



SCHUSTERMAN CENTER FOR
JUDAIC & ISRAEL STUDIES
The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA

JuSt OU Annual | Volume 19 | Fall 2022



Jewish Studies on the Southern Plains

The WJSA Comes to Oklahoma | 14



Letter from Alan Levenson

Schusterman/Josey Chair in Judaic Studies

The 2021-2022 academic year found us well-acclimated to teaching while masked, and even more proficient with Zoom and its many neologisms.

We were fortunate to host the Western Jewish Studies Association annual conference during a COVID lull. We welcomed lots of folks to the Norman campus in person and many others remotely. (See details p. 16) While the WJSA was the most labor-intensive program, and thanks to Tryce Hyman a technological triumph, we hosted or co-hosted another 20-plus events, including “1700 Years of Jewish Life in German-Speaking Lands” with our colleagues in German and IAS, and an exceptionally well-attended Yedida Kalfon Stillman Memorial Lecture delivered by professor Ilan Stavans, polylingual navigator of Yiddish, Spanish, Hebrew, English, Ladino, and Spanglish. We teamed up with *World Literature Today* to add a discussion between Ilan and Robert Con David-Undiano on the last quarter-century of American and LatinX literature—an eye-opener for many of us. We teamed up with our sister Schusterman Center at UT Austin and both universities’ Native American Studies departments to host David Koffman, author of *The Jews’ Indian*. Many other events returned “live,” including our annual training day for OK teachers, in collaboration with the Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum. Partnership provided the key to keeping our events vibrant and well-attended.

We appreciated the collegiality of Dr. Hadas Cohen as the newly arrived Israel Institute Teaching Fellow. Carsten Schapkow returned from a visiting professorship at Potsdam University with his usual energy—and yet another edited volume, *Nationalism in a Transnational Age*. Ronnie Grinberg completed her much-anticipated book manuscript *Write Like A Man*. With all six of our core faculty on board, including Israel Studies Chair Rhona Seidelman teaching classes from Be’er Sheva, we achieved a fourth consecutive year of record undergraduate enrollments, and guided our first Schusterman Fellows graduate cohort to three successfully defended master’s theses, with two more candidates due up in the fall.

We have an exciting academic year planned for 2022–2023, including the YKS Lecture from noted UCLA anthropologist Aomar Boum, a panel discussion with professors Karlos K. Hill, Carsten Schapkow and Hadas Cohen on transnational perspectives on reckoning and reconciliation. The OU Schusterman Center was awarded its third Presidential Dream Course, “The Artists’ Bible,” which will feature a public lecture series in the spring.

Let me conclude this welcome by thanking our expanding circle of supporters.

Your generosity enabled a very successful OU Giving Day, and we continue to seek endowed funds to ensure courses on the Holocaust and Antisemitism are always taught at the University of Oklahoma. If you’ve been following the news, the need for this is self-explanatory. Despite headwinds, our students keep learning, our instructors keep teaching and publishing and our community stays engaging.

Enjoy this newsletter and please stay in touch, wherever you are.

Best wishes to you & yours, Alan



Update From Noam Stillman

Emeritus Professor and Founding Director

This year, things began opening up here in Israel, although many public lectures and other appearances were still on Zoom, including a conference taking place on four continents, at which I did the keynote lecture for the book launch of colleague from Cambridge in the U.K. I also gave the keynote at a conference at the Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich, this time in person, and returned to in-class

teaching at the Hebrew University this past spring, which was truly a revivifying experience after two years of teaching on Zoom. I also gave one of the opening lectures for the International Conference on Jewish Languages here in Jerusalem, and was delighted to be reunited with Alan Levenson at the World Congress of Jewish Studies, also here at the Hebrew University. I was able to finish a serious article for a Festschrift and had an introduction published in a new book in Hebrew on the Jewish community of Tetouan, Morocco, as well as a lengthy review article in the *Journal of Jewish Languages*. One of my most satisfying tasks is advising doctoral students and young post-docs here in Israel, in Morocco, France, and the US. I also still sit on one doctoral committee for Ben-Gurion University. My work as executive editor of the Encyclopedia of Jews in the Islamic World which is continually expanding in the online edition takes up a good deal of time. In short, I am still keeping occupied in retirement.

INSIDE



04 KUDOS & CONGRATULATIONS

10 STUDENT/ALUMNI NEWS

11 ELYSSA FAISON FEATURE

12 DANIEL SIMON FEATURE

14 2022 WJSA CONFERENCE AT OU

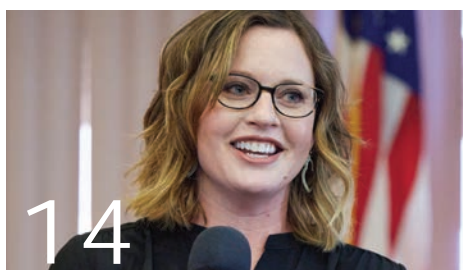
16 EVENTS

18 ABOUT THE CENTER

20 ACADEMICS

20 SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

22 SUPPORT THE CENTER



KUDOS & CONGRATULATIONS



Hadas Cohen

Hadas Cohen chaired the panel “Palestine and Israel in Regional and World Politics” at the 2022 WJSA conference here in Norman, where she also presented the paper “Sex and Berlin: Female Jewish Israeli Immigrants Between Heteronormativity

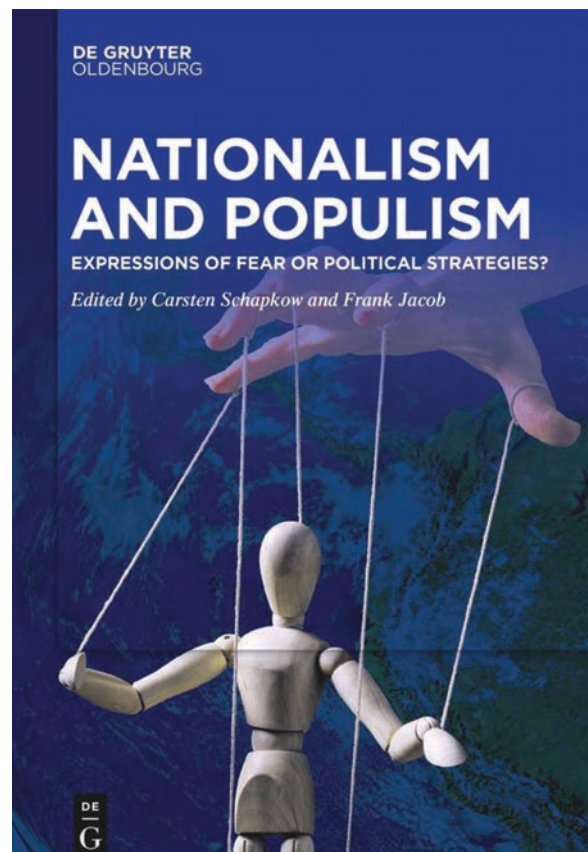
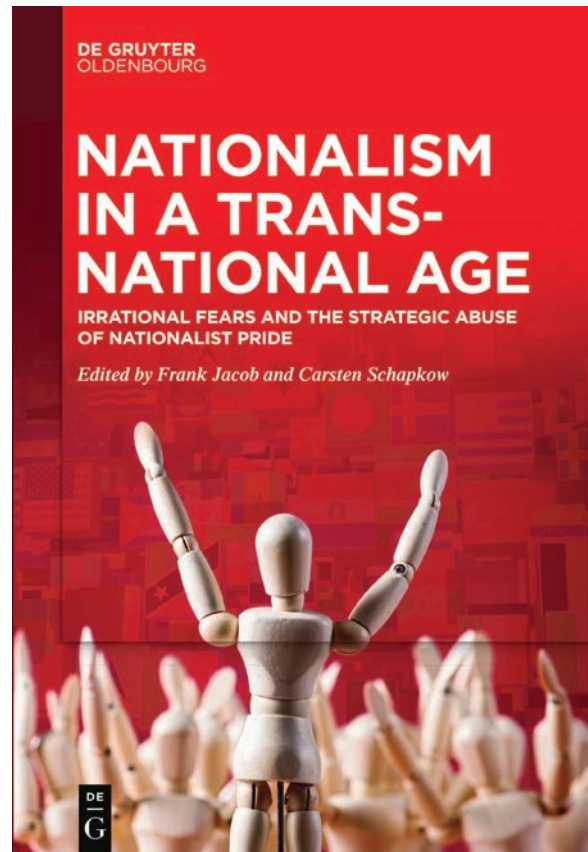
and Singlehood.” She also presented the paper “Loyalty, Belonging, and Treason: Questioning National Israeli Identity” at the 18th World Congress of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem.



Carsten Schapkow

Carsten Schapkow's edited volumes *Nationalism in a Transnational Age: Irrational Fears and the Strategic Abuse of Nationalist Pride* and *Nationalism and Populism Expressions of Fear or Political Strategies?* with co-editor Frank

Jacob, were published through De Gruyter. He co-organized the Leo Baeck Summer University “Sephardic History and Culture” conference at the Selma Stern Center for Jewish Studies Berlin-Brandenburg, co-organized with Sina Rauschenbach. Schapkow also delivered lectures at the Selma Stern Center, including: “Ernst Toller (1893-1939): A German-Jewish Life”; “Convivencia in the Mediterranean: Early Modern Perceptions, Practices, and Limits in Dealing with the Religious Other.” At the University of Potsdam, he delivered the Jewish Studies colloquium lecture “‘How Jewish is Jewish History?’ Re-Reading Moshe Rosman.” Here in Norman, Schapkow chaired the panel “New



Directions in Sephardic Studies” at the 2022 WJSA Conference and presented the paper “Iberian Sephardic History and Jewish Studies in the 21st Century.” He has also been organizing a teaching cooperation program between OU’s Department of History and the Department of Jewish Thought at the University of Potsdam. Schapkow was elected first chairman of the board for the Vereinigung für Jüdische Studien e.V. (VJS) [Association of Jewish Studies in Germany).



Misha Klein

Misha Klein published the article “Aquele Noite: o lugar da Israel imaginária na nova direita brasileira” [That Night: The Place of Imaginary Israel in the Brazilian New Right] in *Revista Antropológicas* with regular collaborator Michel Gherman. She

also presented the center’s March JuSt Lunch “Deciphering ‘Durban’: Alternative Perspectives on the World Conference Against Racism, a view from Brazil.” Klein served as a roundtable organizer and panel chair for the 16th Brazilian Studies Association conference, hosted virtually at Georgetown University, as well as presented the paper “O judeu imaginário nos horizontes políticos da Nova Direita” [The Imaginary Jew in the Political Views of the New Right]. She delivered talks for a number of virtual roundtables, workshops and panels, including: “Jews and the Idea of Jews: Ethnographic Disruptions,” American Anthropological Association meetings roundtable; “Brasil, Israel y los Judios en Tiempos de Jair Bolsonaro” [Brazil, Israel and the Jews in the Times of Jair Bolsonaro] for the Núcleo de Estudos Judíos, the Instituto de Desarrollo Económico y Social and the Centro de Investigaciones

Sociales with Michel Gherman; “The Expansion of Christian Zionism in the Global South” international workshop, organized by the Laboratory of the Anthropology of Religion, University of Campinas, Brazil, and sponsored by the International Society for the Sociology of Religion. Klein also received two awards at OU: the Robert D. Lemon Social Justice Faculty Award from the WGS Center for Social Justice and the Ed Cline Faculty Development Award from the Faculty Senate.



Shmuel Shepkaru

Shmuel Shepkaru served as chair for the panel “Comparative Jewish Law” at the 2022 WJSA Conference here in Norman, where he also presented the paper “The Art of Midrash and the Midrash of Art: Kadishman in Oklahoma.”

He also served as faculty mentor for the Provost’s Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Summer Fellowship winner Hannah Morris-Voth’s research project on Jewish and Christian literature in al-Andalus.



Daniel Simon

Daniel Simon published a new poem in *Harvard Review* from his manuscript in progress, *Under a Gathering Sky*. His translation of a French poem by Marilyne Bertoincini appeared in the May 2022 issue of *World Literature Today*, and his

co-translation of a poem by Moroccan writer Kebir Ammi was reprinted in *Le vieil homme*, which

KUDOS/CONGRATS *(continued)*

featured six translations of Ammi's French poem (Éditions Al Manar, 2021). Simon's *Nebraska Poetry* anthology was included on NPR's "50 States" summer booklist for 2022. He gave an invited Zoom talk to Rainer Schulte's translation workshop at UT Dallas, and took part in a Zoom panel discussing the Neustadt Prize sponsored by *Latin American Literature Today* and the Tulsa Artist Fellowship.



Andrew Porwancher

Andrew Porwancher received two awards for his book *The Jewish World of Alexander Hamilton* (Princeton University Press): the Independent Publisher Book Award (Silver Medal-Biography category) and the *Journal of the American Revolution*

Book-of-the-Year Award, marking the first time that a book on a Jewish topic has won this prize. Porwancher also served as the Ernest May Fellow at Harvard University, where he worked on another book, *Theodore Roosevelt and the Jews*, currently under contract with Princeton University Press. In March, Porwancher delivered the keynote lecture at the 2022 WJSA Conference here in Norman.

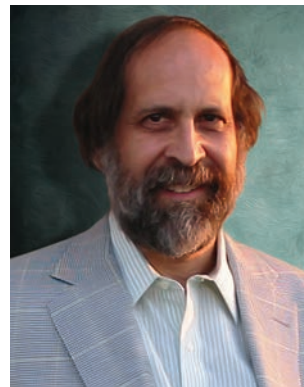


Jill Hicks-Keeton

Jill Hicks-Keeton served as a Presidential Teaching Fellow in the Honors College, and received several awards, including: the Ed Cline Faculty Development Award from the OU Faculty Senate; Faculty Investment Program (FIP)

grant from the OU Vice President for Research and Partnership's office; Senior Faculty Summer

Fellowship from the Dodge Family College of Arts and Sciences. She published articles in *Religion & Politics*, *The Revealer*, *Religion Dispatches*, *Times Higher Ed*, *Ancient Jew Review* and *The Journal for Interdisciplinary Biblical Studies*. Hicks-Keeton also delivered the plenary lunch talk "The Museum of the Bible and the Politics of Interpretation," at the 2022 WJSA conference here in Norman.



Stephen H. Norwood

Stephen Norwood was interviewed in *Times of Israel* about his 2021 book, *Prologue to Annihilation: Ordinary American and British Jews Challenge the Third Reich* (which also published on History News Network). He also delivered a JuSt

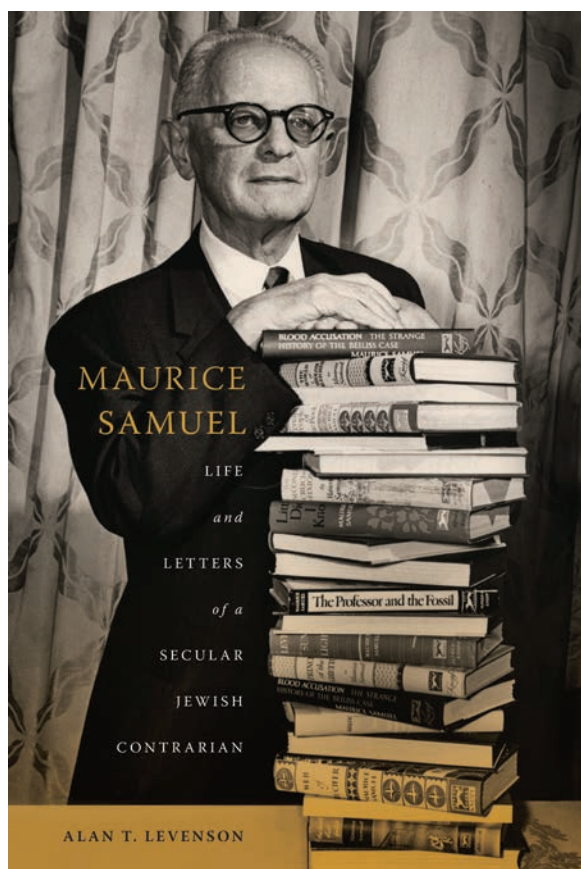
Lunch lecture on the book in February. Norwood published a number of articles, including: "Happy Dhimmis, Happy Darkeys: Myths Past & Present," coauthored with Eunice G. Pollack and published in the anthology *Poisoning the Wells: Antisemitism in Contemporary America*, edited by Corinne E. Blackmer and Andrew Pessin; "Left-Wing Antisemitism in the United States, Past & Present," appeared in October as a special publication of Israel's Institute for National Security Studies; "Communists Encounter Islamic Antisemitism and Misogyny, 1917–1957," appeared in *Modern Judaism* in February 2022; "The Quakers' Dark Side: Appeasement, Ambivalence, and Antisemitism, 1933-1939," is forthcoming in *Journal of National Resilience, Politics and Society*. Norwood presented "American Universities' Role in Legitimizing the Third Reich," at California State University in February. He also chaired the panel "Comparative Approaches to the Holocaust" at the

2022 WJSA conference here in Norman.



Alan Levenson

Alan Levenson published *Maurice Samuel: Life and Letters of a Secular Jewish Contrarian* with University of Alabama Press. He delivered several lectures locally and at the Kultznick Symposium in Omaha on “The Cosmopolitan Jewish City.” Levenson presented the paper “Maurice Samuel as Zionist: From Enthusiast to Ex-Expert” at the 18th World Congress of Jewish Studies. His essay “The Brothers’ Hatred for Joseph” was selected for the inaugural launch of the Hebrew edition of *The Torah.com*. Levenson expended most of his energy fundraising and organizing for the successful Western Jewish Studies Association conference held at OU



(March 26-28, 2022) and guiding the first cohort of Schusterman Graduate Fellows through the M.A. program. He and Yael Lavender-Smith were awarded Presidential Dream Course designation for “The Artists’ Bible,” to be offered spring 2023 along with a corresponding public lecture series to be held at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art.



Ronnie Grinberg

Ronnie Grinberg was invited to speak about the writer and conservative activist Midge Decter on “The Time of Monsters Podcast” hosted by journalist Jeet Heer for *The Nation* magazine. She also published a piece on Decter following her death in May 2022, in the *Washington Post*’s “Made By History” series. Grinberg continues working on her book on the New York intellectuals, which is forthcoming with Princeton University Press. She also chaired the panel “Modern Jewish Identities” at the 2022 WJSA conference here in Norman—her first in-person conference since the start of the pandemic. She is looking forward to reconnecting in-person with scholars and friends at future conferences and completing her book.



Luis Cortest

Luis Cortest served as the executive director for the OU-based South Central Modern Language Association, and his monograph *The Disfigured Face: Traditional Natural Law and Its Encounter with Modernity* was reissued in eBook format. Cortest

KUDOS/CONGRATS *(continued)*

presented a talk for the Medieval Fair Free Lecture Series: “Who was Spain’s Alfonso X (1252-84) and Why Did People Remember Him for Hundreds of Years after His Death?,” and presented the paper “Jews, the Holy Language and the Sixteenth-Century Polyglot Bibles” at the 2022 WJSA conference here in Norman.

Ori Kritz chaired the panel “The Rebirth of



Ori Kritz

Hebrew” at the 2022 WJSA conference here in Norman, where she also presented the paper “Palmach and the War of Independence According to Netiva Ben-Yehuda.” As faculty adviser for OU’s Hebrew club, Shulhan Ivrit [Hebrew Table], Kritz

has been working in collaboration with Hillel at the University of Oklahoma and the community at large, to offer various Hebrew and Israel-related events on various topics of interest, including: Israel’s electoral politics, Israeli movies, folk dancing, cooking and more.

Tyson Putthoff continues to work on *Monstrous*



Tyson Putthoff

Humans in the Ancient Near East, under contract with Cambridge University Press, as well as a study on the anthropology of Paul. He has also begun work on a piece of historical fiction focusing on monsters in the Ancient Near East, focusing on

the Canaanite god of death (Mot). Unlike the other monstrous deities and divine monsters, who might appear and wreak havoc at varying times of the

year or who lived in forbidden places, Mot was always there: in storms and droughts, in battles and royal palaces, and even within the body itself, always just a breath away from devouring his prey. In the fall, Putthoff will begin work on organizing the next round of summer archeological student digs in Israel.

Karin Schutjer spearheaded a collaborative effort



Karin Schutjer

by the Schusterman Center, the German Program in the Department of Modern Languages and the College of International Studies to bring the poster exhibit “1700 Years Jewish Life in German-Speaking Lands,” which was created by the Leo Baeck Institute

and financially supported by the German Embassy, to the OU Norman campus. An opening reception, held outside, included mini-lectures by seven OU faculty members with expertise in German and Jewish history and culture. Schutjer also delivered a JuSt Lunch talk on the construction of the villain in the Grimms antisemitic fairytale “The Jew in the Thornbush.”

Rangar Cline presented his research on Roman and Byzantine pilgrimage souvenirs at the Annual



Rangar Cline

Meetings of the American Schools of Overseas Research and the Society for Biblical Literature. He also joined the staff of the Huqoq Excavation Project, directed by professor Jodi Magness, which has spent several years excavating a late Roman synagogue

in Israel. In summer 2022, Cline supervised the excavation of an area of the synagogue where excavators found mosaics depicting the stories of Jael and Sisera as well as Deborah and Barak. He was accompanied on the excavation by OU student Josué Soto, pictured below, who is currently a McNair Fellow and recipient of a Schusterman Study in Israel Scholarship.

Rhona Seidelman served as a visiting scholar at Ben Gurion University's Center for Health, Humanism and Society, where she connected



Josué Soto and Ranger Cline at the Huqoq Excavation Project site



Rhona Seidelman

with Israeli scholars and students. Seidelman presented her work in various forums, including the symposium on Ideology, Technocracy and Zionism, and on the podcasts *Tel Aviv Review*, *Infectious Historians* and *Staying with the*

Question. She continued research for her new project "In Medicine, With History: A Conversation." Seidelman also hosted fellow OU professors Melissa Stockdale and Kathleen Brosnan at BGU, where they gave outstanding lectures to fascinated audiences of faculty and students in history and public health.



Over the summer, Center faculty members Alan Levenson and Hadas Cohen attended the Eighteenth World Congress of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem, where each presented a paper. Here are a few photos of their trip:



From left: Jessica Cooperman, Sarah Imhoff and Alan Levenson



Hadas Cohen at her presentation panel



Founding Director Noam Stillman and wife Dinah Stillman

STUDENT/ALUMNI NEWS



Kaitlyn Morrison-Henson

Kaitlyn Morrison-Henson completed her Judaic History M.A. program, successfully defending her thesis, "The Transformation of Christian Identity: Evaluating the Increase in Anti-Judaism on Social Media Platforms," in the

spring and spent the summer studying Hebrew with Tel Aviv University.



Kaylee Maxey

Kaylee Maxey presented "The Sephardic Mystique 2.0: Root-seeking, Identity, and Spanish Citizenship" at the 2022 WJSA conference here in Norman. She completed her Judaic History M.A. program, successfully defending her

thesis, "Diego Rivera as a Jewish Root Seeker: Art, Identity Politics, and the 'Downtrodden Masses'," in the spring and spent the summer studying German in Berlin and attending a symposium on Sephardic History at the University of Potsdam. Maxey ended the summer in Málaga, Spain, studying Spanish.



Michael Powell

Michael Powell presented "Men and Women in the Concentration Camp: A Comparative Analysis of the Concentration Camps Dachau and Ravensbrück" at the 2022 WJSA conference. He completed his Judaic History

M.A. program, successfully defending his thesis, "Dachau and Ravensbrück: A Comparative Analysis of Concentration Camps from 1933 to 1945," in the spring and spent the summer studying Yiddish with Tel Aviv University.



Jacob Jeffery

Jacob Jeffery presented "From Manhattan to Modiin: Suburbia in Israel" at the 2022 WJSA conference. He also presented the paper "From Baltimore to Rural Modi'in: The Saga of 'Garin Hamerkaz'" at the 2022 Association for Israel

Studies conference at Bar-Ilan University. Jeffery was the winner of the 2022 Norman Stillman Prize for Excellence in Judaic Studies, while completing a concurrent M.A. in Israel Studies with Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Rothberg International School. He returns to OU in the fall to complete his Judaic/Israel History M.A. with the center.



Rachel Lopo

Rachel Lopo, a doctoral student at OU's Jeannine Rainbolt College of Education, presented the paper "Jewish Identity and Expression: Exploring Various Interpretations of 'Jewishness'" at the 2022 WJSA conference.



Jonah Roberson

Jonah Roberson published the chapter "Catholicism, Polish Victimhood, and Nationalist Histories in Partitioned and Contemporary Poland," in the volume *Nationalism and Populism Expressions of Fear or Political Strategies?*, edited by Carsten Schapkow.

Congratulations to our undergraduates: Beth Felkner (Hebrew minor) won a Study in Israel Scholarship; Nitzan Gariani (Judaic & Israel Studies minor) won a Study in Israel Scholarship; Elizabeth Housley (Hebrew minor) won a Zarrow Family Scholarship.

ELYSSA FAISON FEATURE



As a first-year chair of the History Department, few things gave me more pleasure during the 2021/2022 academic year than participating in Schusterman Center for Judaic and Israel Studies events, working

with the center's talented faculty and staff and witnessing the achievements of M.A. and Ph.D. students in Judaic history. The faculty, staff, and students of the Schusterman Center have played an important role in the life of the department since its founding, and the center is a critical space for community and outreach. These two functions—building community and engaging in outreach—are central to how the humanities move the scholarly innovations and insights of our faculty and students into the broader social conversation. And they are central to what the center accomplishes through its JuSt lunch series, its annual film series, its lecture series, and so much more. Among the highlights of the year was the Schusterman Center's hosting of the 26th annual conference of the Western Jewish

Studies Association in March. Supported by the departments of History, Religious Studies, and Classics and Letters, and by the Dodge Family College of Arts and Sciences, the conference brought together Jewish Studies scholars from all over the world in person and via Zoom. I was inspired by the several panels I attended that focused on Jewish migration (historical and contemporary), and the ways Jewish identity intersects in complicated ways with various national identities. This rich program, which included presentations by many OU Schusterman Center core and affiliate faculty and graduate students—would not have been possible without significant grants from the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Philanthropies, the Oklahoma City Jewish Foundation, and Oklahoma Humanities, all of which came about as a result of the efforts and leadership of Center Director Alan Levenson. Dr. Levenson's vision brought this important conference to OU, and together with the formidable logistical assistance of Tryce Hyman, he helped lift the fog of COVID restrictions by bringing us together for this immensely successful hybrid event. The center is organizing another impressive list of speakers and events for this academic year. I look forward to seeing you at many of them.



From left: M.A. graduate Christopher Wilson, DFCAS Dean David Wrobel, M.A. graduate Ben Folger, M.A. graduate Kaylee Maxey, History department chair Elyssa Faison.

by Daniel Simon



During my 20-plus years at the University of Oklahoma, I've been honored to contribute to the Schusterman Center's activities in a variety of ways, first in partnership with Noam Stillman and more recently with Alan Levenson—often as an extension of my work as editor-in-chief at *World Literature Today*, and even before I formally joined the associated faculty of the center in 2017. I've also had the great pleasure of collaborating with a number of Schusterman Center core and associated faculty over the years who have served as contributing editors to *WLT*, including Shir Alon, Hester Baer, Gisela Heffes, Karin Schutjer, Rhona Seidelman, Dinah Stillman and Janet Ward.

WLT and the center have often partnered in cost-sharing toward bringing celebrated writers and scholars to the Norman campus for events involving students, staff and faculty. In 2012, I worked with several deans, chairs and faculty members as well as the office of President

Boren to pool funding from the center; the College of Arts & Sciences; the Department of Modern Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics; SCMLA; the Mark Allen Everett series; and *WLT* to bring poets Gerald Stern—who has been called an “ecstatic Maimonides”—and Anne-Marie Macari to OU. They gave terrific readings at The Depot downtown, took part in a conversation event in the Lab Theater on campus and helped judge a student poetry contest.

Over the past decade, several additional collaborations have made possible the visits of Lauren Camp (2014 Neustadt Prize jury and 2016 “Discovering Baghdad” talk), Rachel Tzvia-Back (2014), Ilya Kaminsky (2019) and Ilan Stavans (2022). Back discussed her translation of the selected poems of Holocaust survivor Tuvia Ruebner, and *WLT* published her essay on “The Role of Poetry in Protest and Truth-telling (An Israeli Poet's Perspective)” in 2014. During the spring 2022 term, Stavans gave the annual Yedida K. Stillman Memorial Lecture (“A Tourist's Guide through Heaven and Hell: Explorations of the Afterlife in Jewish Culture”) and took part in a conversation event about Latinx literature and other topics with *WLT*'s executive director, RC Davis-Undiano.

The “New Hebrew Writing” cover feature (2015) and “Contemporary Hebrew Literature” dossier (2021) have graced the pages of *WLT* in recent years, along with stand-alone essays, poems, and short stories by, as well as interviews with, major Israeli and Jewish writers. Thanks to Noam Stillman, we received a generous subvention from the center for the 2015 issue.

In spring 2017, Alan Levenson invited me to give a JUST lunch talk, “Jewish Poetry of Witness in the 20th Century,” which featured examples by Haim Nahman Bialik, Saul Tchernikovsky, Paul Celan, Tuvia Ruebner and Adrienne Rich.

The “11 Books for Tolerance & Understanding” reading list, which Alan Levenson and I compiled, remains

an important memorial to the 11 victims of the massacre at Pittsburgh's Tree of Life Synagogue on October 27, 2018. We invited colleagues to nominate and write a few sentences about books that might facilitate reflection, promote tolerance, and foster understanding. The list was published on Nov. 16, 2018—the International Day for Tolerance as declared by UNESCO in its 1995 Declaration of Principles on Tolerance—and was the subject of a front-page story in *The Norman Transcript*. Since 2018, the “11 Books” page on worldlit.org has been viewed more than 3,800 times. Continuing that theme, *WLT* published a 2017 special issue, “Belief in an Age of Intolerance,” and Ilan Stavans’s “Teaching in the Age of Intolerance” essay in February of this year.

When *WLT* was founded as *Books Abroad* in 1927, it published a review of Buber and Rosenzweig’s German translation of the Hebrew Bible in its third issue. Ever since, the magazine has routinely showcased Jewish and (since 1948) Israeli literature. In its latest number, the 400th issue ever published, Russian novelist, poet, and translator Boris Pasternak, Israeli poet Yael Statman and Russian-Jewish émigré writer Yelena Lembersky all figure prominently. In promoting *WLT*’s mission as “an instrument of peace as well as an instrument of culture,” I look forward to many more years of fruitful collaboration with my colleagues at the Schusterman Center.

The award-winning author/editor of four books as well as a poet, essayist and translator, Daniel Simon is the editor-in chief of *World Literature Today* and serves on the OU affiliate -faculty in English, Judaic and Israel Studies and International & Area Studies. He received his Ph.D. in comparative literature from Indiana University in 2000.



JEWISH STUDIES ON THE SOUTH

We were thrilled to host the 26th annual Western Jewish Studies association conference last spring, held on campus and over Zoom, with nearly 200 participants and guests attending from around the world. The keynote lecture was presented by Andrew Porwancher, while the plenary lecture was delivered by Jill Hicks-Keeton. Many other Center faculty members and graduate students also participated, sitting on panel chairs and/or presenting papers, with some even Zooming in from abroad. Distinguished guests contributed to the proceedings: Dodge Family College of Arts and Sciences dean David Wrobel and Senior Vice President and Provost André-Denis Wright introduced our keynote and plenary speakers, respectively. We were also joined by Estela Hernandez, field representative for Sen. Lankford. The Schusterman Center is grateful to the sponsors who helped make the conference such a success: Oklahoma Humanities, the Oklahoma City Jewish Foundation, Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Philanthropies, the OU Dodge Family College of Arts and Science, the OU Department of History, the OU Department of Classics and Letters and the OU Department of Religious Studies.



The 26th Annual Conference of The Western Jewish Studies Association

March 27-28, 2022

Thurman J. White Forum Building
1704 Asp Ave, Norman, OK 73072
& Via Zoom



KEYNOTE LECTURE | MARCH 27 @ 6PM
"The Jewish World of Alexander Hamilton"

PLENARY LECTURE | MARCH 28 @ 12:30 PM
"The Museum of the Bible and the Politics of Interpretation"



Andrew Porwancher
(University of Oklahoma)



Jill Hicks-Keeton
(University of Oklahoma)

Guest Registration is Free and Open to the Public
Visit judaicstudies.ou.edu to Register



This program is funded in part by Oklahoma Humanities (OH) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in the program do not necessarily represent those of OH or NEH.

Conference promotional material

NORTHERN PLAINS: WJSA @ OU



Andrew Porwancher delivers the keynote lecture



Senior Vice President and Provost André-Denis Wright introduces plenary



Jill Hicks-Keeton delivers the plenary lunch talk



M.A. graduates Kaitlyn Morrison-Henson and Michael Powell with Shmuel Shepkaru



Carsten Schapkow and M.A. graduate Kaylee Maxey



Alan Levenson and WJSA president Laurie Baron



Tryce Hyman runs it all from the "command center" laptop

EVENTS

2021-2022 HIGHLIGHTS
24 EVENTS | 1,700+ ATTENDEES

The Schusterman Center for Judaic and Israel Studies at the University of Oklahoma was thrilled to present or cosponsor 24 virtual and hybrid events, engaging students, faculty and the community from around the world.

JuSt Lunch with Lisa Wolfe

**“Qoheleth for Feminists:
Where are the Women Hiding
in Ecclesiastes?”**

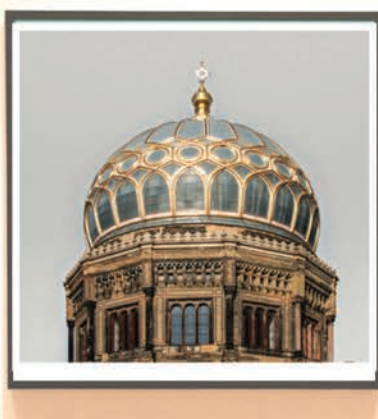
Noon, March 3, 2021 Lecture held via [ZOOM](#)



German Campus Week 2021

1700 Years Jewish Life in German-Speaking Lands

A Poster Exhibit Created by the Leo Baeck Institute



Opening Reception Monday, September 20, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Farzaneh Hall Outdoor Patio, Elm Street

2022-2023 Schusterman Center Events

JuSt Lunches | Noon, Thurman J. White Forum & Zoom

09/07/22 | "Maurice Samuel's Zionism: A View from the Bronx," Alan Levenson

10/12/22 | "Paul Rand and Saul Bass: Pioneering Graphic Designers of the 20th Century," Barry Roseman

11/02/22 | "My Travels in Ukraine 2018: In Search of Selma Merbaum," Lorne Richstone

12/07/22 | "Childist Biblical Interpretation: Valuing Children in the Biblical World," Lisa Wolfe

02/01/23 | "The Peach Tree King of Natchez," Kathryn Schumaker

03/01/23 | "Cuisine and Culinary Customs: Jewish Communities of North Africa," Jennifer Davis-Cline

05/01/23 | "Judicial Settlement Promotion: Impacts on Israeli Society," Hadas Cohen



JuSt Film Screenings | 5:30 p.m.

Topic: Middle-Class Ambivalence and American Jews in Film. Hosted by Ronnie Grinberg

11/08/22 | Goodbye, Columbus (1969) | Bizzell Library Community Room (LL118) and Zoom

11/15/22 | The Graduate (1968) | Bizzell Library Community Room (LL118) and Zoom

11/22/22 | Dirty Dancing (1986) | Meacham Auditorium (OMU 2nd Floor, South) and Zoom



"The Artist's Bible" PDC Public Lectures | 5 P.M., FJJMA and Zoom

02/02/23 | Lynn Jacobs (University of Arkansas)

02/21/23 | Ann Jenson Adams (UC Santa Barbara)

03/30/23 | Steven Nadler (University of Wisconsin–Madison)

04/20/23 | Samantha Baskind (Cleveland State University)



Special Events

9/14/22, 7 p.m. | "Bearing Witness: Three Views from Berlin | Discussion Panel," with Karlos Hill, Carsten Schapkow, Hadas Cohen and Alan Levenson | Zarrow Hall Community Room and Zoom

10/27/22, 12 p.m. | "Special Lunch Time Chat: Bright Unbearable Reality," with Anna Badkhen and Daniel Simon | Thurman J. White Forum and Zoom

03/09/23, 7 p.m. | YKS 2023: "Jeans, Shoes and Bags: How Fashion Shaped Moroccan Jewish Identity in Los Angeles," with Aomar Boum (UCLA). |Thurman J. White Forum and Zoom

03/23/22, 4:30 p.m. | "Translation as a Laboratory for Life," Alice-Catherine Carls | TBD and Zoom



OUR STORY

The Schusterman Center for Judaic and Israel Studies at the University of Oklahoma began as the *Schusterman/Josey Judaic Studies Program* with the establishment of the Schusterman/Josey Chair of Judaic History and the coming of Noam and Yedida Stillman to OU in 1995. From that modest beginning, Shmuel Shepkaru joined the program in 1997, and a Judaic Studies minor was established shortly thereafter. Ori Kritz arrived in 2003, enabling the establishment of a Hebrew minor in 2005. Carsten Schapkow joined the faculty in 2005 as well.

In 2007, the program expanded to become the *Schusterman Program in Judaic and Israel Studies*, including the establishment of a Judaic Studies Bachelor of Arts in 2008 and the creation of the endowed positions of Schusterman/Josey Professor of Jewish Intellectual & Religious History, initially held by Alan Levenson, and the Schusterman Chair of Modern Israel Studies.

In 2014, the program expanded again, becoming a center and gaining its present title. Rhona Seidelman filled the Schusterman Chair in Modern Israel Studies in 2015.

That same year also saw the retirement of founding director Noam Stillman and the addition of Ronnie Grinberg in American Jewish History. In 2019 the center successfully established a Judaic/Israel History major field for the History Master of Arts program, as well as the *Schusterman Center Graduate Fellowship in Judaic/Israel History*, which welcomed its first cohort of four M.A. Fellows in fall 2020.



Early program logo, circa 2007. Note the letters aleph/tav, a play on "A to Z."



Charles and Lynn Schusterman, circa 1997.



Noam Stillman delivers a JuSt Lunch, circa 1997.

CORE FACULTY AND STAFF



Alan Levenson
Professor | Schusterman/Josey
Chair in Judaic Studies



Shmuel Shepkaru
Associate Professor |
Schusterman Professor
of Jewish Intellectual and
Religious History



Ori Kritz
Professor of Hebrew and
Jewish Literature | Head of the
Hebrew Program



Carsten Schapkow
Associate Professor | L.R.
Brammer Jr. Presidential
Professor in History



Ronnie Grinberg
Assistant Professor | American
Jewish History & Gender
Studies



Rhona Seidelman
Associate Professor |
Schusterman Chair of Modern
Israel Studies



Hadas Cohen
Visiting Professor |
Israel Institute Teaching Fellow



Tryce Hyman
Administrative Support
Specialist

ASSOCIATED FACULTY

Benjamin Alpers
Associate Professor
Honors College

Kaleigh Bangor
German Language Program
Coordinator

David Chappell
Rothbaum Professor of Modern
American History

Rangar Cline
Associate Professor of Religious
Studies

Luis Cortest
Professor of Spanish

Karlos K. Hill
Associate Professor, Clara Luper
Department of African and African-
American Studies

Lee Green-Hall
Arts and Sciences | "Jews A-Z"

Jill Hicks-Keeton
Associate Professor of Religious
Studies

Misha Klein
Associate Professor of
Anthropology

Scott Johnson
Associate Professor of Classics
and Letters

Nina Livesey
Associate Professor of American
and Cultural Literacy

Stephen Norwood
Professor of History

William Henry McDonald
Associate Professor of English

Andrew Porwancher
Wick Cary Associate Professor in
Classics and Letters

Tyson Putthoff
Lecturer | Hebrew Bible

Karin Schutjer
Professor of German Studies

Daniel Simon
Director/Editor-in-Chief of *World
Literature Today*

Janet Ward
Professor of History
L.R. Brammer Jr. Presidential
Professor in History
Senior Associate Vice President
for Research & Partnerships

Robb Young
Lecturer | Religious Studies

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

The Schusterman Center provides University of Oklahoma students with access to the largest home for Judaic and Israel Studies in the region. Diverse academic options include a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Judaic Studies and a minor in Judaic & Israel Studies as well as a minor in Hebrew. Students may also pursue a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in History while choosing Judaic/Israel History as a thematic field. Students seeking graduate-level work in Judaic and Israel Studies may do so through the Department of History's M.A. and Ph.D. programs.

With partners at OU and internationally, especially at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, the Center offers robust support for students interested in studying abroad in Israel for topics ranging from language and archaeological digs, to industrial technology and dance.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

Schusterman Study in Israel Scholarships

Following OU Study Abroad cancellations last year in the wake of COVID-19, the Center was able to send both deferred and new scholarship winners to Israel this year.

Congratulations to 2022-2023 winners Nitzan Gariani, Beth A. Felkner and Josue Soto!

Domestic Academic Scholarships

A broad variety of competitive academic scholarships and awards are available to University of Oklahoma students pursuing the fields of Judaic and Israel Studies.

Congratulations to Zarrow Family Scholarship winner Elisabeth Housley!

Stillman Prize for Excellence in Judaic Studies

Established in 2016 in honor of the Center's founding director, the Norman Stillman Prize for Excellence in Judaic Studies is awarded annually to an outstanding student scholar. Students are nominated by faculty and winners selected by committee.

Congratulations to 2022 winner Jacob Jeffery!

CENTER FACTS

-6 CORE FACULTY
-19 ASSOCIATED FACULTY
-12,000+ ENROLLMENTS SINCE 2007
-\$90,000+ ANNUAL AWARDS &
SCHOLARSHIPS OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS

FALL COURSE OFFERINGS

CL C 3133-001 *Plato & the Platonic Tradition*
HEBR 1115-001 *Beginning Hebrew*
HEBR 2113-001 *Intermediate Hebrew*
HEBR 3113-001 *Advanced Hebrew*
HIST 3203-001 *Transformation of the Jews*
HIST 3313-001 *Israeli Culture Through Film*
HIST 3403-995 *Modern Israel*
HIST 3423-001 *War, Prosperity and Depression*
HIST 3430-001 *Jews and Hollywood*
HIST 3543-001 *History of Modern American Women*
HIST 3563-995 *Jerusalem*
HIST/RELS 3613-001 *Roman Religion*
HIST 3953-001 *The Modern Middle East*
HIST 3973-001 *Judaism: A Religious History*
HIST 3993-001 *The Evolution of Martyrdom*
HIST 4003-001 *Jews/Other Germans*
HON 2973-008 *Biblical Literature*
HON 3993-003 *Sex, Women & the Bible*
HON 3993-004 *World War II Memory*
HON 3993-009 *World War II Memory*
IAS 3003-850 *Ethnicity/Gender-Israel/Palstn*
IAS 5243-999 *Nations/Nation States-Europe*
IAS 5473-994 *Arab-Israeli Conflict*
LSTD 4163-101 *World Religions and Ecology*
LSTD 4173-101 *Women in the Bible and Quran*
LSTD 4183-201 *Crafting the Cinematic Jesus*
RELS 1113-995 *Intro to Religious Studies*

For information about our scholarships and awards, and other funding sources for Study Abroad at OU, visit:
ou.edu/cas/judaicstudies/scholarships

DIGGING AT TEL HAZOR



Judaic & Israel Studies minor Karsyn Johnson (left) and fellow deferred Study in Israel Scholarship winners T.J. Edwards (center) and Brendan Adams (right), traveled to Israel last summer to participate in the Tel Hazor dig in collaboration with Hazor Excavations and The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. *Photos by Karsyn Johnson.*

HELP SUPPORT THE SCHUSTERMAN CENTER

FUNDING PRIORITIES:

Professor of American Jewish Studies

In the developing political and cultural climate, the study of the American Jewish experience has grown more important than ever. We intend to establish a permanent focus on this topic within the University of Oklahoma through either a professorship or chair within the History Department, which will incorporate well into its broader emphasis on American history.

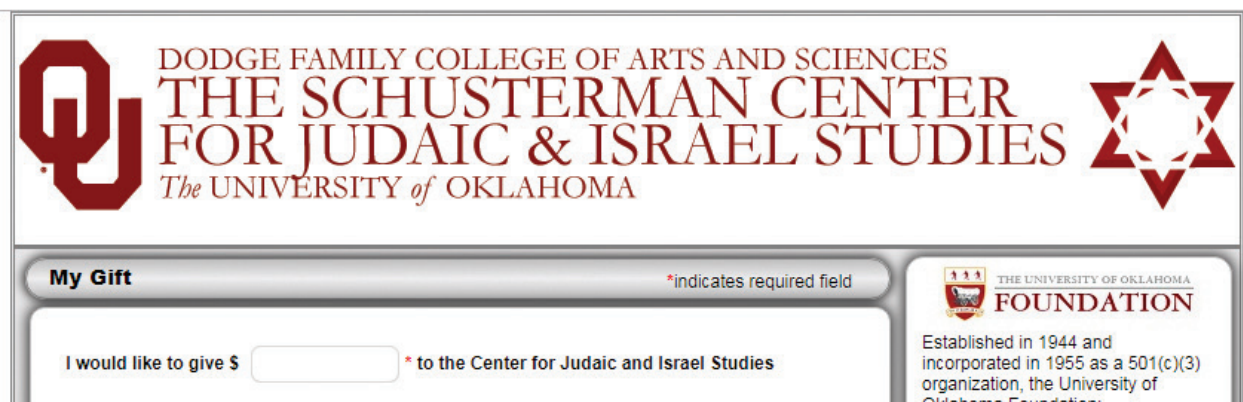
Professor of Antisemitism and Holocaust Studies

As the current global populist wave continues to stoke antisemitism both in the United States and around the world, our goal is to confront it by establishing the Schusterman Center as a major site for research and education on the topic, through either a professorship or chair within the History Department.

HOW TO GIVE

ONLINE:

<https://bit.ly/3wQjGdK>



The screenshot shows a donation form for The Schusterman Center for Judaic & Israel Studies at The University of Oklahoma. The header includes the OU logo, the center's name, and a Star of David. The form has a section titled "My Gift" with a text input field for the amount and a dropdown menu for the recipient, currently set to "to the Center for Judaic and Israel Studies". A note indicates that an asterisk denotes a required field. To the right, there is a box for the "THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA FOUNDATION" with its logo and a brief history: "Established in 1944 and incorporated in 1955 as a 501(c)(3) organization, the University of Oklahoma Foundation".

CHECK:

Please make checks out to
"University of Oklahoma Foundation,"
in the memo line add "Center for Judaic
and Israel Studies" and mail to:

OU Foundation
P.O. Box 258856
Oklahoma City, OK 73125-9935

Thank you to all of our 2021–2022 donors! Special thanks to everyone who helped make OU Giving Day such a success!

-  Steven M. Berkowitz
-  Mary Ann Burdett
-  Marshal R. Gimpel
- Lewis and Pam C. Goidell
-  Adam Gordon
-  Helene Harpman
-  Doris Hettmansberger
-  Alan T. Levenson
- Allan Metz
-  Donna Page
-  Barry Roseman
- Sumner Gerald Sandler
-  Carsten Schapkow
-  Lynn Schusterman
-  Daniel A. Simon
-  Stephen Sloan
-  Mitchell P. Smith
- Henry and Janice Staat
-  Norman A. Stillman
-  Pamela J. Thurman
- Steven and Kaye Weiss



Study in Israel Scholarship students Kathryn Diskerd and Emmanuelle Chiocca.



NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

U.S. POSTAGE PAID

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

455 W. Lindsey, DAHT 403A
Norman, OK 73019-0001

(405) 325-6508
judaicstudies@ou.edu

Alan Levenson, Ph.D.

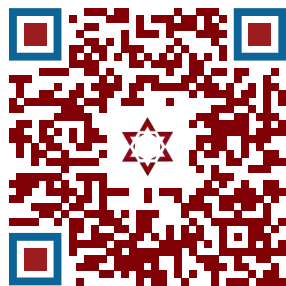
Director

Tryce Hyman, M.A.

Administrative Support Specialist



@OUJudaicStudies



judaicstudies.ou.edu

Cover Image: From Left: Director Alan Levenson, Dodge Family College of Arts and Sciences Dean David Wrobel and Department of History chair Elyssa Faison at the keynote dinner of the 2022 WJSA Conference. Photo by Travis Capterton.