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Introducing CJS Director
Jordan Rosenblum

When Jordan Rosenblum came to UW-Madison as an assistant professor in 2008, he recalls being awed by his senior colleagues in the Center for Jewish Studies. “Sitting around the table kibbitzing,” he says, “were scholars whose names I had previously known from reverent footnotes in many of the books and articles I had read during my undergraduate and graduate training. To say I was intimidated would be an understatement.”

Last August, Rosenblum (Belzer Professor of Classical Judaism and Max and Frieda Weinstein-Bascom Professor of Jewish Studies) took over the helm as CJS Director from Tony Michels (George L. Mosse Professor of American Jewish History), who served for two three-year terms.

Rosenblum brings to the role a wealth of experience in teaching, research, and administrative leadership. Holding a joint appointment in Jewish Studies and Religious Studies, he teaches rabbinic literature, ancient Mediterranean religions, and religious studies theory and method. Rosenblum’s courses include the popular “Religion and Sexuality,” which explores the understanding of sexuality in the religions of the ancient Greeks, Romans, rabbinic Jews, and early Christians.

A native of Long Island, Rosenblum has embraced life in the Midwest. As the father of an avid hockey player, Rosenblum continues to explore Wisconsin, he says, “one hockey rink at a time!”

Prior to earning his Ph.D. in Religious Studies from Brown University, Rosenblum received an M.A. in Jewish Studies from Emory University, a B.A. in Religion from Columbia University, and a B.A. in Ancient Judaism from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. A scholar of rabbinic Judaism, he focuses on the development and evolution of the kosher laws (kashrut). Rosenblum has written three books (most recently, Rabbinic Drinking: What Beverages Teach Us about Rabbinic Literature) and four co-edited volumes. His next book, Forbidden: A 3,000 Year History of Jews and the Pig, will be published in the fall by New York University Press. Often invited to share his scholarship at other institutions, he has set himself a goal to give a lecture in every state of the union. Thus far, he has spoken in 28 states.

Before becoming CJS Director, Rosenblum served as Director of Religious Studies (2016-2019) and Chair of the Department of Art History (2019-2022), among other committee assignments at the departmental and university level. “In each of these assignments,” he notes wryly, “I have found that my training in Talmud is quite helpful in parsing university regulations and crafting policies.”

As CJS Director, Rosenblum wants to focus on growing our undergraduate course offerings and the undergraduate experience in general. “My pie-in-the-sky goal,” he explains, “is for every undergraduate at UW to take at least one Jewish Studies course during their time in Madison.”

“After fifteen years in Madison,” Rosenblum reflects, “I am more committed than ever to the value and opportunity that a top-notch public education affords to our students and our community at UW-Madison. CJS plays an integral role in this value and opportunity. I look forward to working with all Badgers, near and far, to continue to grow and strengthen the Mosse/Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies.”
In the face of frequent adversity, how have Jewish communities managed to survive—and sometimes thrive—across the ages? At this year’s Greenfield Summer Institute, speakers from UW and beyond will join us in Madison to consider the many answers to this question. Focusing on the theme “Jews and Resilience,” the conference will explore how Jews have managed to sustain their culture, religion, values, and livelihoods in a turbulent world.

The Greenfield Summer Institute is an annual gathering that reflects the Center’s commitment to lifelong learning. Each July, adult learners from around the country come together in the comfortable setting of Grainger Hall for four days of lectures by leading scholars in Jewish studies. A daily continental breakfast and an afternoon snack break afford opportunities to chat with speakers and fellow attendees. Within each year’s theme, the topics at Greenfield are far-ranging. Here’s a sampling of this year’s lectures:

“Innovate or Die”: Constructive Responses to Crisis in Jewish History
Back by popular demand, Lauren B. Strauss (American University) explores four cataclysmic moments from ancient times to the present, unearthing a thread of ingenuity that has preserved the Jewish character, even as it has challenged fundamental aspects of Jewishness.

Lost and Found: The Resilience of the Ten Lost Tribes in the Medieval Jewish Imagination
David Shyovitz (Northwestern University) examines stories of the “Ten Lost Tribes”—ancient Israelites who had been conquered, dispersed, and ostensibly lost to history during biblical times—and what they reveal about Jewish resilience.

Plague, Persistence, and Piety: Disease and Jewish Resilience in Early Modern Europe
Joshua Teplitsky (University of Pennsylvania) shows how Jews negotiated their fates amid epidemics of plague.

Tenement Resilience
Annie Polland (Tenement Museum) looks at the community networks, religious rituals, and cultural outlets that helped 20th-century Jewish immigrants to weather the challenges of their new life in New York.

From ‘Haus Doranna’ to ‘The Woman in Gold’: The Restitution of Jewish Property in Austria after the Holocaust
Lisa Silverman (University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee) discusses the issues that Jews faced when attempting to obtain restitution of their and their loved ones’ art and property after the Holocaust.

Ethnicity and Resilience in 1950s Israel
Aziza Khazzoom (Indiana University Bloomington) describes the hopes, disappointments, and strength of Polish and Iraqi Jewish women who immigrated to Israel in the 1950s.

In the Aftermath of Trauma: Risk, Resilience, and PTSD
Valerie Maine (Madison Veterans’ Hospital) discusses risks and protective factors that contribute to resilience or the onset of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder in the aftermath of trauma.

In addition to lectures, the schedule also includes a screening of Black Honey, a 2018 film directed by Uri Barbash that recounts the extraordinary life of the Yiddish poet and resistance fighter Avraham Sutzkever (1913–2010). Bringing together rare footage with Sutzkever’s own words, Black Honey reveals how his life-affirming poetry became a source of strength and vitality amid the darkest times.

Greenfield Institute 2024: “Jews and Resilience”
Come to the UW–Madison for Four Days of Learning and Socializing

The Greenfield Institute is made possible through the generosity of Larry and Roslyn Greenfield.
Nearly fifty years after conceiving *Airplane*, UW alumni David Zucker, Jim Abrahams, and Jerry Zucker recount the story of the movie’s creation in a new book. Published last fall, *Surely You Can’t Be Serious: The True Story of Airplane* describes their collaboration on the iconic disaster-film parody and a string of other comedies that include *Top Secret* and *The Naked Gun*.

Abrahams and the Zucker brothers share Milwaukee roots and Jewish backgrounds. The Zuckers’ parents were active members of several Jewish organizations. Abrahams’ father played a role in the formation of the Wisconsin Society for Jewish Learning. His paternal grandfather had emigrated from Russia in the late 19th century and became the only Orthodox rabbi in northern Wisconsin. Abrahams himself was an early member of the CJS Board of Visitors and generously devoted his skills at the time to promoting the Center in a 1995 video (now viewable on YouTube: www.youtube.com/watch?v=jbe0s7h76b8).

The Zuckers got their first taste of filmmaking while attending UW. In David’s junior year he cast Jerry in a short film for an introductory course on radio, television, and film. Their film was the lone comedy alongside other students’ more serious projects (“all very esoteric studies of light and shadow,” as David recalls in the book). Screened in a lecture hall, it played to an enthusiastic audience of 600 students. After that success, Jerry explains, “We were hooked!”

Although Abrahams also attended UW in the late 1960s, the collaboration known as “ZAZ” was born only after all three had finished college and returned to Milwaukee. There they had known each other previously through their fathers, who were business associates. Soon after renewing their acquaintance, Zucker, Abrahams, and Zucker remain close. In writing their recent book, Abrahams recalls, they fell right back into the same work pattern that had resulted in *Airplane* and other movies. “We’d get to work in the morning, have coffee, procrastinate, and then start writing. In those days we used carbon paper. I was the designated typist because I could type at least 15 words a minute.”

Asked if there is anything specifically Jewish in their humor, Abrahams points to the scene in *Airplane* where a passenger asks for light reading and the flight attendant produces a tiny leaflet entitled “Famous Jewish Sports Legends.” As Abrahams explains, “If you’re a Jew and laugh at that joke, you don’t take yourself too seriously. And if you can laugh at yourself, that’s a healthy laugh.”
When freshman Samuel Nenide was working out his class schedule last fall, he factored in one consideration that most students don’t: He wanted to include a course his grandparents could take with him.

Samuel’s grandparents, Irina and Yefim Shklyar, immigrated to the United States from Belarus in 1994. Since moving to Madison from Milwaukee about five years ago, they have regularly attended courses through the UW’s program for Senior Guest Auditors. Operated by the Office of Adult Career and Special Student Services, the program allows Wisconsin residents aged 60 and older to audit certain courses for free.

This past fall, as Samuel began his first semester of college, the Shklyars were delighted when he proposed a course they could all take together. After browsing through the offerings open to senior auditors, Samuel decided on “Jewish Law, Business, and Ethics.” Taught by Jordan Rosenblum (Belzer Professor of Classical Judaism, Max and Frieda Weinstein-Bascom Professor of Jewish Studies, Professor of Religious Studies, and Director of the Center for Jewish Studies), the course explores issues that range from ethical practices in agriculture to the operations of a modern multibillion-dollar kosher industry.

“IT’S AMAZING,” says Irina, “THAT ONE OF THE BEST UNIVERSITIES IN THE COUNTRY OFFERS JEWISH STUDIES.”

Taking Professor Rosenblum’s course together, Samuel and his grandparents enjoyed discussing their thoughts about the assigned texts. Once, when Samuel had to miss class, his grandparents took notes for him. He returned the favor when they couldn’t attend.

The Shklyars marvel at the differences between Samuel’s college experience and their own. When they were students in the Soviet Union, they explain, their curricula were determined entirely by their respective fields of study (Irina in special education, Yefim in engineering). “It’s amazing for us that it’s possible here to choose your own classes,” Irina remarks. “And it’s amazing that one of the best universities in the country offers Jewish Studies.”

Due to the suppression of Jewish religion and culture in the Soviet Union, little knowledge of Jewish practices or belief passed from one generation to the next when Irina and Yefim were growing up. Irina recalls that although her grandmother was religious, she did not express her religion openly. “We are so glad,” she says, “that our grandchildren can be Jewish and not be afraid, that they can be proud to be Jewish.”

Yefim never knew his grandparents. “On both sides they perished during World War II. It is very special that I, as a grandfather, can participate in Samuel’s life.”

For Samuel, who has gone to synagogue since he was five, growing up Jewish has been “a completely different experience than for my grandparents.” Taking a Jewish Studies course at the UW allowed him to approach Judaism through a new lens, with attention to the development of Jewish thought over time. This year Sam is also taking Hebrew. He is planning to declare a major in Political Science and is considering a certificate in Jewish Studies.

For Irina and Yefim, taking a class with Samuel was a bright spot in an otherwise dark fall and winter. After October 7, the couple had canceled a planned trip to Israel, where they have many family and friends. Amid worries about their loved ones, they felt uplifted, Irina said, “walking into the class and seeing all these young faces—especially when one of them was our own grandson!”

Le-dor va-dor: Samuel Nenide with his grandparents, Yefim and Irina Shklyar, who audited a Jewish Studies course with him in the fall.

For information about the Senior Guest Auditors program and the types of courses that are typically available, consult the UW-Madison Office of Adult Career and Special Student Services at acsss.wisc.edu/senior-guest-auditors/
Drawing on Jewish Studies to Advocate for Justice

By Sylvia Miller (BA '24)
Double Major: Jewish Studies and Political Science
With a Certificate in Middle East Studies

My interest in the field of Jewish Studies began with the Hebrew language courses taught here by Judith Sone. I was eager to continue learning Hebrew at UW-Madison, as I had recently returned from Israel, where I had worked for the prior six months. Initially focused on Political Science, I had not yet considered Jewish Studies as a major. That changed the summer before my sophomore year, when I returned to Israel and interned at the Peres Center for Peace and Innovation in conjunction with an internship course in the Department of Political Science. My summer at the Peres Center showed me firsthand how a career in politics and policy can intersect with Jewish Studies, broadening my understanding of its academic importance. Prior to this experience, my perception of Judaism was confined to a personal interest; I was oblivious to its real-world significance and applicability to my future career plans.

My time in the region and independent study stoked my interest in Israeli politics, including the Israeli-Arab and Israeli-Palestinian conflicts. Focusing on a regional area of study, particularly the Middle East, has been incredibly fulfilling. I hold a certificate in Middle Eastern Studies and have taken many courses that have allowed me to explore this region more deeply, many of which intersect with subjects in Jewish Studies. My engagement and pursuits in Political Science are just one facet of my interest in Jewish Studies, but these experiences have enriched my understanding of the global landscape, teaching me the nuances of international relations and cultural dynamics.

I benefited immensely from my courses with Professor Tony Michels (George L. Mosse Professor of American Jewish History). In his seminar “Blacks and Jews in Urban America,” I had the opportunity to engage in meaningful conversations with fellow undergraduates and master’s students. These discussions enhanced my understanding of the subject and improved my communication and critical thinking skills. I am grateful for the opportunity to have learned from my peers in this course, and I appreciate how Professor Michels was always willing to discuss the subject matter further outside of class.

Through my Jewish studies courses, I have come to grasp more fully the challenges, persecution, and discrimination Jews have faced from the Middle Ages to modern times. Learning about the injustices against Jews and analyzing persisting antisemitism, I have been motivated to fight against hatred. This inspired me to volunteer at JustDane, a non-profit agency that offers services for individuals and families involved in the criminal justice system. Similarly, through my leadership at Cafe Israel, which began as a group to stay informed about Israeli current events and transitioned to one of support for students dealing with antisemitism on campus, my Jewish Studies education has proven invaluable.

The power of Jewish Studies is further reflected in my current internship with the organization Courtroom 600, where I am working in conjunction with an independent study course in Jewish Studies. Courtroom 600 teaches the lessons of the Nuremberg Trials by exploring its educational and historical aspects and its impact on global conflicts of today. This experience, coupled with my Jewish Studies work, has inspired me to consider careers focused on combating antisemitism and preserving Jewish history, areas where I can amplify my educational advocacy for justice.

This fall, I plan to apply for master’s programs in International Public Policy and Foreign Affairs. These plans lay the groundwork for my broader mission of helping to shape international policy and foster global understanding. Rooted in the lessons and convictions from my Jewish Studies courses, I am determined to blend my academic background with practical strategies, in future roles at think tanks, NGOs, or governmental positions where I can effect meaningful societal changes.
Jewish Studies Major Attends Yiddish Program in Warsaw

Growing up in Monsey, New York, Meira Meadows (BA ’24) was introduced to Yiddish at an early age. Although her family spoke English at home, the classes at the Hasidic school she attended were conducted in Yiddish, and that language was widely spoken throughout the community. After moving to Milwaukee at age ten, however, Meira would not have another opportunity to immerse herself in Yiddish for a decade.

In the fall of 2022, Meira transferred here from UW–Milwaukee, where she had begun pursuing a Jewish Studies major online. At UW–Madison, she was happy to be able to take all her courses in person. In addition to Hebrew and other subjects required for our major, she took Professor Sunny Yudkoff’s “Yiddish Literature and Culture in Europe.” This course, she explains, “completely changed my idea of how much Jewish culture is still locked inside Yiddish and inaccessible to us.”

But while the Jewish Studies program at UW-Madison has rich offerings in Yiddish literature, culture, and history, we have not yet been able to offer any courses in the Yiddish language. (We hope to do so in the future.) To unlock the door to that aspect of the Jewish experience, Meira needed to find a program where she could learn Yiddish during the summer.

Through Ri Turner, a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of History, Meira learned about the International Summer Seminar in Yiddish Language and Culture. Offered by the Center for Yiddish Culture in Warsaw, Poland, the month-long seminar is open to students of all ages and from all parts of the world. Ri herself had begun learning Yiddish in 2012 through the Boston Workmen’s Circle (now called the Workers’ Circle). After earning a B.A. in Anthropology from Cornell University, Ri began to reflect on her own experience from an anthropological perspective and made a realization. “Yiddish was missing,” she felt, “from the whole American Jewish self-conception. Our own families were deleted from our collective memories.” After earning her B.A., Ri went on to complete an M.A. in Yiddish from the Hebrew University and an M.A. in Jewish Studies from Hebrew College in Massachusetts. It was on Ri’s recommendation that Meira decided last summer to attend the Yiddish program in Warsaw, where Ri now teaches Yiddish classes.

“When I got there,” Meira recalls, “it exceeded all my expectations.” Because the Center for Yiddish Culture is located in the old Warsaw ghetto, the history of World War II and the Holocaust was often on Meira’s mind. “In the first week my teacher took us on a tour around the city to visit spots that were important in Jewish history—monuments, and a place where the old ghetto wall still stood.” Present-day Warsaw was dramatically different than the Warsaw of the 1930s and ’40s. “The city is modern and green and wonderful,” Meira remarks. “And I found everyone very welcoming.”

Resuming her coursework last fall at the UW-Madison, Meira paused her study of Yiddish to focus on Hebrew. This summer, with the help of an Ida and Isaac Lipton Award from CJS, she will return to Warsaw for intermediate Yiddish. Upon returning to the U.S., she will begin a master’s degree in Social Work at UW–Milwaukee. In future years, she looks forward to continuing her study of Yiddish through classes at YIVO, the Workers’ Circle, and the program in Warsaw.
CLASS OF 2024

Danya Paley
Double Major in Jewish Studies and Community & Nonprofit Leadership

As a child, I went to a Jewish day school and Jewish summer camp, so I was always surrounded by Judaism and knew I wanted to continue surrounding myself with it and also learn more. Majoring in Jewish Studies was a way for me to find familiarity in my classes and ease into college. Post-graduation, I am excited to begin my new position as Development and Outreach Coordinator with the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

Growing up surrounded by Judaism instilled in me the values of tzedakah and tikkun olam, and by working for an organization whose goal is to educate and advocate for the destigmatization of mental illness, I am following my Jewish values while pursuing my passion.

Lindsey Kourafas
Certificate in Jewish Studies
Major in Education Studies, with Additional Certificates in Arts and Teaching and Environmental Studies

I have been immersed in Jewish culture and community throughout my life, but I had not studied the topic in an educational setting prior to pursuing my certificate here at UW. This allowed me to connect my personal experiences with what I was learning in the classroom, and I’m thankful to have gained new perspectives on familiar ideas and for the opportunity to learn from my peers.

My favorite Jewish Studies course has been “Yiddish Literature and Culture in America,” taught by Professor Sunny Yudkoff. The arts are one of my greatest passions, and I appreciated how the class explored a diverse range of artistic mediums, including poems, plays, music, and more. The most valuable skill I learned was how to ask (and answer) good questions. Professor Yudkoff helped me grow to become a much more confident and intentional writer and expand my analytic toolbox, and I am so thankful for her support.
Olivia Seidmeyer
Certificate in Jewish Studies
Major in Political Science

I really loved Judith Sone, who teaches all of the Hebrew courses at UW. Judith is down-to-earth and always available to help when needed. Her classes were always engaging, and I enjoyed attending them. In addition, although the topic was difficult at times, I really appreciated learning the history of antisemitism. We are living in a complicated period, and having a broader view of Jewish history helped my understanding of current events.

After graduation, I will be commissioned as an officer in the US Air Force. I’ll be an Airfield Operations Officer at Wright-Patterson AFB. I hope to continue my education by going to grad school in the next couple of years. I would like to have some sort of involvement with Jewish Studies in my future education.

Yaakov Segal
Certificate in Jewish Studies
Major in Political Science

Something I’m proud of from Jewish Studies was how much I learned in my Israeli politics class, taught by Nadav Shelef. Afterwards I felt like I had a fundamental understanding of the Israeli political system, and was able to talk confidently with others about it.

One memorable experience in Jewish Studies was during my Hebrew class freshman year. It was during COVID, so everything was online, and class was canceled one day. I decided to go to the gym, and when I got there, I recognized the guy next to me from my Zoom Hebrew class. We started talking, and eventually he became one of the best friends I made in college!

I currently am not sure of my plans for the future, but I’m leaning towards Jewish education.
Leonard Cohen was once asked if his songs had become “more Jewish” over the years. Cohen replied, “My songs are always Jewish; they can’t be anything else but Jewish.” Similarly, I think that whatever academic programs I chose, I would have approached them through the lens of my Jewish identity and upbringing.

I had already completed certificates in Middle East Studies, Public Policy, and African Cultural Studies when I decided to take “Yiddish Literature and Culture in America,” taught by Professor Sunny Yudkoff. One of my favorite readings in this class was a chapter of Alisa Solomon’s *Wonder of Wonders* about a production of *Fiddler on the Roof* set in a Brooklyn school with primarily African American and Puerto Rican students. Even though this production happened in 1968, many of the themes are just as relevant now. This was the moment when I decided to take more Jewish Studies courses, and I am immensely grateful to Professor Yudkoff for inspiring me to continue in the field.

My favorite class was “King David in History and Tradition.” The course was built on understanding the King David story, and then reading and watching modern adaptations of the story. Every day of that class felt like binging your favorite show on Netflix, where you just want to keep hitting the next episode button. The professor, Dr. Jeremy Hutton, made all of the biblical stories come alive and gave us the tools to understand them in modern contexts. It was a stark departure from how I had normally studied Torah and was thoroughly entertaining and thought-provoking.

For our final project in “King David in History and Tradition,” we were tasked with creating an artistic representation of any scene from the Torah. I am not the most artistically adept, so I was initially a bit worried about what I would do for this project. Even with all my lengthy final papers, this project ended up being one of the works that I was most proud of during my time in Madison. I chose the biblical scene 1 Kings 1-11, where King David is dying on his throne. I chose to modernize the scene, imagining what that scene would look like today. The original text talks of King David not being able to get warm and being covered in blankets. Instead of covering him with blankets, I put a digital thermostat in the corner and set it to 20° Celsius (the story is based in Israel, after all). In the original scene, they send for Abishag the Shunammite to accompany the King, but in my version, he has the Tinder app open on his iPhone 13. This project allowed me the creative freedom that pushed me to analyze the original text, understand the scene, and ask my own questions. I think this was part of the magic of this assignment and of the course as a whole. It showed that the stories found in the Torah are living and breathing, not merely bound to the past.

After this course, I decided to take another course with Professor Hutton, “Intensive Biblical Hebrew.” Again, this class was so fun, albeit very challenging. I wish I could take the “King David in History and Tradition” course again, only this time conducting the readings of Kings 1-2 in Biblical Hebrew.

I am currently doing an internship as a Middle East analyst for the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, a think tank in Washington D.C., and may continue to work in that field in the near future. After that, I am still weighing some different options, but right now I am leaning towards completing a master’s degree in Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. My long-term goal is to attend law school and specialize in law related to Islamic Finance, a focus that would allow me to use my language and cross-cultural skills.
As antisemitism continues to rise in the U.S. and beyond, Chad Alan Goldberg (Martindale-Bascom Professor of Sociology) has devoted much of his teaching, research, and public service to the topic. Goldberg’s recent publications include “Antisemitism and American Exceptionalism: Rethinking the Place of the Postwar Era in US History,” forthcoming in the Wiley Blackwell Companion to Antisemitism in a Global Perspective. The chapter draws on the work of his CJS colleague Tony Michels (George L. Mosse Professor of American Jewish History). Goldberg co-presented a session on “Jewish Identity and Antisemitism on Campus” at the inaugural IDEAL Conference in Indianapolis in April 2024, and he will give an invited lecture at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in May 2024. Goldberg was recently selected to be the 2024 Swarsensky Scholar-in-Residence at Temple Beth El in Madison, Wisconsin; he will speak on the sociology of antisemitism in November 2024 as part of the Swarsensky Memorial Lecture Series in honor of the synagogue’s founding rabbi. Goldberg’s course “Antisemitism in European Culture, 1700–1945” drew strong enrollments last year, and he plans to offer it again in the fall.


In March, Steven Nadler (Vilas Research Professor and William H. Hay II Professor) participated in a panel at the Center for Jewish History in New York on the theme “Why Spinoza Is Still Relevant: Truth and Freedom in America Today.” This May, he will be giving a lecture at Oxford University on “Spinoza on the Unity of the Virtues.” He is also organizing a conference in Amsterdam, in collaboration with colleagues at the University of Amsterdam, on “The Rabbis of Early Modern Amsterdam: Challenges, Achievements, Legacies,” where he will present a paper titled “Menasseh ben Israel and Maimonides on Human Freedom.”

Sunny Yudkoff (Associate Professor of Yiddish Studies) will deliver the 2024 Singer Family Lecture, entitled “How to Read Leo Rosten’s Joys of Yiddish,” in the Harold Schnitzer Family Program in Judaic Studies at the University of Oregon in May. Her article “Yankev Glatshteyn and the Threat of Yiddish Joy,” will appear in the Spring 2024 issue of the Jewish Quarterly Review.

Special Thanks to Tony Michels for His Service as CJS Director

CJS offers a special thanks to Tony Michels for his outstanding service as CJS Director (2017 – 2023). Since completing his second term last August, Michels has dedicated this academic year to teaching and research. Now on sabbatical, he is finishing a book, Jews and Revolution: From the U.S. to Russia and Back, which traces American Jews’ initial hopes for the Russian revolutionary movement, their profound disappointment in it, and their eventual efforts to fulfill its ideals through other social and political means.

Michels has been a core member of CJS since 1998, when he became the George L. Mosse Professor of American Jewish History, one of two cornerstone positions that helped to establish the Mosse/Weinstein Center. Today, Michels remains as committed as ever to the Center’s educational mission. “Students take courses in Jewish Studies for one of two reasons,” he explains. “One is to examine more deeply ‘who they are’ and where they come from. The other is to learn more about a group they are not very familiar with. In both cases, students are expanding their sense of themselves and human civilization more broadly. What students will hopefully learn is that they cannot understand American history, and arguably world history, without understanding the history of the Jews.”
PLEASE GIVE TO JEWISH STUDIES AT UW-MADISON

Support is crucial to sustain and grow the Mosse/Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies. Gifts of any size are greatly appreciated. There are two ways to make a donation:

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Thank you for considering us in your giving plans this summer!

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