## SCHUSTERMAN CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES

**2018 NEWSLETTER** 

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# FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dr. Tatjana Lichtenstein Director, Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies Associate Professor, History



he Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Texas at Austin is now entering its second decade. The Center was founded in 2007 through a \$6 million challenge grant from the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation. Over the next five years, the founding director Dr. Robert H. Abzug, Audre and Bernard Rapoport Regents Chair of Jewish Studies and Professor of History and American Studies, working together with the Dean of Liberal Arts, Randy Diehl, met this challenge with great success by building a wide base of support from foundations and individuals across the state of Texas and beyond.

On campus, Bob worked to integrate Jewish Studies into the undergraduate curriculum. Collaborating with faculty and departments across the College of Liberal Arts, the Schusterman Center developed an undergraduate major and created wide-ranging and innovative course offerings that brought students of all backgrounds and disciplines to Jewish Studies. Today, Jewish Studies faculty, representing more than twelve departments, teach hundreds of students in large introductory survey classes, upper-division courses, and small research and writing-intensive seminars. Other aspects of Bob's legacy include the pioneering Gale Collaborative on Jewish Life in the Americas and partnerships to bring outstanding contemporary Jewish cultural performances to campus and community audiences. Thanks to Bob's work, the Schusterman Center is thriving.

I took over the reins at the Schusterman Center in September 2017 and am excited to continue to build

on Bob's tremendous achievements. As a member of UT's Department of History, I have been teaching courses on East European Jewish history and the Holocaust since 2009. Looking ahead, I will seek to consolidate the success of Jewish Studies by making the undergraduate curriculum more adaptive to student needs and interests. In recent years, there has been increased focus on the applicability of undergraduate degrees to the demands of the twenty-first century job market. In Spring 2019, the Schusterman Center will introduce a new internship program that creates opportunities for students to acquire skills and knowledge that are relevant to their personal growth as well as their career prospects.

Furthermore, in collaboration with other academic units, we are creating an Israel Studies track under the umbrella of the Jewish Studies major. This will allow students to develop strong language and cultural proficiency and make their expertise visible to future employers. Similarly, a minor in Holocaust and Genocide Studies will serve students interested in careers in education, museum work, international law, and public policy. With the new track and minor, we hope to position students for success as they explore the extraordinary possibilities of a degree in Jewish Studies.

This newsletter highlights these initiatives and more. I hope you enjoy reading about our new courses, faculty and student research, and other ways in which we make the University of Texas at Austin a center of excellence in researching and teaching Jewish Studies.

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## UNDERGRADUATE OPPORTUNITIES

A new internship program connects undergraduate students with social justice and cultural organizations in Austin and Central Texas.

ore students these days want an education in which rigorous academic study is rounded out by both practical experience and opportunities to change the world. A new program at the Schusterman Center will soon be meeting that need.

Beginning Spring 2019, a new internship program will connect UT students with Jewish communal institutions as well as social justice and cultural organizations around Austin and Central Texas. The internships will allow students to gain course credits, explore career paths, and develop professional skills in a real-world setting. A unique part of the program is the inclusion of nationally-renowned guest speakers from Austin's nonprofit and Jewish community. They will guide classroom conversations about the ways in which the Jewish values of kehillah (community building), limmud (the centrality of learning and Jewish culture), tikkun olam (the commitment to make the world a better place), and tzedakah (pursuing justice through acts of Jewish kindness and giving) can enhance the quality of life in our communities —for Jews and non-Jews alike.

"Jews have been instrumental in the social justice, arts and cultural communities both here at home and around the country," noted Dr. Tatjana Lichtenstein, Director of the Schusterman Center. "It is so common that it is almost taken for granted. This internship program will take a deeper look at the Jewish underpinnings of the intention to help heal the world."

"I'm extremely excited about the Internship Program in Jewish Studies' ability to put students and organizations together in a way that underscores the role of Jewish thought in charitable impulse."

The program is open to all students of any major; students earn 3 credit-hours for the course.

"I've taught at UT for decades," said Dr. Suzanne Seriff, Senior Lecturer in Anthropology and Jewish Studies, who is leading the program. "As a museum curator, I've also worked with organizations throughout Austin that are doing the hard work of making the world a more just and peaceful place. I'm extremely excited about the Internship Program in Jewish Studies' ability to put students and organizations together in a way that underscores the role of Jewish thought in charitable impulse."

The program will give students real-life experience in an area of potential career or public interest. "Students may want to know what it is like to be a Jewish educator, or curate a museum exhibit to tell an important cultural story or even be a social justice advocate," commented Dr. Seriff. "Their internship will give them a chance to try out those interests."

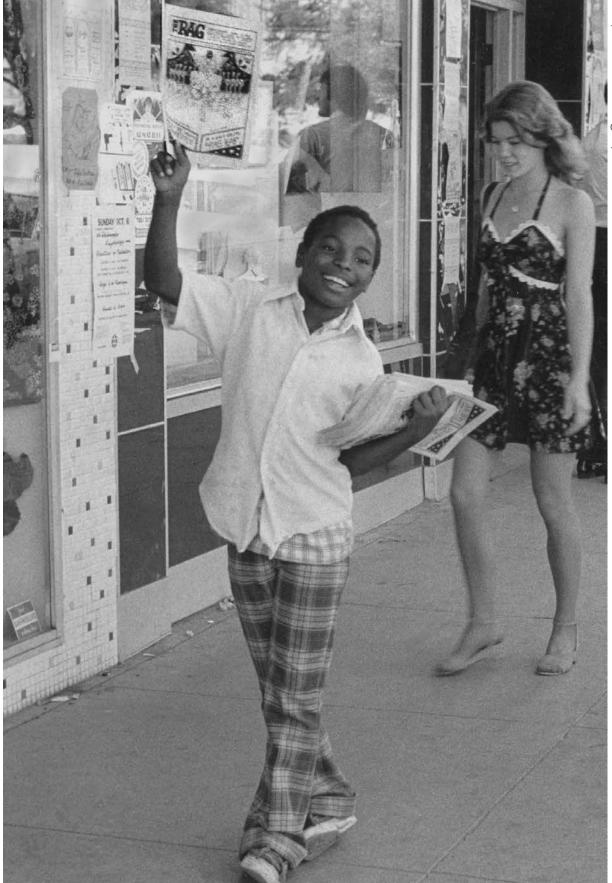
Students can pursue opportunities at more than a dozen arts, advocacy, health, education, and service organizations around Austin. They and the organizations will make their own matches through the College of Liberal Arts. Interns work approximately 10 hours per week at their internship site, and then come together for a weekly seminar taught by Dr. Seriff.

The once a week conversation will offer students a context in which to explore their internship experience with their peers, while learning about leadership, work place ethics, and how Jewish values can inform their professional lives.

Suzanne Seriff
is a Senior
Lecturer in the
UT Department
of Anthropology.
She holds a PhD
in Folklore and
Ethnomusicology
from UT Austin.
Dr. Seriff teaches
courses on



museum representation, immigration, material culture, and American Jewish popular culture. She is also a museum consultant and curator who works nationwide at the intersection of storytelling, traditional arts and social change.



# REVOLUTION IN THE AIR

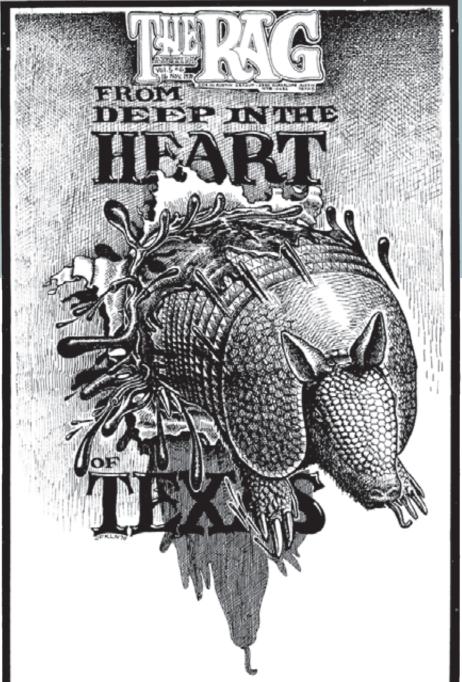
A young boy sells *The Rag* on Guadalupe Street, students rally against racism by the Tower— this was the civil rights era deep in the heart of Texas.

018 marks fifty years since 1968 — an anniversary that has sparked renewed global interest in the 1960s. Throughout that tumultuous decade, universities were a crucible of revolutionary hopes and fervent activism, and The University of Texas at Austin was no exception.

Scholars are now taking a fresh look at the political, social, and cultural movements that defined an era with continued aftershocks in the present. Until now, there has been scant research on the role of UT Austin's Jewish students, faculty, and organizations in the broad social changes of the decade.

"Students will learn the art of oral history and digital storytelling by interviewing people — Jewish activists, artists, musicians, Greek life members, photographers, rabbis, and radio producers — who were deeply involved in or lived through the most significant moments of the era."

This fall, a group of undergraduate students will undertake research into this area as part of the new course "UT Jews in the Civil Rights Era." Students will examine original documents from campus archives that have preserved the iconic material culture of the 60s, such as: original issues of The Rag, an underground newspaper published at UT; song lyrics; fraternity and sorority scrapbooks; album covers; and more. In the course, students will learn the art of oral history and digital storytelling by interviewing people — Jewish activists, artists, musicians, Greek life members,



photographers, rabbis, and radio producers — who were deeply involved in or lived through the most significant moments of the era.

Students' research will culminate in a public symposium at the end of the semester. On December 2nd, 2018, the Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies will host a panel discussion with former activists and student oral historians, exploring the multiple "Jewish" – or "Jewish" – dimensions of social activism

on the UT campus. Students will also present their findings in a temporary pop-up exhibit that will feature digital projects based on original history research.

Leading this effort is Dr. Suzanne Seriff, an anthropologist and folklorist, who created the class for the Schusterman Center. To this course, Dr. Seriff brings extensive experience combining teaching with museum and community engagement work around arts and social justice.

(Credit: The Dolph Briscoe Center for American History)

## JEWISH STUDIES **RESOURCES**

Scholars from across the world, as well as UT students and faculty, visit our campus collections to do research on a wide range of Jewish topics. For example, the students in the course "UT Jews in the Civil Rights Era" will utilize several on-campus collections as they conduct their research, such as the Texas Jewish Historical Society Records and The Rag Files, 1966–1977 at the Dolph Briscoe Center of American History.

Here is a preview of some of the many rich collections and resources UT has to offer.

#### The DOLPH BRISCOE CENTER **FOR AMERICAN HISTORY** houses

several significant manuscript and family collections of Texan Jews. For example, The Texas Jewish Historical Society Records, 1824-2015 include extensive documentation related to the settlement and history of Jews in Texas. The Briscoe Center also holds various documents by and about Jewish individuals, organizations, societies, and synagogues in Texas, such as The Henry Cohen Papers, 1850-1950 that document the career of Henry Cohen, an influential rabbi known for religious and social activities in Galveston, Other materials include the Radin Community in Lithuania Collection, 1930-2005, which documents East European Jewish life. The material was collected and donated to the Briscoe Center by Dr. Frank Kasman of Midland, Texas. Dr. Kasman also endowed the Schusterman Center's The Kasman Family Lectures on Eastern European Life and Culture.

The BENSON LATIN AMERICAN **COLLECTION** includes rare Argentine Yiddish theater and literary materials from the 1930s and 1940s, as well as works by several Jewish Latin American authors and playwrights, such as Carlos M. Grünberg, César Tiempo, and Jacobo Fijman. The Benson

also holds recordings of Jewish music from Latin America, among them a collection of music by Moroccan Jews who immigrated to Brazil. Other rare items include yearbooks and commemorative books by Jewish organizations in Peru, Brazil, Argentina, and Mexico.

#### The HARRY RANSOM CENTER

holds extraordinary manuscripts and other collections of Jewish writers, photographers, performance artists, and intellectuals such as Isaac Bashevis Singer, Norman Mailer, Albert Einstein, Gertrude Stein, Arthur Miller, Leon Uris, Stella Adler, and Arnold Newman. Norman Mailer's archive is the largest personal archive at the HRC. The HRC also has an expansive collection of Commentary Magazine, the leading postwar journal of Jewish affairs after WWII. The South African Judaica Collection includes 485 rare volumes belonging to Jewish refugees from Europe, and the Gottesman Collection of Hebraica & Judaica includes 1,300 rare first editions, prayer books, Bibles, Mishnas, and Talmuds dating from the sixteenth to the twentieth centuries.

Together with the Schusterman

Center, the HRC offers fellowships to support shortterm residencies for researchers working on Jewish topics.

The PERRY-CASTANEDA **LIBRARY** has a wide-ranging collection of Jewish historical, literary, religious, and other printed texts. The PCL holds a number of major Jewish Studies and Hebrew journals, Yiddishlanguage newspapers, and a large collection of Yizkor books printed after the Second World War. Jewish displaced persons periodicals from the archives of the YIVO Institute, Holocaust materials from the Wiener Library in London, and Yiddish books can also be found on

#### The FINE ARTS LIBRARY

microfilm.

contains a sizeable collection of Israeli films, books on Jewish artists and musicians. Israeli art. Holocaust art. and books on Yiddish and Jewish theater in the United States and Europe. The Historical Music Recordings Collection includes a number of recordings by Jewish composers.

For more Jewish Studies resources, see our full collections guide at liberalarts.utexas.edu/ scis/resources/students.php.

## HEBREW GOTHIC WITH DR. KAREN GRUMBERG

Ghosts, vampires, crumbling castles - these are motifs we associate with the gothic. But, for Dr. Karen Grumberg, there is often more going on under the surface: The Hebrew gothic was a means to engage with the Jewish past.

r. Karen Grumberg is an Associate Professor of Middle Eastern Studies and Comparative
Literature at UT Austin, where she also serves as the Director of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies.
A scholar of contemporary Hebrew literature and comparative Jewish literatures, Dr. Grumberg regularly teaches graduate seminars on space and place in literature and writing between Arab and Jewish cultures.

We sat down with Dr. Grumberg to discuss her upcoming book, Hebrew Gothic: History and the Poetics of Persecution (Indiana University Press, 2019).

Your new book Hebrew Gothic: History and the Poetics of Persecution is coming out next year. Can you give us a synopsis of what the book is about?

One of the difficulties of working on this book has been that the gothic is not an easy concept to pin down. Most people are familiar with the aesthetic conventions of the mode: ghosts, vampires, crumbling castles, and so on. While these are certainly central, there is a lot more to the gothic. The broad issue at stake in gothic texts is the contamination, disruption, and transgression of established social, cultural, and national boundaries. Unsettling notions of national identity and of historical narrative, the gothic

reveals the fear and anxiety at the heart of these seemingly fixed entities and forces a reassessment of the present and future. "Classic" British gothic texts, like those written by Ann Radcliffe, for example, often located threatening evil forces in Catholic countries like France, Spain, or Italy, while reserving order and civilization for Protestant England. The gothic always played on existing fears and perceived threats to stability, whether to confirm or subvert them.

Hebrew Gothic takes as its starting point the assumption that modern Hebrew literature is somehow incompatible with the gothic. Written mostly by Jews, Hebrew literature was a force in the Jewish national culture that started to take shape in earnest in the late nineteenth century. It was a serious literature, with a serious mandate. The gothic, which most people associate with its supernatural creatures and its melodrama, seems too frivolous to accommodate this responsibility. Further, gothic literature has not been benevolent in its depictions of Jews, or of creatures associated with Jews (vampires are one example).

Nevertheless, my reading of Hebrew literature convinced me that the gothic has made an important contribution to Hebrew culture. *Hebrew Gothic* argues



that Hebrew authors since the beginning of the twentieth century have appropriated, revised, and subverted the conventions of British and American gothic literature to engage with the Jewish past. Bringing together Hebrew texts with canonical works of the American and European gothic by Edgar Allan Poe, Horace Walpole, and Toni Morrison, the book shows how Hebrew literature's gothic visions of the past engage with questions of victimization and persecution in ways that are sometimes surprising.

"Looking at how Hebrew authors have adapted and revised gothic conventions gives us a new perspective on how writers engage with the past."

The Hebrew authors whose works I analyze — including S. Y. Agnon, Dvora Baron, Amos Oz, Lea Goldberg, and others — have challenged assumptions about power and powerlessness, vulnerability and violence, to shape the modern Hebrew cultural sensibility. I think that looking at how Hebrew authors have adapted and revised gothic conventions gives us a new perspective on how writers engage with the past. But their use of the gothic

is also relevant to the present moment: it helps to clarify the tense coexistence of strength and victimization that governs contemporary Israeli cultural and political rhetoric.

#### Why do you think Jewish Hebrew authors were drawn to the gothic literary style?

That's the question driving my entire study! First of all, it's an attractive mode - it makes for good stories. Beyond that, though, I think the most important aspect of the gothic in the Hebrew context is its

One of the most important things about this study, for me, is that it is comparative. Several of the chapters examine Hebrew texts side-by-side with well-known British and American gothic texts like Poe's Masque of the Red Death and Walpole's Castle of Otranto and read them through one another. This kind of comparative work is relatively unusual in Hebrew literary criticism. When Hebrew literary scholars do engage in comparative work, they usually bring together works that have clearly apparent historical or biographical connections to



A re-issued Hebrew translation of Poe's "The Raven," famously translated by Ze'ev Jabotinsky (Renaissance Publishing, 1977).

preoccupation with history. For a people coming into being as a nation, the question of how to tell the stories of the past is a critical one.

#### What surprised you the most while researching and writing Hebrew Gothic?

The resistance — sometimes subtle. sometimes less subtle — to designate Hebrew works "gothic."

How do you see your work fitting into broader conversations in today's society?

Hebrew culture, such as German, Russian, Yiddish, or Arabic. This is really important work. But I strongly believe that Hebrew has much to gain from comparison to texts whose links to Hebrew are not so clear-cut. Ethical commonalities and contrasts among seemingly disparate literary traditions, for example, can help inform our understanding of literature in ways that direct influence cannot.

The other broad conversation my work fits into is historiographic: I see this study as offering an alternative historiography through literature, by contributing to an ongoing conversation about how to represent and engage with the past. Several of the chapters consider explicitly historiographic questions and approaches in their literary analyses. For example, one chapter looks at A. B. Yehoshua's famous novel Mr. Mani in light of historical studies published around the same time, in the 1980s, by the Israeli New Historians. Yehoshua's novel proposes a sort of alternate history to the standard narrative of European-Zionist teleology, depicting a network of movements across the Middle East region by Sephardic Jews. This alternate story offers a fictional counterpart to the revised histories offered by the Israeli New Historians in that same decade — histories that renounced established narratives about the 1948 War and its consequences. By showing, for example, that Palestinian Arabs not only fled but were sometimes expelled from their villages by Jewish forces, the New Historians instigated an important discussion in Israel about how Israeli Jews tell their past. To a great extent, this is what the gothic urges in many of the texts I examine.

#### Can you tell us an interesting aspect of your background and how it's informed your research and teaching?

My parents were encouraged to leave their home countries— Romania and Iraq—because they were Jews. I grew up in a home that was multilingual and mobile, moving from Italy to Israel to a small Texas town just north of the Mexican border. It's always been evident to me that there are myriad ways to see, understand, and represent the world, all legitimate, all illuminating in their way. This is probably one of the reasons I was drawn to comparative methodologies in my research and teaching.

## COURSES<br/>IN JEWISH STUDIES

The Schusterman Center provides a multi-disciplinary Jewish Studies curriculum. Here is a selection of our offerings.

### 2017-2018 Courses

## Introduction to Jewish Latin America

Amelia Weinreb

This survey examined the ways Jews constructed individual lives and vibrant communities in predominantly Hispanic, Catholic countries of Latin America over 5 centuries.

#### **Before the Bible**

Jack Weinbender

This course introduced students to the literature, history, and religion of the ancient Near East in order to understand the Hebrew Bible.

## Conflict Literature & Media in the Middle East

Rachel Green

In this class, students explored the role of artistic creativity in making sense of conflict and the imaginary in the Middle East.

#### **American Jewish Material Culture**

Suzanne Seriff

This course considered how Jews think about, work with, use, wear, display, and perform objects in the course of their everyday lives.

#### **Comparative Religious Ethics**

Jonathan Schofer

This course contemplated ideas about right and wrong as they are expressed in different religious traditions and across cultures.

#### **Ethnic Humor & Multicultural US**

Itzik Gottesman

What is meant by Jewish humor? This course looked at the sociological, psychological, folkloric, and literary dimensions of ethnic humor.

#### The Dead Sea Scrolls

Jonathan Kaplan

Students in this course studied the Dead Sea Scrolls in depth to understand the development of law, interpretation, ritual, messianism, apocalypticism, and prayer during the late Second Temple period.

#### **Germany since Hitler**

David F. Crew

This seminar analyzed the effects of Hitler's dictatorship upon German society, politics, economy, and culture after 1945.

## **2017-2018 QUICK FACTS**

23

Jewish Studies courses

583

Students enrolled

#### **Fall 2018**

## Jewish Civilization: Beginning to 1492

Jonathan Schofer

This course surveys Jewish civilization from the origins of ancient Israel to 1500 C.E.

## Israeli Politics and Society: Past and Present

Jonathan Grossman

In this course, students will study social, economic, political, and ethnic issues in Israel/Palestine from the nineteenth century to the present day.

#### **Jewish Studies: An Introduction**

Amelia Weinreb

This course introduces students to the major themes in Jewish Studies and to the UT faculty who work in the field.

#### **Imagining Genocide**

Robert Abzug

This course traces the development of Holocaust memory and interpretation in American culture since 1945.



**Learning Yiddish through Performance:** After a year of hard work, the students in Dr. Itzik Gottesman's 2017-2018 Yiddish language class showcased their language skills — and humor — with a recorded performance set in Oakwood Cemetery in Austin.

Watch the clip at vimeo.com/268072642.

#### Introduction to the Old Testament

**Bruce Wells** 

This course surveys the traditions and texts of the Hebrew Bible, exploring their literary and religious significance, as well as their historical and cultural contexts.

#### **Debating Genesis**

Bruce Wells

Students will engage with some of the most important past and present debates concerning the biblical book of Genesis. Topics include the book's authorship, historicity, connections to other ancient literature, use of sex and violence, and religious ideas.

#### **Jewish Folklore**

Itzik Gottesmar

Using historical documents, literature, and films, this course will explore the vibrancy of Jewish folklore.

#### Paul and his Social World

Geoffrev Smith

This course examines the life.

letters, and legacy of Paul of Tarsus.

#### **UT Jews in the Civil Rights Era**

Suzanne Seriff

Students will learn the art of oral history and digital storytelling while uncovering the untold tales of UT's Jewish students during the 1960s.

#### Introduction to the Holocaust

Tatjana Lichtenstein

This course explores the mass killing of Jews and others in the context of Nazi Germany's quest for race and space during WWII.

#### **Spatializing Culture**

Amelia Weinreb

This course focuses on Jewish communities across the globe and over time, including Jewish life in Latin America, the Middle East, North Africa, Asia, and Europe.

#### **Holocaust Aftereffects**

Pascale Ros

This course considers the indelible traces of the Holocaust in European and U.S. culture after 1945.

## **STUDENT NEWS**

#### **Zachary Epstein** named the 2018/2019 **Aaron Scholar in Jewish Studies**

The Schusterman Center is pleased to announce that Zachary Epstein is the 2018/2019 Aaron Scholar in Jewish Studies. Epstein is from Dallas, Texas, and has just completed his freshman year in Plan II and Jewish Studies. The Scholarship Committee was particularly impressed with Epstein's curiosity about Jewish cultures across the United States and the globe. "I've always been interested in Jewish history and the diversity of Jewish communities around the world," commented Epstein, "I'm curious as to reasons that lead to the much-too-common 'Post-bar/bat mitzvah drop-off.' This drop-off presents itself when young Jewish teens stop engaging in Jewish opportunities after the completion of their bar or bat mitzvah. It is an issue I hope to change." By majoring in Jewish Studies, Epstein hopes to prepare himself for this long-term goal that he has had since high school.

#### The Todd and Dawn Aaron **Endowed Presidential Scholarship** in Jewish Studies is awarded every

year to a Jewish Studies major who shows exceptional academic promise and strong leadership potential.

#### The Jewish Studies **Experience**

by John Hagan

How does modern anti-Semitic folklore compare to that of early Christian anti-Semitic folklore? How were Jews treated by their non-Jewish neighbors in Nazioccupied Europe? What are the issues that Israeli society faces today? These were some of the questions I grappled with in Jewish Studies courses at UT Austin.

My introduction to Jewish Studies was through Dr. Lichtenstein's course "Introduction to the Holocaust." In it, we read and analyzed secondary sources on the Holocaust, examined primary documents, had discussions on a range of topics and watched documentaries, historical footage, and listened survivor testimonies. Dr. Lichtenstein's course piqued my interest in Jewish Studies.

The following semester I took two Jewish Studies courses: "Israel: Society and Politics" and "Anti-Semitism in History and Literature." The former was taught by Knesset member Yosef Paritzky, wherein I learned about the formation of the Jewish state and its politics from Ben-Gurion to Netanyahu. The course on anti-Semitism was taught by Dr. John Hoberman. It surveyed the history of anti-Semitic folklore and tropes from the ancient to the modern. Some of the Jewish Studies courses were small and every professor promoted civil group discussion and an open exchange of ideas on even the most controversial topics. I consider these discussions to be some of the most rewarding learning

experiences I have had at UT.

Last year, my interest in the Holocaust and the Second World War led me to apply to the Frank Denius Normandy Scholar Program on WWII, one of UT's most prestigious study abroad programs. This is a program where 20 undergraduate students take five classes on the war, two of which are taught by Jewish Studies faculty, Drs. David F. Crew and Tatjana Lichtenstein. At the end of the spring term, students and faculty spend three weeks in Europe traveling to sites of memory in Britain, France, Poland and Germany.

I was well prepared for the Normandy Program thanks to the intimate, rigorous, and open learning environment of my Jewish Studies classes. For me, these classes have been invaluable assets that I would highly recommend to anyone looking to sharpen their writing, research, and speaking skills while mentored by some of the best faculty the University of Texas at Austin has to offer.

John Hagan is a History and Government major in the Liberal Arts Honors Program from El Paso, TX. After graduating in December, he plans to attend law school and



pursue a legal career in southern California. In his free time, John enjoys playing ice hockey, listening to podcasts, and playing the guitar.

#### **Appleman Graduate Fellowship Supports Graduate Student** Work

This year, the Schusterman Center awarded two Appleman Graduate Fellowships to support conference participation and research on topics in Jewish Studies.

Isabelle Headrick, PhD Student in History, received the Appleman Graduate Fellowship to conduct research in the archives of the Alliance Israélite Universelle (AIU) in Paris. This first modern Jewish philanthropic organization in the world was a part of a global educational movement supporting the secular education of girls. Its archives hold a collection of letters by French Jewish teachers, many of whom were women, working for the AIU in twentieth-century Iran.

Using these letters, Headrick hopes to explore the ways teachers' family networks facilitated Jewish integration and the professionalization of women in Iranian provincial cities between 1900 and 1950. "Funding from the Schusterman Center," comments Headrick, "[permits] me to contribute to scholarship about women and Jews in Iran in provincial cities during the rapid political, economic and social changes and state modernization of the early-to-mid twentieth century."

Amy Vidor, PhD Candidate in Comparative Literature, was supported by the Appleman Graduate Fellowship to attend the American Comparative

Literature Association's annual seminar in Los Angeles, California. Vidor participated in a discussion of testimonies of genocide survivors and the challenges of bearing witness. She explored the ways literary testimony, such as Charlotte Delbo's Convoy to Auschwitz: Women of the French Resistance, can be models for recording testimony for future generations.

Vidor also toured the visual history archive at the USC Shoah Foundation, which houses over 55,000 genocide survivor testimonies. Vidor learned about New Dimensions in Testimony (NDT), a new form of interactive testimony that allows people to have conversations with prerecorded videos of Holocaust survivors and other witnesses to genocide.

"My experience at the **Shoah Foundation and** ACLA provided me with a network of resources as I continue my dissertation and develop new pedagogical techniques for incorporating genocide testimony into the classroom."



Isabelle Headrick at the AIU Archives in Paris, France.



Students attending the Schusterman Center reception at Texas Hillel, Fall 2017.

## SUPPORT US

The Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies was created by an extraordinary \$6 million challenge grant from the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation of Tulsa, Oklahoma. In 2012, under the directorship of Dr. Robert H. Abzug, the challenge was met thanks to the Gale Foundation and numerous others donors whose gifts secured the Center's future.

The Schusterman Center honors and recognizes donors who make contributions towards the Center and its funding priorities by welcoming them into the Dean's Circle.

The Dean's Circle is a group of donors who provide critical support that allows the college to seize opportunities as it strives toward its goal of excellence in Liberal Arts.

All members will be invited to an annual Dean's Circle event each fall. In addition, members are recognized on the Liberal Arts website and will receive periodic updates from the Dean.

All giving, to any area of the College, is counted toward Dean's Circle membership. Gifts are recognized at the following membership levels:

GOLD (\$20,000+) SILVER (\$10,000-19,999) BRONZE (\$2,500-9,999) FRIEND (\$500-2,499)

#### **HOW TO MAKE A GIFT**

You can submit your gift online through our secure online web form or we welcome the opportunity to meet with you in person. If you would like to send in your donation, please mail it to:

KATHLEEN ARONSON
Assistant Dean for Development
Office of Alumni & Giving
College of Liberal Arts
The University of Texas at Austin
116 Inner Campus Drive, Stop G6300
Austin, TX 78712-1260

You may also e-mail Kathleen Aronson at mcaronson@ austin.utexas.edu or call (512) 475-9763 to receive more information about types of giving:

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Corporate and Foundation Gifts

For more details about these types of giving, including a full list of endowment areas, please see: liberalarts. utexas.edu/alumni-and-giving/support-us.

## **FUNDING PRIORITIES**

### & ways to support

## UNDERGRADUATE **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Internship opportunities allow students to develop professional skills, explore career avenues, and build networks that will prepare them to make the transition from college to career. As internships are often unpaid, the Schusterman Center aims to create competitive fellowships to support students during their internships.

**Endowed Presidential Scholarship** \$250,000

**Undergraduate Scholarship** \$50,000

#### GRADUATE EXCELLENCE

Training outstanding future scholars in Jewish Studies is a crucial part of the Schusterman Center's mission. The creation of graduate student fellowships to attract and support the very best candidates who want to train with our faculty is a key priority. Investing in graduate excellence strengthens the reputation of the Schusterman Center as a hub of Jewish Studies research and education.

**Endowed Presidential Fellowship** \$250,000

**Graduate Fellowships** \$100,000

**Supplemental Graduate Fellowships** \$10,000 (every year for five years)

### **HOLOCAUST RESEARCH & EDUCATION**

The Schusterman Center has a unique opportunity to become a leader in Holocaust research and education in the Southwest. We intend to pursue this goal through competitive graduate student fellowships, a prestigious visiting scholar program, enhanced resources for research and curriculum development, an endowed Chair in Holocaust Studies. Beginning in September 2018, the Schusterman Center will be the home base of the Texas Holocaust Scholars Network that connects researchers and educators across the state.

Chair \$2,000,000

**Professorship** \$500,000

**Endowed Excellence Fund** \$25,000



Canadian-Jewish musician Leonard Cohen performs in Denmark (Credit: Takahiro Kyono)

#### **Gale Collaborative** fosters connections between scholars at UT and beyond.

by Robert H. Abzug & Naomi Lindstrom

rom its founding in 2007, the Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies set as one of its priorities the promotion of scholarship and public programming on Jewish life in the Americas: the United States. Canada, and Latin America. The Center has pursued that goal with lectures, research projects and, in the past few years, by widening its influence among scholars and institutions from across the Western Hemisphere. We have also founded the Gale Collaborative on Jewish Life in the Americas, based in the Schusterman Center, to bring focus and outside recognition to our efforts.

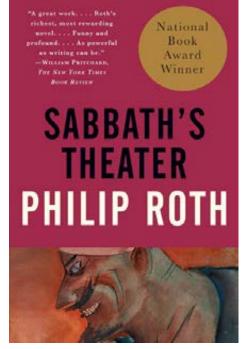
During the academic year 2017/2018, the Gale Collaborative sponsored visits by several speakers that engaged campus audiences with different perspectives on Jewish Life in the Americas. In the fall semester, the Argentine painter and sculptor Susana Beibe gave a talk in Spanish about her work, "Roots and Identity: Searching in the Ashes of the Holocaust" /"Raíces e identidad: buscando en las cenizas del Holocausto" in conjunction with a display of her paintings hosted by the Benson Latin American Collection. During her visit. Beibe donated two of her new works to the Schusterman Center. In late October, Professor Pierre Anctil (University of Ottawa) visited UT. He met with faculty and students, consulted with the co-directors about developing the Collaborative, and presented two lectures: "Different Destinies and Different Identities: Being Jewish in Canada & U.S." and "J. I. Segal, Canadian Yiddish Poet."

In the spring semester, David Weinfeld (Virginia Commonwealth University) discussed his work on the Jewish/African-American origins of debates over the "melting pot." Jonathan Grossman (Hebrew University and a post-doc at UT's Institute for Israel Studies) spoke about the Latin American-Israeli connection. The Gale Collaborative also hosted research associate Melina Di Miro, a PhD candidate from the Universidad de Buenos Aires. Looking ahead to fall 2018, we will be welcoming Rachel Gordan (University of Florida, Gainesville) and Ronnie Perelis (Yeshiva University) to address, respectively, topics in American Jewish Studies and the Sephardic presence in Inquisition-era Mexico.

The Gale Collaborative continues to pursue projects in collaboration with other universities. The most extensive of these is the development of an international network of scholars working on

Jewish life in the Americas, who will meet at symposia and share their research both face to face and online. This initiative was launched in November 2015 with the symposium "Jews in the Americas," held at the Schusterman Center: a second event with a focus on transnational studies is scheduled for 15-18 July, 2019, at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada. Co-directors Robert Abzug and Naomi Lindstrom are working with Drs. Judit Bokser Liwerant (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México), Sergio Della Pergola (Hebrew University of Jerusalem), and Richard Menkis (University of British Columbia) on plans for next year's international symposium.

In addition, the Gale Collaborative seeks to strengthen comparative research on Jews in the Americas in multiple other ways. For example, Dr. Abzug gave the keynote address at the Western Jewish Studies Association annual meeting in San Antonio, Texas. His topic: The need and opportunities inherent in the comparative and integrative study of Jewish Life in the Americas. The WJSA meeting was an opportunity to strengthen relations between the Collaborative and members of the Latin American Jewish Studies Association, who participated in the San Antonio gathering. These ties are close as the Collaborative's co-director Dr. Lindstrom manages the Latin American Jewish Studies Association listsery based at UT. Another example of how the Collaborative seeks to strengthen the study of Jews in the Americas is through a partnership with the University of Texas Press. The most recent title is the multi-authored volume Evolving Images: Jewish Latin American Cinema, edited by Nora Glickman and Ariana Huberman, published in January 2018 in the series "Exploring Jewish Arts and





Works by Jewish authors Philip Roth (1933-2018, United States) & Margo Glantz (b. 1930, Mexico)

Culture" (series editor: Dr. Robert H. Abzug).

As a part of its mission, the Gale Collaborative also supports courses that allow students to explore Jewish life in the Americas. Dr. Amelia Weinreb teaches a course on Jewish Cuba as well as an introduction to Jewish Latin America while Dr. Itzik Gottesman teaches classes such as "American Jews: The Yiddish Experience" and "Ethnic Humor: Multicultural US." Visiting Lecturer Dr. Jonathan Grossman offered a course on Israel, Latin America, and the Jewish Diaspora. Beginning in fall 2018, Dr. Suzanne Seriff will teach a new research seminar on Jews at UT during the Civil Rights Era (for more on this course, see page 4).

In Spring 2019, the Collaborative will begin a campus film series with the seriocomic "My Mexican Shiva," before moving on to films about Jews in all regions of the Western Hemisphere. We will also be cosponsoring, with Texas Hillel and the Canadian Consulate in Dallas, a historical exhibit illustrating the nature and history of Canadian-Jewish life.

Robert H. Abzug is the founding director of the Schusterman Center and the Co-Director of the Gale Collaborative. He is also the Audre and Bernard Rapoport Regents

Chair of Jewish Studies and Professor of History and American Studies. His work centers on the creation and evolution of moral and ethical sensibilities in American society.

**Naomi Lindstrom** is the Gale Family Foundation Professor in Jewish Arts & Culture and Professor of Spanish &

Portuguese. She is also the Co-Director of the

Gale Collaborative. Her work lies at the nexus of Latin American Studies and Jewish Studies, with a focus on 19th, 20th, and 21st century literature.







agmar Lieblová was a child prisoner at Terezín, deported to Auschwitz, then dispatched as slave labor to Hamburg, a city in the nightly cross-hairs of Allied bombers. There she cleared the streets of debris from the previous night's air raids. Dagmar was finally liberated, sitting among the dead, by British troops at the notorious Bergen Belsen concentration camp. The eighty-eight-year old Lieblová died last March in Prague, beating the odds, after having been forced as a teenager to dwell for four desperate years in harm's deadly way.

The ranks of the generation that lived through the horrors of World War II are rapidly thinning. Soon, all those who have experienced the war will be gone. For the past five-years I have photographed the remnants of a group that endured the unprecedented terror of Nazi Germany – survivors, like Dagmar Lieblová...prisoners of Terezín. Why am I interested in survivors of

this particular concentration camp, located forty miles north of Prague?

Of the more than 40,000 detention centers, concentration, work and death camps located throughout German-occupied Europe, Terezín was unique in a number of ways. Most notably, a large number of artists and creative types were imprisoned at Terezín and their legacy is preserved in the art and music they created there. The camp also became known, although far from the truth, as the "country club" of German camps. It gained this reputation partly due to the fact that the walled prison town was skillfully staged as a "model Jewish ghetto" by the Nazi propaganda machine, successfully fooling the International Red Cross inspectors into believing that all Jewish camps resembled the sham they viewed at Terezín.

Although Terezín was not an extermination camp, death was far from a stranger. Terrible conditions of depravity and evil

prevailed there as well. More than 30,000 inmates perished from exposure, malnutrition and disease while awaiting transport to the East. Nearly 90,000 others were eventually deported to Auschwitzthe vast majority murdered. Of the 155,000 Jews who were processed and held at Terezín, less than 8 percent survived the war.

The portrait of Dagmar Lieblová was taken in the doorway of the Czech Girl's Home located on Terezín's town square. It was here that young Czech Jewish girls, including Lieblová, were housed, more than twenty-five to each small room, after they were deemed old enough to be separated from their mothers. The chalk drawing on the building's wall, a butterfly (motýl in Czech), has become the symbol associated with Terezín because of a poem that survived the camp and its author who didn't. The poem "I Never Saw Another Butterfly" was written by Pavel Friedmann, a teenager imprisoned at Terezín and later murdered at Auschwitz.



Dagmar Lieblová, Czech Girls' Home, Terezín, Czech Republic, 2014 (Credit: Dennis Darling)

"Only a few hundred Terezín inmates still survive to tell their stories. To date, I have made more than 150 portraits, in eight countries."

When I first started the Terezín project I was timid about approaching the survivors to ask them to talk about their experience, then sit for a portrait. I found it hard to comprehend why they would be interested in speaking to a person from rural upstate New York, raised Irish Catholic and who, at the time, really couldn't precisely express why he was interested in making their photograph.

I was even more reluctant to ask those survivors who lived in the vicinity of Terezín to accompany me for their portrait session to the place of such personal sorrow. Much to my surprise, nearly everyone I asked made that journey of forty miles and seventy years, including Dagmar Lieblová.

I later happened upon a 2010 editorial in the New York Times that put precisely into words not only the reason for the Terezín survivors' willingness to be a part of my project but, why I was compelled to attempt the series as well. In that editorial, the author and Holocaust survivor Samuel Pisar lamented, "that after 65 years, the last living survivors of the Holocaust are disappearing one by one," and he points out that at best, "only the impersonal voice of a researcher will soon be left to tell the Holocaust story." At worst, he warns, it will be told in the "malevolent register of revisionists and falsifiers." He cautions that this process has already begun. "This is why those of us who survived have a duty to transmit to mankind the memory of what we endured in body and soul, to tell our children that the fanaticism and violence that nearly destroyed our universe have the power to enflame theirs, too."

Reliable sources estimate that, at

best, a few hundred Terezín inmates still survive to tell their stories. To date. I have made more than 150 portraits, in eight countries. I am honored to have been the recipient of their trust and feel fortunate to have been able to make some of the last visual records of their unique histories - the last of living memory.

Originally published on Not Even Past on April 12, 2018. Dr. Darling's research has been supported by the Schusterman Center.

**Dennis Darling** has taught photojournalism and graphic design in the UT School of Journalism since 1981. His ongoing photography series of Terezín



survivors has been exhibited at various venues including the American Center at the U.S. Embassy in Prague. A book of the portraits is planned.

## FACULTY NEWS

Schusterman Center Faculty Affiliates share their current research, teaching plans, achievements, and other scholarly pursuits.

As part of co-directing with Naomi Lindstrom our initiative on Jewish Life in the Americas, Robert H.

Abzug (Professor, History and American Studies) is working on an upcoming international research conference concerning Jews in the Americas taking place in 2019 in Vancouver. He is also widening the circle of towns to investigate in a study of Jewish life and its preservation in small town America in comparison to small town Canada.

Miriam Bodian (Professor, History) is editing a special issue of Jewish History featuring articles that reflect a new understanding of the religious complexity of early modern Spain. She also participated in a conference on "Jews of Portugal and the Spanish-Portuguese Jewish Diaspora" at the University of Lisbon and the University of Porto this summer.

Davida Charney (Professor, Rhetoric & Writing) was appointed to the World Religions peer review committee for the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program. Her article "The Long and the Short of It: Amplitude at Gettysburg" was published in the summer 2018 issue of *Rhetoric and Public Affairs*. David F. Crew (Professor, History) published Bodies and Ruins: Imagining the Bombing of Germany, 1945 to the Present (University of Michigan Press, 2017). He is also working on two book manuscripts: "Enigma in Black and White: Benno Wundshammer, Photojournalism and Twentieth-Century German History" and "Collecting the Nazi Past from 1945."

Itzik Gottesman (Senior Lecturer, Germanic Studies) has written an article "The Yiddish Song Repertoire of Two Generations" to appear in a volume in the series Jews, Judaism, and the Arts (Brill). He is also working on an entry titled "Daily Jewish Life in Eastern Europe" for the Oxford Bibliography series.

Rachel Green (Lecturer, Middle Eastern Studies) has accepted an Assistant Professorship in Comparative Literature and Israel/Palestine Studies at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, beginning Fall 2018. She will miss UT and SCJS very much!

Jonathan Grossman's (Postdoctoral Fellow, Institute for Israel Studies) current research uses an inductive content analysis method to decontest the essentially contested concept of diaspora. He will present a revised version of this paper at the annual American Political Science Association meeting in September.

John Hoberman (Professor, Germanic Studies) published his new book *Dopers in Uniform: The Hidden World of Police on Steroids* in November 2017 with the University of Texas Press, and is currently writing a book about race and political correctness in the U.S. since the 1960s. He is also teaching a course on anti-Semitism in history and literature this Fall.

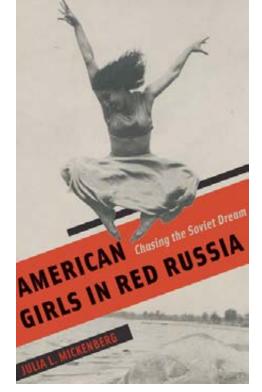
Jonathan Kaplan (Assistant Professor, Middle Eastern Studies) published "Yôbel, A New Proposal" in the journal *Biblica*. He presented papers at the annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature (November 2017) and the annual conference of the Association for Jewish Studies (December 2017). In July 2018, he delivered a keynote address on early rabbinic interpretation of Song of Songs at the 67th Colloquium Biblicum Lovaniense at the Katholieke Universiteit in Leuven, Belgium.

Tatjana Lichtenstein (Associate Professor, History) is working on a new book project on the experiences of intermarried families in the Bohemian Lands during the Holocaust. This fall she is participating in the 2018 Lessons & Legacies Conference, a bi-annual gathering of scholars in Holocaust Studies.

Naomi Lindstrom (Professor, Spanish & Portuguese) published a study of the Mexican Sephardic poet Myriam Moscona in Tintas: Quaderni di litterature iberiche e iberoamericane. She was appointed to the editorial board of the Shalvi/ Hyman Encyclopedia of Jewish Women, a project of the Jewish Women's Archive. Her translation of the 1929 Argentine novel The Seven Madmen by Roberto Arlt appears in July 2018. Tracie Matysik (Associate Professor, History) continues to work on a book manuscript When Spinoza Met Marx: Experiments in Democratic Activity, 1830-Present. which considers a variety of German-Jewish thinkers in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. She is also working on an article titled "Revolutionary Messianisms, Spinozist Variations: German-Jewish Responses to Hegelianism" commissioned for a volume edited by Michael Rosenthal, titled Spinoza and Modern Jewish Philosophy (Palgrave, 2019).

Julia Mickenberg's (Professor, American Studies) American Girls in Red Russia: Chasing the Soviet Dream was published in 2017, and was named a Best Book of the Year in the history category by the Financial Times. A related article on American Feminists and the First Red Scare will be published in the Journal of the Progressive Era and Gilded Age in 2019 in a special issue on the Red Scare's 100th anniversary.

Rebecca Rossen (Associate Professor, Performance as Public Practice) is working on a new book on Holocaust representation in contemporary dance. She recently presented a paper on Holocaust dances choreographed by African American artists at the American Jewish Historical Society's biennial conference. She just completed a three-year term as Editor of the Studies in Dance History book series, co-published by the Dance Studies Association and the University of Wisconsin Press.



Julia Mickenberg's American Girls in **Red Russia** was named a Best Book of the Year by the Financial Times.

Suzanne Seriff (Senior Lecturer, Anthropology) won the International Toy Research Association's Senior Prize for **Outstanding Toy Research this** July in Paris, France for her project "Holocaust War Games: Playing with Genocide."

Amelia Weinreb (Senior Lecturer, Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies) was recently promoted to Senior Lecturer and is teaching two new courses in the fall, including "Jewish Studies: An Introduction" and "Spatializing Culture." She is completing a series of articles on daily life in a small Negev town. "Rebranding Desolation: The Allure of Israel's Desert Landscapes" will be published in the September issue of Israel Studies Review, and she is currently completing, "Pulsing and Jewish Time-Geography in Mitzpe Ramon, Israel," which she presented at the Association for Israel Studies meetings in June.

## 2017-2018 **QUICK FACTS**

- **29** affiliated faculty from
- **12** departments across
  - 3 colleges



Suzanne Seriff receives her award in Paris, France, July 2018.

## **EVENTS**

Schusterman
Center events bring
together students,
faculty, staff, and the
community around
diverse topics related
to Jewish Studies.

#### Past:

#### Same-Sex Jewish Weddings

December 2017

Held at the Schusterman Center, this pop-up exhibit explored the new and transformed rituals surrounding same-sex Jewish weddings and the sacred objects that sanctify them.

#### In the Darkroom of Identity and Refuge: A Daughter's Account February 2018

Pulitzer-prize winning journalist and author Susan Faludi discussed her struggle to come to grips with her father's many identity transformations - from Holocaust survivor to suburban dad to household despot to trans woman at the age of 76 - and how that led her to explore the larger preoccupation with identity that consumes our age.

#### Judaism and Mental Health: Psychotherapy, Neuroscience, and the Spiritual Life

February 2018

This conference brought together psychologists, psychiatrists, clergy, and other scholars to explore the intersection of science and spirituality within the realms of psychology and psychotherapy. Topics spanned centuries, ranging



Robert H. Abzug at the Judaism and Mental Health Conference, February 2018.

from the problems of mental well-being in Rabbinic texts to the "positive psychology" movement and the findings of neuroscience. The event was co-sponsored by the Center for Jewish Studies at Arizona State University and the Gale Family Foundation Annual Lectureship in Jewish Studies.

#### My First Sony

March 2018

Roy Horovitz (Artist in Residence, Institute for Israel Studies) performed My First Sony, a play by Benny Barash which follows the deterioration of an Israeli family. The story is told by Yotam, an 11-year old child who records everything on his tape recorder.

### **Upcoming:**

#### **The Book Smugglers**

Wednesday, October 3, 5 p.m. RLP 1.302B

Dr. David Fishman (Jewish Theological Seminary) will discuss *The Book Smugglers*, which tells the nearly unbelievable story of ghetto inmates who rescued thousands of rare books and manuscripts — first from the Nazis and then from the Soviets — by hiding them on their bodies, burying them in bunkers, and smuggling them across borders. Sponsored by The Kasman Family Lectures on Eastern European Jewish Life and Culture.

## Beyond Blood: Cross-Cultural Encounters in Inquisitorial Mexico

Monday, October 22, 12 p.m. RLP 2.402



Ronnie Perelis (Yeshiva University) will explore the inquisition prison as a site of transformative crosscultural encounters.

## How Judaism became an American Religion

Wednesday, November 7, 12 p.m. RLP 2.402

Rachel Gordan (University of Florida Gainesville) will explain how and why Judaism became America's "third faith."

## Yiddish as a Minority Language in Sweden

Wednesday, November 14, 1 p.m. Location TBD

In 2000, the Swedish government designated Yiddish one of the country's five official minority languages. Dr. Jan Schwarz (Lund University, Sweden) will examine the significance of this language

policy for minority identities in Sweden and in the European Union.

## An Encounter with Argentine Jewish novelist Ana María Shua

Thursday, November 15, 12:30 p.m. Schusterman Center

The distinguished novelist Ana María Shua, author of *The Book of Memories*, will discuss her creative writing over the years and its relation to Argentine Jewish society and culture (in English).

## I.B.Singer's Art of Ghost Writing in Enemies, A Love story

Date & Time TBD

The ghost story and the ghost writer story are central to Singer's work, particularly in his short fiction. Dr. Jan Schwarz will delineate Singer's use of ghost writing in his 1972 novel *Enemies*, *A Love Story*. Sponsored by The

Kasman Family Lectures on Eastern European Jewish Life and Culture.

## 1945 (F. Török; Hungary, 2017) Film Screening & Discussion

Thursday, November 8, 5 p.m. GAR 0.102

2018 marks the 80th anniversary of the November Pogrom (*Kristallnacht*). To commemorate the event, we invite you to a film screening and discussion of 1945, which explores the after-effects of genocide in a small Hungarian town.

## UT Jews in the Civil Rights Era Public Symposium

Sunday, December 2, 1-5 p.m. Glickman Conference Center (RLP 1.302B)

More information on page 5.

Visit liberalarts.utexas.edu/scjs for the current schedule of events & to subscribe to our mailing list.



## SCHUSTERMAN CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES

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@UTJewishStudies

Cover Image: 1975 anti-racism rally at the University of Texas at Austin (credit: Alan Pogue).