

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE JEWISH STUDIES PROGRAM @ UD

From the Director

The Jewish Studies Program is pleased to share news of its programs and developments. In May 2017, the Program hosted award-winning author and artist Alan Kaufman for a lecture about Holocaust history and memory. Kaufman's visit to UD coincided with an exhibit organized by Special Collections in Morris Library entitled "Remembrance and Visions," featuring selections of Kaufman's papers and artwork that are currently held in Special Collections. The JS Program also co-sponsored a series of speakers for the Department of History's monthly workshops. In spring 2017, presenters included myself and Stockton University's Raz Segal, and in fall 2017, Anna Kushkova of University of North Carolina. The Program also hosted lectures from two survivors of genocide, including Holocaust survivor Ann Jaffe, and Cambodian genocide

survivor Daravann Yi. In October 2017, the JS Program co-sponsored an evening lecture by Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Peter Balakian. In November 2017, the Program co-sponsored a day-long symposium at UD devoted to commemorating the centenary of the 1917 Russian Revolution.

In September 2017, the JS Program announced a new Research and Conference Funds Program to provide small grants each academic year to support research and conference attendance in any area of Jewish Studies to any faculty and graduate students at the University of Delaware. Proposals will be accepted on a rolling basis.

Two Jewish Studies Minor students completed independent research projects and internships in 2017. Julia Grossman received a Community-

Based Research Grant from UD's Office of Service Learning, which she used to interview and research histories of survivors of the Holocaust in Soviet lands. Katelyn Hesse completed an internship at the Hagley Museum and Library in Wilmington, where she catalogued collections of Jews in the history of business.

—Polly Zavadivker



Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Yda Schreuder

With funding from the Jewish Studies Research and Conference Funds Program, I was able to attend the annual Society for Crypto-Judaic Studies conference held in Philadelphia on November 5-7, 2017. My participation in the conference was as attendee and as presenter in a paper session entitled, "Brazil and the Caribbean." The theme of the conference was "The Crypto-Jewish Experience in the Americas." As it turned out, it was a good match with my



research and book project concerning the Atlantic merchant world and the role Amsterdam's Sephardic merchants played in the seventeenth century Brazil and Caribbean trade.

The activities included a walking tour of Colonial Philadelphia and Mikveh Israel's 1740 Cemetery, a Genealogy/DNA workshop, a tour of Mikveh Israel Historic Synagogue, film screenings,

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Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Yda Schreuder

and musical performances. The keynote speakers included Ronnie Perelis who spoke on family and faith: Converso networks and Crypto-Jewish Spirituality, and David Gitlitz speaking on the first practicing Crypto-Jewish family in Mexico. The paper sessions were diverse and included personal narratives, Crypto-Judaism and literature, musical and theatre performances, and the visual arts. Sessions addressing the historical roots of Crypto-Judaism in the Americas included the conversion, expulsion, and the Inquisition in Spain and Portugal and beyond, and the regional/local experiences in Brazil, New Mexico, Texas, and the American South. In my paper, I concentrated on Barbados and Jamaica, and sketched the differences in experience between the Spanish and Portuguese colonies in Central and South America and the British, Dutch and French colonies in the Caribbean where many of the Crypto-Jewish and Sephardic merchants settled and traded in colonial staples like sugar. Crypto-Jews

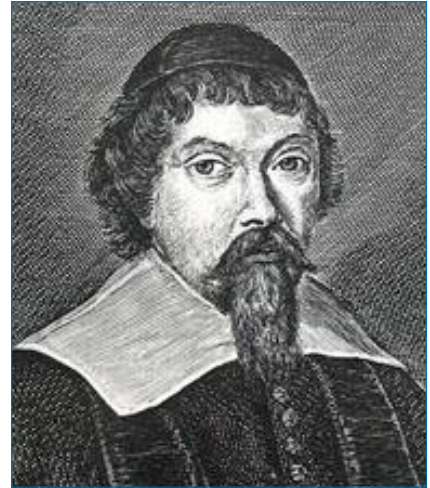


View from the Mussel Pier in Amsterdam by Ludolf Bakhuizen, 1673

are, by ancestry, Sephardic Jews who were forced to or chose to secretly adhere to Judaism while publicly professing to be of other faiths (usually Catholicism). The Sephardim had been persecuted in Spain during the Middle Ages and were forced to convert to Christianity, ultimately facing expulsion in 1492. Most moved to Portugal where a similar fate awaited them in 1497. Historically they were Conversos or New-

Christians, forced or voluntary converts to Catholicism during the Middle Ages in the Iberian Peninsula and overseas territories during the 16th and 17th centuries. As some New-Christians continued to practice Judaism in secret they subsequently fell victim to the Inquisition in repeated waves of persecution. Others might escape or migrate, and as many New-Christians were also merchants they moved to Amsterdam or Hamburg or other emerging port cities along the Atlantic seaboard where they established, in some cases, thriving Sephardic merchant communities. Others moved to the Americas (Brazil or Mexico and Peru) to trade and to rebuild their lives and livelihoods and if possible practice Judaism. Crypto-Jewish communities today are found in the borderlands of former Spanish or Portuguese territories in the American Southwest or Southeast and in the interior of Brazil and other isolated areas of South and Central America.

The conference gave me the opportunity to see my research in much broader context than I had been pursuing over the past few years. The main part of my research has been in tracing the thriving Sephardic Jewish merchant networks in the 17th century sugar trades of Amsterdam. Most of the Sephardic Jewish communities in the Caribbean had been cultural offshoots of the Amsterdam congregations, markedly different from the communities that formed in Central and South America and in the borderlands of the Spanish and Portuguese empires. The trade network in the seventeenth century expanded from Northeast Brazil to the Caribbean region and involved both Converso merchants from Portugal and Brazil and Sephardic merchants from Amsterdam. The sugar trade was embedded with Dutch colonial trade and Amsterdam was the main processing and distribution center for the European sugar market in the 17th century. The city had attracted merchants from Portugal, which included both New-Christian and Crypto-Jewish merchants, many of whom had previously



Portrait of Menasseh Ben Israel by Salomo d'Italia, 1642

been involved in the Portuguese Brazil trade. From 1630 until 1654, Northeast Brazil became a Dutch colony which expanded the participation of Jewish and New-Christian merchants, as they were offered special privileges to trade. Members of the merchant community often moved from place to place and proved to be extremely fluid and adaptable to business opportunities and changing geo-political circumstances. After the expulsion of the Dutch from Brazil in 1654, where a thriving Sephardic community had established itself during Dutch colonial rule, many Sephardic merchants returned to Amsterdam or migrated to nearby emerging British and French colonies in the Caribbean. Whenever possible, they continued to trade sugar, establish residency and the right to trade in British colonies including Barbados and Jamaica. As 'cross-cultural' brokers, they often mediated in disputes between the colonial powers, and because of their geographical reach and intricate trade networks, they often assisted in the transit or re-export trade including to the Dutch colonies of Curacao and St. Eustatius. Depending on the circumstances, they adopted either Jewish or Crypto-Jewish identities or assimilated into British or French colonial society. In my paper presentation, I tried to contrast this experience with the experiences in the Spanish and Portuguese territories in the 17th century.

Dr. Vivian Z. Klaff Memorial Award Winners 2017

Nikki Golomb

was an International Relations major and a Jewish Studies minor. She says that the best advice she received before college is to major in what



you're good in and minor in what you love. This is why even before she picked a major, she knew she wanted to be a Jewish Studies minor. The Jewish Studies minor allowed her to explore her love for Judaism and Hebrew both in the classroom and outside. Through the Jewish Studies minor, her involvement with Hillel, her semester studying abroad in Tel Aviv, and her involvement in the Delaware Jewish community, Nikki has decided to pursue a career in Jewish nonprofits following graduation. However, first she is taking a gap year with her best friend, where they will spend the year doing volunteer work in Israel, Spain, and Greece. Nikki is very excited to see what the future has to offer, and to continue learning about Judaism and staying involved in the Jewish community!

Katelyn Hesse

was a History and Sociology Major, with minors in Jewish Studies, Religious Studies, and Women's Studies. In her own words, she explains why she pursued the Jewish



Studies Minor: "I have no personal connection to Jewish history besides my own personal interests, and this minor has allowed me to find a subject I am passionate about and love studying. In fact, I adapted my History Major to include and take mainly Jewish Studies courses. I've learned that Jewish History is simply world history. At first, I was interested in studying the Holocaust, but I've learned how rich Jewish history is in all aspects and how necessary it is to get the full scope before even studying the subject of the Holocaust. I feel I have a more rounded, worldly outlook after completing this minor. After leaving the University of Delaware, I began interning at the Hagley Museum and Library working with archival records of notable Jewish businessmen. I plan on jumping directly into the workforce and then I have plans to continue my education in Jewish Studies through a graduate school program. I have learned a lot from Dr. Polly Zavadivker, and she has been crucial in continuing to expand my knowledge in the subject and develop graduate-level skills."

Alyssa McGraw

graduated with a degree in Political Science and minors in Jewish Studies and Disability Studies. She added her Jewish Studies minor after committing to take three semesters of



Hebrew. Alyssa was exposed to Hebrew in various religious contexts throughout her childhood, but always wanted to learn to speak the language. She is so glad that she had the opportunity to explore this interest at UD. Post-graduation, Alyssa has been working for Governor John Carney as a Staff Assistant. She hopes to attend law school in the near future and plans to use all she has learned in the Jewish Studies minor to advocate for religious tolerance, among other issues, in American politics and government.

New Course: HIST/JWST146

Introduction to Jewish Culture & History

will be taught by Jewish Studies Director Dr. Polly Zavadivker this spring. This is the first introductory survey course on



Jewish history to be offered at UD. Topics include: the history of immigration, the transmission and transformation of Judaism as a religion, sources of religious and political authority in Judaism, the Jews' status as a persecuted minority, the processes of cultural integration and assimilation from ancient to modern times.

Spring 2018 Highlights

The annual lecture series course, **Jewish Studies 201: Issues and Ideas in Jewish Studies**, will be returning this spring with a new theme of "Jewish Studies, Jewish Stories." The course will be every Wednesday from 12:20 – 1:10 and will be led by graduate student Hillary Neben. This lecture series is free and open to the public.

On April 11th, there will be an **evening music performance** by Holocaust survivor **David Wisnia** and his grandson Avi at Gore Recital Hall. Further details TBA.



On April 26th, the Jewish Studies Program is co-sponsoring with the History Department a **lecture by renowned historian Natalie Zemon Davis** in Purnell Hall. Further details TBA.



Jewish Studies at UD's Special Collections



Remembrance and Visions: A selection from Alan Kaufman's papers," an exhibition in Morris Library in May 2017, marked the occasion of the poet Alan Kaufman's visit to campus to speak with students and visitors of Jewish Studies Director Dr. Polly Zavadiivker's HIST/JWST254: Jewish Holocaust course. A selection of art, sketch books, published works, and family papers from Special Collections was on display in "Remembrance and Visions," a theme that can be said to overarch all aspects of Alan Kaufman's extensive body of art and literature.

Kaufman, whose Jewish heritage is central to his identity and creative work, is a teacher, writer, poet, editor, performer, artist, and impresario known for his work as editor of the Outlaw Bible series of anthologies of American poetry, literature, essays, and art. Born in 1952 in New York City to a French Holocaust survivor, Kaufman holds American, French, and Israeli citizenship. The Library began acquiring Kaufman's literary manuscripts and papers in 2007.

In 2013, Kaufman donated letters and photographs from his mother, Maria Jucht Kaufman. Her survival story and its impact on

his life and work was the subject of Kaufman's guest lecture on May 8th, which was attended by nearly 100 students and visitors.

Professor Zavadiivker described the central questions and goals of her course: "How did the Germans manage to kill 5.7 million Jews in Europe? Who carried out these acts and how did they do it? Why did a minority of Jews in Europe survive while so many were killed? We can only begin to answer these questions once we see that the mass murder of European Jews was the work of men and women, people like ourselves. We must place the Holocaust within history and just as importantly, within the realm of human experience." By viewing the archives and inviting Alan Kaufman, who is a powerful storyteller and artist, Professor Zavadiivker hoped that "my students will form a personal connection to the horrors of the past century, and above all that they will be moved to do everything in their power to prevent such colossal acts of inhumanity from occurring in the future."

Students in the class completed an assignment to comment on the lecture and Library exhibition. Wrote one, "I wasn't sure what type of emotions I would feel when I went to the

library and saw this display case of Kaufman's art, books, and letters from his mother. I was able to read part of his mother's letter, and it reminded me of just how important it is that we have survivors who document what they went through. Although I don't know Kaufman's mother, it was almost like the letter was there, meant for each and every spectator to read as if it was their own personal letter. Reading this letter made me feel a personal connection to the Holocaust that I have never felt before." Another student noted, "It was clear as he spoke that he was heavily impacted by his mother's stories, which then translated to me, to some extent. Alan Kaufman is a witness of the Holocaust and by telling the stories of his mother, I know that I am now a witness of the Holocaust, too."

The Maria Jucht Kaufman papers as well as the Library exhibition, curated by L. Rebecca Johnson Melvin, are available online, as are collection descriptions: <http://exhibits.lib.udel.edu/exhibits/show/visions>

Alan Kaufman's visit to campus was sponsored by the Jewish Studies Program, the Center for Global and Area Studies, the Halina Wind Preston Holocaust Education Committee, and the University of Delaware Library and Museums.



Untitled, undated painting by Alan Kaufman

Spring 2018 Courses

Religion and Philosophy

HIST/JWST398: TOPICS IN MEDIEVAL HISTORY - MEDIEVAL JEW, MUSLIM, CHRISTIAN

MW 3:35 - 4:50

Instructor: Michael Frassetto, frassetto@udel.edu

This course will explore the relationship between Muslims, Christians, and Jews in the Middle Ages. It will explore the patterns of co-existence, violence, and intolerance that characterized those relationships.

Hebrew Language

HEBR/JWST 105: HEBREW I - ELEMENTARY

MWF 1:25 - 2:15 & T 2:00 - 2:50

Instructor: Eynat Gutman, eynat@udel.edu

Introduction to the Hebrew alphabet and language, and development of basic speaking, listening, reading and writing skills

HEBR/JWST 106: HEBREW II - ELEMENTARY / INTERMEDIATE

MWF 2:30 - 3:20 & T 3:30 - 4:20

Instructor: Eynat Gutman, eynat@udel.edu

Continuation of Elementary Hebrew. Increasing mastery of the basic skills of speaking, listening, reading, and writing through texts, conversations and songs.

History & Politics

HIST/JWST146: INTRODUCTION TO JEWISH CULTURE & HISTORY

MW 3:35 - 4:50

Instructor: Polly Zavadviker, pollyz@udel.edu

Satisfies Breadth Requirement B and University "History & Cultural Change" Breadth Requirement

This course offers a global survey of the history and culture of the Jewish people in ancient, medieval and modern times. We will

explore the changing religious, cultural, social, and economic profiles of Jewish communities from ancient times to the present. Topics include migration, transmission and transformation of Judaism as a religion, sources of political authority in Judaism, processes of cultural integration and assimilation, gender and the role of women, modern intellectual and artistic movements, and Jewish responses to persecution.

HIST/JWST254: JEWISH HOLOCAUST 1933-1945

MWF 11:15 - 12:05

Instructor: Polly Zavadviker, pollyz@udel.edu

Focuses on the infamous "Final Solution," with particular emphasis on the roots of Anti-Semitism, National Socialist policies and plans, ghetto and camp life, the Einsatzgruppen, resistance, the politics of rescue and the art and literature of the Holocaust.

LLCU/JWST345: MODERN ISRAEL: HISTORY & CULTURE

MWF 11:15 - 12:05

Instructor: Eynat Gutman, eynat@udel.edu

Satisfies Breadth Requirement B and University Multicultural Requirement

Many factors contribute to a diverse and intriguing Israeli society. Topics include the roots of Zionism, the concept of the Israeli Sabra, the effects of the Holocaust, ethnic groups and the Arab-Israeli conflict, through history, film, literature and music.

Literature & Culture

JWST 201: ISSUES & IDEAS IN JEWISH STUDIES - JEWISH STUDIES, JEWISH STORIES

W 12:20 - 1:10

Instructor: Hillary Neben, hneben@udel.edu

A forum for scholars to share their thoughts and research on the culture, literature and history

of the Jewish people. Topics range from historical reviews to contemporary issues.

THEA/JWST212: JEWS & AMERICAN POP CULTURE

TR 9:30 - 10:45

Instructor: Leslie Reidel, lreidel@udel.edu

As the Jewish population of America grew rapidly during the early decades of the 20th century, Jews brought with them a rich and diverse tapestry of dramatic and theatrical modes. This course will examine the development of this extraordinary creative and commercial phenomenon.

ENGL/JWST350: HOLOCAUST IN LITERATURE AND FILM

MW 3:35 - 4:50

Instructor: David Winkler, dwinkler@udel.edu

Satisfies University Multicultural Requirement

With precious few survivors remaining to share their stories, our understanding of the Holocaust relies increasingly upon documentary, literary, and cinematic representations. We'll explore the political, ideological, and cultural environments that produced these works and study how the Holocaust is employed as a metaphor for discourse taking place at the time the works were created. You'll discover how point of view, dialogue, tone, narrative structure (as well as how lighting, camera angle, and music in the case of films) is employed to communicate a certain artistic message. You're also invited to participate in ongoing ethical and philosophical debates surrounding the issue of Holocaust representation in art, particularly in regards to appropriateness, authenticity, the limitations of language, and conceivability.

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WINTER 2018

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UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

Faculty News

Rebecca Davis presented her ongoing research about the conversion of Sammy Davis Jr. to Judaism as part of a special opening roundtable with a paper entitled “Conversion Through History,” at The Politics of Conversion, Newberry Library, Chicago, IL (2017). In March 2017, she received the Director’s Fellowship at Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives to examine collections related to the conversions to Judaism of Sammy Davis Jr., Marilyn Monroe, Elizabeth Taylor, and others.

Roger Horowitz’s book *KOSHER USA: HOW COKE BECAME KOSHER AND OTHER TALES OF MODERN FOOD* (Columbia University Press, 2016) was named a Choice

Outstanding Academic Book, received the National Jewish Book Award in American Jewish Studies from the Jewish Book Council, and the Dorothy Rosenberg Prize for the history of the Jewish diaspora from the American Historical Association.

Polly Zavadviker received a Faculty Research Grant from the Center for Global and Area Studies, which she used to complete archival research in St. Petersburg and Moscow in summer 2017. She conducted research for her current project about Jewish public organizations in Russia during the First World War. In April 2017, she presented a paper entitled “The Holocaust: A Human Story,” at the symposium *ECCE Homo*, held

at the University of Delaware. In June 2017, she organized and presented research at a panel entitled “Jewish Families in the Second World War and Holocaust in the USSR, Problems and Methods of Using Personal Sources” at the international conference “Memory Revolution: Soviet History through the Lens of Personal Documents,” at the Higher School of Economics, Moscow, June 7–8, 2017. In November 2017, she presented a paper entitled “Jewish Humanitarianism in the Russian Civil War,” at the National Convention of the Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies, held in Chicago.