



**Jewish**  
Studies Program

# NEWSLETTER

## Volume 1 2019 - 2020



University of  
**Pittsburgh**

Jewish Studies Program  
The Dietrich School

### In This Issue

**Letter from the Director**

01

**Faculty**

03

**Students**

06

**Events**

08

**In Memoriam**

12

**Up Next**

15



## From the Director

Before being stopped in our tracks by Covid-19 last spring, members of the Jewish Studies Program (JSP) were busy, in a good way, with teaching, learning, internships, colloquia, lectures, and exhibits, and we were likewise ready to move forward with more after spring break. Unfortunately, most events and courses had to be canceled or moved online.

Still, all in all, we persisted. Our affiliated faculty taught nineteen different Jewish Studies courses last year, including all five levels of Haya Feig's Hebrew language classes. Six undergraduate students received Jewish Studies certificates when they graduated—virtually—from Pitt last April. Graduate students in Theater Arts, History, Communications, Art History, Hispanic Literature, and Sociology continued to work on Jewish topics and several of them were recipients of Gilboa grants for their research. Our faculty published books and articles, and attended workshops and conferences before all travel ground to a stop in March. Some colleagues have been developing new courses with Judaica content in Religious Studies, History of Art and Architecture, and Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies—all cross-listed with Jewish Studies. JSP has been able to support such scholarship and pedagogy thanks to the generosity of our donors, who have created and added to our Program's endowments. These donors also allowed us to support the worthy endeavors of our graduate and undergraduate students.

Last year's Jewish Studies talks, colloquia, exhibits and other programs explored aspects of Jewish culture, philosophy, religion, art, and history. With topics ranging from antisemitism in interwar Poland and Austria, to itinerant Yiddish theater, to Pittsburgh's first Jewish and female mayor, to the religious practices of LGBTQIA+ Jews, to the shocking iconography of some medieval Haggadot that featured pigs, to the role of cafés in the making of modern Jewish culture, to the history of Jewish books in pre-modern Europe, to practices of memorialization after the Holocaust, to the Tree of Life attack of 2018 and its aftermath, just to mention some, these events were occasions for vibrant exchange, learning, and discussion. It was a pleasure to see so many members of the Pittsburgh community join us.

And while reviewing the past year, I cannot not mention the six undergraduate Tree of Life Scholars in Residence whose spectacular teamwork resulted in a moving exhibit they titled "To Those Who Grasp It: Responding to October 27th." Funded by Gilboa-family moneys channeled through the Office of Undergraduate Research, they collaborated over the summer of 2019 to design a proper memorial for the Tree of Life tragedy. Another event we staged was the Jewish Studies mini-course in fall 2019 titled "Memorials and the Future of the Holocaust" in conjunction with Luigi Toscano's exhibit of large outdoor Holocaust

survivor photo portraits—including survivors in Pittsburgh. The show's title was "Lest We Forget." The mini-course, which doubled as a colloquium on November 2-3, was a resounding success.

This academic year, 2020-21, we're planning a rich program again despite Covid 19 and we're ready to hold our events virtually. This is an unpleasant necessity, but the silver lining is that zoom makes attendance possible from wherever you are, and guest speakers will join us from Israel, the West Coast, and elsewhere without boarding planes. Speaking of Covid, we're co-sponsoring Professor Natan Meir of Portland State University who will lecture on "Epidemic and the Marginalized of Society: A View from the Jewish Past" on November 10, an event hosted by Dr. Michal Friedman, the recently named Jack Buncher Endowed Chair in Jewish Studies in the History Department at Carnegie Mellon University.

The JSP is proud to be the recipient of a Provost's Year of Creativity grant. We're using it to host Professor Ben Schachter as Artist in Residence. Schachter is an internationally exhibited artist and published author who is on sabbatical from Saint Vincent College and working on a graphic novel entitled "Here I Am" based on Biblical tales. He will teach a mini-course in the spring, and make several presentations about his work throughout the year. The first of these will be a zoom Work in Progress colloquium at 1 pm on September 4 titled "Visual Narrative and Biblical Interpretation."

We're hosting several more events focused on Jewish culture and history in Poland, India, and Israel. Professor Beth Holmgren from Duke University will speak about Jewish cabaret in interwar and postwar Poland on September 24: "Warsaw's Most Beloved Jew": The Prewar and Postwar Celebrity of Lopek-Krukowski (1901-1984)." We will screen the film *Dwelling in Traveling* directed by Subha Das Mollick about the Jewish community of Calcutta on October 7 followed by a discussion with the director and with Jael Silliman the author of *Jewish Portraits, Indian Frames*. Later in October we'll host Yehonatan Indursky, the co-creator of the Netflix hit TV show *Shtisel* that is set in the Haredi community in Jerusalem.

I hope you can join us for some or all of these events. For a complete program of JSP events see our website and check us out on Facebook.

All the best for this new year,

*Irina Livezeanu*



**Jewish  
Studies Program**

Newsletter edited and designed by JSP assistant Sai Koros.

# Featured Faculty

## On the Move



### From the Rhine to New York *The Colmar Treasure: A Medieval Jewish Legacy*

In November 2019, Associate Professor of History of Art and Architecture **Shirin Fozi's** graduate seminar "Premodern Cultures in Contact" traveled to New York with the generous support of Jewish Studies travel grants to visit the exhibition *The Colmar Treasure : A Medieval Jewish Legacy* at the Met Cloisters. The exhibition highlighted a cache of coins and jewelry that had been hidden from view during a wave of antisemitic persecution near the Rhine river

in the mid-fourteenth century. It reflects the wealth and precarious position of medieval Jews living in Alsace just before the outbreak of the Plague in 1348. The treasure was found in 1863 and has been kept at the Cluny Museum in Paris since 1923. The seminar discussed not only the contents of the show but also the ways in which its installation at The Cloisters drew attention to the ongoing challenge of representing Jewish history within its medieval and also modern contexts of loss, rediscovery, and resilience.

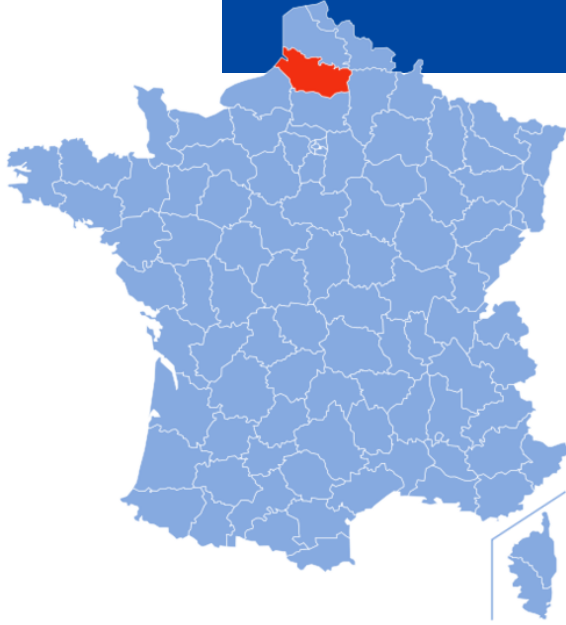
### From Spain to Pittsburgh Medieval, Modern, and Contemporary Judaism

Director of Undergraduate Studies at the Department of Religious Studies and Lecturer II **Brock Bahler** received a number of grants, including the John G. Bowman Nationality Room Faculty Travel Grant and the Global Studies Center Faculty Travel Grant, to travel to Spain in the summer of 2019. He participated in a seminar on liberation theology and researched the history of antisemitism and its connections to colonialism, which he then utilized in his new course on modern Jewish thought that fall. This course, entitled "Modern & Contemporary Jewish Thought," was also generously supported by the Gilboa New Course Development Fund. Additionally, Bahler used travel funds to visit Córdoba, the birthplace of famed Jewish philosopher Moses Maimonides, and toured the rich Muslim and Jewish intellectual legacy of the city. As part of the Gilboa fund, he invited three speakers to his new class and they also gave public talks.



# Fresh from the Archives

## Jews of the Somme Juifs de la Somme

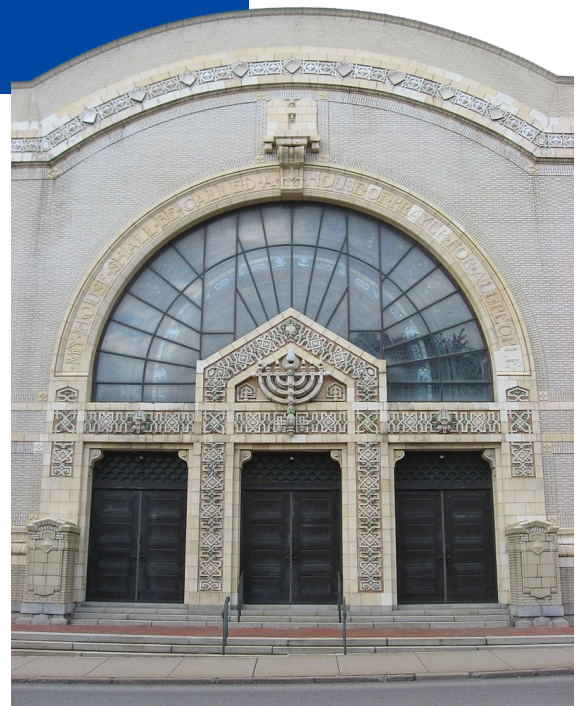


"Amiens, the capital of the Department of the Somme (shown in red)"

Since 2011, **David L. Rosenberg**, retired Pitt Labor Archivist, has embarked on a project to unearth the tragic history of the Jews of Amiens and the Department of the Somme during WW II. With the design help of Rosenberg's daughter, Lydia Rosenberg, the exhibit "Who is a Jew? Amiens, France, 1940-1945" was first shown in Temple Emanuel of the South Hills, then at the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh and next in the lobby cases of Hillman Library. The French version "Etre Juif dans la Somme, 1940-1945" was displayed at the University Library, University of Picardy in Amiens, and subsequently toured several different public lycées in Amiens. Two very recent events have continued and expanded the project. The Departmental Archives of the Somme made available in June 2020 the more than 34,000 pages of documents on the "aryanisation" of Jewish property and other anti-Jewish measures which Rosenberg had stumbled upon in Paris in 2014. Learn more at [jewsofthesomme.com](http://jewsofthesomme.com)

## The Building on Fifth Congregation Rodef Shalom

**Drew Armstrong**, Director of Architectural Studies and Associate Professor, reports: "I've made huge progress on the history of Rodef Shalom synagogue and have a project for an article on the construction of the 1906-07 building on Fifth Avenue in the works. I spent a day each week in January and February working in the Rodef Shalom archives and have been reading the Jewish Criterion online this summer. This project came about at exactly the right time. After spending May 2019 in Romania, Hungary and Serbia visiting synagogues with a Gilboa course development grant, I was fortuitously contacted last September by the folks at Rodef Shalom about a lecture they were organizing, that led to my contact with their archivist, Martha Berg. I enjoyed getting to know her, the building and the archives last spring. I hope I'll have time to pick up my work and begin writing this fall.



# Hot off the Press

## ***Land and Temple***

### ***Field Sacralization and the Agrarian Priesthood of Second Temple Judaism***



Assistant Professor of Religious Studies and Rosenberg-Perlow Fellow in Classical Judaism **Benjamin Gordon** published *Land and Temple* (De Gruyter: Berlin, Boston, 2020) that examines how the ancient temple to the God of Israel in Jerusalem, with its large priesthood, sacralized areas of cultivation as part of a broader set of social structures focused on land settlement and resource extraction. It situates the “sacred fields” of early Judean practice, and the biblical Holy Land concept more broadly, within the context of a Mediterranean and Near Eastern landscape dotted with temple-owned pastureland and plantations, themselves sanctified to local deities. It challenges assumptions about how the ancient Jerusalem temple functioned as an institution, shedding light on the breadth of its reach, as well as its dynamics and transformations as a powerful organization.

## **"State of the Field: Sexuality in American Jewish History"**

Associate Professor of Religious Studies **Rachel Kranson** co-edited a special issue of *American Jewish History* entitled “Sexing American Jewish History” which brings together excellent new research on the history of American Jewish sexuality. The issue, slated to be published in fall of 2020, includes an article she authored on current practices, flaws, and strengths.



## ***"Many Faces of Slaveholding Sephardim"***

Distinguished University Professor Emeritus **Seymour Drescher** published "Many Faces of Slaveholding Sephardim" in *The Many Faces of Slavery: New Perspectives on Slave Ownership and Experiences in the Americas* (ed. L. Aje & C. Armstrong, Bloomsbury: London, 2020). It addresses Iberian, Dutch and Anglo-American relations between the 17th and 19th centuries and is a sequel to earlier work on Jews and the Expansion of Europe and the West between the 15th and 19th centuries.

## ***"Memorialization, Mourning, Surviving"***

Associate Professor and Department of Religious Studies Chair **Adam Shear** wrote “Memorialization, Mourning, Surviving,” which will be featured in *Bound in the Bond of Life: Pittsburgh Writers Reflect on the Tree of Life Tragedy* (ed. Beth Kissileff and Eric Lidji, University of Pittsburgh Press: Pittsburgh, 2020), a volume on reactions to the Tree of Life shooting. He also finished his four-year term as co-editor of the Association for Jewish Studies' *AJS Review* journal.

# Student Spotlights

Students are the center of the JSP. Their coursework, internships, and research show the very best that Jewish studies has to offer at the university. Benefiting from our courses, awards, professors, and internship opportunities, students build their own paths on a foundation of Jewish studies.

## Marissa Herzig, Class of 2021

"For my research, I am investigating how the roles of the female Golem often equate to those of Jewish women, heightening our understanding of how gender roles are perceived in and around the Jewish community. Since this past May, I have had the privilege to work with Dr. Hannah Johnson on this project about which I am so passionate, and I look forward to continuing this research as I transform it into a Bachelor of Philosophy.

The Golem presents a unique perspective on Jewish culture, for it can reveal how Jews perceived their own trauma and persecution, but also how others perceive the Jewish community. However, it is an assumption throughout most of these tales that the Golem is male due to the Golem's strength, which is commonly associated with masculinity. Even in modern cases where the author attempts to make the Golem ungendered, a sexless being, the author's preconceptions about masculinity create a male golem, not a genderless one. Thus, it is essential to examine when there are exceptions to this masculine form, as it reveals much about masculine and feminine ideals in relation to the Jewish community. While there is a multitude of scholarship on the Golem, the female Golem has yet to be investigated. Therefore, my research on the female Golem is essential in bridging a problematic lack of information in the academic community."

## Jenna Teplitzky, Class of 2021

Jenna Teplitzky, a rising senior studying History interned at the Heinz History Center, where she completed research for the Rauh Jewish History Program & Archives' Yiddish theatre database using archived newspapers.



Marissa Herzig, Class of 2021, English Literature, French, and History majors, Korean minor, and Jewish Studies certificate.

## Dionna Dash, Class of 2022

Dionna Dash, a junior and Vice President of the Pitt Hillel Jewish Student Union Board, spent her summer interning in the communications department of Hillel International. Although Dionna didn't get to work in person, she was able to interview Jewish educators and students from all across the country during her experience. Dionna wrote articles about nationwide trends and innovative events, and was grateful to work with such a welcoming and dedicated team. Dionna also recently began blogging for the *Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle*.



# Tree of Life Scholars in Residence

In summer 2019, six undergraduate students designed and displayed an exhibit to memorialize the Tree of Life tragedy. Generously funded by the Gilboa Fund, Emily Dickson, Kruthika Doreswamy, Maja Lynn, Drew Medvid, Liam Sims, and Claire Singer created, "To Those Who Grasp It: Responding to October 27." This exhibit incorporates student art, writings, events, and testimonies to highlight their responses. Together, the Office of Undergraduate Research, the JSP, the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh, as well as community and university partners guided students through their research and toward their vision. Since its display at Pitt in October 2019, the exhibit has traveled to the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh and Classrooms Without Borders' "Antisemitism, Hate and Social Responsibility Conference" at Rodef Shalom. Visit [tolsr.org](http://tolsr.org) to learn more.

## To Those Who Grasp It



On October 27th, 2018, eleven lives were taken and six people were injured in an act of antisemitic terrorism during Shabbat services. The victims belonged to three congregations: Tree of Life, Or L'Simcha, Dor Hadash, and New Light. The attack sent shock waves across the Jewish community, Pittsburgh, and the world. The responses to the attack were varied, as people moved to take action, speak out, and organize. This exhibit is one of those responses, considered from the perspective of the youth of Pittsburgh.

In March, the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh solicited applications for a 12-week summer program in which students could form a response to the attack, made possible by an alumna donation. As the six students selected for this program, *To Those Who Grasp It* is the culmination of our efforts. This title comes from the quote at the bottom of this panel, as well as our efforts to grasp at meaning and comfort following this event. While we all come from different backgrounds, each of us was deeply affected by this tragedy. For the six of us, creating an exhibit was an opportunity to process what we experienced and direct our feelings into a larger story of how youth continue to process and respond to this event.

from generation  
to generation...

לְדוֹר  
...וְדוֹר...

The youth of our generation have been impacted by the trauma of mass shootings on an unprecedented scale, and we are defining our identities and relationships with adulthood amid this violence. Yet, our perspectives are often unheard. The ways of mourning and responding featured here are complex, and each response and reaction is valid.



To Those Who Grasp It offers a glimpse into the distinctive experiences and emotions of students and youth both on October 27th and in the weeks following. We want you to help us complete the history of these experiences through the creation space at the conclusion of our exhibit. In visiting this exhibit and contributing your thoughts, we hope you find some of the same comfort and insight we have found in working on this project.

עֵץ חַיִּים הֵיא לַמַּחְזִיקִים בָּהּ. וְתַמְכִּיהָ מֵאֲשֶׁר:  
דְּרָכֶיהָ דְרָכֵי נַעֲם וְכָל נְתִיבוֹתֶיהָ שְׁלוֹם:

*It is a tree of life to all who grasp it, and whoever holds on to it is happy; its ways are ways of pleasantness, and all its paths are peaceful*

Mishlei (Proverbs) 3:17-18



Caela Go, Pitt News Staff Photographer. "To Those Who Grasp It: Responding to October 27" is a traveling exhibit that will be located in the Kimbo Gallery in the William Pitt Union until Oct 16, then it will be moved to the Department of History in Posvar Hall until Dec 6.



Student curators at the exhibit's opening reception, Oct 6, 2019. Pictured: Emily Dickson, Kruthika Doreswamy, Maja Lynn, Drew Medvid, Liam Sims, Claire Singer, Caroline Mead, Mara Cohen, Sylvia Freeman, and OUR Assistant Director Laura Nelson.



# Events

Over the past year, the Jewish Studies Program was honored to host experts from all over the world to present on a wide range of topics. From artists to faculty, students, and community members, our featured events showcased the best of the Jewish Studies community.



Photo by Tom Altany/University of Pittsburgh, October 23, 2019

## Lest We Forget

To memorialize Holocaust survivors and the Tree of Life tragedy on October 27, 2018, the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh's Director Lauren Bairnsfather brought Luigi Toscano's photography exhibit to the community and university. The JSP hosted an opening event and mini-course to honor the occasion.

"Life-size black-and-white portraits dotted the Cathedral of Learning lawn Thursday, greeting passersby with serious expressions from each massive canvas.

About a hundred community members congregated on the Cathedral lawn on Oct. 17 for the public opening reception of German-Italian artist Luigi Toscano's exhibition 'Lest We Forget' — a traveling art display that showcases photographs of Holocaust survivors. The reception included kosher food that observed Jewish dietary law, as well as a series of speeches, featuring Mayor Bill Peduto and Pitt Chancellor Patrick Gallagher.

'Lest We Forget' includes 60 individual photographs of survivors, 19 of whom are from Pittsburgh. Each image displays the face of a different survivor and includes a plaque with short notes on the individual person's life. One side of the installation showcases the survivors from Pittsburgh — the other side shows survivors from around the world."

-Hayley Lesh, For the Pitt News, "Holocaust memorial exhibit 'Lest We Forget' opens on the Cathedral lawn," October, 21, 2019



Jewish Studies 1111  
Special Topics Mini Course:

## Memorials & the Future of the Holocaust

On the occasion of the Luigi Toscano exhibit "Lest We Forget"

November 2, 7:30 – 8:30 pm (CL332); November 3,  
9 – 5pm (1500 Posvar)  
University of Pittsburgh

To register e-mail your name and Peoplesoft  
number to kbs47@pitt.edu



Photo by Tom Altany/University of Pittsburgh, October 23, 2019

"Pitt student Maja Lynn takes in the 'Lest We Forget' art installation on display on the Cathedral Lawn. Lynn is also one of six undergraduates behind 'To Those Who Grasp It,' an exhibit that highlights students' responses to the 2018 shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue."

-Pittwire, October 23, 2019



## The Curious Incident of the Pig in the Haggadah

Adam S. Cohen, University of Toronto

Jewish Studies and History of Art & Architecture

Frick Fine Arts Room 202

Thursday March 5, 2020, 4:00-6:00pm

For millennia, Jews have gathered on the first night of Passover to recount the Exodus from Egypt, and for the past 700 years the relatively stable text for this paraliturgical service has been written in the haggadah. Beginning in the late thirteenth century, some Jews commissioned luxurious manuscript copies replete with images that serve as supplements and commentaries to the text. In this lecture, I explore two fourteenth-century examples that contain very surprising pictures. The appearance of a pig in a Lombard haggadah and the depiction of an African slave in the famous Sarajevo Haggadah provide an opportunity to explore issues concerning the ways medieval Jews constructed views of their relationship to God, to one another, and to their non-Jewish neighbors.

**About the Speaker:** Adam S. Cohen received his PhD from The Johns Hopkins University and is Associate Professor of Art History at the University of Toronto, where he has taught since 2003. He has held fellowships from the Duke Center for Jewish Studies, the Israel Institute for Advanced Studies, and the European Institutes for Advanced Studies, and he has been the recipient of grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada, and the Getty Foundation. His publications on medieval and Jewish manuscript art include *The Uta Codex: Art, Philosophy, and Reform in Eleventh-Century Germany* and *Eye and Mind: Essays in Anglo-Saxon and Early Medieval Art* by Robert Deshman. He is currently completing *Art and Architecture of the Middle Ages: Exploring a Connected World* with Jill Caskey and Linda Safran. His book on the illustrated haggadah, *Signs and Wonders: 100 Haggada Masterpieces*, was published by Tobey/Koren in 2018.

**Sunday, March 8, 11:30 am – 12:30 pm:** Cohen will also give a lecture at New Light Congregation, Beth Shalom Synagogue (5915 Beacon St.), titled *Passover Rituals in the Illustrated Haggadah*.

## SOPHIE: THE INCOMPARABLE MAYOR MASLOFF

Dr. Barbara Burstin presents her new book



Wednesday, January 22 at 4:00 PM

501 Cathedral of Learning

Dr. Burstin will speak about her book and the improbable journey of Sophie Masloff, the daughter of poor Romanian Jewish immigrants who grew up in the Hill District to become both the first female and first Jewish mayor of Pittsburgh. She had several strikes against her, such as being a woman in a man's world, but she had the toughness and determination to not be derailed from her mission that she saw as doing her best for the city. As Burstin writes, "Sophie was a character, but this lady had character, courage and charisma too."



“What Skills Does the Study of Jewish Philosophy Provide?”

Wednesday, Sept 25<sup>th</sup>  
5-7pm

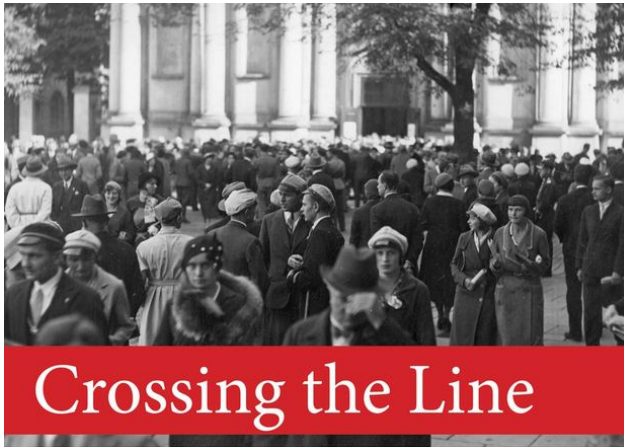
DR. MARTIN  
KAVKA

Department of Religion, Florida  
State University

Humanities Center,  
602 Cathedral of Learning

Sponsored by the Department of Religious Studies, Jewish Studies & the Humanities Center





## Crossing the Line

Violence against Jewish Female Students in Interwar Poland and the New Model of Antisemitism

**Professor Natalia Aleksiu**  
Touro College, New York

**Thursday, September 12**

4:30 - 6:00 PM  
501 Cathedral of Learning  
University of Pittsburgh

### Additional Colloquium

Jewish Studies Work in Progress Series

**Anatomy of Antisemitism**  
Jews, Cadavers, and the Politics of Medical Discourse in East Central Europe

Friday September, 13  
12:00 - 2:00 PM  
Humanities Center  
602, Cathedral of Learning  
University of Pittsburgh

Lunch provided. RSVP by Sept. 9 to jsp@pitt.edu



## The Art of Itinerancy: Yiddish Theater and the Performance of Migration

**Dr. Debra Caplan**

Public Lecture, Discussion,  
and Reception

Friday, November 15, 2019  
3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Humanities Center  
602CL



Dr. Caplan will examine the art of itinerancy in Yiddish theater in relation to the Vilna Troupe, the subject of her book *Yiddish Empire: The Vilna Troupe, Jewish Theater, and the Art of Itinerancy* (University of Michigan Press, 2018), as well as her new research on actress Molly Picon.

Generously supported by the Jewish Studies Program,  
Department of Theatre Arts, Humanities Center, and  
Cultural Studies Program.

CLARE KATZ  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

OCT 31

# EDUCATION AFTER AUSCHWITZ

LEVINAS, JEWISH EDUCATION, & THE CRISIS OF HUMANISM

5:30 PM | 501 CATHEDRAL OF LEARNING




Sponsored by the Department of Religious Studies, Jewish Studies, the Honors College & the Humanities Center

# A RICH BREW

HOW CAFÉS CREATED  
MODERN JEWISH CULTURE

**Monday, Feb. 17 ~ 12:00 - 2:00 ~ 602 Cathedral**

Please join us for coffee, pastries, and an immersive discussion of Jewish cafe culture at the turn of the twentieth century. Dr. Shachar Pinsker, professor of Judaic and Middle Eastern studies at the University of Michigan, will talk about the convergence of cafés, their urban milieu, and Jewish creativity. Pinsker's research uncovers a network of interconnected cafés that were central to the modern Jewish experience in a time of migration and urbanization, from Odessa, Warsaw, Vienna, and Berlin to New York City and Tel Aviv.

**SHACHAR M. PINSKER**

Department of History  
**Carnegie Mellon University**  
[www.cmu.edu/history](http://www.cmu.edu/history)

# Work in Progress Colloquia

Once a month, the JSP hosts Work In Progress (WIP) Colloquia, an opportunity to share research while it's still in the developing stage so as to generate new ideas, responses, and resources. The purpose of this series is to pose and invite questions on topics related to ongoing research in Jewish studies. This year, invited speakers included professors, an alumnus, a doctoral candidate, and a community researcher.



## Jewish Books Through Time and Place Jewish Studies Work in Progress Colloquium

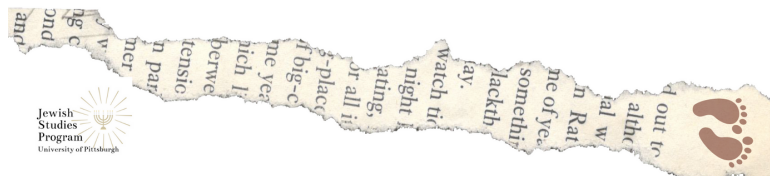
Dr. Adam Shear  
University of Pittsburgh

Friday, October 11th  
12:00 - 2:00 PM  
Cathedral of Learning 1219

Along with colleagues from Columbia, Jewish Theological Seminary, and Stony Brook, Adam Shear directs the Footprints Project. This is a database that tracks the circulation of early modern printed 'Jewish books' (in Hebrew and other Jewish languages, and books in Latin and non-Jewish vernaculars with Judaica content). Much information about the movement of early printed books exists in scattered form. Individual pieces of data can connect to each other in order to build up a composite view of the movement of Jewish texts and ideas from place to place and across time. Each moment in time where we can track a book is a "footprint." Our project aims to add knowledge about the role of books and reading in the history of Jewish culture by following the movements of books from the printing press to readers across space and the transmission of books through time.

Visit <https://footprints.cnmml.columbia.edu> to learn more!

Lunch provided. Please RSVP to [jsp@pitt.edu](mailto:jsp@pitt.edu).




JEWISH STUDIES WORK IN PROGRESS COLLOQUIUM


## 'JUDAISM WAS BORN IN A REVOLUTION': ON ANARCHISM, WHITENESS, AND BECOMING AMERICAN

Diana Clarke  
University of Pittsburgh

NOVEMBER 8TH  
1:00 PM  
501 CL



Diana Clarke studies race and somatic memory in American geographies, focusing on how Ashkenazi Jews navigate whiteness in rural spaces, particularly Appalachia and the American South, in the early twentieth century. Their current work is a transhistorical examination of solidarity movements between Jews and coal miners in Allegheny County, PA and Harlan County, KY focused on erotics, assimilation, and resistance.



### Work in Progress Colloquium

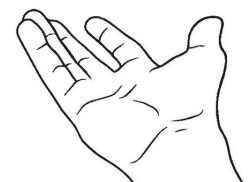
## GESTURING TOWARD ANOTHER



Sai Koros  
Friday, February 7th  
1:00 PM | 1219 CL

How do LGBTQIA+ Jews negotiate their commitments to Judaism while developing religious practices that affirm their identities? Using a mixed-method approach, Koros poses a framework to analyze LGBTQIA+ Jewish communities in Pittsburgh, PA and London, UK.

RSVP appreciated to [sak198@pitt.edu](mailto:sak198@pitt.edu)





# *In Memoriam* *Arlyn Gilboa*



On Wednesday, February 26, 2020, Arlyn Gilboa passed away in Pittsburgh. Beloved mother of Amit Gilboa, Noam Gilboa and Keren (Jeremy Holzer) Gilboa. Mother-in-law of Deborah Gilboa. Sister of William (Lisa) Gross, David (Lynne Goldberg) Gross and Jonathan Gross. Sva to Ari, Nadov, Oren, Gavri, Liya, Ron and Dan. She is also survived by nieces, nephews, great-nieces and nephews. Arlyn was a patron of the arts and a lifelong student who tended her garden and family with equal care and love. Her daughter, Keren Gilboa, shared these words in her eulogy:

"She modeled for us kindness, thoughtfulness, generosity, intellectual curiosity, appreciation of pretty much all of the arts. She had such a zest for life and took all the opportunities to experience plays, concerts, dance performances, museums, festivals, travel, operas, lectures, her beloved Osher classes, dance classes, ballet. . . . She was such a graceful dancer and anyone who saw her move to the rhythm was impressed. Ima was fiercely independent and adventurous, and took experiences in as nourishment. And if she wanted to do something, the prospect of going alone certainly wasn't going to slow her down."

*We will remember Arlyn with warmth and gratitude.*



# Next up

THE JEWISH STUDIES PROGRAM PROUDLY ANNOUNCES



## *Artist in Residence* *Ben Schachter*



Ben Schachter is Professor of Visual Arts at Saint Vincent College. He joins us for 2020-21 and the Year of Creativity. An internationally exhibited artist and published illustrator, Schachter is currently at work on a graphic novel, *Here I Am*. He will give lectures on Jewish art and lead workshops on illustrating graphic novels and reimagining ancient Jewish texts. He will be available to help students in Jewish Studies, Studio Arts, the English Department Writing Program, and Religious Studies.





Jewish Studies Program Work in Progress Colloquium

# VISUAL NARRATIVE & BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

By Professor Ben Schachter, Saint Vincent College

Jewish Studies Program Artist in Residence

Friday, September 4 at 1 PM on Zoom

[Click here to register](#)

Illustration has long been a way to communicate stories and information. But what if it could do more? In this colloquium, Ben Schachter will explore how images are arranged in graphic novels to create narrations and provide points of view. For example, the way in which biblical portions are arranged draws attention to certain details found in the text. Schachter will apply these elements to the story of Abraham and show how pictures on a page can offer new interpretations of narratives and characters.



University of Pittsburgh  
**Jewish Studies Program**  
**Fall 2020 Events**



**Friday, September 4th, 1:00 pm on Zoom**  
Work in Progress Colloquium  
“Visual Narrative and Biblical Interpretation”  
Ben Schachter, Saint Vincent College & JSP Artist in Residence

**Thursday, September 24th, 5:30 pm on Zoom**  
Lecture  
“Warsaw’s Most Beloved Jew’: The Prewar and Postwar  
Celebrity of Lopek-Krukowski (1901-1984)”  
Beth Holmgren, Duke University

**Wednesday, October 7th, 8:00 pm on Zoom**  
Film and Talk  
*Dwelling in Traveling: Jews of Calcutta*  
Director Subha Das Mollick and author Jael Silliman

**Friday, October 16th, 1:00 pm on Zoom**  
Work in Progress Colloquium  
“The Pornography of Fools: Antisemitism and Sexual Fantasy”  
Aidan Beatty, University of Pittsburgh

**Sunday, October 18th, 2:00 pm on Zoom**  
Annual Israel Heritage Room Lecture  
“The Making of Shtisel”  
Director and Co-Creator Yehonatan Indursky

**Monday, October 26th, 7:30 pm event on Zoom**  
Book Launch by the Katz Center for Advanced Judaic  
Studies at University of Pennsylvania  
*Bound in the Bond of Life: Pittsburgh Writers Reflect on the  
Tree of Life Tragedy*, Edited by Beth Kissileff and Eric Lidji  
Moderated by Beth Kissileff and Steve Weitzman  
Panel with Barabara Burstin, Laurie Eisenberg, & Adam Shear

**Monday, November 9th, 4:00 pm on Zoom**  
Remembrance of Kristallnacht

**Tuesday, November 10th, 6:00 pm on Zoom**  
Lecture: “Epidemic and the Marginalized of Society:  
A View from the Jewish Past”  
Natan Meir, Portland State University



Zoom information for each event will be available on our [calendar](#) and [Facebook](#).







# Jewish Studies Program



University of  
**Pittsburgh**

Jewish Studies Program  
The Dietrich School