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CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

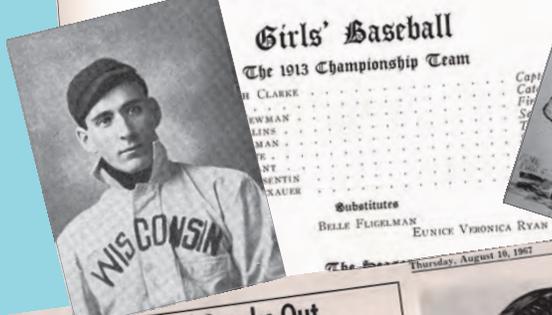


Girls' Athletics
Wyman, Coach
Lofham
Photo
Presentia

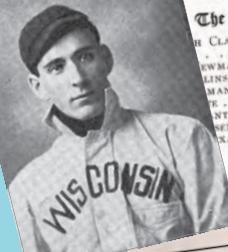


THE WISCONSIN ALUMNI MAGAZINE
JEWISH STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
Furnished by L. B. WOLFENSON, '01

1. Q. Name of religious organization?
Jewish Students' Association.
2. Q. How many members?
3. Q. How many courses in religious studies does this organization offer?



Girls' Baseball
The 1913 Championship Team



Substitutes
Belle Flugelman
Eunice Veronica Ryan

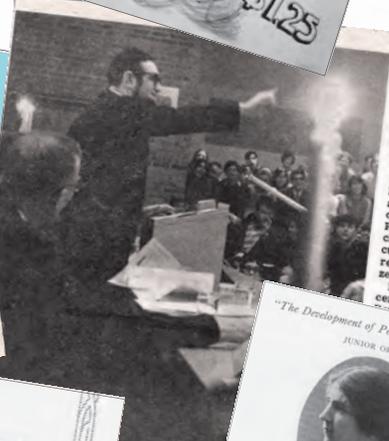


Rabbi Winograd Speaks Out On Hippies, Draft Resistance, Morals

By LARRY TROGL
How is the hippie movement similar to religion? Should draft protesters picket induction centers? Are college morals undergoing a "revolution"?
Rabbi Richard Winograd, the young and personable director of the Hillside Foundation, Gil Langdon, has some interesting answers to these and other questions based on his personal observations and his experience working with college students.
Winograd believes the hippie movement is a genuine response to the problems and conditions of our time, but not one that is necessarily good for society or the individual himself.
"I think it answers many estimate questions concerning it in a simplistic way," he said, "but added that he has a strong emphasis on drugs, political stance and anti-scientific."
The rabbi pointed out the failure of many ideologies called "substitutes" such as communism, workable solutions has led to disaster. Traditional religious ograd described as



Rabbi Winograd
—Cardinal Photo by Mark Roberts



Latke Power

(continued from page 1)
stated that the latke-hamantash issue was a vital world problem and that all people should work to promote "latke and order."
After this speech a highly animated question-answer period followed which matched the wits of the audience and the speakers. One challenging punier questioned Prof. Scheingold's suggestion that cherry-filled hamantash be used as currency by quipping that it might result in a "rosed-tipped" citizenry.
Responding to a question concerning the alleged adulteration of ham's bagels, ... orders serves
fired at
ts of the
ost-Dow
course,
and Rabbi
blised to



MAX BERG

Max Berg's favorite pastime was bucking the line and as fullback last year, he had plenty of opportunity to indulge in it. Built "close to the ground," he possessed of unusual speed. Max was a hard man to stop once he got started. He was a thorough student of the Harvard style of play and he made the team by hard work and lots of fight. Due to injuries, Berg was kept out of part of the last long time by Wisconsin fans. The doughy fullback has another year to compete in Big 9 football, and we all hope he is with us again next Fall.



BELLE FLUGELMAN

150 YEARS OF JEWISH LIFE
AT THE UW-MADISON



George L. Mosse / Laurence A. Weinstein
Center for Jewish Studies
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

VOLUME 20, NO. 2 / FALL 2019

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A New Generation of CJS faculty



Tony Michels, Director.
Photo: Snitow-Kaufman
Productions

ON THE COVER:

Photos and news clippings from Jonathan Pollack's *Wisconsin, The New Home of the Jew: Sociology major Belle Fligelman and the 1913 women's baseball team; the Jewish Students' Association, 1919–1922; Gordon Lewis, star pitcher and outfielder, 1903–1905; Hillel Director Richard Winograd, 1964–1972; the "Latke-Hamantash" mock debates; fullback Max Berg, who lettered in 1916; Hillel "Bombshell Ball," c. 1941–1945*

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:
Gwen Walker

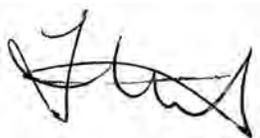
Dear friends,

In the last newsletter, I mentioned I would have some exciting new developments to report on in the fall, and I do. CJS added two outstanding scholars and teachers to our faculty this semester. Professor Adam Stern, a specialist in modern religious thought and philosophy, comes to University of Wisconsin by way of Yale, where he spent the last academic year as a post-doctoral associate in the Whitney Humanities Center and the Program for the Study of Antisemitism. Adam has already made a mark at the Center with his current course on the history of Shabbat, a fascinating exploration of how Jews have understood and observed this most holy day. Next semester, Adam will offer a course on moral philosophy after the Holocaust and it will no doubt attract much student interest. CJS's second new addition is Dr. Cara Rock-Singer, a professor of religion who studies Judaism and science in the United States. You'll read more about Cara in a future newsletter, but for now I wish to welcome her to CJS. In the coming years, Cara and Adam will help propel CJS in new directions, as we continue to grow and thrive.

When I came to the University of Wisconsin, twenty-one years ago, the Mosse/Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies was still an upstart. Only seven years old at the time, CJS had embarked on a major expansion that placed it among the leading Jewish studies programs nationwide. The foundation of the Center was established during the 1990s with the support of UW faculty who dedicated their energies to CJS because they believed in the necessity of Jewish education at the university level. Many of the founders have since retired, but they opened the door to a second generation of Jewish Studies faculty hired during the early years of the 21st century to fill positions created thanks to our generous UW alumni. And, in the last several years, a new generation has taken shape. We now have a cohort of five junior faculty members—Adam, Cara, Amos Bitzan, Sunny Yudkoff, and Marina Zilbergerts—who will, in the coming years, lead CJS in exciting new directions.

You will read about some of their accomplishments, along with those of CJS's more established colleagues, in the following pages.

Sincerely yours,



Tony Michels, Director
Mosse/Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies
George L. Mosse Professor for American Jewish History

Please consider supporting the Center for Jewish Studies using the enclosed envelope (via check to "Center for Jewish Studies Excellence Fund - 132450742") or online (supportuw.org/giveto/jewishstudies).

RELEASE OF THE FIRST BOOK ON JEWS AT THE UW-MADISON

Beginning in the 1920s, the University of Wisconsin frequently opened its doors to Jewish students who were shut out from other universities by restrictive quotas. Yet in Madison, as elsewhere, Jews faced antisemitism both on and off campus. In the first book ever to examine Jewish life at the UW, Jonathan Z. S. Pollack shows how students, faculty, and staff created a thriving community despite recurring discrimination and exclusion. Published by the Mosse/Weinstein Center with a generous grant from Julie and Peter Weil, *Wisconsin, the New Home of the Jew* draws on newspapers, letters, and interviews to highlight the diverse individuals and organizations that have shaped the Jewish experience in Madison. Pollack, an honorary fellow with CJS and an instructor at Madison Area Technical College, was first drawn to the topic as a Ph.D. student in the History Department. In developing a course entitled

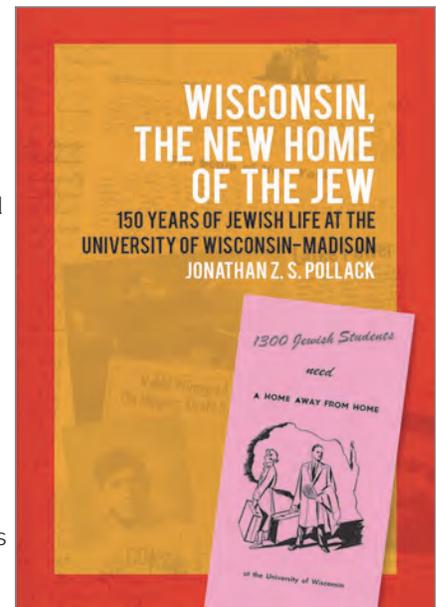


Jonathan Z. S. Pollack

"The American Jewish Experience," Pollack came to appreciate the UW's own rich Jewish history. Professors David Sorkin and Stanley Kutler, among others, encouraged him in his research.

In the book Pollack recounts the formation of the UW's Menorah Society in 1911, the first Zionist group on campus in 1915, Jewish fraternities and sororities in 1921, and a Hillel chapter (the second in the nation) in 1924. Hillel, he explains, "provided Shabbat and holiday services, classes, meeting sites, social gatherings, and leadership for various religious and political movements, such as support for Israel and emigration of Russian Jews." Eventually it became the umbrella for more than thirty Jewish student organizations, with activities ranging from sports to a cappella.

In 1967 the UW attempted to limit the number of Jewish students by targeting out-of-state admissions. This effort failed, due in part to protests by Jewish students and faculty. When the state legislature made the same discriminatory ideas into law three years later, the UW administration protested alongside the campus Jewish community. Pollack goes on to describe the first efforts to establish a Jewish Studies department in the 1970s, the creation of the Mosse/Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies in 1991, and the avid support of Jewish alumni in the decades that followed.



Wisconsin, the New Home of the Jew is available in electronic format on the CJS website: https://jewishstudies.wisc.edu/jewishstudies/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Pollack_book.pdf.

FACULTY NEWS

Introducing Adam Stern



Professor Adam Stern

This fall the Mosse/Weinstein Center welcomed Assistant Professor Adam Stern to our faculty in a joint appointment with the Department of German, Nordic, & Slavic. Professor Stern comes to Madison by way of Yale University, where he was the Postdoctoral Associate in the Whitney Humanities Center and the Program for the Study of Antisemitism. He holds a Ph.D. in the Study of Religion from Harvard University.

What are your main research interests? And what drew you to focus on these areas?

My training is in the overlapping fields of modern European intellectual history, the philosophy of religion, and Jewish thought. I was initially drawn to these areas of research because of a broader interest in questions concerning the history of secularization, i.e., the changing relationship between religion and politics from the Middle Ages to the present day.

You've mentioned that from a methodological perspective, your research adheres most closely to trends in conceptual history. What is "conceptual history"?

"Conceptual history" is a method of study that focuses less on the history of individuals and institutions than on the way that concepts and ideas change over time. In one sense, this is simply a shift of emphasis. On the other hand, this perspective makes it possible to engage in critical reflection on the meaning and contingency of the categories that govern modern life.

You work across periods and contexts in Jewish history and thought. This fall, for instance, you're teaching *The Sabbath: History, Religion, Politics*, which traces the idea of the Sabbath from the Bible to the present day. How has the understanding of the Sabbath changed over time and across cultures?

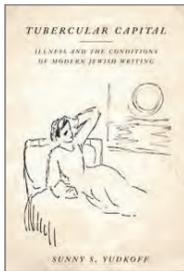
A well-known mishnah states: "The laws concerning Shabbat...are as mountains hanging by a hair, for they have scant scriptural basis but many laws." The point here is that the biblical injunction to "remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy" says very little about what it means to actually observe the sabbath. One of the goals of the class is to show students the tremendous interpretive work done by the rabbinic tradition in translating the commandment into more recognizable practices and rituals.

One of your courses next semester is *Moral Philosophy and the Holocaust*. How did the events of the Holocaust affect understandings of morality?

In a general way, the goal of this class is to explore how post-Holocaust moral philosophers grappled with an ethical tradition clearly inadequate to the extreme circumstances created by spaces like the concentration camp. Although this engagement takes a variety of forms in different thinkers, one common thread of questioning asks: Can one apply normal ethical categories in extraordinary situations?

What do you most want students to take away from your courses?

My goal is to get students thinking about what it means to read slowly, patiently, and critically.



The American Academy for Jewish Research has selected Professor **Sunny Yudkoff's** *Tubercular Capital: Illness and the Conditions of Modern Jewish Writing* for this year's Salo Baron Prize, given annually to the best first book in Jewish studies. In announcing the award, AAJR praised Yudkoff's scholarship for its "great elegance, sophistication, and creativity."

Published last year by Stanford University Press, *Tubercular Capital* examines the work of Jewish writ-

ers who suffered from tuberculosis. Analyzing Yiddish and Hebrew writings by Sholem Aleichem, Raḥel Bluvshstein, David Vogel, and others, Yudkoff finds that their affliction was both an impediment and an inspiration. Although TB incapacitated these writers at times, they nevertheless drew on their experiences with the disease to enrich their creative output and cultivate their literary personas.

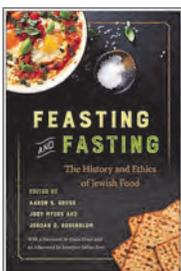
AAJR is the oldest organization of Judaica scholars in North America. The association describes the Salo Baron Prize as "one of the signal honors that can be bestowed on a young scholar in Jewish Studies and a sign of the excellence, vitality, and creativity of the field."

"With spell-binding writing and literary élan, Yudkoff puts an unexpected disease at the very center of the modern Jewish and literary worlds, permitting us to see both as never before." —*American Academy for Jewish Research*

Professor **Rachel Brenner** has received a WARF professorship for her achievements in research, teaching, and service. Awarded by the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation, the professorship recognizes Brenner's outstanding contributions to Jewish and Polish studies.

Over the course of her career Brenner has explored a wide range of topics, including representations of women, responses to the Holocaust, and Zionism. Her book *The Ethics of Witnessing: The Holocaust in Polish Writers' Diaries from Warsaw, 1939-1945* (2014) won the University of Southern California Book Prize in Literary and Cultural Studies. Brenner's most recent book, *Polish Literature and the Holocaust: Eyewitness Testimonies, 1942-1947*, studies early Holocaust fiction as a lens through which certain Polish writers examined their moral weakness as witnesses of the Jewish genocide.

WARF professorships are funded by income from patents arising from research at the UW–Madison. Each professorship carries research funds of \$100,000, which may be spent over the course of five years. Brenner's professorship is named for Elaine Marks (1930 – 2001), a member of the CJS faculty and an eminent scholar of French literature, women's studies, and Jewish studies.



Jordan Rosenblum, Belzer Professor of Classical Judaism, has been awarded the Max and Frieda Weinstein-Bascom Professorship, which recognizes the highest level of scholarship in Jewish Studies at UW–Madison.

Rosenblum studies the literature, law, and social history of the rabbinic movement, with a focus on food regulations. His forthcoming volume, *Feasting and Fasting: The History and Ethics of Jewish Food*, coedited with Aaron S. Gross and Jody Myers, examines how the rich traditions of Judaism have influenced the daily business of eating and drinking. The book carries a foreword by Hasia R. Diner, a UW alumna who is now the Paul And Sylvia Steinberg Professor of American Jewish History at New York University, and an afterword by novelist Jonathan Safran Foer.

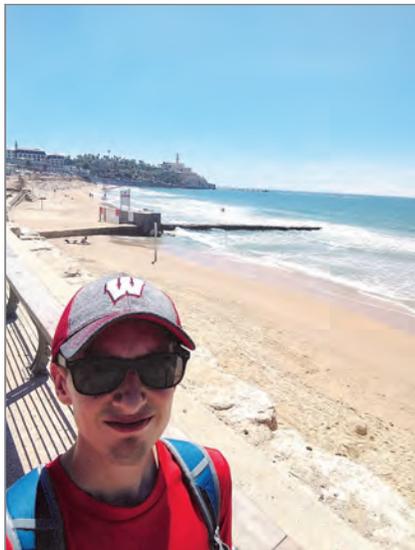
In accessibly written essays, contributors reflect on a full spread of culinary offerings and practices, from garlic, wine, and schmaltz to contemporary vegetarianism and the kosher industry. Published by NYU Press, the volume offers an expansive look at the diverse ways in which Jews have navigated dietary laws inherited from the past amid the changes imposed by modernization and frequent migration.

Turning from food to drink, Rosenblum's next book will explore rabbinic thought about beverages. *Rabbinic Drinking: What Beverages Teach Us About Rabbinic Literature* will be published by the University of California Press in January.

STUDENT NEWS

From Aleph-bet to Ulpan

JOE BANIN



Joe Banin

Thanks to the Center's Ida and Isaac Lipton Study Abroad Award, graduate student Joe Banin (History) attended Hebrew *ulpan*s two summers in a row. Here he reflects on the value of those experiences and his graduate program at the UW–Madison more broadly.

What drew you to UW–Madison and specifically to Jewish studies?

I came to UW–Madison as the university had a strong reputation for Jewish studies, particularly as the institution has a dedicated Center for Jewish Studies. There were two Jewish historians in the History faculty, Professor Tony Michels and Professor Amos Bitzan, so it seemed a great environment in which to learn about Jewish history. What led me to Jewish studies as a field was family history, but what has kept me in Jewish studies is the fascinating and complex history of a people who defy simple categorization.

How has study abroad contributed to your goals?

Studying abroad has broadened my horizons and expanded my potential areas of research. With some further language study, which I have been undertaking in Madison with our university Hebrew lecturer Judith Sone, I will be able to read historical sources and academic scholarship in Hebrew. This will give me access to a whole new body of literature. With my language skills, I would like to undertake a comparative research project comparing the Jewish experience in Israel and the United States.

What were some highlights of your summer experiences in Israel?

I've been very lucky to travel to Israel the last two summers to study intensive Hebrew courses. One of the big highlights has been making significant progress in the language in such a short period of time. I went in July 2018 not knowing the *aleph-bet*. Just over a year later, I was having conversations and interactions with Israelis in a variety of different scenarios. That level of progress was hugely satisfying. I was also able to explore Israel on both visits and see the variety on offer in such a small country—from the religious sites in Jerusalem, to the museums and beaches in Tel Aviv, the Kinneret, Haifa, and more! I am grateful to CJS for making these trips possible.

NEW SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

Kaplan Graduate Research Award in Jewish Civilization Thanks to UW History alum Michael Kaplan '70, CJS now offers this new award to encourage good graduate research in an area related to Jewish studies.

Richard D. Sincere and Debra L. Sincere Israel Studies Scholarship Richard Sincere '75 together with his wife, Debra Sincere, have allocated generous support for undergraduate and graduate students who wish to travel to Israel to conduct research or study Hebrew.

Established by Frances Weinstein in honor of her parents, the **Ida and Isaac Lipton Study Abroad and Domestic Study Awards** help students expand their horizons while advancing their studies in settings beyond the UW.

ERIN FAIGIN

Graduate student Erin Faigin (History) recently attended the Bard-YIVO intensive Yiddish program in New York, where she not only immersed herself in the language, but also made ample use of the YIVO archives. The experience was made possible through a Lipton Domestic Study Award.

You've mentioned your interest in Yiddish culture of the Midwest. What drew you to that topic?

As someone from the West Coast, I am very interested in the centrality that New York plays in our narratives of Jewish American identity and history. Without disputing the numeric magnitude of New York's Jewish population, I've been stymied by the underrepresentation of Chicago and Los Angeles in discussions of American Jewish history. And since moving to the Midwest, I've become curious about how the region has developed. Studying Yiddish cultural production in the Midwest is an attempt to answer both these questions: What were the boundaries of the *mittl-mayrev*? And what did its contents mean to American Jews, both living in the Midwest and in New York?

How has your YIVO experience contributed to your goals?

Working at YIVO this summer encouraged me to develop a variety of skills, including navigating the New York subway. I think the most important skill that I gained this summer was being able to read Yiddish handwriting more quickly and accurately than I could have imagined. Being in the archives every afternoon, I spent several hours a day improving my reading comprehension. Yiddish handwriting is notoriously difficult to parse, and this skill will be extremely useful as I continue archival research.

Did you make any especially interesting discoveries in the YIVO archives?

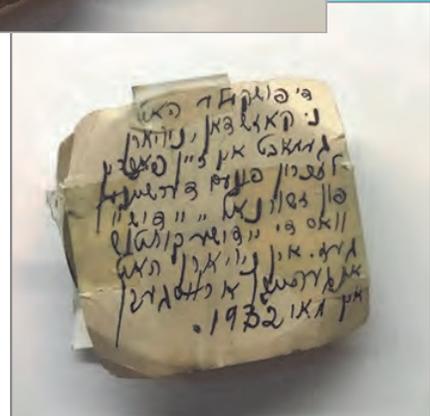
My favorite find in the archives this summer was a commemorative tin wrapped in a scrap of paper, that I found in the miscellany file of the Yiddish Culture Society. The paper was a note that read, "This *pushkele* was made by N. Kazshdan of New York in commemoration of the publication of the journal 'Yiddish' which the Yiddish Culture Soc. in New York began to publish in May 1932." Working with literature, periodicals and meeting records, it was such a joy to be able to interact with the material culture of the Yiddish Culture Society.



Erin Faigin



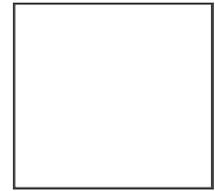
Erin's favorite discovery at YIVO.



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HIGHLIGHTS FROM GREENFIELD 2019
 Top: Prof. Devin E. Naar, University of Washington, captivates the audience with his lecture "City of the Sabbath: Jewish Businessmen and Jewish Workers in Salonica." Below: Attendees engage in lively discussion.

