."



Many Thanks to Tryce Hyman

Schusterman Center administrative assistant Tryce Hyman, also an alumnus of our M.A. program, expended great effort over the last year in adapting our various programming efforts to the realities of COVID-19. His work did much to ensure that our local and global community members remained informed of and connected to the doings of the Schusterman Center. Hyman's multimedia and promotional acumen was on full display, troubleshooting Zoom events in real time and helping to ensure record student enrollment in our course offerings for a third consecutive year!

M.A. STUDENTS UPDATE

As our first cohort of Schusterman Center Graduate Fellows in Judaic/Israel History reaches the midway point of their programs, each has selected a language of study to pursue. This intensive language training offers our fellows both exposure to the cultural context of their research area as well as a firm foundation for research using primary source documents. The Schusterman Center Graduate Fellowship in Judaic/Israel History prepares our fellows to continue on into prestigious Ph.D. programs in Judaic and Israel Studies or “alt-ac” positions after they complete their M.A. at the University of Oklahoma.

Kaylee Maxey traveled to Mexico City over the summer as part of her Schusterman Fellowship for Spanish training at UNAM’s Centro de Enseñanza Para Extranjeros (CEPE), an intensive language school at the Ciudad Universitaria/Coyoacán/CDMX. She also used the opportunity to conduct archival research on conversos.

Kaitlyn Morrison-Henson enrolled remotely in the Beginners Hebrew Ulpan at Tel Aviv University International as part of her Schusterman Fellowship. Her research focuses on right-wing extremism.

Michael Powell enrolled remotely in the The

Naomi Praver Kadar International Yiddish Summer Program at Tel Aviv University International as part of his Schusterman Fellowship. He was also awarded a Naomi Praver Kadar Scholarship. His thesis topic deals with clergy imprisoned in the Dachau concentration camp.

Jonah Roberson enrolled remotely in the The Naomi Praver Kadar International Yiddish Summer Program at Tel Aviv University International as part of his Schusterman Fellowship. His thesis topic centers on the German-Jewish renaissance in the Weimar Republic.

Our tenacious M.A. student **Jacob Jeffery** has finally made it to Israel. When COVID-19 struck, Jeffery was beginning a concurrent-M.A. program with the Rothberg International School at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He was able to complete part of the program remotely while remaining in Norman. Over the summer, with help of a Schusterman Study in Israel Scholarship, Jeffery traveled to Israel to complete his RIS coursework and will be remaining in Israel for the year to conduct archival research toward the completion of his M.A. thesis, which is on Modi’in — a planned city in central Israel built in the environs of the origin place of the Maccabean revolt.



Kaylee Maxey



Kaitlyn Morrison-Henson



Jacob Jeffery



Michael Powell



Jonah Roberson

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF JUD

On Dec. 2, 2020, we were grateful to be joined via Zoom by friends and colleagues from around the globe as we celebrated our first quarter-century at the University of Oklahoma.

Among those in attendance were the Schusterman Center's founding director, Noam Stillman, as well as many current and former students, faculty and staff.

College of Arts and Sciences Dean David Wrobel spoke marking the occasion, as did Lynn Schusterman—co-founder and chair emerita of Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Philanthropies.

Following these touching remarks, official OU Historian David Levy delivered a guest lecture on the history of Jews at OU before Judaic Studies. Levy's talk sparked renewed interest in the history of Jews at OU and in Oklahoma at large, with new collaborations in the works between the Schusterman Center, Hillel at the University of Oklahoma and the Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art in Tulsa.



Above: Dr. David Levy presents the anniversary lecture via Zoom.
Left: Variant of the Schusterman Center logo for our anniversary year.

JUDAIC & ISRAEL STUDIES AT OU



David Wrobel

Remarks from CAS Dean David Wrobel

[...] I would venture that Judaic and Israel Studies, nationally and internationally, is made markedly stronger by OU's Schusterman Center, and that our university community is the palace of humanistic thought on the prairie that it is, in no small part because of the work of the Schusterman Center. And I am convinced that the intellectual core of our university, strengthened and deepened as it is by the Center, makes us a national and international site of humanistic renewal and rejuvenation.

Thank you to our brilliant Judaic Studies core and associated faculty, our equally brilliant students, thank you to Alan and Noam for your leadership, to all of the outstanding staff over the years who have devoted their time and expertise to this enterprise. Thank you to the community members who support the Schusterman Center

by attending our events and contributing to our discussions, and thereby making our community more meaningful. And thank you, Lynn Schusterman and the Schusterman Foundation, for believing in a vision and supporting a transformation. It has been a wonderful first twenty-five years. Here's to the next quarter century, and to many more momentous anniversaries to come. The College of Arts and Sciences is truly grateful for the Schusterman Center for Judaic and Israel Studies. Happy Anniversary!



Lynn Schusterman

Remarks from CLSFP Chair-Emerita Lynn Schusterman

Twenty-five years ago the world was much different than it is today and the center Charlie and I envisioned continues to meld the history and culture of Israel with the issues and challenges Israel is facing in the 21st century. We are grateful to Norman Stillman for laying the foundation for the Schusterman Center for Judaic and Israel Studies and to Alan Levenson for his vision for expanding the faculty and the wide range of course offerings. Dean Wrobel, we appreciate the university for its commitment to ensuring its students have every opportunity to examine the history of the Jewish people or to explore the culture, politics and society of the modern State of Israel. I am eager to hear Dr. Levy's talk on Jews at OU before there was a Jewish Studies Program. Thank you for joining us today. To paraphrase an often used Jewish sentiment, Next Year in Person!

EVENTS

2020-2021 HIGHLIGHTS
18 EVENTS | 700+ ATTENDEES

The Schusterman Center for Judaic and Israel Studies at the University of Oklahoma was thrilled to safely present or cosponsor 18 Zoom events, engaging students, faculty and the community from around the world.

JuSt Lunch with Lisa Wolfe

**“Qoheleth for Feminists:
Where are the Women Hiding
in Ecclesiastes?”**

Noon, March 3, 2021 Lecture held via [ZOOM](#)

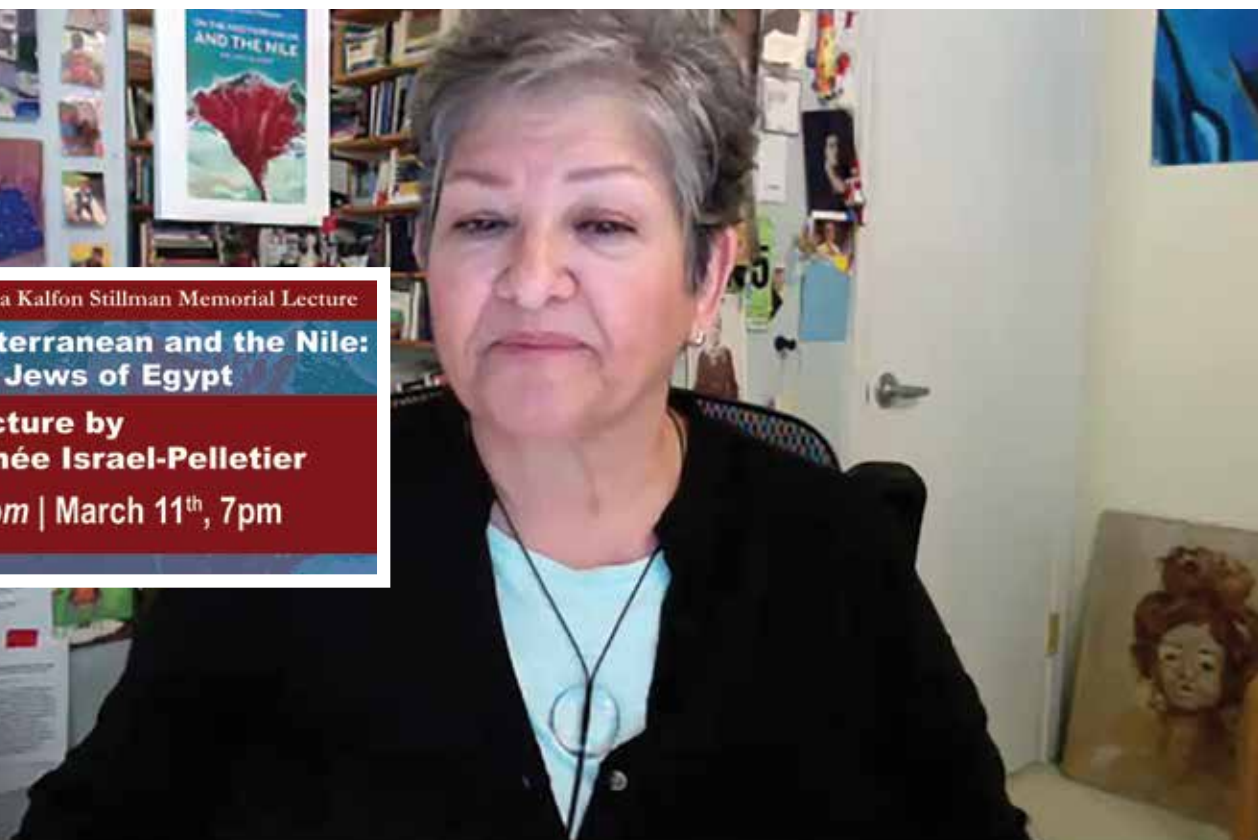


21stth Annual Yedida Kalfon Stillman Memorial Lecture

**On the Mediterranean and the Nile:
The Jews of Egypt**



**Lecture by
Aimée Israel-Pelletier**
Zoom | March 11th, 7pm



IN-PERSON EVENTS RETURN!

The Schusterman Center will be returning to in-person events in the fall. Our Zoom events last year went more smoothly than we expected, and we loved having friends from afar call in for lectures...but we are excited to see friends and community members again in-person and to share in learning and our ever-popular rugelach trays.

For all of our friends beyond the Oklahoma City metro, we will continue to record and post as many of our events as possible on the Schusterman Center's YouTube channel! ou.edu/cas/judaicstudies/social-media



Ilan Stavans

Our event scheduling is still ongoing, so be sure to make note of the “Save the Date!” section. We do have some exciting guest speakers already lined up, Laurie Baron, president of the Western Jewish Studies Association and professor emeritus of Modern Jewish History at San Diego State University, will be here in September. Ilan Stavans will be delivering the 22nd Annual Yedida Kalfon Stillman Memorial Lecture in February.

The Schusterman Center is also gearing up to host its first conference! Over March 27-28, the 2022 Western Jewish Studies Association Conference will be held at the University of Oklahoma. Our faculty and the broader Norman and OKC community are all looking forward to welcoming scholars from around the country and beyond to our beautiful campus in springtime.

SAVE THE DATE!

JUST LUNCH 2021-2022

Sept. 1 | Oct. 6 | Nov. 3 | Dec. 1 | Feb. 3 | March 2
April 7 | May 4

JUST FILM FESTIVAL

Oct. 14 | Oct. 21 | Oct. 28

YKS Memorial Lecture 2022

Feb. 24

2022 WJSA Annual Conference

March 27-28

OTHER LECTURES/EVENTS

Sept. 30 | Nov. 18 | March 10



By Popular Demand: Rugelach returns as a staple of events!

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

ASSOCIATED FACULTY

Benjamin Alpers
Associate Professor
Honors College

Kaleigh Bangor
German Language Program
Coordinator

David Chappell
Rothbaum Professor of Modern
American History

Rangar Cline
Assistant Professor of Religious
Studies

Luis Cortest
Professor of Spanish

Lee Green-Hall
Religious Studies

Jill Hicks-Keeton
Assistant Professor of Religious
Studies

Misha Klein
Associate Professor of
Anthropology

Scott Johnson
Associate Professor of Classics
and Letters

Nina Livesey
Associate Professor of American
and Cultural Literacy

Stephen Norwood
Professor of History

William Henry McDonald
Associate Professor of English

Andrew Porwancher
Wick Cary Associate Professor in
Classics and Letters

Tyson Putthoff
Lecturer | Hebrew Bible

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Senior Associate Vice President
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Robb Young
Lecturer | Religious Studies

SCHOLARSHIP AND AWARD WINNERS

Schusterman Study in Israel Scholarships

Scholarships of \$10,000 each are offered for semester-long study abroad programs in Israel; in addition, we have \$5,000 scholarships for those wishing to study in Israel during the summer. The scholarships are open to full-time University of Oklahoma undergraduate and graduate students during the period for which application is made. Students must have completed a minimum of 15 hours of college coursework. Priority will be given to graduate students concentrating in Jewish History and undergraduate students who have officially declared a major or a minor in Judaic Studies or a minor in Hebrew. Applicants must have maintained a 3.0 GPA in Jewish History, Judaic Studies or Hebrew courses and a 2.5 GPA overall.

Domestic Academic Scholarships/Awards

Esther Rose Shnier XI Chapter of Sigma Delta Tau Scholarship

The scholarship is open to any individual who, having completed at least 30 credit hours of college coursework, is a full-time, regularly enrolled student of the University of Oklahoma during the period in which application is made, and who has officially declared a major or minor in Judaic Studies and/or a minor in Hebrew. Applicants must have maintained a 3.0 grade-point average on a scale of 4.0 in Judaic Studies/Hebrew courses.

Rosalyn W. Price Memorial Scholarship for Judaic Studies

The scholarship is open to any individual who is a full-time, regularly enrolled student of the University of Oklahoma majoring in Judaic Studies. Applicants must have maintained a 2.8 grade-point average on a scale of 4.0. The overall grade-point average may also be taken into consideration by the selection committee as well as the number of completed hours in the major. Any eligible, deserving undergraduate or graduate student is qualified for either an initial award or a subsequent award if, in the opinion of the selection committee, the student is making satisfactory progress toward graduation.

Zarrow Family Scholarship for Judaic Studies

The scholarship is open to any individual who, having completed at least three Judaic Studies and/or Hebrew courses, is a full-time, regularly enrolled undergraduate or graduate student of the University of Oklahoma during the period in which application is made. Preference will be given to declared majors or minors in Judaic Studies or minors in Hebrew. Applicants must have maintained a 3.0 grade-point average in the minor on a scale of 4.0. The overall grade-point average may also be taken into consideration by the selection committee as well as the number of completed hours in the major and/or minors. Any eligible, deserving undergraduate or graduate student is qualified for either an initial award or a subsequent award if, in the opinion of the selection committee, the student is making satisfactory progress toward graduation.

Stillman Prize for Excellence in Judaic Studies

Established in 2016 in honor of the Schusterman Center's founding director, the Norman Stillman Prize for Excellence in Judaic Studies is awarded annually to an outstanding student scholar. Students are nominated by faculty and winners selected by committee.

Congratulations to our 2021-2022 Winners


Study in Israel Scholarship: Brendan Adams, Harry Cooper, T.J. Edwards, Kev Grane, D. Hudson Harder, Elizabeth Housley, Jacob Jeffery, Karyson Johnson, Sarah Marcus, Collin Markoski, Quincy McSpadden and Jim North.

Rosalyn W. Price Memorial Scholarship: Kaylee Maxey and Michael Powell.


Zarrow Family Scholarship: Kaitlyn Morrison-Henson and Michael Powell.

Stillman Prize: Jonah Roberson

For more information about the Schusterman Center's variety of scholarships and awards, along with other funding sources for Study Abroad at OU, visit www.ou.edu/cas/judaicstudies/scholarships



COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
SCHUSTERMAN CENTER FOR JUDAIC AND ISRAEL STUDIES
The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA



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COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES / JUDAIC AND ISRAEL STUDIES / AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Awards and Scholarships

A broad variety of competitive awards and scholarships are available to University of Oklahoma students pursuing the fields of Judaic and Israel Studies. Please click below to expand each particular item.

For further information, please contact us!

Norman Stillman Prize for Excellence in Judaic Studies

Established in 2016 in honor of the Schusterman Center's founding director, the Norman Stillman Prize for Excellence in Judaic Studies is awarded annually to an outstanding student scholar. Students are nominated by faculty and winners selected by committee.

2021 Winner: Jonah Roberson

2020 Winner: G.S. Aryeh Wall

2019 Winner: Kanaan Goldstein

2018 Winner: Jesse Weinberg

2017 Winner: Jacob Lackner

2016 Winner: Tryce Hyman

[Schusterman Study in Israel Scholarship](#)



University of Oklahoma students enjoy the benefit of access to the largest home for Judaic and Israel Studies in the region, offering over 60 courses and more always on the way. With our partners at OU and internationally, we field a variety of Study Abroad courses, especially at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, including intensive language programs and a hands-on archaeological dig at Megiddo. Students can pursue a variety of different programs through the Schusterman Center for Judaic and Israel Studies.

Diverse options include a **Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Judaic Studies** and a **minor in Judaic & Israel Studies** as well as a **minor in Hebrew**. Students may also pursue a **Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in History while choosing Judaic/Israel History as a thematic field**. Students seeking graduate-level work in Judaic and Israel Studies may do so through the **Department of History's M.A. and Ph.D. programs**. The Schusterman Center offers competitive fellowships to select students pursuing the History M.A. with a Judaic/Israel History major field.

CENTER FACTS:

-6 CORE FACULTY

-18 ASSOCIATE FACULTY

-11,000+ ENROLLMENTS SINCE 2007

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2021-2022 COURSE OFFERINGS

FALL 2021

CL C 3133-001 Plato & the Platonic Tradition
HEBR 1115-001 Beginning Hebrew
HEBR 2113-001 Intermediate Hebrew
HEBR 3113-001 Advanced Hebrew
HEBR 3513-001 Biblical Hebrew
HIST 2123-001 The Holocaust
HIST 3313-001 Israeli Culture Through Film
HIST 3403-001 Modern Israel
HIST 3543-001 Hist of Modern American Women
HIST 3963-001 Rebirth of Israel
HIST 3973-001 Judaism: A Religious History
HIST 3993-001 The Evolution of Martyrdom
HON 3993-004 World War II Memory
HON 3993-009 World War II Memory
IAS 3003-995 Minorities in the Middle East
IAS 3473-001 The Arab-Israeli Conflict
LSTD 4163-101 World Religions and Ecology
RELS 1113-002 Intro to Religious Studies
RELS 1113-995 Intro to Religious Studies

SPRING 2022

CL C 3803-001 World of Late Antiquity
HEBR 1225-001 Beginning Hebrew (continued)
HEBR 2213-001 Intermediate Hebrew II
HEBR 3223-001 Advanced Hebrew II
HIST 3293-001 Antisemitism
HIST 3623-001 Conformity/Dissent in 1950/60s
HIST 3653-001 American Jewish History
HIST 3733-001 History of Heaven and Hell
HIST 3763-001 Genesis Through Jewish Eyes
HIST 3773-001 Jews/Christians-Middle Ages
HIST 3833-001 Biblical Archaeology
HIST 4003-001 Jews/Other Germans
HIST 4973-001 Global 60s
HIST 4973-003 Nation & Nation States in Euro
LSTD 4163-301 World Religions and Ecology
LSTD 4163-401 World Religions and Ecology
LSTD 4213-401 The Bible as a Literary Work
MLLL 3063-001 Jewish Literature
RELS 1113-001 Intro to Religious Studies
RELS 1213-001 Judaism and Christianity
RELS 3623-002 Apostle Paul: Life & Thoughts
RELS 3833-001 Biblical Archaeology

HELP SUPPORT US: FRIENDS OF THE OU SCHUSTERMAN CENTER FOR JUDAIC AND ISRAEL STUDIES



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 to put together a program to help ensure the continuing work of the center: *Friends of the OU Schusterman Center for Judaic and Israel Studies*.

THANK YOU TO RECENT DONORS!

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FUNDING PRIORITIES:

Professor of American Jewish Studies

In the developing political and cultural climate, the study of the American Jewish experience has grown more important than ever. We intend to establish a permanent focus on this topic within the University of Oklahoma through either a professorship or chair within the History Department, which will incorporate well into its broader emphasis on American history.

Professor of Antisemitism and Holocaust Studies

As the current global populist wave continues to stoke antisemitism both in the United States and around the world, our goal is to confront it by establishing the Schusterman Center as a major site for research and education on the topic, through either a professorship or chair within the History Department.

HOW TO GIVE

ONLINE:

<https://bit.ly/3wQjGdK>

The screenshot shows a web form for donations. At the top, it features the logos of the College of Arts and Sciences, the Schusterman Center for Judaic and Israel Studies, and The University of Oklahoma. Below this is a section titled "My Gift" with a text input field for the amount and a dropdown menu to select the recipient, currently set to "to the Center for Judaic and Israel Studies". To the right, there is a box for the "OU Foundation" with its logo and a brief history: "Established in 1944 and incorporated in 1955 as a 501(c)(3) organization, the University of Oklahoma Foundation".

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Please make checks out to
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Cover Image: South Oval Statue of The Sower, Zoom logo, screencaps from Zoom events.