THE SCHUSTERMAN CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

2010–2012
Dear Friends and Colleagues:

The Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies was established in September 2007 with a $6 million matching grant from the Schusterman Foundation of Tulsa, Oklahoma. As we enter our fifth year, the big news is that in December 2010, despite the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression, we met the match. Faculty, staff, and Jewish Studies students joined forces with development officers in the College of Liberal Arts and The University of Texas at Austin to express their enthusiasm for the center across the state, and scores of donors responded in kind. Our students, faculty, and community will enjoy new courses and professors, exciting events, and increased visibility across campus and Texas, as well as the national and international world of Jewish Studies.

The pages that follow give you a sense of recent happenings and new initiatives at the Schusterman Center. Highlights this past year included the presence of two overseas visiting scholars, Professors Oren Barak from Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Michael Berkowitz from University College London. Both offered public lectures on their work, and Dr. Barak taught a class on Israeli-Lebanese relations. Professor Olga Litvak of Clark University gave the Kasman Family Lecture on the work of Yiddish writer Sholem Aleichem.

This year (2011–2012), Dr. Gideon Greif, an internationally recognized Israeli scholar of the Holocaust, is giving courses on the Holocaust and Israel as Schusterman Visiting Professor. The center also hosted the Eighth Early Modern Workshop in Jewish History (August 2011) and will host the XVI International Research Conference of the Latin American Jewish Studies Association (June 2013), bringing to campus some of the most distinguished scholars in each field. As always, we will also be sponsoring programs in Jewish art, music, literature, photography, and film, as well as in Israeli culture and politics. We continue to forge strong ties with Texas Performing Arts and will increase our support of the Austin Jewish Film Festival. In addition, we will expand our cooperative ventures with the Harry Ransom Center and the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History.

We have also inaugurated two very important initiatives for the center that will reap wide-ranging benefits for our visibility, research mission, curriculum, public programming, and collaborative research and teaching. The first is our new relationship with the University of Haifa. We met with Haifa’s provost and the chair of its School of History in September 2011 and already plans are moving forward for joint teleconferenced courses, faculty exchanges, and a Maymester course in Israel. We are sure that the UT-Haifa link will become a powerful portal for the center’s Israel Studies initiatives as well as for other university-wide connections to Haifa.

The second initiative is our partnership with University of Texas Press for a new Jewish Studies book series that will highlight innovative books for both scholars and the reading public.

From the beginning, we aimed to make the center a resource for the entire campus and the state. As we move to fulfill this mission, we look forward to an exciting time for Jewish Studies at the University of Texas.

Robert H. Abzug, Director
thoughts from

THE DEAN

I couldn’t be prouder of the progress that the Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies has made in just a few years. The following pages highlight the faculty, students, and supporters who have made this all possible.

Thanks to their efforts, our Jewish Studies majors are able to select from a wealth of classes offered through the center. Students have been enthusiastic about those offerings — with more than 650 registering for classes this past year. In addition, the college has fostered scholarship by attracting accomplished faculty and offering research opportunities through our superb university archives and collections. And we continue to promote collaboration between students and university faculty, as well as scholars from across the globe.

As a public university, we realize our mission goes beyond the classroom, and that we should serve a broader public and scholarly community. The Schusterman Center has done this by providing compelling, diverse, and dynamic views of Jewish culture and promoting unique research.

The center, for instance, has sponsored informal conversations in the Nathan I. Snyder Library and hosted distinguished speakers such as Gerda Weissmann Klein, a Jewish Holocaust survivor, whose memoir All But My Life was the basis for an Academy Award-winning documentary. We offer such thought-provoking discussions so our students can continue to grow intellectually and serve their greater community.

The College of Liberal Arts is committed to the success of the Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies, and would like to see it continue its unparalleled excellence in curriculum and programming.

Thank you for taking the opportunity to learn more about the center’s efforts, progress, and plans for the future.

Randy L. Diehl
Dean
College of Liberal Arts
Last year, the Schusterman Center offered more than 25 events to the university and greater Austin community. These are just some of the scores of events sponsored or co-sponsored from 2009 through 2011:

The Ellis Island Immigration Museum housed the exhibit *Forgotten Gateway: Coming to America Through Galveston Island*. Co-sponsored with the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum and Humanities Texas.

Israeli writer *Etgar Keret* gave a presentation on his latest short story collection, *The Nimrod Flipout*. Co-sponsored with the Department of Middle Eastern Studies.

In partnership with the *Austin Jewish Film Festival*, each year the center hosts free screenings of three festival movies on campus.

Students and members of the Austin community built a *Wall of Change* to commemorate the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, as well as the anniversary of the *Night of Broken Glass*, or Kristallnacht.

Photographer *Loli Kantor* presented *There Was a Forest*, her portraits of Holocaust survivors in the remaining Eastern European shtetls and the reemergence of Central and Eastern European Jewish life and culture.

Professor *Michael R. Marrus* (University of Toronto) gave a talk re-examining the Holocaust restitution campaign of the 1990s. He also discussed the campaign for the beatification of Pope Pius XII. Co-sponsored with The University of Texas School of Law.

Professor *Claire Katz* (Texas A&M University) presented the lecture “*Judaism and the Crisis of Humanism.*”

Author, humanitarian, presidential appointee, and Holocaust survivor *Gerda Weissmann Klein* spoke with faculty, students, and the greater Austin community. Co-sponsored with Texas Hillel.

Israeli writer *Haim Be’er* discussed his novel *The Pure Element of Time* (*Havalim*). Co-sponsored with Texas Hillel.

Texas Hillel hosted a *Southern Fried Shabbat*, with a lecture on the history of Texas Jews by Visiting Professor *Bryan E. Stone* (Del Mar College). The evening also featured *Bagels & Grits: Images of Jewish Life in the Deep South*, a photography exhibit by the Museum of Southern Jewish Experience, which resided at the Jewish Community Center of Austin. Co-sponsored with Texas Hillel and the Jewish Community Association of Austin.

Argentine artist *Mirta Kupferminc* presented her work *Borges and the Kabbalah: From Literature to Image*. Co-sponsored with the Department of Spanish & Portuguese, the Program in Comparative Literature, and the Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies.

The world’s hippest klezmer band, *The Klezmatics*, performed with two-time Grammy Award-winning clarinetist *Richard Stoltzman* for a Hannukah celebration to remember. Co-sponsored with Texas Performing Arts, the College of Fine Arts, and the Jewish Community Association of Austin.

Professor *Alec Mishory* (The Open University of Israel) presented “*The Sacrifice of Isaac,*” a lecture exploring the prevalence of that theme in Israeli art across periods and styles.

Texas Hillel housed the exhibit *Pictures of Resistance: The Wartime Photography of Jewish Partisan Faye Schulman*, a rare collection of work by the only known Jewish Partisan photographer. Co-sponsored with the Center for European Studies and Texas Hillel.

Professor *Olga Litvak* (Clark University) gave a talk entitled “*Literature and Theft: Sholem Aleichem’s Master Narrative.*”

In her lecture “*Levinas on Europe: The Bible and the Greeks,*” Professor *Joëlle Hansel* (Hebrew University of Jerusalem) discussed the close intertwining of Biblical and Greek influences in Emmanuel Levinas’s pre-war work.

Visiting Professor *Oren B. Barak* presented “*The Elephant and The Jewish Problem: Some Reflections on The Current Crisis in The Middle East,*” which focused on developments in the study of the security sector in the Middle East.
The Schusterman Center provides a multi-disciplinary Jewish Studies curriculum that embraces the full spectrum of Jewish life, culture, and religion from a variety of perspectives. Each academic year, close to 1,000 students enroll in Jewish Studies courses housed in departments across the College of Liberal Arts. Jewish Studies has become a growing major and an important resource for all students at the university. Here are some of our offerings:

2010–2012

COURSES INCLUDE

America and the Holocaust
American Jewish Literature and Music
American Jewish Material Culture
Anti-Semitism
Classic Jewish Texts
Concepts in Judaic Culture
Cross-Cultural Communication in the Middle East
Daily Life in Ancient Israel
European Jews in the Modern World
Germany Since Hitler
Holocaust Aftereffects
Introduction to Israeli Literature
Introduction to the Hebrew Bible
Introduction to the Holocaust
Israel: Society and Politics
Israel-Palestine Conflict in Literature and Film
Jewish Civilization, 1492–Present
Jewish Ethics
Jewish Identity in American Performance
Jewish Literature in Medieval Spain
Jewish Martyrdom
Jews in America: The Yiddish Experience
Judaism, Christianity, and Islam: An Introduction
Latin American Jewish Writers
Multicultural Israel
Palestine During the British Mandate
Prime Ministers of Israel
Queen of Sheba in History and Legend
Repentance in Ancient Judaism and Early Christianity
Representations of Jews in the American Public Sphere
Rome and Jerusalem
Spinoza and Modernity
The Bible and History
The Church and the Jews
The Dead Sea Scrolls
The Holocaust in Israeli Culture
The Rise of Christianity
The Roots of Religious Toleration
The Sacred and Secular in Jewish Literature
The Spanish Inquisition
Understanding Israeli-Lebanese Relations
Uncovering Jewish Prague
Women in the Hebrew Bible
World War II in Eastern Europe
Our goal is to reach beyond our curriculum to the broader university and greater community. Lectures, public symposia, art exhibits, musical programs, and other events originate in the Schusterman Center and are often presented in conjunction with other university units, Texas Hillel, and community partners. The following are highlights for the 2011–2012 academic year. For the latest information on these and other events, visit our Web site: www.utexas.edu/cola/centers/scjs/.

KRISTALLNACHT AND HERSCHEL GRYNSPAN: HERO OR ANTI-HERO? NOVEMBER 9, 2011
Schusterman Visiting Professor and noted Holocaust scholar Gideon Greif revisits Herschel Grynspan’s November 7, 1938, shooting of a German diplomat in Paris, the event the Nazis used as an excuse to call for the German people to “rise in bloody vengeance against the Jews.” The result was Kristallnacht. Part of the Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies’ Faculty-Student Seminar series.

HEAVEN AND ITS DISCONTENTS: SPIRITUAL DRAMAS OF THE TALMUD NOVEMBER 16, 2011
Acclaimed author Joseph Skibell, Visiting Associate Professor at the Michener Center for Writers, discusses his work on the tales of the Talmud. Little known and underappreciated, these stories form a second narrative, a grand tragedy, within the legal discourse of the Talmud. Part of the Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies’ Faculty-Student Seminar series.

HOW JEWISH IS GERMAN SEXUALITY? FROM THE THIRD REICH TO SEXUAL REVOLUTION NOVEMBER 17, 2011
Lecture by Dagmar Herzog, Professor of History at the City University of New York. Co-sponsored with the Department of Germanic Studies.

AUSTIN JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL: CAMPUS SCREENINGS JANUARY 2012
SCJS offers screenings of the following films on campus: David Amram: The First 80 Years, Restoration, and The Names of Love. Screenings are free and open to the public. Co-sponsored with the Jewish Community Association of Austin and Texas Hillel.

Yossi Ben-Artzi, Professor of History and Geography at the University of Haifa and former rector of the university, will speak on the current state of Israeli politics. Co-sponsored with the Jewish Community Association of Austin.

CAN ISRAEL BE BOTH JEWISH AND DEMOCRATIC? FEBRUARY 14, 2012
Ruth Gavison, Haim H. Cohn Professor of Human Rights at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, will speak on the current state of Israel as a democracy. Co-sponsored with Department of Government and the University of Texas School of Law.

HELLENES, NAZARENES, AND OTHER JEWS: HEINE THE FOOL FEBRUARY 23, 2012
Willi Goetschel, Professor of German and Philosophy at the University of Toronto, will speak on the Jewish identity of the 19th-century German poet Heinrich Heine.

THE QUESTION OF ELOQUENCE IN THE KING JAMES VERSION MARCH 8, 2012
Robert Alter, the distinguished literary critic, translator, and Class of 1937 Professor of Hebrew and Comparative Literature at the University of California, Berkeley, will speak about the great achievement and problems of the King James Version of the Bible. Co-sponsored with the Harry Ransom Center.

BATSHEVA DANCE COMPANY PRESENTS ‘MAX’ MARCH 20, 2012
Classic, modern, and contemporary dance forms come together with awe-inspiring synergy as Israel’s Batsheva Dance Company bring their vibrant piece, Max, to the Bass Concert Hall. Co-sponsored with the Viola S. Hoffman and George W. Hoffman Lectureship in Liberal Arts and Fine Arts.

DAVID AMRAM LECTURE/CONCERT MARCH 22, 2012
American composer, musician, conductor, and writer David Amram presents a lecture and a concert.

FACULTY-STUDENT SEMINARS: VARIOUS SUBJECTS SPRING 2012
SCJS faculty members give monthly lectures on topics of their choice and expertise. The lectures, hosted a block from campus at Texas Hillel, are open to students, faculty, and community members.

SPIRIT IN SHADOWS: CREATIVITY IN THE FACE OF DEATH OCTOBER 2012
SCJS hosts a performance symposium on the legacy of Terezin.

LATIN AMERICAN JEWISH STUDIES ASSOCIATION MEETINGS JUNE 2013
SCJS hosts the XVI International Research Conference of the Latin American Jewish Studies Association.
Photographer Lola Kantor, Professor Robert Abzug, and Rabbi Neil Blumofe participate in a panel discussion of Kantor’s photography.

Art historian Maya Benton visits the Isaac Bashevis Singer Papers at the Harry Ransom Center as an invited guest of the Schusterman Center.

Alyssa Ramírez, assistant to the director of the center, in the Nathan I. Snyder Library.

SCJS professor Suzanne Seriff accompanies David Faraggi and Gur Alroey of Haifa University on a visit to the Singer papers at the Harry Ransom Center.

Rabbi David Komrofsky and Todd Aaron of the Schusterman Center Advisory Council at a council meeting.

Program Coordinator Galit Pedahzur and recent Jewish Studies graduate Ellie Agnew at the Israel Block Party.

Novelist Joseph Skibell, visiting professor at the Michener Center for Writers, presents a Faculty-Student Seminar at Texas Hillel.

Jewish Studies major Emily Cobert and Professor Karen King and at a reception for Jewish Students students and faculty.

Professors Suzanne Seriff and Amelia Weinreb chat at a reception for Jewish Studies students and faculty held at Texas Hillel.
THE GALE FAMILY, JEWISH STUDIES, AND THE UNIVERSITY

FOR FOUR GENERATIONS, the Gale family of Beaumont, Texas has embodied—in the words of Seth Wolitz, Professor Emeritus and former holder of the Gale Chair in Judaic Studies—“what Texas Jewry is all about”: Philanthropic. Visionary. Texan and Jewish and proud of it. Fiercely loyal to The University of Texas at Austin.

The late Edwin Gale, a World War II veteran and University of Texas alumnus (class of 1947), along with his wife Becky and other members of the family, took a giant step toward building a program in Jewish Studies at the university in 1971. They created what has grown to be a $1.4 million endowment that has funded both a highly regarded lecture series and the L.D., Marie, and Edwin Gale Chair of Judaic Studies.

That endowment has become part of the Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies, and the family has contributed another $1.2 million to fund two professorships and a revived Gale Lecture in Jewish Studies. The lecture series has featured such luminaries as the writer Irving Howe, Commentary magazine editor Norman Podhoretz, and Jewish historian Yosef Yerushalmi. These speakers, musical events, and other Gale Lecture programs attracted large audiences each year from campus and the larger Austin community. In addition, over the years the Gales have made possible the purchase of books that, according to Dr. Wolitz, helped make the university’s collections “the most important Jewish library between the East Coast and West Coast and south of the Mason-Dixon Line.”

Edwin Gale died in 1996. Becky Gale lives in Beaumont and continues to support the university and Jewish Studies through the family foundation. “The Gale Foundation sustained Jewish Studies at the University of Texas for four decades and, thanks to the foresight of Edwin and Becky Gale,” said Professor Robert H. Abzug, Director of the Schusterman Center, “it will continue to support Jewish Studies scholarship, courses, students, and stellar cultural events for generations to come.”

THE SCHUSTERMAN FOUNDATION: THE CENTER AND THE WORLD

LYNN SCHUSTERMAN is determined to make the world a better place—with the multitude of people and organizations she supports in Israel, Europe, and the United States.

Heeding the Jewish imperative tikkun olam, “repair the world,” Schusterman and her husband Charles (now deceased) have been dedicated philanthropists for most of their lives. In 1987, they formed the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation to enrich and expand Jewish communities around the world, as well as to support their hometown of Tulsa, Oklahoma, through education, advocacy and community service.

In establishing the Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies at The University of Texas at Austin with a $6 million challenge grant, the foundation added a new chapter to its philanthropic mission—one focused on innovative Jewish Studies initiatives in public universities.

Schusterman identified the university as uniquely suited for such a center because of its existing faculty expertise in Jewish Studies, as well as its vast trove of Jewish cultural and scholarly materials. The university’s prioritization of its Jewish Studies curriculum was additional motivation for the grant offer.

“Courses have covered everything from an introduction to Aramaic, to issues in modern healthcare in Israel,” Schusterman notes. “That breadth of topics is an important element of the center, and bringing together the knowledge and research tools of different disciplines makes for a rewarding environment.”

Although Schusterman lives in Oklahoma, both her children attended the University of Texas, and she recognized the quality of its teaching, research, and student engagement. She hopes the center will flourish for the benefit of all students and faculty as well as the broader community.

“One of the roles of a university is to educate our young people about the history and values that are at the core of Western civilization,” says Schusterman, who believes Jewish tradition has much to offer in this regard. “More than a religion, it is the story of a people that dates back millennia, and brings with it a culture, tradition, and value system that are very meaningful. I hope to share the energy and excitement coming from this field with the students of the university—regardless of their background.”
The Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies was created by an extraordinary $6 million challenge grant from the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation of Tulsa, Oklahoma. The Schusterman Center honors and recognizes donors by welcoming them into the Founders Circle at the following membership levels:

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<th>Membership Level</th>
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<td>Pillar</td>
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Gift commitments may be paid over five (5) years as an outright gift, planned gift, or combination of both.

Naming opportunities are available to create lasting sources of support in the following areas:

- Faculty chairs in Jewish history, thought, and text studies each endowed at $1 million.
- Faculty professorships in social science and literature each endowed at $300,000.
- Undergraduate Presidential Scholarships each endowed at $50,000.
- An endowment for special events (lectures, conferences, film series, and exhibits) at $1 million.

The center also seeks annual program support of $100,000 for each of the next five years.

For more information about the Founders Circle and how to make a gift to support the center, please contact Kathleen Aronson, Assistant Dean for Development, College of Liberal Arts, at (512) 475-9763 or mcaronson@austin.utexas.edu, or return the envelope inserted in this newsletter. You may also visit our giving page at www.utexas.edu/cola/centers/scjs/giving.
AS THE JEWISH STUDIES MAJOR GREW IN NUMBERS THIS PAST YEAR, we not only sponsored two receptions for faculty and students but also met for informal conversation with our majors in the new Nathan I. Snyder Library located at the center. Of particular interest was the strong attraction that non-Jewish majors felt toward our courses. In our last newsletter, we featured personal perspectives from Jewish students in the program. This year we feature a non-Jewish student. Frank Rodriguez speaks to his interest in and connection to Jewish culture in deeply personal terms one does not often hear expressed with such conviction.

FRANK RODRIGUEZ  
SENIOR  
BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS

I became a Jewish Studies major to pursue my life’s calling as one who serves and loves the Jewish State of Israel. I came to this conclusion after a yearlong spiritual inquiry and testing of my Christian faith and its basis. During this inquiry I learned how relevant Judaism was in the formation of Christianity – especially as its founder Jesus of Nazareth was Jewish.

The classes I have taken relative to Israel have fed my passion to advocate for Israel and those connected to Israel’s culture and history. And the greater Jewish narrative has solidified my love for Judaism. In addition, these classes have given me greater insight into the roots of my Christian faith and have thus made it more real and meaningful to me.

I look forward to continuing my education in Jewish Studies and expanding my knowledge on crucial issues such as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and anti-Semitism. I hope to use the knowledge I amass as a Jewish Studies major to facilitate reconciliation between the Christian community and their spiritual forefathers, the Jewish people.

WE AWARDED OUR FIRST PRIZES FOR UNDERGRADUATE EXCELLENCE IN 2010.

MOLLY ODINTZ  
MAJOR: HISTORY


MEAGAN KEEFE  
MAJOR: PLAN II


Both students had taken numerous Jewish Studies courses and written their theses with members of the Jewish Studies faculty. Mazel tov!

AARON BAR-ADON was elected in 2010 to the Academy of the Hebrew Language in Jerusalem. Dr. Bar-Adon delivered the keynote address at the plenary session of the Academy in November 2011.


KAREN GRUMBERG published her first book, Place and Ideology in Contemporary Hebrew Literature (Syracuse University Press, 2011). She was awarded a Fulbright fellowship to teach Hebrew literature at the University of Oslo in the spring of 2012, and a 2011–2012 Research Fellowship from the American Association of University Women to work on her next book project, Gothic Elements in Hebrew Literature. Dr. Grumberg was promoted to Associate Professor in 2010.

ROBERT KING gave the Kachru Endowment Lecture at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in April 2010. In December 2011, he delivered the keynote address, “Weinreich and America,” for a conference on Max Weinreich at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research in New York.

NAOMI LINDSTROM chaired the Modern Language Association’s panel for the 2010 Katherine Singer Kovacs Prize. She also presented papers at the 41st and 42nd Annual Conferences of the Association for Jewish Studies, the XVI International Research Conference of the Latin American Jewish Studies Association, and the XXIX International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association. Dr. Lindstrom published the following articles: “Los usos del discurso profético en la narrativa de Samuel Rawet” in Revista de Crítica Literaria Latinoamericana 72 (2010); “Heroines, Hierarchies and Space: The Fiction of Cecilia Absatz” in Studies in Twentieth and Twenty-First Century Fiction 34.1 (2010); and “El discurso profético, apocalíptico y mesiánico de Jacobo Fijman” in CiberLetras 22 (December 2009). Dr. Lindstrom was appointed Associate Director at the Schusterman Center in December 2011.


ALEX WEINREB designed a new undergraduate course, “Anti-Semitism.”

AMELIA ROSENBERG WEINREB designed a new undergraduate course, “Multicultural Israel,” which included an interactive multimedia workshop.

**FACULTY**

**ROBERT ABZUG**  
PROFESSOR OF HISTORY AND AMERICAN STUDIES  
DIRECTOR, SCHUSTERMAN CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES  
AUDRE AND BERNARD RAPOPORT  
REGENTS CHAIR OF JEWISH STUDIES

**AARON BAR-ADON**  
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, DEPARTMENT OF  
MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES

**MIRIAM BODIAN**  
PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

**PASCALE BOS**  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR,  
DEPARTMENT OF GERMANIC STUDIES

**DAVID CREW**  
DISTINGUISHED TEACHING PROFESSOR,  
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

**DAVID J. EATON**  
BESS HARRIS JONES CENTENNIAL PROFESSOR IN NATURAL RESOURCE POLICY STUDIES,  
LBJ SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

**KAREN GRUMBERG**  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR,  
DEPARTMENT OF MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES

**JO ANN HACKETT**  
PROFESSOR,  
DEPARTMENT OF MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES

**JOHN HOBERMAN**  
PROFESSOR,  
DEPARTMENT OF GERMANIC STUDIES

**KAREN KING**  
LECTURER,  
DEPARTMENT OF AMERICAN STUDIES

**ROBERT D. KING**  
DISTINGUISHED TEACHING PROFESSOR EMERITUS,  
DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS

**TATJANA LICHTENSTEIN**  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR,  
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

**HAROLD A. LIEBOWITZ**  
PROFESSOR EMERITUS,  
DEPARTMENT OF MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES

**NAOMI LINDSTROM**  
PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF  
SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE

**FIELD**

**History of the Holocaust; American Jewish history and culture; history of psychology and religion**

**Sociolinguistics; Hebrew and Arabic language and literature**

**Sephardic Jews in Europe; the Inquisition and Reformation**

**Dutch literature and culture; history and literature of the Holocaust**

**History of popular culture and consumerism in Europe; history and politics of memory; history of Nazism and the Holocaust**

**Water management in the Jordan River Basin; public administration**

**Contemporary Hebrew literature; comparative Jewish literatures (Hebrew, French, English)**

**Old Testament and Hebrew studies; Semitic languages and epigraphy; women in the ancient Near East; mythology**

**European cultural and intellectual history; sports studies; history of racial thought**

**Yiddish culture in America**

**Historical linguistics; Yiddish; languages of India**

**Twentieth-century Eastern European history; nationalism, minorities and state building; relations between Jews and non-Jews**

**Archaeology and art of the land of Israel in the Biblical and Greco-Roman periods**

**Latin American narrative; 20th-century Latin American Jewish writing; prophetic literature**
FACULTY

ABRAHAM MARCUS
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR,
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

TRACIE MATYSIK
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

JOAN NEUBERGER
PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

MARY C. NEUBERGER
DIRECTOR OF CENTER FOR RUSSIAN, EASTERN EUROPEAN, AND EURASIAN STUDIES AND ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

MARTHA NEWMAN
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AND CHAIR,
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES

NA’AMA PAT-EL
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR,
DEPARTMENT OF MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES

AMI M. PEDAHZUR
PROFESSOR,
DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT

ESTHER L. RAIZEN
ASSOCIATE DEAN, COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS, AND ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR,
DEPARTMENT OF MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES

ADI RAZ
CLINICAL ASSISTANT PROFESSOR,
DEPARTMENT OF MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES

REBECCA ROSSMEN
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR,
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE

SUZANNE SERIFF
SENIOR LECTURER, DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

ALEX WEINREB
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

AMELIA ROSENBERG WEINREB
LECTURER, DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

L. MICHAEL WHITE
RONALD NELSON SMITH CHAIR IN CLASSICS AND CHRISTIAN ORIGINS, DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS

SETH L. WOLITZ
PROFESSOR EMERITUS,
DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH AND ITALIAN

FIELD

Arab and Ottoman history; Islamic history; Jewish communities of the Middle East

Modern European intellectual history; secularism as a social movement

Modern Russian culture in social and political context

Sephardic Jewish culture in southeastern Europe; ethnic conflict; nationalism; material culture; gender

Medieval Christian monasticism; comparative religion

Comparative Semitic linguistics; historical linguistics

Comparative politics; international relations; terrorism, counterterrorism and political extremism

Modern and classical Hebrew language; computer-assisted instruction and computational linguistics

Hebrew and Jewish education; sociology of language

Jewish identity in American modern and postmodern dance

Representations of Jews in American public sphere and the material culture of American Jewish life; public history and museum studies

Social demography; historical sociology; sociology of Judaism

Israeli ethnography and gender studies; Latin American studies

Religions of the Roman Empire; social context of Jews and Christians in the Greco-Roman period

French Jewish studies; Yiddish; Afro-Antillian literature

VISITING FACULTY

BRYAN STONE
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR,
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, DEL MAR COLLEGE, CORPUS CHRISTI
FIELD: American Jewish history, Texas history, diasporas/homelands.
Stone teaches a summer course titled “Texas Jews.”

OREN BARAK
PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, HEBREW UNIVERSITY, JERUSALEM
FIELD: Comparative politics, state, society and the military in the non-Western regions, especially the Middle East. Barak taught a course in spring 2011 titled “Understanding Israeli-Lebanese Relations.”

GIDEON GREIF
VISITING PROFESSOR FROM ISRAEL
FIELD: Holocaust studies.
Greif is teaching four courses over the 2011–2012 academic year; subjects include the Holocaust, Israel, and Jewish civilization.

VISITING SCHOLAR

MICHAEL BERKOWITZ
PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF HEBREW AND JEWISH STUDIES, UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON
Berkowitz was the 2010–2011 Schusterman Visiting Fellow at the Harry Ransom Center. He researched Jewish photographers in England.
DOLPH BRISCOE CENTER FOR AMERICAN HISTORY

HENRY COHEN PAPERS, 1850–1950 Henry Cohen was born April 7, 1863 in London, England. In 1884 he was ordained as a rabbi and led congregations in Jamaica and Mississippi before transferring to Galveston, Texas where he led Temple B’nai Israel from 1888 to 1949. Cohen was influential in religious and social welfare activities in Texas. He was especially well known for his work on hospital, school and immigration issues, as well as his work on prison reform while serving on the Texas Prison Board. An authority on the Talmud, Cohen published a number of essays. He married Mollie Levy of Galveston and the couple had two children. Papers relate to Cohen’s career, family, and social welfare activities. They include correspondence, diaries, financial records, sermons, poetry, photographs, and scrapbooks.

TEXAS JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY RECORDS, 1824–2009 TJHS records document the mission of the organization to collect, publish, and preserve Jewish history in all areas of Texas life. Established in 1980, TJHS boasts more than 750 members, who publish a quarterly newsletter, contribute articles to The Handbook of Texas, and sponsor awards for essays written for the Texas State Historical Commission. TJHS published the book Deep in the Heart: Lives and Legends of Texas Jews by Ruthe Winegarten and Cathy Schechter. Its collection is arranged into 16 series including family history, communities, religious congregations, cemeteries, and more. The records include photographs, audio, video and film, sheet music, the Faye Brachman papers, the Howard Lackman files, and Rabbi Levi Olan’s sermons.

RADIN COMMUNITY IN LITHUANIA COLLECTION, CIRCA 1930–2005 In the 1970s, Dr. Frank Kasman, a native of Midland, Texas, obtained a set of glass lantern slides taken prior to 1933, documenting daily life in pre-World War II Radin, Poland. He conducted extensive research on the village, located survivors and immigrants from Radin, and collected oral history interviews. Prior to the war, Radin was a farming village with a sizeable population of Yiddish-speaking Jews. It was known for its yeshiva, founded in 1869 by Rabbi Israel Meir ha-Kohen. The collection covers the period before World War II, the Nazi occupation, and the decimation of the village. It consists of prints, slides, correspondence, and news clippings written in both English and Yiddish.

HARRY RANSOM CENTER

MAGNUM PHOTO COLLECTION In February 2010, MSD Capital, L.P. and the Harry Ransom Center announced a landmark partnership under which the Magnum Archive Collection, which contains nearly 200,000 original press prints of images taken by world-renowned Magnum photographers, would be preserved, catalogued, and made accessible by the Ransom Center. MSD Capital, the private investment firm of Michael S. Dell, chairman and CEO of Dell, Inc., purchased from Magnum Photos the physical press prints, which include many of these photographers’ most iconic images. Magnum Photos was founded by the some of the most distinguished figures in modern documentary photography — Robert Capa, Henri Cartier-Bresson, David “Chim” Seymour, and George Rodger. It is a diverse and distinguished photographic co-operative owned by its photographer-members, many of whom were European Jews. Magnum’s photographers collectively have chronicled the most significant historical and cultural milestones of the twentieth century. Images of icons from Picasso to Marilyn Monroe, from Castro to a young Queen Elizabeth, coexist in the collection with depictions of international conflicts, political unrest, and cultural strife. Included are famous photos from the Spanish Civil War, the D-Day landings, and the Six-Day War. The Ransom Center will encourage scholarly research, fellowships, lectures, and exhibitions, as well as host visits and programs with Magnum photographers.

COMMENTARY MAGAZINE In the fall of 2011, Commentary magazine donated its archive to the Harry Ransom Center. Founded by the American Jewish Committee in 1945, Commentary aimed to connect American Jewish intellectuals with the broader Jewish community. It quickly became one of the most important scholarly journals in the nation. Professor Emeritus Richard Pells wrote that “no other journal of the past half century has been so consistently influential, or so central to the major debates that have transformed the political and intellectual life of the United States.” Commentary’s archive, spanning the years 1945–1995, contains correspondence, galleys, and other records. It tracks years when many of the most eminent literary critics and social commentators, Jews and non-Jews alike, published important work in its pages. Its founding editor, Eliot Cohen, was succeeded by Norman Podhoretz in 1960. Under Podhoretz’s leadership, the magazine moved from a politically liberal journal to a bastion of neo-conservatism.
SHELVING THE MAGNUM ARCHIVE AT THE HARRY RANSOM CENTER, PHOTO BY PETE SMITH.

Image courtesy of the Harry Ransom Center.

ROBERT CAPA © INTERNATIONAL CENTER OF PHOTOGRAPHY/MAGNUM PHOTOS
WOMAN CARRYING LUGGAGE ACCOMPANIED BY SMALL BOY.

MICHA BAR AM/MAGNUM PHOTOS
ISRAEL. JERUSALEM. 1967.
ISRAELI ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF YITZHAK RABIN.

DAVID SEYMOUR/MAGNUM PHOTOS
AUSTRIA. VIENNA. 1948.
DISPLACED PERSONS CAMP.