



THE GEORGE L. MOSSE / LAURENCE A. WEINSTEIN
CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

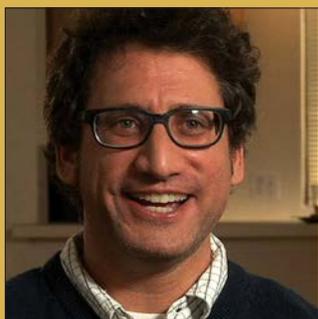


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VOLUME 22, NO. 2 / FALL 2021

Director's Report



Tony Michels, Director
Photo: Snitow-Kaufman Productions

On the cover: In this December 1965 photo from the *Wisconsin State Journal*, sixth graders from Madison's Temple Beth El greet Hanukkah by bringing gifts to children at the University Hospital. Nurse Anna Thiessen is shown accepting the presents from Ron Salomon, Lorie Druck, Janice Wexler, Shelly Dutch, David Conney, Jeff Sachs, and David Blotner.

David Conney is the son of Marvin Conney (1927–2021), longtime CJS supporter and Board of Visitors member, whose generosity, along with that of his wife Babe, made possible the Conney Project on Jewish Arts, housed within the Mosse/Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies.

Wisconsin Historical Society, Richard Sroda, "Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights, Begins," Image 120864

Newsletter Editor:
Gwen Walker

VOLUME 22, NO. 2
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The Center for Jewish Studies, Past and Future

Dear friends,

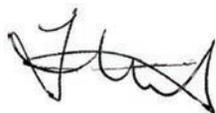
At this time a year ago, all of our courses and public events were held by way of computer. With the reopening of campus in September, students and faculty returned to the classroom, and we now offer a mix of online and in-person events to reach audiences both near and far. These recent changes in the life of the Mosse/Weinstein Center have given us an opportunity for reflection. What forces have shaped CJS in the past? How should it develop in the future?

David Sorkin, the Center's first director, provides a unique historical perspective in the pages of this newsletter. David graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1975 with a double major in Comparative Literature and Hebrew and Semitic Studies. At that time, there was no program in Jewish studies at the UW. Returning to Madison seventeen years later to accept a position as the inaugural Laurence A. Weinstein Professor of European Jewish History, David set the course for the Mosse/Weinstein Center and led the nascent program into a period of rapid growth.

As David's own background shows, an understanding of Hebrew is fundamental in the field of Jewish studies. In recent years, CJS has embarked on the rebuilding of the UW's Hebrew program, which has a long, distinguished history dating back to the time of Professor Menachem Mansoor. This fall, Judith Sone's Hebrew 101 hit maximum capacity—an auspicious sign for our intermediate and advanced courses in the language. In the current edition of the newsletter, Judith explains the secrets to her success. The latest development in Hebrew at the UW is the creation of the Harvey L. and Barbara Myers Temkin Professorship in Modern Hebrew Literature and Language. As Harvey Temkin recounts on these pages, his decision to declare a major in Hebrew ultimately influenced the course of his life and that of his family. We at CJS are profoundly thankful to the Temkins for ensuring the future of Hebrew at the UW.

Alumni support is another element crucial for the success of CJS. Representing two generations of UW alumni, Ken Latimer (BS '66) and his son Darren (BBA '96) shared a passion for UW athletics throughout Darren's life. To honor Darren's memory since his passing in 2019, Ken has now established a new CJS lecture series on the subject of Jews and sports. Lately, the field of sports history has grown at the UW through the creation of the Allan H. ("Bud") Selig Chair in the History of Sport and Society, housed in the History Department. With Ken's gift to CJS, distinguished speakers will illuminate the role that Jews have played in that history. Thank you, Ken, for your generosity and dedication to the Center for Jewish Studies.

Amid all the developments at CJS since its founding, a source of continuity has been our annual Greenfield Summer Institute. After a hiatus in 2020, Greenfield returned in 2021 in the form of an online conference. In 2022, we plan to offer it in person again. Mark your calendars for July 11–14, when we will gather in Madison to discuss this year's topic, "The Jewish Family." I hope to see you there.



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

Please Consider Giving to CJS

The Center for Jewish Studies depends on your generosity. Please consider making a gift by mail or online. Your donation will go to programs that enhance the understanding and appreciation of Jewish life for students and the public.

By mail: Use the pre-addressed envelope inside this newsletter. Make your check payable to "UW Foundation" and write in the memo line "Jewish Studies Excellence Fund."

Or visit this webpage:
supportuw.org/giveto/cjsnews

CJS Welcomes the Musical Duo Tsvey Brider

This fall we were delighted to invite the Madison community to our first in-person event in more than a year: a night of live music with the songwriting duo Tsvey Brider ("Two Brothers"), consisting of vocalist Anthony Mordechai Tzvi Russell and his instrumental accompanist, Dmitri Gaskin.

Performing on October 28 in the UW-Madison's splendid new Hamel Music Center, Tsvey Brider treated the audience to a unique compilation of songs drawing on Yiddish and African American idioms and styles. Russell's rich operatic bass, accompanied by Gaskin on accordion and piano, explored a range of sometimes joyous, sometimes poignant emotions reflecting the experiences of these two cultural traditions. Between sets, the performers paused for onstage conversation with Professor Sunny Yudkoff (Jewish Studies and German, Nordic, and Slavic+ Studies) to discuss their backgrounds and artistic influences. In accordance with the COVID policy of the University and Dane County, both the audience and the performers were required to wear protective face masks, with the exception of Russell while singing.

Tsvey Brider was formed in 2017 after Russell and Gaskin won *Der Idisher Idol*, an American Idol-inspired competition held at the biannual International Festival of Composition and Interpretation of Yiddish Songs in Mexico City. The

two have since gone on to perform in culture and music festivals all over the United States and abroad, including Carnegie Hall's Migrations Festival in New York, a concert tour in Poland, and the Yiddish Summer Weimar Festival in Germany.

A classically trained vocalist, composer, and arranger, Russell gravitated toward Yiddish art and folk song after converting to Judaism. His work in traditional Ashkenazi Jewish musical forms led to an exploration of his ethnic roots through the research, arrangement, and performance of African American musical traditions. The result was his album *Convergence* (2018), a collaboration with the klezmer trio Veretski Pass. He lives in Massachusetts.

Dmitri Gaskin is an accomplished accordionist, pianist, composer, and arranger specializing in klezmer and Romanian folk music. Winner of the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers' Morton Gould Young Composer Award for a contemporary classical composition, Gaskin also formed Harmonikos, a performing collective of young composers and musicians. He lives in California.

The concert was co-sponsored by the Department of Afro-American Studies, the Mayrent Institute for Yiddish Culture, the Department of German, Nordic, and Slavic+, and the School of Music.

"A bittersweet layering of the creativity, beauty, political courage, and solidarity exhibited by both Eastern European Jews and Black communities in the United States."

— Leah Reis-Dennis, review of Anthony Russell's album *Convergence* in *In Geveb: A Journal of Yiddish Studies*



Tsvey Brider at the Hamel Music Center

Student News

Sophomore Rachel Hale Reflects on the Jewish Commitment to Social Justice



Rachel Hale

When Rachel Hale (left) began college at the UW-Madison last year, she discovered a wealth of opportunities for expanding her knowledge of Jewish studies. In recognition of her accomplishments, Rachel has received our Bachman Award, established by Rabbi Andrew Bachman (BA '87) to support outstanding research and coursework on Jewish identity and its relationship to social justice. Last summer, she served as a news intern at *The Forward*. Now a sophomore, she is a College Writing Fellow for Alma, a feminist Jewish culture site and online community.

Below, Rachel reflects on how her experience at the UW has deepened her understanding of Jewish principles and her own Jewish identity.

Embracing the Values of *Tikkun Olam* and *Tzedakah* at the UW-Madison and Beyond

By Rachel Hale

Certificate student in Jewish Studies; double major in Journalism and Political Science

What makes me most proud to be Jewish is not our historic religious texts, the cultural traditions passed down from generation to generation, or even our connection to the Jewish homeland of Israel. To me, the Jewish commitment to social justice is the guiding principle of how I help others, lead, and learn. Values of *tikkun olam* and *tzedakah* teach that justice is not simply how things turn out, but how they should rightfully be, and this is the commitment I make as a student, journalist, and member of the UW-Madison community.

At the UW-Madison I have found a variety of ways to develop my Jewish identity. Last spring I headed a policy memo, published in the undergraduate journal *Sifting and Winnowing*, calling for Wisconsin to adopt antisemitism education. Most significantly, I took on a semester-long political science analysis on the correlation of economic and political factors on the rate of antisemitism in Western Europe. These projects culminated in my receipt of Wisconsin's Outstanding First-Year Freshman Award, where I was recognized for my commitment to our Jewish community on campus. My interest in these topics was also an important factor in my decision to pursue a Jewish Studies certificate. Through Chabad and Hillel, I take part in shabbat dinners, educational events, and courses.

As a journalist, I am inspired by Jewish values of truth and learning, and work to take every story I cover from an intersectional angle that considers race, religion,

gender, sexuality, disability, and income. My previous experience as editor-in-chief of my high school newspaper and my writing as a BBYO Press Corps reporter helped me jump into the publication scene in Madison, where I became *Moda Magazine's* only freshman editor. As their Culture Editor, I have used my inclination toward social justice in articles such as "The Hidden Villain of Your Childhood Story," which discusses the antisemitism ingrained in our childhood fables. My article "Did the 'Magic School Bus' Reboot Make Ms. Frizzle Less Jewish?", written for the national Jewish publication *Alma*, delved into the whitewashing of the show's characters, including Ms. Frizzle's predominantly Jewish features. On a related theme, I recently published a piece in *Coveteur* on how learning to love my natural curls helped me embrace my own Jewish identity.

Growing up in a predominantly Christian suburb with few Jewish youth group opportunities and even fewer Jewish friends, I never expected to become a Jewish Studies minor in college. Yet since coming to the UW-Madison last fall, I've taken courses in Jewish history and literature, written op-eds on the harm of Holocaust comparisons, and proposed legislation to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. My connection to social justice issues is not just part of my Judaism. It is the guiding factor of my identity—one that will only continue to flourish over the rest of my time as a Badger and well into the future.

After teaching Hebrew online in 2020–21, lecturer Judith Sone is happy to be back in the classroom, with record enrollments in Hebrew 101. Below, she reflects on last year's challenges.

How did you modify your methods when the UW moved to remote instruction? I usually rely heavily on the blackboard for teaching new concepts. When I started teaching remotely, I moved to using the online whiteboard function in Zoom, with a fair bit of success. I also used the chat function to write down words for students as needed. I really needed to re-think everything, and to find new ways of teaching things I had taught many times before. This was a good challenge for me. I researched online tools and experimented with new ways of teaching.

What resources did you consult in considering how best to teach Hebrew remotely? I attended some extremely helpful workshops and trainings offered by the UW-Madison Language Institute, Middlebury College, and the National Association for Hebrew Teachers in North America. I consulted list serves on an ongoing basis, and I spoke with colleagues in Jewish Studies and other programs about what was working well for them. For help with the technical aspects, I consulted with the Learning Support Services unit of Letters and Science.

What challenges did remote instruction present when it came to developing students' proficiency in reading, writing, understanding, and conversing in Hebrew? The biggest challenge for first-semester Hebrew was teaching students how to write script as opposed to typing (which uses a different set of letters). Writing on the online whiteboard with the drawing pen was hard and messy, so I usually typed. This meant that students didn't get much practice with reading script letters. Conversing was also more challenging, so I needed to be more creative with it. Group work usually provides a great forum for conversation. When I'm teaching in person, I have the

students walk around the class and talk to each other using the vocabulary or grammar just learned. Doing this online was much more challenging and felt less natural.

What do you think students missed most about in-person instruction? Students missed the sense of community that is formed in Hebrew classes, and which is usually reported by students as a highlight of the class. Language classes are small relative to large lectures, and students usually get to know each other well and work together even outside of class. Social connections were harder to achieve online.

Is there any aspect of remote instruction that you might want to continue even after the pandemic is over and you're back in the classroom? Absolutely. There are online learning tools that I would hope to continue to use for project-based activities and for oral expression. I've had students record themselves in the past, but online I did much more of this, and it was successful.

So what's your overall assessment of remote teaching last year? My students had good attendance, were engaged, and kept their cameras on, which I really appreciated. I was impressed with how much progress students were able to make online with consistent effort.

What's it like to be back in the classroom again? I'm thrilled to be back in the classroom, and the students seem to be as well. There's an energy and excitement to learning a language in person, together. I'm reminded daily of why I love teaching, and of how important all the conversations, peer interactions, and student-instructor interactions are when they can happen naturally in the target language.

"I'm thrilled to be back in the classroom, and the students seem to be as well. There's an energy and excitement to learning a language in person, together." — Judith Sone



Judith Sone, far right, with students at the 2019 CJS commencement celebration

Honoring CJS

Now celebrating its thirtieth year, the George L. Mosse/Laurence A. Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies owes much to its founding director, David Sorkin. Sorkin had attended the UW as an undergraduate, receiving a B.A. in 1975 with a double major in Comparative Literature and Hebrew and Semitic Studies. In 1992, a year after the Center was established, he accepted a position as the first Frances and Laurence Weinstein Professor of Jewish Studies. Sorkin is now the Lucy G. Moses Professor of Modern Jewish History at Yale University.

The blog for the George L. Mosse Program in History recently released an audio recording of a conversation between Sorkin and John Tortorice, former Director of the Mosse Program (<https://mosseprogram.wisc.edu/2021/09/30/sorkin/>), in which Sorkin reflects on his years at the UW. With thanks to Sorkin, Tortorice, current Mosse Program Director Skye Doney, and Teresa Bergen for the transcript, we are pleased to share the following excerpts. The text of this oral history has been lightly edited for clarity and continuity.

Sorkin on his experience as a high school student at the Leo Baeck Gymnasium in Haifa

John Tortorice: What year did you go to Israel?

David Sorkin: I was in Israel in 1968–'69. Right after the '67 War. It was a period of great optimism. Because of Israel's victory in the war, but also because there'd been an economic recession before the war, which the war put an end to. So it was sort of a boom time. You know, we were aware of the war of attrition along the Suez Canal, the so-called Bar Lev Line. We would hear the helicopters passing over bringing wounded soldiers to the hospitals in Haifa. But the whole issue of the status of the Palestinians, the two-state solution, that just didn't appear at that point. Israeli Arabs or Israeli Palestinians had been under military administration in Israel until 1966, from the founding of the state until '66. So that had finally been lifted, where they were no longer under a curfew, for example. So there is a moment there when they were full citizens, or at least *de jure* full citizens.

And the amazing thing was that even though Israel remained at war, as it were, you know, life within Israel was very secure. With my friends from the high school, we would go to downtown Haifa and go to a movie and walk back at midnight, and it was perfectly safe. Which was totally liberating after living on the South Side of Chicago. (laughter)

On his undergraduate years at the UW-Madison

Sorkin: I got there in September of 1970. The bombing of the Army Math Research Center was in August. And I think there was a real change after that. For one thing, I think the real intellectual ferment and the sort of intellectual commitment of figuring out the Vietnam War had already passed. I think that had taken place in the mid-'60s and into the late '60s. And by the time I got there, it was sort of, well, antiwar demonstrations were just something you did. It was part of undergraduate life. But there weren't the kinds of teach-ins and things that there had been in earlier years.

It had almost turned into what George [Mosse] would teach about ritual and symbols. You know? It was ritualistic. There were symbols. There were chants. There was a strong feeling of solidarity. But there wasn't that much intellectual content anymore, I think.

On Mosse as a professor

Sorkin: I first took a course in a four-semester sequence that he taught on European culture and intellectual history. And it was an exhilarating, electrifying experience. I mean, his lectures were just so brilliant. And he just seemed to know everything. And he had that, you know, relationship to the students, you know, where he would burst the bubble of all kinds of conventional pieties of left and right, of liberalism and conservatism, of Marxists and whether Maoists or Trotskyists. But he also knew about them. And he knew their history, and he knew the ins and outs of the differences between them. So, yeah, to a young undergraduate from the South Side of Chicago, he was the European professor. I mean, George was once dismayed when I told him that. He said, "But I was an American professor!" I said, "No, you weren't, George." (laughs)

Tortorice: Yeah. He would say that he was the most American person he'd ever met. Well, okay. He was right in certain ways. Yeah, I mean, that whole effort to get students to think critically.

Sorkin: Exactly.

Tortorice: That they had come in with so much ideological—

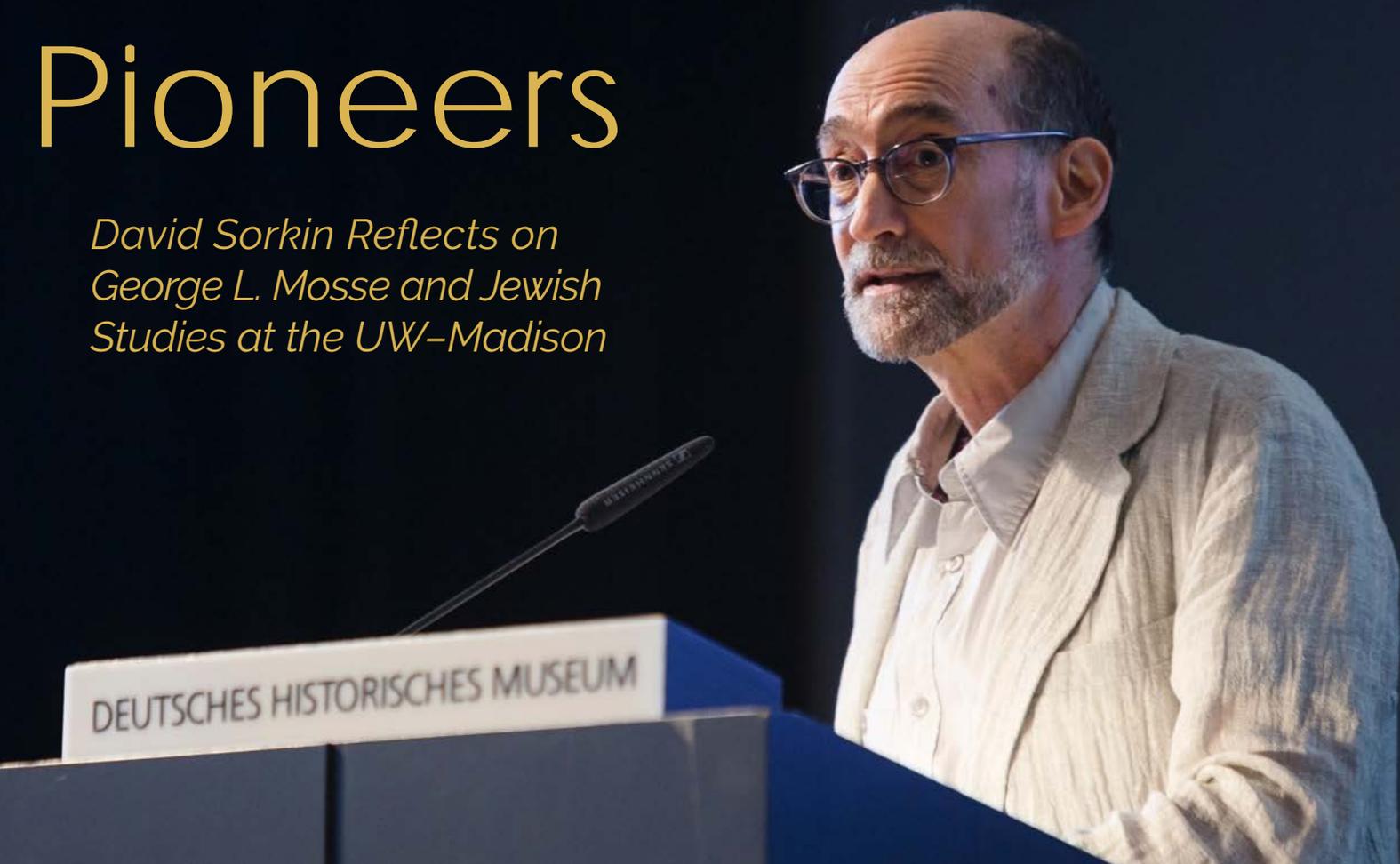
Sorkin: Baggage, exactly.



Above: John Tortorice, Shifra Sharlin (Ph.D. '06), and Sorkin at the 10th anniversary of the Mosse Program in 2010.

Pioneers

David Sorkin Reflects on George L. Mosse and Jewish Studies at the UW–Madison



Above: Sorkin speaking at the 2019 conference “Mosse’s Europe,” held at the Deutsches Historisches Museum in Berlin

On the founding of the Mosse/Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies

Sorkin: [The chancellor at the time] was Donna Shalala. And there were two circumstances that made fundraising for Jewish studies easier, or made it possible. First, the university made it an official fundraising mission. You know, there are people who have tried to fundraise for Jewish studies or Judaic studies at various universities, kind of as a rogue operation on their own. That never works. You have to have the university’s endorsement and the university’s resources through its development office. In this case, the UW Foundation. And the Foundation devoted a great deal of man hours to fundraising for Jewish studies. I certainly didn’t know how to do it and couldn’t have done it without them. And second, the timing was right. Because the university had just finished a major capital campaign. And there were standing committees of alumni in cities across the country. And the Foundation people just went to those committees and said, “Is there anyone here who would be interested in continuing working and now fundraising for Jewish studies?” And so we didn’t have to start from the ground up.

Visit the Mosse Oral History Project webpage at <https://mosseprogram.wisc.edu/oral-history/> for additional interviews. If you would like to share your own experiences about Mosse and his work, please contact Director Emeritus John Tortorice at jstortorice@gmail.com.

On Mosse’s contribution to Jewish history

Tortorice: So what do you think George’s main contribution was to history and in particular Jewish history? What do you think his main legacy is?

Sorkin: Ah. Well for George, and history in particular, George’s main contribution was to bring a broader vision. That a lot of Jewish history is written in a very narrow, parochial framework asking internal Jewish questions. Not paying much or sufficient attention to the larger historical context. And that George really brought this broad view to Jewish history. I mean, beginning as early as some of the essays in that collection, what’s it called, *Germans and Jews*, right?

Tortorice: Mm hmm. That was wonderful. Yeah.

Sorkin: You know, the influence of *völkisch* ideas on Jewish thinking. You know, where he knew so much about German history, and he knew so much about German Jewish history that he could draw connections. And a lot of Jewish historians just didn’t do that. And he also offered, I think, particularly in *German Jews Beyond Judaism*, a major alternative to the way Jewish identity in the modern world is thought about. Where he really argued that German culture, and the Jews’ attachment to German culture, had become a way of being Jewish. And a legitimate one. And that was really groundbreaking at the time.

A new edition of Mosse’s *Germans and Jews* is forthcoming in 2022.

UW Alumnus Establishes New Lecture Series on Jews and Sports

When Ken Latimer (BS '66) began his freshman year at the UW, the Badgers were enjoying a strong season that would soon carry them to the Rose Bowl. Badger football was a passion that in later years he would come to share with his son Darren. But in that fall of 1962, the joys and challenges of parenthood were still in the future, and Ken was busy exploring everything the UW had to offer.

Coming to Madison from Lincolnwood, Illinois, he started out living in a rooming house on Henry Street with a Jewish friend from high school. The place was so poorly maintained that the *Daily Cardinal* featured the two freshmen in a front-page story on the student housing shortage. "It was a dump," Ken recalls, "but we loved it because we had total and complete freedom for the first time in our lives." What he really wanted, though, was to join a fraternity. In those days prospective members were required to apply to a minimum number of houses, which would stamp and sign cards as evidence of the effort. Although he visited a number of fraternities during the rush period, Ken noticed that his only invitations were from the four Jewish ones: Pi Lambda Phi, Alpha Epsilon Pi, Phi Sigma Delta, Zeta Beta Tau. "That's when I realized there was still a big

distinction between Jewish and non-Jewish students," Ken recalls. He decided to pledge ZBT and was a member all four years.

Ken loved his courses, which included European history with George L. Mosse. In

Mosse's class, Ken recalls,

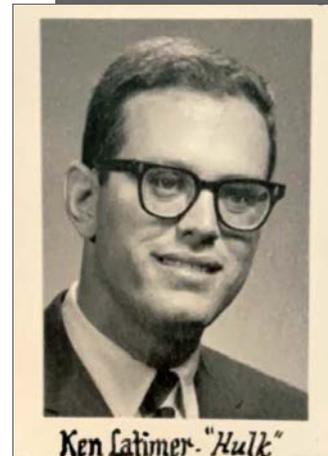
"the fraternity boys stood out," marked by their traditional collegiate clothing and

Bass Weejuns. Inspired in part by Mosse's teaching, he decided to major in History. He minored in English, with a concentration in American literature and public speaking. In his senior year, when tensions over the Vietnam War began to polarize the campus, Ken was elected to the left-leaning student senate, but he considered himself "sort of in the middle" politically. "There were student groups who wanted to suppress speech," he recalls. "I thought that wasn't right, preventing other people from the opportunity to make their own decision. It pushed me more to the conservative bent. But I respect other people's point of view."

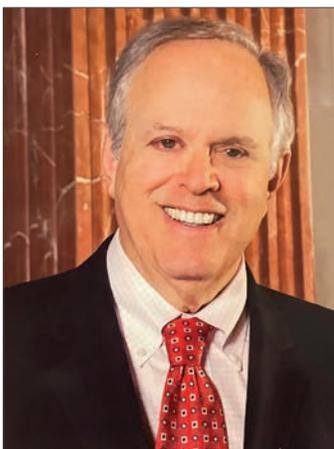
After graduating, Ken went on to George Washington University Law School and then settled with his wife, Carole, in Chicago, where he got a job with a small law firm. In 1985 he joined another firm, and in 1999, he and other partners established a Chicago office of a Philadelphia-based firm, Duane Morris. The branch they founded now has over sixty lawyers and about a hundred employees. Outside of work, he served as president of a Jewish organization in the Chicago area. In recent years, he learned about the Mosse/Weinstein Center through Richard Roberts, a friend from ZBT days. Today, both are active members of our Board of Visitors.

Two of the Latimers' three children (son Cary and daughter Wendy) attended the University of Michigan, while Darren followed Ken's path to the UW, graduating in 1996 with a BBA and meeting his future wife, Allison (née Lindner, BS '96). In 2019, Darren passed away at the age of forty-four after a fourteen-year battle with brain cancer.

Like Ken, Darren was a proud Badger and an avid fan of UW athletics. To honor his memory, his family and friends have decided to establish a new lecture series on the theme of Jews and sports. In the coming years, the Mosse/Weinstein Center looks forward to offering a variety of talks and other events about Jewish athletes and Jews who have played significant roles in athletics—a unique legacy of Darren's and Ken's passion for sports and love of the UW-Madison.



In Ken's yearbook photo he appears with his nickname.



BOV member Ken Latimer

New Professorship in Hebrew Language and Literature



As undergraduates at the UW in the 1970s, Harvey Temkin (BA '74) and Barbara Myers (BSE '75) each had strong ties to the Department of Hebrew and Semitic Studies. Since then, modern Hebrew has been offered through the Center for Jewish Studies. With the creation of the Harvey L. and Barbara Myers Temkin Professorship in Hebrew Language and Literature, we will be able to expand our Hebrew program and offer a full menu of courses in literature, all the way to the advanced level taught in the original language. Below, Harvey shares his reflections on what Hebrew has meant in the Temkins' lives.

Harvey Temkin (BA '74)

Bringing Advanced Hebrew Literature Back to the UW-Madison

By Harvey Temkin

In May 1969, I was finishing my junior year of high school. Growing up in Madison, my Jewish involvement at the time was nil. The world around me, especially in Madison, was in turmoil as a result of the Vietnam War. Everything seemed bleak.

As the semester came to an end, I started thinking about what I was going to do for the summer. Since my sister was in Israel finishing her junior year abroad, I briefly contemplated going to Israel. I recall the moment I made up my mind. Driving home from downtown one Saturday evening after being out with friends, I struggled getting to the west side. Most of the downtown streets were blocked for no apparent reason. It turns out that I had unknowingly driven through the first Mifflin Street block party. My parents were still awake when I arrived home and were unusually happy to see me. For some reason, I found myself asking my parents how they would feel about sending me to Israel for the summer.

They nearly fell out of their chairs. Their Jewishly lost son was talking about doing something Jewish. My parents were thrilled.

First thing Monday morning, my mother set out trying to find a way of getting me to Israel. One of her first calls was to the UW's Department of Hebrew and Semitic Studies to see if they might know of such a program. The department's long-time secretary, Agnes Rapp, explained that the department itself was offering such a program from June to August 1969, combining touring Europe and Israel with an ulpan during the six weeks in Israel. Although I was still in high school, Professor Mansoor, the

founder and chairperson of the department, allowed me to participate. That summer I earned my first eight college credits. I had a wonderful experience and came away with a love for Israel that persists to this day.

Ultimately, when I began my full-time studies at the University, I took all of the Hebrew courses that the department offered. At that time, the UW had one of the finest Hebrew departments in the country, offering Hebrew literature courses (in the original tongue) taught by Israeli scholars and authors that Professor Mansoor coaxed to come to Madison.

I received my bachelor of arts degree in 1974 with a major in Hebrew. While I ultimately went to law school and began practicing law, Barbara and I frequently traveled with our kids to Israel, where my Hebrew served me well. That summer of 1969 was not only a game changer for me; it also influenced Barbara's and our three sons' ties to Israel. All in our family have a strong attachment to Israel, nurtured over the years. One of our sons went to graduate school in Israel and made aliyah. He now lives on a kibbutz with his wife and their two boys.

Several years ago, Barbara and I began discussing the idea of bringing advanced Hebrew literature back to the UW. CJS Director Tony Michels and Development Director Rebekah Sherman of the UW Foundation helped us to actualize our goal of establishing a professorship that will attract a leading scholar of Hebrew literature. Through the new Temkin Professorship, we have found a way of deepening our close and enduring ties to Israel.

Events

Looking Back at Greenfield 2021 ... and Forward to Greenfield 2022

The brainchild of Lawrence (Larry) Greenfield (BS '56, 1936–2003), the Greenfield Summer Institute is made possible by his generosity and that of his wife Roslyn (Ros), an honored guest at each year's conference. We look forward to seeing Ros and all Greenfield participants in July!



Dr. Britt Tevis (University of Pennsylvania) spoke on the topic "Jewish Lawyers and Judicial Politics."

GEORGE L. MOSSE/LAURENCE A. WEINSTEIN
CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES

TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL
Greenfield Summer Institute

**Jews and Politics:
America, Israel, Europe**

July 19-22, 2021
University of Wisconsin–Madison



CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES
Greenfield Summer Institute
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MADISON

This past July, the Center for Jewish Studies presented the Greenfield Summer Institute online for the first time in the Institute's twenty-one-year history. Focusing on the theme "Jews and Politics: America, Israel, Europe," the conference took up such timely questions as:

- What's behind the recent political deadlock in Israel?
- If economic self-interest drives political choice, why have affluent American Jews overwhelmingly favored the more liberal political party?
- Why has Zionism become such a problem for the Left?

This year's Institute featured renowned scholars from the UW and beyond, including Susie Linfield (New York University), Annie Polland (Tenement Museum), David Sorkin (Yale University), and Kenneth Wald (University of Florida).

In a survey taken after the conference, most attendees said that they appreciated the opportunity to participate online, and several noted that it went more smoothly than they had anticipated. For some, the virtual format made it possible to attend Greenfield at a point in their lives when advancing age or illness would have made it challenging to attend in person. Participants also mentioned that they enjoyed chatting with each other between sessions and renewing old acquaintances. Overall, however, respondents felt that the online format could not duplicate the social aspect of the Institute.

In 2022, we will hold the Greenfield Institute in person again, as in years past, in Grainger Hall on the UW–Madison campus. Focusing on "The Jewish Family," the conference will explore that theme from a variety of perspectives—historical, cultural, and sociological. Mark your calendars for July 11–14, and keep a lookout for updates on the Greenfield page of our website (cjs.wisc.edu/greenfield/).

Faculty Updates

Michael Bernard-Donals has been appointed as Executive Director of the Center for Teaching and Research in Writing, a new initiative in the English Department to coordinate its writing programs and develop a research center with a focus on writing and the teaching of writing.

Chad Goldberg's essay "The Jewish Stranger in Germany and America" was published in *The Stranger in Early Modern and Modern Jewish Tradition*, edited by Catherine Bartlett and Joachim Schlör (Boston: Brill, 2021). The chapter is based on a paper he presented at an international conference on "Jews and Strangers" at Leo Baeck College, London, UK. In July, he agreed to serve a second three-year term on the academic advisory committee for the Israel Institute for Advanced Studies.

Tony Michels taught a course on the history of Yiddish culture at the National Yiddish Book Center. In recent months, he has spoken on antisemitism in contemporary America at Stanford University, the University of Minnesota, and the Center for Jewish History in New York City. Most recently, he participated in a discussion of the documentary film *Soros* at the Nashville Jewish Film Festival.

Steven Nadler has been named Vilas Research Professor. His latest book is *Why Bad Thinking Happens to Good People: How Philosophy Can Save Us from Ourselves* (with Larry Shapiro, Princeton University Press, 2021).

Sunny Yudkoff published a bibliography on Abraham Sutzkever in the *Oxford Bibliography in Jewish Studies*. In addition, she co-organized a seminar entitled "Sights of Yiddish" at the 2021 meeting of the Association for Jewish Studies.



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