MOSSE/WEINSTEIN
CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER
VOLUME 12 / FALL 2011

DIRECTOR'S REPORT
Moving into the Future

Greenfield
Summer Institute

KlezKamp
Comes to Madison

Conney Conference
on Jewish Arts

Faculty and Alumni News

Student Scholarship Winners
Moving into the Future

The past year has been an eventful one, with much to celebrate and much to contemplate. The Center for Jewish Studies has undertaken a major reorganization, which has resulted in several improvements in what we’re able to do for students, faculty, and the community. Among other things, we were extremely fortunate to bring Laurie Silverberg on as the Center’s associate director. Dr. Silverberg has a PhD in musicology from the University of Pennsylvania, and she was a music editor for A-R Editions before beginning her work at the Center this past January. In the short time that she’s been at the Center, Laurie has already proven to be an invaluable resource and a talented and smart administrator. We’re also in the process of revising our undergraduate curriculum, with the aim of making it easier for students to move through the major by ensuring that courses across the principal areas of Jewish studies—in history, literature, the arts, social sciences, and Hebrew texts—are readily available.

After twenty years at the University of Wisconsin, during which time he served as the first full-time director of the Center, David Sorkin is departing to establish a center for Jewish studies at the City University of New York. David’s accomplishments are many, and though we will miss him we wish him well in his new position. We’re also grateful to Pam Potter, who completed in July her term as director of the Center, for her work over the last two years. We welcome Henry Sapoznik, director of the Mayrent Institute, who this summer led the highly successful first annual Madison summer KlezKamp, which brought to the community an exciting combination of Yiddish music, dance, language, and learning. KlezKamp was held during the same week as the Greenfield Summer Institute, whose theme was “Yiddish in the Twenty-first Century.” Greenfield participants were treated to lectures and presentations by Center faculty and some of the nation’s leading experts on Yiddish language, literature, and culture.

As you no doubt have been reading in the national press, the past year has also been one of transition in the state of Wisconsin and at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. We have elected a new governor and legislature, with unforeseen and difficult consequences for those who work for the state. The chancellor of the university, Biddy Martin, has departed for the presidency of Amherst College. On the bright side, the governor’s budget also included new flexibilities for the university, which we all hope will allow us to maintain and build upon our status as a top-ranked research university.

To mark the twentieth anniversary of the Center’s founding in 1991 and move confidently into the second decade of the twenty-first century, we’ve prepared a strategic plan, which we expect will help move us further into the front ranks of Jewish studies programs in the United States. Among the plan’s principal goals are increasing the number of faculty, both in areas of traditional strength (history, Hebrew, literature, and the arts) as well as in newer ones (Israel studies, Holocaust studies, and the social sciences); bolstering the Center’s educational mission, principally by adding to our array of
courses and investigating the offering of
courses and programs at the graduate
level; and to continue our excellent
programming, lectures, and other
opportunities to work with and hear from
some of the outstanding intellectual and
public figures in Jewish studies. I’m deeply
grateful to my colleagues for their
thoughtful contributions to the plan. As
we spent much of the last year imagining
the Center’s future, I was reminded of
what a privilege it is to work with such an
incredibly intelligent and energetic group
of teachers and scholars. An event planned
for November will allow us to celebrate the
Center’s first twenty years and look
forward to its future.

I’m grateful for the work of our
faculty, students, staff, alumni, and friends
in realizing the vision of George Mosse,
and of Larry and Fran Weinstein. Without
you, the outstanding scholarship and
teaching that happens every day at the
Center for Jewish Studies would not be
possible. With you, I look forward to the
next twenty years, and I thank you in
advance for your help in moving us into
the future.

Michael Bernard-Donals, Director
Mosse/Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies
and Nancy Hoeft Professor of English
Editor's note: After nearly two decades at UW–Madison, David Sorkin, the Frances and Laurence Weinstein Chair in Jewish Studies and the Center’s first full-time director, has joined the CUNY Graduate Center as Distinguished Professor of History and director of their Center for Jewish Studies. On May 5, 2011, friends, colleagues, former and current students, and Center benefactors gathered to celebrate his many achievements. The following is adapted from a farewell address by Professor Judith Deutsch Kornblatt.

It is with a bittersweet feeling that I look back over the many memories I have of my long personal and professional interactions with David Sorkin as he leaves for his “encore” career at CUNY Graduate Center. He promises to do in New York what he has done so effectively here in Madison: establish a world-renowned, first-class center of Jewish Studies. We will miss him greatly, but wish him well.

I suspect that most of you have had the opportunity to meet David on at least one occasion, so my rehearsal of his many achievements will ring with the truth of lived experience. You know him to be an excellent scholar, a great speaker, a self-taught but highly successful fundraiser and program creator, and a good friend. When the fledgling Center for Jewish Studies managed to lure David from England to serve as our first official director of the Center in 1992, not all of us knew that we were recruiting a UW alumnus (BA’75 in Comparative Literature and Hebrew and Semitic Studies), who had studied with the distinguished George Mosse. The Mosse legacy continued through David, as it will continue now through his students and the younger faculty that he has helped recruit.

David had a hand in many programs while serving as director of the Center, from significantly raising the endowment, to increasing faculty membership and involvement, to developing the certificate and the undergraduate major, helping conceive and then lecturing at most of the Greenfield Summer Institutes since 2000. What many readers might not know is that during his tenure as director of the Center, and then as director of the Institute for Research in the Humanities and “simply” as senior professor of History, David successfully competed for some of the most important local, national, and international awards available to members of our profession: a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities in 1994–95, Senior member of the Institute beginning in 1998, a Kellett Mid-career Award from the UW Graduate School in 2002, a Guggenheim in 2005–06, and a fellowship at the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania in 2008. And not to make one too jealous, he also held visiting appointments at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales in Paris in 2008 and at the Scuola Normale Superiore in Pisa in 2009.

David’s retirement and departure from UW–Madison would be a sad event, if it were not for the wonderful legacy that he has left behind and lifelong friendships that he has established and will continue to nurture. Good luck to you, David, in the next stage of your life.
Michael Fox

BY RONALD L. TROXEL

Coincident with the end of the fall 2010 semester was the culmination of a stellar career of teaching and leadership in the Department of Hebrew and Semitic Studies. Michael Fox was a keystone in the department’s life for nearly forty years, setting its direction and raising its profile within the discipline of biblical studies. He won accolades from his peers for his incisive analysis of issues and his concise, clear prose.

Notably, the first sentence of this tribute does not speak of the culmination of Michael’s research. He has already completed several articles and book reviews during the past six months, and he is working on a new commentary on the book of Job, as well as a critical edition of the Hebrew text of Proverbs.

Michael’s greatest impact was in the classroom, where he set a high bar for studying Hebrew and biblical literature. He paid his students the favor of expecting no less of them than of himself. And because he was demanding and exacting, they sharpened their skills beyond what even they had anticipated was possible.

Michael’s contributions to our program have been many and will resonate in the department’s life for years. We are happy that he has chosen to retain his office on our floor, and we look forward to continuing to benefit from his scholarship.

Leonard Kaplan

Len Kaplan, Mortimer M. Jackson Professor of Law and faculty member in both Jewish Studies and Religious Studies, retired this past June after thirty-six years at UW-Madison. He taught in the areas of jurisprudence, legal process, law, theology and state, civil procedure, criminal law, criminal procedure, and evidence. Among many other distinctions, Professor Kaplan received in 2002 the Academy of Law and Psychiatry’s Michael Zeegers Lifetime Achievement Award for distinction in the pursuit of Scholarship, Pedagogy, and Human Rights Initiatives in the field of Law and Mental Health.

Among Kaplan’s greatest contributions to Jewish studies was his work as a co-founder and co-editor-in-chief of the journal, *Graven Images: Studies in Culture, Law and the Sacred*, now a book series. *Graven Images* combined intelligent analyses of politics, its relation to human and divine law, and questions of justice in both sacred and secular contexts, along with literary, cultural, and legal theory; its pages include essays by some of the leading theologians, cultural critics, and legal scholars in the United States. Professor Kaplan was the director of the Law School’s Project for Law and the Humanities, and in 2008 he was named the first Law Fellow at the Institute for Research in the Humanities at the UW Institute for Research in the Humanities.

Daniel Pekarsky

Daniel Pekarsky began his career at the University of Wisconsin in 1976. Along with teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in the College of Education, he served as an affiliate faculty member in the Religious Studies program. Pekarsky has been an active participant in Jewish Studies since the founding of the program twenty years ago, and he served as the Center’s director from 2004 to 2007. Among Pekarsky’s major accomplishments was to build single-handedly UW-Madison’s program in Jewish Studies and Education. Stemming in part from his lifelong passion for Jewish learning, Pekarsky raised funds for the program and served as its long-standing director, innovative brain-stormer, and caring and thoughtful intellectual core. An award-winning teacher and a member of the University of Wisconsin Teaching Academy, Pekarsky regularly taught students who came to his classes with curiosity and left them with devotion, not only to the content he taught, but also to him as a person. The author of *Vision at Work: The theory and practice of Beit Rabban*, Pekarsky’s own vision at work made him a much-loved figure across the campus.
New Faces at the Center for Jewish Studies

Jeremy Hutton is an assistant professor of Classical Hebrew Language and Biblical Literature in the Department of Hebrew and Semitic Studies. He received his PhD from Harvard University and taught for six years at Princeton Theological Seminary, where he was an assistant professor of Old Testament. His research focuses on the philology, paleography, and historical development of northwest Semitic languages; symbolic geography of Transjordan and the Jordan River in the Hebrew Bible and New Testament; and anthropological and sociological approaches in biblical interpretation.

He is the author of The Transjordanian Palimpsest: The Overwritten Texts of Personal Exile and Transformation in the Deuteronomistic History (2009), and co-editor (with Mark Leuchter) of Levites and Priests in History and Tradition (forthcoming). This fall, Hutton is teaching courses in Aramaic and Biblical literature.

Laurie Silverberg joined the Center for Jewish Studies as associate director in January 2011. Since her arrival at the Center, she has taken on a number of roles: serving as undergraduate advisor, working to increase the number of Jewish Studies students, administering CJS scholarships, planning events such as the Greenfield Summer Institute, writing and editing print and digital communication materials, and working with the UW Foundation in development and grant writing. Silverberg received a BMus in piano performance from Rice University and a PhD in musicology from the University of Pennsylvania, and she then held a Mellon postdoctoral fellowship at Columbia University. When she first arrived in Madison, she worked as an editor for A-R Editions, a publisher of scholarly editions of early music. She continues to write and research on the music and politics of the former East Germany, with a particular focus on Jewish communist composers Hanns Eisler and Paul Dessau. In addition, she is an active volunteer with the Madison Literacy Network, where she tutors English as a Second Language.

After a highly successful residency at the Arts Institute in 2009, Henry Sapoznik has returned to UW–Madison to direct the newly founded Mayrent Institute for Yiddish Culture. In addition to bringing his successful KlezKamp program to Madison, Sapoznik is working to develop educational and outreach programs in Yiddish music and culture both at UW and for the general community. He is also overseeing the development of the Mayrent collection of Yiddish music recordings at Mills Music library. Sapoznik is an award-winning author, radio and record producer, five-time Grammy nominee, and performer of traditional Yiddish and American music. His ten-part series, “Yiddish Radio Project,” for NPR’s All Things Considered won the Peabody Award for Excellence in Broadcast Journalism in 2002; the same year, he was nominated for an Emmy for his score to The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg. His book Klezmer! Jewish Music from Old World to Our World won the 2000 ASCAP Deems Taylor Award for Excellence in Music Scholarship.
Jewish Identity and the Arts

BY LAURIE SILVERBERG

What makes art “Jewish?” How is Jewish identity expressed through the performing and visual arts? What is the role of Jewish art within the Jewish community and the world at large? From April 5–8, performers, artists, and scholars from across the country convened in Madison to discuss these issues at the 2011 Conney Conference on Jewish Arts, made possible through a generous gift from Mary and Babe Conney. Participants explored this year’s theme, “Jewish Identity and the Arts,” from a variety of perspectives: art, architecture, theater, film, music, dance, photography, and food.

Most of the conference took place at Hillel at UW–Madison, which hosted more than twenty daytime presentations, a knish-making workshop led by Laura Silver, and an exhibition of artworks by Laurie Beth Clark (UW–Madison), Arie Galles, Amber Ginsburg, Paula Levine, Doron Polak, and Norma Drimmer. Connie Wolf, director of the Contemporary Jewish Museum in San Francisco, delivered the keynote speech.

Daytime presentations covered a wide range of subject matter. Some viewed Jewish artistic production through a historical lens; topics included composer Paul Dessau’s oratorio Hagadah shel Pesach, the Romance of the People performance at the 1933 Chicago World’s Fair, and Alfred Stieglitz’s fine art journal Camera Work 36. In other presentations, artists described their own work and relation to Jewish identity. The Holocaust was a recurring theme throughout the conference: Soylent Green as a Holocaust narrative, Arie Galles’s charcoal series Fourteen Stations, and Lisa Bloom’s examination of Holocaust imagery and climate change.

In addition to the daytime presentations, conference attendees were treated to evening performances by dancer Karen Goodman and performance artist Sara Felder. Yehuda Hyman also presented a portion of his one-man show THE MAD 7: A Mystical Comedy with Ecstatic Dance, a modern-day adaptation of a nineteenth-century Hasidic tale.

This year’s conference is part of the Conney Project, which aims to raise awareness of the contributions of Jewish artists and scholars. Streaming video and transcripts of many Conney presentations are now available online. For more information about the Conney Project, please visit http://conneyproject.wisc.edu.
Lectures and Events

Note: For additional information about past and future events, please visit http://jewishstudies.wisc.edu

SPRING 2011

Sanford J. Ettinger Lecture
Holy Tongues, Holy Lands: Contesting the Sacred in the Making of a Hebrew National Culture
Arieh Saposnik, Gilbert Chair in Israel Studies and Director of the Nazarian Center for Israel Studies, University of California, Los Angeles

UW Cinematheque Special Event
Nuremberg: Its Lesson for Today—Sandra Schulberg in Person

Weinstein-Minkoff Lecture
The Jewish World Wars of the 20th Century: Spain, Germany, Palestine
Derek J. Penslar, Samuel Zacks Professor of Jewish History, University of Toronto

Conney Conference on Jewish Arts 2011
Jewish Identity and the Arts

Department of Hebrew and Semitic Studies 55th Annual Lecture
Shifting Perspectives on the Dead Sea Scrolls
John J. Collins, Holmes Professor of Old Testament Criticism and Interpretation, Yale University

Wisconsin Alumni Association Lecture
A New look at “Nazi Art”
Pamela M. Potter, Professor, School of Music, University of Wisconsin–Madison

FALL 2011

Kutler Lecture
That Obnoxious Order: Ulysses S. Grant and the Jews
Jonathan Sarna, Joseph H. and Belle R. Braun Professor of American Jewish History, Brandeis University, and Chief Historian of the National Museum of American Jewish History

Tobias Lecture
Exploring the Jewish Dark Continent: Life, Death, and Ethnography in the Pale of Settlement
Nathaniel Deutsch, Professor of Literature and History, Co-Director of the Center for Jewish Studies, Director for the Institute for Humanities Research, University of California, Santa Cruz

Party Politics in Hell: Jewish Armed Resistance during the Holocaust
Evgeny Finkel, University of Wisconsin–Madison Department of Political Science Co-sponsored by the Center for Russia, East Europe, and Central Asia

The Ethics of Witnessing the Holocaust: Polish Writers’ Diaries from Occupied Warsaw 1939–1945
Rachel Feldhay Brenner, Max and Frieda Weinstein-Bascom Professor of Jewish Studies, Department of Hebrew and Semitic Studies, University of Wisconsin–Madison
Co-sponsored by the Center for Russia, East Europe, and Central Asia
For the past ten years, the A.W. Mellon Workshops at the Center for the Humanities have brought together UW–Madison faculty, students, and staff with the aim of fostering interdisciplinary dialogue. During the 2010–11 academic year, members of the Jewish Studies faculty organized two such workshops, both of which received additional funding from the Center for Jewish Studies.

**Comparative Religious Law**  
**BY JORDAN ROSENBLUM**

The Mellon workshop on Comparative Religious Law examines the thematic and historical connections between various traditions of religious law. Organized by Professors Donald R. Davis, Jr. (Languages and Cultures of Asia) and Jordan Rosenblum (Hebrew and Semitic Studies), the centerpiece of the workshop was the conference “Norm and Noumenon: Religious Law and Religious Studies.” On April 29 and 30, scholars of Jewish, Muslim, Christian, and Hindu law discussed their own areas of expertise and began a dialogue to discuss the comparative study of religious law. For example, Bernard M. Levinson (University of Minnesota) gave a fascinating talk about how the Hebrew Bible subtly revises law in order to conceal innovation. This talk led to a broader discussion about how religious innovation is often clothed in the garb of religious conservatism. Other speakers included Patrick Olivelle (University of Texas at Austin), Jonathan Brockopp (Pennsylvania State University), and Greta Austin (University of Puget Sound). Another conference is planned for next year, after which the papers from both years will be collected and edited in a conference volume.

**Athens and Jerusalem**  
**BY LEN KAPLAN**

Organized by Professors Rudy Koshar (History, Religious Studies) and Len Kaplan (Law, Jewish Studies), the Mellon workshop on Athens and Jerusalem concluded its second and final year this past April. Although it would seem that the old saw of finding separate genealogies for Athens and Jerusalem has long since lost its force, workshop participants have found that, with notions like “political theology,” the categories still have resonance. The workshop attracted faculty from a range of departments, including Paula Gottlieb, Claudia Card, Rachel Brenner, Howard Schweber, and Carl Rasmussen. Outside speakers in 2010 included Selya Benhabib (Yale University), Kenneth Seeskin (Northwestern University), Avi Soffer (University of Hawaii), Robert Gibbs (University of Toronto), and Alan Mittleman (Jewish Theological Seminary). In April 2011, with additional funding from the Center for Jewish Studies, writer, scholar, and activist Jay Michaelson led an animated dialogue on the work of Abraham Joshua Heschel and Heschel’s notion of revelation in relation to his God-motivated activity for social justice.
Michael Bernard-Donals (English) has been at work on a set of new projects that seek to define “Jewish rhetorics.” Three recently published essays—“By the Rivers of Babylon: Jewish Rhetoric and Jewish Exile”; “The Call of the Sacred and the Language of Deterioritization”; and “Exiled Memory: Israel in the Literary and Political Imagination”—form the project’s core. With Jan Fernheimer, he is the editor of Jewish Rhetoric, a book that will explore the rich cultural and historical legacy of Jewish rhetoric and writing from the Biblical period to the present. Bernard-Donals is also the vice president of “Klal Rhetorica,” a new organization intended to foster research in the Jewish discursive arts. Alongside his research and his duties as CJS director, Bernard-Donals will chair the Arts and Humanities Divisional Executive Committee in 2011–12, and he will serve on the University Committee, the elected executive committee of the UW Faculty Senate.

Jeffrey Blakely (Hebrew and Semitic Studies) spent the summer months excavating at the archaeological site of Khirbet Summeily (10–9th century BCE), located in Israel about fifteen miles inland from Gaza. The excavation is organized by the Tell el-Hesi Archaeological Project, which Blakely co-directs with James Harden of Mississippi State University. He continues to serve as vice-president for publications of the American Schools for Oriental Research.

Rachel Feldhay Brenner (Hebrew and Semitic Studies) had three papers accepted for publication. She presented at three conferences in Poland (one in Gniezno and two in Warsaw) in Polish and in English, and at conferences at the University of Florida and the University of Illinois. Brenner delivered an invited lecture in Hebrew at the University of Warsaw. She has continued her tenure at the Institute for Research in the Humanities and was awarded the Kellett Mid-career Award.

Claudia Card (Philosophy) published Confronting Evils: Terrorism, Torture, Genocide (Cambridge, 2010), the second volume of a trilogy on evil. Her presidential address to the 2011 meeting of the American Philosophical Association, Central Division, “Surviving Long-Term Mass Atrocities: U-Boats, Catchers, and Ravens,” will be published both in the APA Proceedings (2011) and a special volume on evil for Midwest Studies in Philosophy (2012). Card also presented papers at St. Mary’s University in Halifax, the University of Connecticut, and York University Law School in Toronto. This past year, she was a regular participant in the Mellon Workshop, “Athens and Jerusalem,” and this fall she is teaching a First-year Interest Group course on evil, with a companion course on the Holocaust taught by Simone Schweber, another member of the Jewish Studies faculty. In April, she received an Honored Instructor Award and the Hilldale Award for Arts and Humanities—the university’s highest faculty honor.

Jill Casid (Art History) received a 2011 Romnes Faculty Fellowship, awarded to recently tenured faculty. Her second book, Shadows of Enlightenment: Reason, Magic, and Technologies of Projection is forthcoming from the University of Minnesota Press. She is currently working on her third book, The Volatile Image: Other Histories of Photography.

Chad Goldberg (Sociology) was offered a one-year membership at the Princeton Institute for Advanced Study, a fellowship
at the Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan, and a resident fellowship at the Institute for Research in the Humanities at UW–Madison to support work on a new book about modernity and the Jews in classical sociological theory. He accepted membership at the Princeton Institute for Advanced Study for 2011–12 and declined the other offers. The book is now under contract with the University of Chicago Press.

**Sara Guyer** (English) was awarded a 2011 fellowship from the Howard Foundation for her project *Biopoetics: Sovereignty, Homelessness, Romanticism*. She has also been elected to the international advisory board of the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes.

**Judith Kornblatt** (Slavic Languages and Literature) finished a year of sabbatical and concluded a twelve-year period of service as associate dean in the Graduate School. This fall, she begins a term as chair of the Slavic department, and she has also been elected as the incoming president of ASEES (Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies). Over the past year, she presented twice on the topic of Russian icons and organized a conference in Madison called “Rethinking Russian Religious Thought.” Kornblatt has also worked on reviving the Jewish Studies course taught in the past by emeritus professor Gary Rosensheid, “The Jew in Russian Literature.”

**Mark Louden** (German) continues to expand his work on Yiddish. He directed independent studies on intermediate Yiddish language with two graduate students in History, and he was active with the Greenfield Summer Institute, presenting a lecture on sociolinguistic parallels between Yiddish-speaking Hasidic communities and conservative Amish and Mennonite groups in North America. At the 2011 Madison Summer KlezKamp, he taught elementary Yiddish. In spring 2011, he received a UW–Madison Chancellor’s Distinguished Teaching Award.

**Tony Michels** (History, Mosse Professor of American Jewish History) returned to Madison last fall after a year of sabbatical leave. Over the last two years, he has published a number of articles, including “Exporting Yiddish Socialism: New York’s Role in the Russian Jewish Workers’ Movement” in *Jewish Social Studies*; “Communalist History and Beyond: What Is the Potential of American Jewish History?” in *American Jewish History*; and “Communism and the Problem of Ethnicity in the 1920s” in *Studies in Contemporary Jewry*; and an article on the history of women’s reading groups in the Yiddish-language cultural magazine, *Afn shvel*. In a less scholarly vein, Michels co-authored an essay with fellow historian David Greenberg on Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan for *Slate* online magazine and published a piece on popular music in *Meatpaper*. Michels introduced two new courses this past academic year: an undergraduate lecture course on “Jews in American Popular Culture” and a senior seminar called “Zionism and Its Critics.”

**Bilha Mirkin** (Hebrew and Semitic Studies) taught three courses on language and literature that also exposed students to Israeli culture and ways of life. On her visits to Israel in December and June, she immersed herself in the language, politics, and literature and attended lectures, theater performances and symposiums at Beit Avi Chai and Beit Berl.
**Steven Nadler** (Philosophy) continues to teach “Jewish Philosophy from Antiquity to the Seventeenth Century,” which focuses on rationalism in Philo, Saadiah ben Joseph, Maimonides, Gersonides, and Spinoza. His new book, *A Book Forged in Hell: Spinoza’s Scandalous Treatise and the Birth of the Secular Age*, has just been published by Princeton University Press. He is also the editor of the *Journal of the History of Philosophy*. In the spring of 2011, he was a fellow at the UW–Madison Institute for Research in the Humanities.

**Douglas Rosenberg** (Art; Director, Conney Project on Jewish Arts) received research funding from the UW Graduate School as well as from the Virginia Horne Henry Fund for two upcoming projects. His book on Scenendance is forthcoming in 2012 from Oxford University Press. In addition, Rosenberg directed the third biennial Conney Conference on Jewish Arts. This past summer, he taught and lectured in São Paulo, Brazil, as part of *dança em foco – Festival Internacional de Vídeo e Dança*. This fall, his work will be featured in the journal *TDR (The Drama Review)*.

**Jordan Rosenblum** (Hebrew and Semitic Studies, Belzer Assistant Professor of Classical Rabbinic Literature in Jewish Studies) recently published “Cities of the Sea: In Search of *ים וים* in *Hebrew Studies*; and a review of *Jewish Identities in Antiquity: Essays in Honor of Menahem Stern* (ed. Lee I. Levine and Daniel R. Schwartz) in *Catholic Biblical Quarterly*. In addition to giving a lecture on campus at UW–Madison, he participated in the Wisconsin Idea Seminar and organized a conference on Comparative Religious Law. He also delivered lectures at UW–Milwaukee and the University of California, Irvine. This fall, he will give papers at the Society of Biblical of Literature conference in San Francisco, at Copenhagen University, and Ghent University.

**Patricia Rosenmeyer** (Classics) received a faculty travel grant from the Center for European Studies for travel to Heidelberg and Lausanne, where she conducted research on poet Saul Tschernikovsky’s translations of Ancient Greek poetry, in particular his Hebrew version of the Greek “Anacreontic” poems. While in Europe, she delivered the keynote address at a Classics conference at the University of Zurich. Rosenmeyer has presented at conferences at the University of Chicago and Ohio State University, and she published “Sappho’s Iambics” in *Letras Classicas* (2011). She looks forward to spending a few weeks teaching the Song of Songs in her spring 2012 undergraduate Honors course, “Love Poetry of the Ancient Mediterranean.” This fall, she began a three-year term on the Graduate School Research Committee.

**Nadav Shelef** (Political Science, Harvey M. Meyerhoff Assistant Professor of Israel Studies) has presented at numerous conferences this past year, including the Association for the Study of Nationalities, the Midwest Political Science Association Conference, the International Studies Association Conference, and the Association for Israel Studies. His recent book, *Evolving Nationalism: Homeland, Identity, and Religion in Israel* (Cornell University Press, 2010), was also the subject of a panel discussion at the Association for the Study of Nationalities conference. He has given invited lectures at George Washington University, the University of Pennsylvania, Rice University, UCLA, and Princeton.
Laurie Silverberg (Associate Director) presented papers at the Conney Conference on Jewish Arts in April and at the conference “Music in Divided Germany” at the University of California, Berkeley, in September. Her essay on dissident speech among East German composers recently appeared in the collection Art Outside the Lines: New Perspectives on GDR Art Culture (Rodopi, 2011). In November, she will deliver an invited lecture on East German cultural politics at the Universität Leipzig.

Ronald Troxel (Hebrew and Semitic Studies) became chair of Hebrew and Semitic Studies and director of its graduate program this past January. His new book, Prophetic Literature: From Oracles to Books, is in press and will be published by Wiley-Blackwell this fall. He is now developing two new journal articles on the book of Joel.

Haya Yuchtman (Hebrew and Semitic Studies) continues to teach first- and second-year Modern Hebrew. She also teaches at Hebrew at Midrasha, the Madison Hebrew high school.

**EMERITUS FACULTY**

Klaus Berghahn (German) organized the 43rd Wisconsin Workshop, “The Temptation of Hope: Utopian Thinking from Thomas More to Ernst Bloch—and Beyond,” where he delivered a lecture on Ernst Bloch’s Principle of Hope. He then edited a volume of proceedings under the same title (Aisthesis, 2011). Berghahn also presented at a conference on H. G. Adler in Marbach, Germany, and he edited a special issue on Adler for *Monatsshefte* (Spring 2011). He gave invited lectures at the Eloquence & Eminence Series of Emeritus Faculty Lectures at UW–Madison, and the Hochschule für Jüdische Studien Heidelberg. The latter lecture, “Die Sendung Moses – Die Juden und das Judentum in Schillers Entwurf einer Universalgeschichte,” was published in *TRUMAH* (Zeitschrift für jüdische Studien Heidelberg, 2010).

Herbert Lewis (Anthropology) has been serving the first year of a two-year term as president of the ASA—Association of Senior Anthropologists—a section of the American Anthropological Association. Appropriately, he has been continuing his research and writing about the history of American anthropology and about its founder, Franz Boas. In October 2010 he spent two weeks at the Max Planck Institute for Ethnology in Halle, Germany, where he gave a talk on “the radical transformation of anthropology;” and in December he presented at a workshop on Boas in London, Ontario. The workshop was intended as the first step in a major Boas publishing project. In addition, he has recently published articles about anthropologist Philleo Nash, who made unparalleled contributions to civil rights during the Roosevelt and Truman
administrations; and a review of D. C. Sackman’s biography of A. L. Kroeber, a student of Boas, entitled *Wild Men: Ishi and Kroeber in the Wilderness of Modern America.*

**Robert Skloot** (Theater and Drama) was recently selected for inclusion in the collection *Fifty Key Thinkers on the Holocaust and Genocide* (Routledge, 2011). His play *The Whole Body Dies: Raphael Lemkin and the Treaty Against Genocide* (2006) was recently published in Spanish translation as *Aunque Todo El Cuerpo Muera: Raphael Lemkin y el Tratado contra el Genocidio* (trans. Bertha Pancorvo). The play was given a reading in Lima by University Theatre of the Pontificial Catholic University of Peru (April 2011), and by the Department of Theatre and Dance, University of Kansas (March 2011). Professor Skloot delivered several lectures throughout the United States and abroad, and he has been appointed to the editorial board for the Online Holocaust Theatre Archive, Tel Aviv, Israel.

**Frank Tuerkheimer** (Law) will be presenting at a Loyola Law School event noting the fiftieth anniversary of the Eichmann trial in September. The event will also include the surviving prosecutor, whom Tuerkheimer interviewed at length after reading the transcript of the trial.

**Alan J. Weisbard** (Law) spoke in April on Meditation and Contemplative Activities in the Jewish Mystical Tradition at a LISAR (Lubar Institute for the Study of Abrahamic Religions) Conference on Neuroscience and the Abrahamic Traditions. He also participated in several events at the Medical School, which were sponsored or co-sponsored by the student Jewish Association of Medical Professionals, including a lecture on Jewish Medical Ethics and an interfaith panel on brain death and organ transplantation, as well as a panel on ethical uses and abuses of Holocaust data. He also led or co-led adult-education courses at Beth Israel Center, studying Michael Walzer’s *The Jewish Political Tradition* and Arthur Green’s *Radical Judaism.*
Students Soak in KlezKamp Experience

BY CHRIS DUPRE

Two years ago, when Jewish Studies Certificate student Anna Volodarskaya received an e-mail from Hillel about a weeklong “Jewish music camp,” she thought it sounded intriguing. “I was just starting to lead a Jewish a cappella group on campus, so I thought this would be the greatest experience ever,” she said. “I told all of my friends and I said, ‘Let’s go!’” Volodarskaya couldn't persuade her friends to give up their winter break, but she decided to go to KlezKamp with professor Douglas Rosenberg and his son. “It was the greatest experience of my life,” she said. “I came back and I could not stop talking about it.”

With that experience under her belt, Volodarskaya was able to promote KlezKamp so well that three of her classmates decided to make the trip with her and Rosenberg this past December. Those student trips were made possible by the William and Marjorie Coleman Fund for Undergraduate Learning Enhancement. “The Colemans, who are from Brooklyn, New York, set up this fund for professors to do something with undergraduates on a one-to-one basis,” said Rosenberg. “It’s a marvelous opportunity.”

One of those students was music education major Miles Comiskey, a graduate of Waukesha West High School who just finished his senior year at UW–Madison. “I meant to listen to a bunch of klezmer music before I came, but it was really nice that I came to it fresh in a way,” he said. “At first, I didn’t really know what I was listening to. But within the first 24 hours, when we were going to classes and talking about all the different forms and genres, you realize all these techniques that they have. … There were sounds and modes that I hadn’t experienced before. Given all the music I’ve been exposed to, it’s hard to get myself completely out of my comfort zone. This was a really amazing break from that.”

Comiskey, who is not Jewish, said the KlezKamp environment was very welcoming. “Even though I wasn’t the ‘normal’ person coming to KlezKamp, people were excited I was there and to teach me about it,” he said. For Volodarskaya, klezmer struck a familiar chord. “Growing up in a musical family in Russia, you hear it,” she said. “I didn’t know that it was called klezmer, that it came out of Eastern Europe in the 19th century, no. But you hear it and say to yourself, ‘That sounds familiar.’”

“Western musicians might hear something in a minor key, and think, ‘Oh, that’s sad.’ That’s not necessarily how it works with klezmer music. For me, it wasn’t all that foreign, because I knew where those motifs came from: Eastern European music, even Middle Eastern music with the scales,” she said. “For me, it was kind of a call to a distant past.”
Yiddish in the Twenty-first Century

BY ALLISON BLOOM

“Yiddish in the Twenty-first Century,” the theme of the twelfth annual Greenfield Summer Institute, asked participants to consider what might happen when a culture and language typically considered “of the past” are reclaimed and revitalized for a new century and a new generation. The Institute, which took place July 10–14, 2011, featured a diverse roster of lectures delivered by preeminent scholars of Yiddish culture from universities across North America, as well as UW–Madison Jewish Studies faculty Tony Michels and Mark Louden. Lectures on the current state of the Yiddish language, contemporary Yiddish literature, the past and future of Yiddish song and theater, the influence of Yiddish on intellectual movements, Yiddish-speaking enclaves in the United States and Israel, and even the challenges of raising Yiddish-speaking children, showed that Yiddish culture remains vital and continues to evolve as an expression of Jewish pride and community.

In honor of the recent establishment of the Mayrent Institute for Yiddish Culture at the UW–Madison Center for Jewish Studies, the 2011 Greenfield Institute ran concurrently with the first annual Madison KlezKamp, which gave participants the opportunity to join in some KlezKamp classes and concerts. This unique collaboration married the lectures of the Greenfield Institute with more hands-on Yiddish cultural offerings such as dancing and language study at KlezKamp, which many Greenfield Institute regulars reported to be a deeply enriching combination.

The Greenfield Summer Institute was the brainchild of Lawrence Greenfield, a member of the Center for Jewish Studies Board of Visitors, who first proposed the idea of an adult summer institute to Center director David Sorkin. Now underwritten by the generosity of Larry and Ros Greenfield, the Institute showcases the research of UW–Madison faculty and acclaimed Jewish Studies scholars from around the country. Each year the Institute’s lectures center around a theme (past years’ themes have included Jewish identity, Jews and politics, the “Wandering Jew,” Jewish Studies and the arts, Jews and gender, Israel, European Jewry, and American Jewish history). In addition to lectures that explore the year’s theme in depth, the Institute also features concerts, dinners, and other opportunities to socialize. The 13th annual Greenfield Institute is scheduled for July 8–12, 2012. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for a week of learning and fun!
KlezKamp Comes to Madison

BY HENRY SAPOZNIK

Who would have thought that, nearly a century after UW-Madison professor Louis Wolfenson gave the first known Yiddish course at an American university in 1916, Madison would again be an epicenter of Yiddish-American culture? The first annual Madison Summer KlezKamp was held from July 10–14 at Hillel at the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

KlezKamp, now a part of the newly formed Mayrent Institute for Yiddish Culture, was first introduced to Madison when Henry Sapoznik brought the traveling version, the KlezKamp RoadShow, here as part of his residency with the UW Arts Institute in 2009. The new annual summer program made its enthusiastic debut with the many of the same dedicated veteran teachers who have long been involved with the Winter KlezKamp in the Catskills, including Aaron Alexander, Adrian Banner, Daniel Blacksberg, Joanne Borts, Sarah Gordon, Josh Horowitz, Miriam Isaacs, Susan Leviton, Sherry Mayrent, Mark Rubin, Dan Peck, Jenny Mitnick, Cookie Segelstein, Laura Wernick, Steve Weintraub, Michael Winograd, and UW professor Mark Louden. Collectively, these talented faculty created four days of in-depth programming that began with classes at 9:00 a.m. and continued through dance parties ending at midnight.

The multigenerational crowd of participants, drawn from Wisconsin, Alaska, Texas, Massachusetts, Illinois, Michigan and Iowa—some of whom had never before participated in the Yiddish folk arts—created a dynamic and enthusiastic environment through a passion for Yiddish language and culture. The Madison KlezKamp is built upon the same model as the winter KlezKamp, with lectures and general interest talks on folklore, linguistics, literature, music, and culture by outstanding Yiddish culture scholars and experts, plus intensive workshop offerings in the music, language, dance, visual arts, and theater by the world’s leading Yiddish performers and teachers.

But the placement of KlezKamp in the midst of Madison’s already dynamic cultural environment has already created a new version of this venerable institution, leading to only-in-Madison highlights, such as the now-legendary KlezKamp parade from the Cinematheque to Hillel, through the campus via State Street!

By the final night, the crowd at Hillel had swelled to include a mix of KlezKamp attendees, participants from the Greenfield Summer Institute, and local Madison residents, some of whom were attracted by the immediate buzz through the town’s music, folk dance, and Jewish networks. All were brimming with excitement and filling the dance floor—neophytes and KlezKamp veterans alike starting a new tradition in both the long history of Yiddish and its venerable place in Madison’s cultural life.
BY LAURIE SILVERBERG

In early June, Sherry Mayrent loaded twenty-seven boxes of Yiddish recordings into her hybrid Toyota Highlander and drove from her Watertown, MA home to Madison. The purpose of Mayrent’s trip: to deliver personally to Mills Memorial Library the first installment of what will be a 7,500-record collection of Yiddish music, theater, and spoken word. Mayrent’s donation of records accompanies a $1 million gift that she and her wife, Carol Master, made to UW to endow the Mayrent Institute for Yiddish Culture. The Mayrent collection will make UW–Madison one of the world’s foremost centers for the study of Yiddish music and culture. The astonishing breadth of the collection, which covers mainly the period from 1898–1950, is all the more impressive when one considers that Mayrent first began her collection only in 2004. Unlike other collections of Yiddish music, which rely heavily on donations of unwanted LPs and 78 rpm records, the Mayrent collection is both systematic and comprehensive. The recordings are being digitized and catalogued prior to their delivery to UW–Madison, with the aim of making the collection accessible to communities both local and worldwide through a comprehensive and interactive website. Mayrent Institute director Henry Sapoznik plans to highlight the collection further through a series of lectures, concerts, and “listening salons,” where he will choose, play, and talk about rarities from the collection. Eventually, the Mayrent Institute will offer musical editions and reissue recordings from the collection.

2010–11 Graduates

The Center for Jewish Studies wishes to congratulate our recent graduates:

Jewish Studies Major
Joseph Goldfine
Jordan Soffer

Jewish Studies Certificate
Ariella Ahlazadeh
Julia Bass
Natalie Berkley
Daniel Campeas
Jessie Lavintman
David Levi
Jacob Markey
Anna Miller
Ian Teplin
Maya Yeyni
2011 Scholarship and Fellowship Recipients

This year, the Mosse/Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies awarded nearly $15,000 in need- and merit-based scholarships and grants to undergraduate and graduate students at UW–Madison. To an already-impressive list of scholarship offerings were added three new awards: the David Sorkin Scholarship, the Marjorie and Harry Tobias Scholarship, and the Lipton Award for Domestic Study.

The Robert and Lynn Berman Scholarship, which supports research for undergraduate or graduate students in the area of Jewish Studies, was awarded to Elizabeth Currier, a graduate student in the department of Hebrew and Semitic Studies.

The Lipton Award for Domestic Study, established to support UW–Madison students wishing to participate in educational opportunities within the United States, was awarded to undergraduate Dierdre Hirschtritt and graduate student Avi Cummings, both of whom used their awards for summer study and research in Yiddish language and literature.

The Lipton Essay Award for a substantial course-related paper on a Jewish Studies topic was awarded to History Department graduate student Britt Tevis for her paper “Special, Just like Everyone Else: An Assessment of American Jewish Regional Histories.”

The Lipton Certificate/Major Award, given to undergraduates working toward a major or certificate in Jewish Studies, was awarded to Malia Silvert.

The Charles and Gayle Mazursky Student Support Fund, which supports research for undergraduate or graduate students, provided grants to Avi Cummings, Evgeny Finkel, Katherine Eade, and Elizabeth Currier.

The Robert and Beverly Natelson Family Scholarship for an outstanding undergraduate or graduate student in Jewish Studies, was awarded to Evgeny Finkel, a graduate student in the department of Political Science.

The David Sorkin Scholarship, established by the Center’s Board of Visitors to recognize David Sorkin’s service to the Center and intended to support a graduate student in Jewish History, was awarded to Katherine Eade.

The Marjorie and Harry Tobias Scholarship, awarded to an outstanding undergraduate pursuing a major or certificate in Jewish Studies, was awarded to Malia Silvert.
Way through the Islamic Crusader period. The site of ancient Ashkelon is divided into 100 x 100 meter grids. I worked in Grid 51, which sits close to the Mediterranean Sea (a location I thoroughly enjoyed). The view is breathtaking—turquoise waves and bright skies to the west, sometimes ships, sometimes clouds; Crusader ramparts on a coastal cliff in the distance to the south.

The work was dirty, dusty, strenuous, and very meticulous. We started each day in the field before sunrise at 5 am. I spent most of my time excavating Roman and Hellenistic material, mainly floors and walls. We found a lot of pottery and bones on floors, as well as the occasional coin. Every once in awhile, we had a unique find, such as a mosaic installation that archaeologists at Ashkelon think was a wine vat. After taking photos of the vat, I took it apart and collected all tesserae (the cubes that constitute the mosaic) for further analysis.

The most exciting part of the excavation for me as a Hebrew student, however, was seeing the destruction layer at the bottom of a probe that likely dates to 604 BCE, the year that the Babylonian king, Nebuchadnezzar, leveled Ashkelon (before he turned to Judah and eventually destroyed Jerusalem in 587 BCE). I went to Ashkelon to learn about archaeological method and interpretation. And while seeing the 604 BCE destruction layer was a thrill, learning about the lifeways of the people who lived and worked in the building I helped excavate was my goal in working with the Leon Levy Expedition this summer. I’ve scratched the surface of this task, and I hope to continue it in future summers.

BY ELIZABETH CURRIER

I study the Hebrew Bible as a PhD student at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. We focus on languages and texts at UW but do minimal work in archaeology, a critical part of Hebrew Bible studies. Thanks to the generosity of Robert and Lynn Berman and Charles and Gayle Mazursky, I was able to supplement my education by beginning to learn archaeological method and interpretation firsthand as a volunteer with the Leon Levy Expedition to Ashkelon.

Remains of ancient Ashkelon are preserved on the southern coast of Israel (35 miles south of Tel Aviv) right beside the modern city of Ashkelon, which has grown up around the ancient site. Ancient Ashkelon was a bustling port city that experienced successive occupations and destructions from the Bronze Age all the way through the Islamic Crusader period.
BY DEIRDRE HIRSCHTRITT

Sholem Aleichem! This past summer, I was a student at the National Yiddish Book Center’s Steiner Summer Program in Amherst, Massachusetts, an experience made possible through the Lipton Award for Domestic Study. With just eighteen students, the program has been a wonderful introduction to Yiddish language and culture. Working with both undergraduates and graduate students, I had three hours of language class every morning with University of Ottawa Professor Rebecca Margolis and an afternoon course in Yiddish culture and history with Professor David Shneer of the University of Colorado at Boulder. In addition to our daily courses, each student had to research and write a final paper and present their findings at a conference at the end of the summer. For my project, I worked my way through a Yiddish translation of Margaret Sanger’s 1916 pamphlet, “What Every Girl Should Know” and researched what it might mean for an immigrant Jewish girl at the turn of the twentieth century to learn about her body. Working with fellow students and staff, my investigation became a means both to learn the Yiddish language and to further my studies, which I hope to continue back in Madison.

The Yiddish Book Center became something of a home to me over a period of several weeks, since we seemed to be here all the time either in class, studying, watching Yiddish films, listening to engaging lectures, or just schmoozing—it really had to be heimish. Although I was sad to miss Madison’s first KlezKamp, I was able to attend the eighth annual Paper Bridge Summer Arts Festival. I will never forget watching a Yiddish silent film to a full band or laughing to a Yiddish theater production or dancing to the Klezmer Conservatory Band until my feet ached! Yiddish has become a living language and culture to me, and I think the same happens to nearly anyone who walks into the Book Center.

For a field trip, our group went to New York City to visit the Yiddish world still alive in New York. The most meaningful part of that trip for me was sitting with secular Yiddishists and other Yiddish students, singing old folk songs, and noshing together. This simple night made me feel like Yiddish is alive and being celebrated. Knowing such a world still exists made me all the more inspired to move forward with my work back in Amherst. As the program drew to a close, I couldn’t stand the idea of leaving my little Yiddish bubble, but knowing that I would return to Madison, where Yiddish music is being revived and Beth Israel’s Yiddish tisch awaits, the break will be nothing other than bittersweet.
Leonard Kallman Joins Board
The Mosse/Weinsein Center Board of Visitors is pleased to welcome its newest member, Leonard Kallman. A native of Brooklyn, NY, Len received his BS in Agriculture in 1953 from UW–Madison and served as president of Dairy Sales Corporation from 1973 until his retirement in 1997. He and his wife Helene, whom he met in summer school at UW, have also been loyal participants of the Greenfield Summer Institute for many years.

Board of Visitors members represent the Mosse/Weinsein Center to students, alumni, donors, and friends as informed ambassadors and supporters. In three-year terms, they each work to advance the Center’s mission by promoting fundraising, public outreach, and intellectual enrichment.

Gerald Kahn (1926–2011)
Gerald (“Jerry”) Kahn, a lifetime member and former chair of the Board of visitors, died on July 2, 2011. He was 85. Kahn received his BA in accounting from UW–Madison in 1948, followed by a law degree in 1950, also from UW. A founding partner of the Milwaukee law firm Godfrey & Kahn, he served the Milwaukee and Madison Jewish communities throughout his life: as a former member of the Milwaukee Board of Education, the former head of allocations and president (1975–78) of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation, and as chair of the Mosse/Weinsein Center’s Board of Visitors. His philanthropy also extended beyond Wisconsin’s borders to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

During his tenure as chair, Kahn acted as a key liaison between the Center and local Jewish communities, and he played a critical role in spearheading Center fundraising efforts. As one of the Center’s greatest benefactors, he was an ardent supporter of Jewish education, and he brought great enthusiasm to the Jewish Studies in Education program offered at UW. As David Sorkin, founding director of the Center recalls, “Jerry was a delight to work with. He served as first chair of the Board of the Visitors and brought to the task all the tact, good humor, discretion and sheer tenacity that made him an outstanding lawyer. The Board had a number of powerful members who each had distinct ideas of their own about how the Board should function; Jerry made it possible for them to cooperate at every turn, promoting harmony and success. He was also the model of modesty: he never took credit for what he had accomplished.” Jerry Kahn is survived by his wife, Rosalie, daughters Nancy (Ernie) Grunfeld, Lori Kahn, and Cindy (Steve Marker) Kahn, and four grandchildren. The family has requested that memorials be sent to the Mosse/Weinsein Center for Jewish Studies.
Alumni News

ALUMNI: Please send your current contact information to jewishstudies@cjs.wisc.edu so that we can keep in touch!

Amy Bram ’95 (Jewish Studies Certificate) recently joined the professional staff of Ramah Darom in Atlanta, GA, as the Director of Exceptional Experiences.

Diana Shapiro Fersko ’04 (Jewish Studies Certificate) was ordained a Rabbi by Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion in New York. She will be joining Temple Shaaray Tefila, also in New York, in the fall. She and her husband, Seth Fersko ’04, just had their first child.

Lottie Gray ‘02 (Jewish Studies Certificate) is working as a forensic social worker with clients who are severely mentally ill, and who are involved with the criminal court. This past summer, she traveled to Israel and Turkey.

Ari Moffic Silver ’06 (Jewish Studies Major) is pursuing an MA in Elementary Education at Loyola University Chicago with interest in pursuing a PhD in a Jewish Education field. He is a fourth grade religious school teacher at Anshe Emet’s Moses and Belle Braun Religious School, and he also leads Machar/Kadima services on Shabbat (1st through 8th Graders). In addition, he is the USY Advisor for SHMUSY, the metro Chicago’s USY chapter in the CHUSY region (United Synagogue Youth, a Conservative Jewish youth group movement). He is very active as a Bar, Bat and B’nei Mitzvah tutor (yes B’nei, he tutors triplets!) and has plans to expand his tutoring business over the next several years. He also writes for Oy/Chicago, a hip young blog he co-founded and co-edits with Jewish Studies alumna Stefanie Pervos ’06.

Emily Singer ’09 (Jewish Studies Certificate) is currently living in Israel. She recently finished an M.A. in Political Science at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and she is now working part-time at an NGO in Jerusalem while looking for a full-time job.

Abbie Steiner ’08 (Jewish Studies Major) spent a year in India working with a human rights organization through American Jewish World Service and is now exploring the intersection of food and community, as inspired by her Jewish Studies thesis reframing Kashrut through a more ecological lens. She currently works for an anti-hunger nonprofit in Washington, D.C. and is involved in a number of urban sustainable agriculture initiatives.

Michelle Vesole ’08 (Jewish Studies Major) recently graduated with her JD from the University of St. Thomas School of Law–Minneapolis. She is now preparing to take the Minnesota bar exam.
Excellence Fund Bolsters Center Efforts

The Mosse/Weinstein Center is one of the foremost centers for Jewish studies in the country, and the Excellence Fund allows us to maintain this reputation by giving us the means to maintain the highest quality of teaching, scholarship, and programming. Gifts to the Excellence Fund allow us to be strategic in addressing our increasing needs to support staffing, outreach, instruction, research, and the overall growth of the Center. We at the Mosse/Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies deeply appreciate the financial support from our alumni and friends.

For more information on how you can make a difference, contact director of development Ronald Luskin at ron.luskin@supportuw.org or (608) 265-3526.

Call for Archival Materials

Do you have mementos of your involvement with the Mosse/Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies stored away? In celebration of our twentieth anniversary, the Center is creating a repository of artifacts that document our history and all that we have achieved. We would love to supplement our holdings with copies or originals of your photos, documents, and other materials that tell the story of the Center. To discuss a donation, please contact Allison Bloom at (608) 890-3572 or events-lectures@cjs.wisc.edu.