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**Ashley** Bobman connects with her family's Ladino legacy



Celebrating 40 **years** of Jewish Studies at UW with a special archival gallery

**Anatoliy Klots** goes behind the scenes of Soviet Iewish cinema



On the cover: What better way to celebrate our program's 40th birthday than to create a new outlet for student leadership? The Jewish Studies Student Committee (JSSC) will give students an important voice in curriculum, event planning, and program outreach. Find out more about Ha, Haley, Lindsay, Silvi, Rebecca, and Griffin, who have big plans for making 2013-14 a vear to remember.

#### Stroum Iewish **Studies Program**

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Save the dates for terrific events in 2013-14, including the return of JewDub Talks in the fall



Explore our out-of-the-box approaches to Hebrew and Israel Studies



An interview with **Shalom Sabar**, expert in Jewish art and folklore



Walk down memory lane with **one of the** first Jewish Studies majors at UW



We say thank you to our dedicated supporters and profile Dr. and Mrs. Buchman

# from the



Prof. Noam Pianko talking with members of the Jewish Studies Student Committee

## Engaged Jewish Studies: Reinventing the Field for the 21st Century

Since its founding in 1973, the Stroum Jewish Studies Program has shaped the cutting edge of this field with its innovative Stroum Lectures, Hazel D. Cole post-doctoral fellowship, and influential scholarship. As we look forward to the next forty years, however, the fundamental assumptions of higher education are rapidly changing. Economic, political, and social factors are radically transforming all aspects of higher education. It is clear that there will be major restructuring on the models of budget allocation, faculty, curriculum, and student demographics. Shifting resources have led to a variety of changes that challenge longtime assumptions.

What does the new academic landscape mean for Jewish Studies at the University of Washington over the next forty years?

On the one hand, small programs like Jewish Studies face real challenges. The shift in budget allocation to reflect student enrollment disproportionately impacts programs that offer smaller classes with low faculty-to-student ratios. Compounding this trend is the increased pressure students feel to only explore courses and interests that they perceive as directly contributing to their chances of employment after graduation. Jewish ing highly specialized courses for smaller numbers of students will have a difficult time sustaining themselves as new models of higher education transform the priorities of university leadership.

On the other hand, Jewish Studies programs are ideally positioned as models for the rapidly changing landscape of higher education. First, as state universities shift away from state funds, there is an increased recognition of the importance of engaging local communities and demonstrating the relevance of scholarship. Since their origins, Jewish Studies programs have focused on public programming, community partnerships, and community-engaged research. Second, efforts to streamline resources have generated renewed interest in creating interdisciplinary programs that integrate faculty from across the university. The move toward departmental partnerships and bridging intellectual boundaries has long been a hallmark of Jewish Studies programs, which seek faculty from around the university with common interests. Third, Jewish Studies programs are well poised to innovate. Universities can be both culturally and institutionally slow to adapt to change. Jewish Studies programs tend to be more nimble

Studies programs that attempt to continue offer- and adaptable, an important attribute in times of rapidly changing technological and economic re-

> Guided by these principles-engagement, partnership, and innovation—the Stroum Jewish Studies Program has the potential to be part of shaping the future of Jewish Studies specifically and higher education more broadly. We are already well on the way. This past year, we created two new public programs that highlight our program's dedication to community engagement. The New Voices in World Jewish Music series brought three young Jewish musicians to Seattle. The three sold-out evening events and campus workshops showcased the creation of new Jewish culture based on traditional sources. A second program we initiated this year was JewDub Talks, an evening of four short faculty lectures on big Jewish ideas on the model of TED talks. The You-Tube videos we produced from this event, focusing on questions like "Why Yiddish?" and "Why Break a Glass at a Wedding?," have already been watched by more than 11,000 people!

> We have continued our program's strength of always looking to build connections across the university and the community. This year we

#### Thanks to our Advisory Board Members 2013-2014

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Sonny Gorasht for his
service as interim chair.



Prof. Noam Pianko with Galeet Dardashti, one of the performers featured in the New Voices in World Jewish Music Series during Winter 2013.

welcomed a new faculty member to the program, Ana Gomez-Bravo, a Prof. in Spanish and Portuguese Studies who writes about the converso experience through research on the culture of food in Medieval Spain. We created a Jewish Studies Student Committee to provide our students the chance to build bridges across various backgrounds and areas of interest (see story on p. 18). In the community, our program is building a new partnership with the Washington State Jewish Historical Society to create an online portal showcasing the stories of local Jewish residents of the state.

Our program's commitment to innovation in digital Jewish Studies continues to make our program a campus and national leader in the use of technology in higher education. Our web site (StroumJewishStudies.org) has reached more than 10,000 people this past year with content

#### Noam F. Pianko

Lucia S. and Herbert L. Pruzan Prof. of Jewish Studies

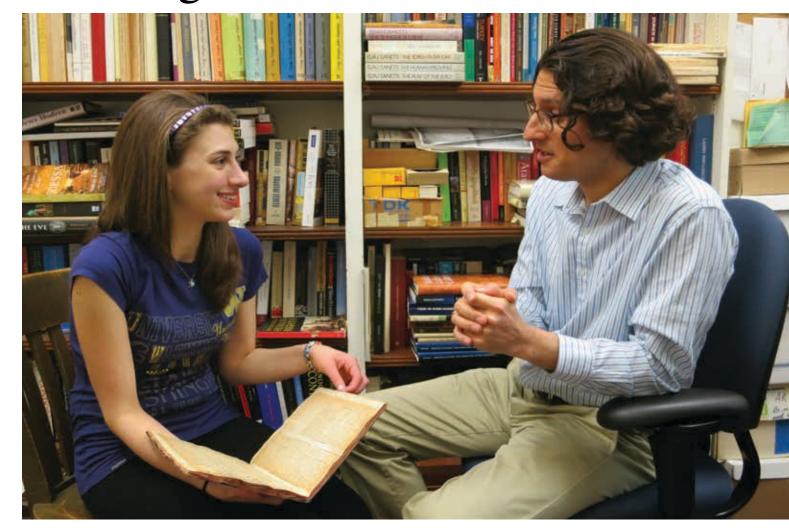
Samuel N. Stroum Chair of Jewish Studies

showcasing our faculty, students, and community members. Along with my Jackson School colleague, Prof. Sara Curran, I was fortunate to receive a Mellon grant to help the Jackson School consider how to create an interactive portal that brings the school's resources into the public realm in an accessible fashion.

As the University of Washington shifts to meet the changing realities of higher education, the Stroum Jewish Studies Program will continue to position itself as a cutting-edge contributor to the university community. The next several pages of our Fall 2013 newsletter showcase examples of our students and faculty doing creative, engaging, high-caliber work in Jewish Studies. They are the present and future of our program. I'm so proud of them, and so excited to see what the next forty years will bring.

# Moon Ornh

# Reading Her Great-Grandfather



Ashley Bobman discusses her great-grandfather's notebook with Prof. Devin Naar, who is supervising her exploration of Ladino and Sephardic history.

Like most good stories, this one is about luck and timing.

In 2011, the Sephardic Studies Initiative at the University of Washington acquired four note-books, ranging from 40 to 400 pages, belonging to the Sephardic cultural activist Albert D. Levy (1896-1963). These notebooks are full of writings in Ladino, or Judeo-Spanish, the language spoken by Jews whose ancestors fled Spain and Portugal and settled in the lands of the Ottoman Empire. Like many of the rare Ladino documents being

preserved, archived, and studied at the UW, the Levy journals are completely unique, and they have never been translated into English — until now.

And here's the twist: the person doing this painstaking work of translation is Levy's own great-granddaughter, Ashley Bobman.

How did this come about? At a Hillel Shabbat dinner in the autumn of 2012, members of the Jewish Studies faculty were meeting students and sharing about their courses and research.

Bobman, a freshman taking pre-nursing courses, happened to sit near Prof. Devin Naar, who runs the Sephardic Studies Initiative, and Lauren Spokane, Assistant Director of the Stroum Jewish Studies Program. As they began chatting, Bobman revealed that her family on her mother's side was Sephardic. Prof. Naar asked about her mother's maiden name. When she said Levy, a light bulb went off in the historian's head: Levy was also the name on the four Ladino notebooks that had recently been lent to his archive.

"Do you happen to be related to an Albert Levy?" Naar asked excitedly. When Ashley Bobman confirmed that Levy was her mother's grandfather, Naar knew he was sitting next to the great-granddaughter of one of the leading Ladino writers of the twentieth century.

 $A \ \ prolific \ \ journalist, \ educator, \ and$ community leader, Albert Levy was born in 1896 in Salonika, a major port city then part of the Ottoman Empire. There he edited El Liberal, a Ladino political daily, and was a teacher. In 1916, to avoid military service recently implemented by the new Greek state, which now controlled Salonika, Levy immigrated to America. He lived on New York's Lower East Side, where he was involved with several Ladino publications including El Kirbach Americano, El Proletario, and El Luzero Sefaradi. Levy's most significant contribution to the American Ladino press was his leadership of La Vara, which he founded in 1922. La Vara was the last Ladino newspaper published in Hebrew letters anywhere in the world; it folded in 1948.

Albert Levy's cultural activism gained him a national and international reputation as a teacher and community leader. In the early 1930s, when the Sephardic synagogues in Seattle, especially Sephardic Bikur Holim, decided to establish a local Sephardic Talmud Torah (Jewish school), they recruited Levy to be the director. Relocating from New York to Seattle, Levy continued contributing his writing and oratorical skills to Sephardic cultural organizations. He even became involved in the nascent American Hebrew movement, writing for HaDoar, a Hebrew magazine. Levy died in 1963, leaving behind a legacy of tireless Sephardic cultural activity; in addition, he and his wife Lucy had three children, eight grandchildren, and eventually seven great-grandchildren.

"Albert Levy was likely the most prolific Ladino journalist and author in the United States, and

one of the most important international voices of Sephardic Jewry during the first half of the twentieth century," reflected Prof. Naar, who is the Marsha and Jay Glazer Endowed Chair in Jewish Studies and Assistant Prof. of History at UW. "The opportunity to bring his writings to

As anyone who has ever tried to work between two (or in this case, three) languages knows, the translation process is time-consuming but rewarding. Bobman first transliterates every Ladino word from Hebrew letters into Latin letters and then begins her translation; next she consults a

Thanks to a chance meeting at UW Hillel, the curiosity of a Jewish Studies professor, and the dedication of a talented student, Albert Levy's work will be accessible to a whole new generation.

life and to recreate his cultural milieu — all possible through these notebooks — is both rare and exciting." The notebooks, which contain clippings of many of Levy's published essays and poems, are on loan from Sephardic Bikur Holim, thanks to community leaders Lily DeJaen and Al Maimon, a member of the Stroum Jewish Studies Program's Advisory Board and its Sephardic Studies Committee.

## After that fateful meeting at

Hillel, Ashley Bobman made arrangements to spend Winter Quarter working with Prof. Naar on an experiential learning project for the Interdisciplinary Honors Program. Helped by her knowledge of the Hebrew alphabet and Spanish, she picked up the Ladino language rather quickly; in fact, she describes herself as "pleasantly surprised" by the progress she made. She translated a range of Levy's works, from an overtly political poem about the impact of the Spanish Inquisition, to more personal texts, such as obituaries Levy wrote about his Salonikan family. So thoroughly did Bobman enjoy this learning experience that she signed up to continue the independent study in the Spring Quarter.

Ladino-English dictionary and uses contextual clues to put full verses or sentences together. At her regular meetings with Prof. Naar, they go over her drafts line by line, and he offers suggestions for how to polish and refine. He also helps her survey the contents of the notebooks and select which text to try next. Bobman is currently working on a text about the history of the Jews of Salonika, written in poetic verse.

Even more exciting than grasping the mechanics of how Levy wrote, though, is understanding what he wrote — the actual meaning and impact of his writings. Bobman explains, "I knew from my family that he had done a lot of writing and worked for newspapers, but I am only just beginning to understand the contributions he made to the Sephardic community." As she worked through the texts, she began to notice certain themes and motifs that repeat in Levy's oeuvre, such as the need to unite the Sephardic community. Thus a picture began to emerge of her greatgrandfather's core values; she started to understand who he was and what he stood for.

"For me it's a great opportunity to get to know my great-grandfather Albert's work and learn about my family's background," Bobman says.

## Sephardic Treasures From The Albert Levy Notebooks







Left: An obituary for Albert Levy's father, David Judah (Yeuda), who died in Salonika in 1923. The obituary appeared in La Vara, the Ladino newspaper published by Levy in New York. Middle: Handwritten Ladino title page of one of Albert Levy's notebooks, which reads, "Souvenirs of My Activities in New York, 1920-1931." Right: "A Grand Fiesta in Seattle!" Photographs of the inauguration of Sephardic Bikur Holim synagogue in Seattle. The picture of community members includes Rabbi Abraham Maimon. Published in La Vara in New York, ca. 1928.

A native of Seattle, she is the daughter of Bruce Bobman and Karen Tacher-Bobman, whose parents were the late Rachel (Levy) and Jack Tacher. Bobman's older brother Jacob graduated UW in the class of 2011; he earned a Jewish Studies minor (and was featured in our Fall 2011 newsletter). The whole family gets regular updates on the Levy notebook project. Bobman says proudly, "I share my translations with my siblings and parents, so they can learn about what Albert Levy was doing. My mom reads a lot of my translations, and she is really glad I am doing this work."

Ashley Bobman plans to continue working on the Albert Levy notebooks throughout her time at UW and has specific learning goals

for herself. Although she has made extraordinary progress in two quarters, she says, "I still have much to learn about the language that my ancestors spoke." Currently, she is limited to working on texts written with the standard Hebrew alphabet, but the notebooks also contain materials written in Rashi script, or rabbinic type, and soletreo, the Sephardic cursive handwriting.. She is working on learning these characters so she can access more of

As Bobman notes, the project has connected her with her family as well as her community: "This engagement provided me with an opportunity to learn more about my Sephardic heritage and allowed me to become involved in the Sephardic Studies Initiative." All of her translations

will eventually become part of the online Ladino library being developed by the Sephardic Studies Initiative at UW — the first library of this kind in the world. Her work will be a resource that others can study in the future to understand this key figure in American Sephardic history, and Sephardic culture worldwide.

"Ashley's contribution to the Sephardic Studies Initiative is absolutely invaluable," commented Prof. Naar. "She continues to immerse herself in her great-grandfather's sophisticated writings, which deal with politics, community, identity, history, and morality — and were largely composed in poetic verse. Bringing together her knowledge of Hebrew and Spanish, she immediately picked up the methods of transliteration; her vocabulary

## An Excerpt from "Sultan Bayezid II and the Jews exiled from Spain"

A Ladino poem by Albert D. Levy (ca. 1920s) Transliterated and translated by Ashley Bobman (2013)

Sultan Bayezid el segundo i los djudios desterados de Espanya

El mando un "ferman" ofisial, asus provensias Evropeas en djeneral; komandando a todos los governadores de no ronjar a los resfuidos Espanyoles

de resirvirlos kon dulsor i afavilidad, darles avrigo, en kualonke sivdad; tratarlos komo sivdadinos pazeguozo porke bivyeran kontentes i orozos.

Ansi donke, grasyas a este soverano, tan bueno, dulse i muy umano; los djudios de Espanya ronjados, ewnesayon a hivir dias mijorados

Miles se estabilisieron en Turkia, formando una grandioza famia; organizandosen en varias komunidades i despregando esforsos i aktividades

avrieron eskolas, keilot fondaron, varias institusiones organizaron; en poko tiempo, se vido sukseso, realizando un senvalado progreso

Los djudios en el Imperio Otomano, izieron un esforso sovre-umano; eyos krearon una Espanya orientala. en sus vida partikolara i nasionala Sultan Bayezid II and the Jews expelled from Spain

He sent an official "decree" to the European provinces, in general commanding all of the governors to not expel the Spanish refugees

to receive them with sweetness and affability to give them shelter in any city, to treat them as peaceful citizens so that they live happily and with content.

Therefore, thanks to this sovereign so good, sweet, and very humane, the expelled Jews from Spain began to live better days.

Thousands established themselves in Turkey, forming a grand family, organizing themselves in various communities and displaying effort and activity.

They opened schools, they founded synagogues they organized various institutions; in short time they witnessed success, making noteworthy progress.

The Jews in the Ottoman Empire made a super-human effort, they created an Eastern Spain in their private and national lives.

and confidence improve every week, as does her familiarity with the history, culture and language of her ancestors here in Seattle, in Salonika and in Spain. She has far exceeded my expectations and I am thrilled to be working with her."

During six decades of cultural activism that began in Salonika and zigzagged across the United States, there was one constant in Albert Levy's career: an eagerness to share his love of Sephardic history with dispersed Ladino-reading audiences around the world. Now, thanks to a chance meeting at UW Hillel, the curiosity of a Jewish Studies Prof., and the dedication of a talented student, Levy's work will be accessible both in Ladino and in translation to a whole new generation. Quite fittingly, Ashley Bobman is now fulfilling the very same cultural goals as her dynamic great-grandfather. I think it's fair to call this a case of kismet.

-H.P.



### Save the **DATES**: 2013 - 2014

Please check our events calendar at www. StroumJewishStudies.org for updates and more information. Dates, times, and locations are subject to change. If you have questions, call the office at 206-543-0138 or email jewishst@uw.edu

#### + Fall 2013

Wednesday, Oct. 9
Welcome Celebration and Lecture
by Schusterman Visiting Israeli
Professor David Bunis
6-8pm at UW Hillel

Tuesday, Oct. 22 **Film screening of Hannah Arendt** 7pm in Kane Hall 220

Thursday, Nov. 7
"JewDub Talks" Kick-off of 40th
Anniversary Year of Celebration
7pm in UW Tower Auditorium,
reception to follow

Tuesday, Dec. 3
Staged Reading of Yiddish Play
Mirele Efros with Seattle Jewish
Theater Company
7pm at Ethnic Cultural Theater

#### **+** Winter 2014

Friday, Jan. 10 Lunchtime Talk by Prof. Ilan Stavans 12pm in Thomson Hall 317



Prof. Deborah Lipstadt

Monday, Feb. 10
40th Anniversary Winter Celebration
"Mixing Musics: The Sacred Songs of Istanbul
Jews" with Maureen Jackson (Cole Fellow '08'09) and musician Munir Beken
7pm in Ethnic Cultural Theater

Thursday, Feb. 27
Book Launch Lecture by Prof. Joel
Migdal on Shifting Sands: The
United States in the Middle East
7pm in UW Tower Auditorium,
reception to follow

Wednesday, March 12 A Taste of Life in Israel Film Screening with Seattle Jewish Film Festival (film title TBD) 7pm at UW Hillel

Monday, March 31 and Wednesday, April 2 Stroum Lectures with Profs. Marianne Hirsch and Leo Spitzer, "School Photographs in Liquid Time: Assimilation, Exclusion, Resistance" 7:30pm in Kane Hall 220

#### + Spring 2014

Thursday, April 24
"Cántame una cantiga/Sing me a song': Collecting Sephardic Ballads in Seattle, 1973" by Prof. Rina Benmayor
7:30pm Kane Hall 110

Friday, May 2nd Graduate Fellows Spring Research Symposium 9:30am-1:30pm in HUB 214

Tuesday,May 13th
40th Anniversary Celebration
Spring Gala featuring Prof. Deborah
Lipstadt
6pm at Harley and Lela Franco
Maritime Center



Great Jewish learning, every day on Twitter

#### **Follow UW Jewish Studies on Twitter**

**@Jew\_Dub** What do Israeli immigrants & Soviet satirists have in common? They are being discussed by our fab fellows on Friday!

28 Retweets

www.twitter.com/jew\_dub

Stroum Jewish Studies Program

## Hebrew and Israel Studies Flourish at UW





Left: Intermediate Hebrew student Dimitry Antipov connected with the Srebrniks, a local Israeli family, as part of Project Imutz. Right: Stroum Scholars Victoria Criswell, Nicole Aqua, and Dawn Yang received grants to participate in the UW Tel Dor Excavation and Field School on Israel's northern coast. Photo by Sarah Stroup.

On a March evening this past year, over 100 students and community members gathered for a screening of "Melting Away." This film about transgender youth in Israel won the audience best film award at the 2013 Seattle Jewish Film Festival, which co-sponsored the event along with the Israeli Consulate of San Francisco. The lively discussion afterwards featured three LGBTQ educators; audience members lingered to continue discussing the film's implications for Israeli society, as well as the universal theme of finding acceptance in one's own family.

This is not your typical Hebrew or Israel Studies course—and that's quite by design. "Life in Israel," taught by Prof. Naomi Sokoloff every Winter Quarter since 2011, is a 2-credit course that offers biweekly screenings of Israeli cinema. The class assumes no background in Hebrew, Jewish Studies, or Israel Studies; instead, it aims to use art to help students understand the experience of living everyday life in Israel. Sokoloff, a longtime professor in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization (NELC) as well as faculty for the Stroum Jewish Studies Program, provides historical context, assigns response papers, and leads follow-up discussion after each screening.

Sokoloff's out-of-the-box approach is proving incredibly successful among a broad range of students, with enrollment holding steady at 50-60 students each quarter. Rotating the content each year allows students to re-enroll and see a new slate of films; she says, "Quite a few students have taken the course more than once and tell me that the films opened their eyes to a part of the world they previously knew little about."

As Yael Spillinger, a marketing major in the Class of 2014, raved, "With the class being held off-campus and every other week, it felt more like an evening outing to the movies rather than a class. I even brought my non-Jewish friends to some movies and they enjoyed the films, as well." She was especially intrigued when Sokoloff screened the pilot of Hatusim (Prisoners of War), the Israeli television show which is the basis of the popular American series "Homeland." Spillinger was hooked: "I had heard of both shows and had been curious to watch them. Following that class, my friend and I watched the entire Hatufim series together and enjoyed the wonderfully real aspects of the show." For this undergraduate, "Life in Israel" was a gateway to comparing Israeli and American culture, and led to further exploration on her own.

Engaging with contemporary Israeli society and its attendant hot-button issues can be challenging in the classroom. At the University of Washington, we offer a wide range of innovative programming and resources to complement our courses in Hebrew language and Israel Studies. This multi-disciplinary, multi-dimensional approach gives students as many windows as possible onto Israeli history, culture, and current

Last January, for example, graduate student Yoav Duman planned an evening panel on the recent Israeli parliamentary elections. Moderated by Prof. Noam Pianko, the panel featured Duman alongside Prof. Joel Migdal of UW and Prof. Karam Dana of UW Bothell. Duman explained why he contributed his time to a community

program: "Unlike many other Israel events that are partisan, this event set out produce. I think the high turnout provides good evidence for the level of interest in the topic, and I hope to organize similar events in the future."

One of the most notable outcomes of the 2013 Israeli elections was the rise of the Yesh Atid party and Dr. Ruth Calderon, a charismatic politician whose

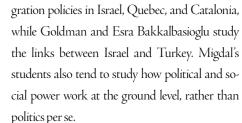
with his take, Martin Jaffee, emeritus professor of

International Studies, contended that Calderon's speech was a breath of fresh air and a genuine appeal for "a pluralistic model of Jewish diversity."

Duman and Goldman's involvement in our recent Israel programming is reflective of our strength in Hebrew language and Israel Studies at the graduate level. Both are students of Prof. Joel Migdal, who has been at the UW since 1980 and is largely responsible for bringing the

> UW into its current position as a national leader in Israel Studies. Prof. Migdal, who is the Robert F. Philip Professor of International Studies in the Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies, currently has a dozen PhD students, three of whom are conducting in-depth research on Israel. A defining feature of their work is comparative analysis with other countries; Duman's project, for ex-

ample, compares immi-



Reflecting these students' talent and potential, the Jewish Studies Graduate Fellowship at UW has included at least one Israel specialist per year: Duman won the Mickey Sreebny Memorial Scholarship for 2012-2013, while Bakkalbasioglu holds the I. Mervin and Georgiana Gorasht Scholarship for 2013-2014. Their active participa-

Courses in Hebrew and Israel Studies 2013-2014

**AUTUMN 2013** 

HEBR 411 - Elementary Modern Hebrew, Khazzam-Horovitz

HEBR 421 - Intermediate Modern Hebrew, Romano

JSIS C 489 - Language and Ethnicity in Israel Today, Bunis

HEBR 457 - Hebrew in Song, Sokoloff

**WINTER 2014** 

HEBR 412 - Elementary Modern Hebrew, Khazzam-Horovitz

NEW! HEBR 420 - Hebrew Conversation, Romano

HEBR 422 - Intermediate Modern Hebrew, Romano

HEBR 452 - Introduction to Hebrew Literature, Sokoloff

JSIS A 101 / NEAR E 150 - Israel: Dynamic Society/Global Flashpoint, Pianko, Sokoloff, Migdal, Burstein

JSIS C 489/NEAR E 496 - Life in Israel (film course), Sokoloff

JSIS C 489 - Sephardim on Jerusalem, Bunis

#### SPRING 2014

NEW! HEBR 250 - Introduction to Hebrew Language and Culture, Khazzam-Horovitz

HEBR 413 - Elementary Modern Hebrew, Khazzam-Horovitz

HEBR 423 - Intermediate Modern Hebrew, Romano

CLIT 410 - Literature and the Holocaust, Sokoloff

Be sure to check StroumJewishStudies.org for the latest information on courses and meeting times.

to create an intellectual debate about the future of Israel after the elections and the changes they might

Talmud lesson on the Knesset floor became a YouTube sensation. Again, we responded with creative methods of engagement, this time via our web site (StroumJewishStudies.org). First, we published "Ruth Calderon's Textual Revolution," an article that included the YouTube video with English translation as well as links for further reading. Then, we offered a point-counterpoint pairing of blog posts. One, by graduate student Anat Goldman, critiqued the Calderon speech and argued that it revealed some surprising aspects of the Yesh Atid platform. Responding

"Meltino Away," an Israeli film directed by

Doron Eran, was one of the most popular

screenings in Naomi Sokoloff's "Life in

Israel" course. Courtesy of Seattle Jewish Film

tion in the Stroum Jewish Studies Program ensures that Israel Studies will continue to be a vital part of the Jewish Studies scene at UW. On the national level, Duman and Goldman recently won prestigious research grants from the Schusterman Foundation. With the top-level training they are getting at the UW, these students are poised to be on the cutting edge of Israel Studies as it evolves into an increasingly important field around the world.

One of the key challenges of teaching about Israel in North America is the feeling of disconnect from the geographical, linguistic, and cultural center of activity. Our program addresses that challenge in three key ways. First, we bring leading Israeli scholars to teach our students. Playwright Joshua Sobol served as Schusterman Artist-in-Residence on our campus in 2011-2012, teaching and hosting events with the UW School of Drama. For the past two years, the American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise and the Samis Foundation have supported bringing a Schusterman Visiting Israeli Professor of Israel Studies to UW. Art and folklore expert Shalom Sabar taught in 2012-2013 (see our interview on p. 13); and for 2013-2014, David Bunis, a Ladino expert, will be teaching about language and ethnicity in Israel. Each of these visiting scholars has also participated in community outreach and teaching, enriching the diversity of public programming that we offer to our Seattle-area supporters.

A second way to bring students into closer contact with Israeli culture is to build relationships with local Israelis. Instructor Tovi Romano's Hebrew Adoption project pairs UW Hebrew students with Israeli families in the Seattle community in order to directly engage with Israeli culture. Says Romano, "Project Imutz provides our students with a unique opportunity to interact with native Hebrew speakers outside of the classroom. The students put into practice their conversation skills in real-time, authentic situations in which

they speak with an Israeli host over the phone and meet with them face-to-face." This creative local exchange program has received highly positive reviews from students; one declared it an "absolutely fabulous experience," while another explained, "I learned many new words and was stretched to articulate my own thoughts in Hebrew rather than just the chapter that we are on that week."

Lastly, the Stroum Jewish Studies Program offers travels grants to enable students to travel to



Prof. Joel Migdal, whose new book addresses American foreign policy in the Middle East, is among the faculty drawing top graduate students to UW.

Israel and experience Israeli culture and society firsthand. This past year, for example, we awarded travel grants to six outstanding undergraduates, three of whom participated in the UW Tel Dor Archaeological Excavation and Field School supervised by Classics professor Sarah Culpepper Stroup. These students spent the summer gaining incomparable experience unearthing history in northern Israel.

What is the secret to the UW's ability to support such an array of programs both on campus and in the community? It really all comes down to having a critical mass of top-notch faculty. Migdal singles out Gad Barzilai's arrival in 2005 as a turning point: "Prof. Barzilai's work on Israeli law brought a real focus. Together with Noam Pianko's exploration of questions of Zionism, we've put together an unusually strong social science contingent." Migdal himself has a new book coming out in early 2014, Shifting Sands: The

United States in the Middle East (Columbia University Press). The book, which analyzes the United States' role as a permanent player in the volatile region from 1945 to the present, is sure to be a watershed publication in the field.

A core of experts is key to attracting top students and training the next generation of scholars, as Duman confirms: "Having world-renowned Israel scholars like Joel Migdal and Gad Barzilai provides a great infrastructure to those who want to study Israel. My involvement in Israel: Dynamic Society and Global Flashpoint [an undergraduate survey course] and other related classes has enabled me to both educate undergrads about Israel Studies and to enrich my own perspective as well."

For students of all levels, the UW offers several avenues for engaging with Israel, from movie screenings to panels on politics to essential language coursework. The NELC Department offers the full complement of Hebrew studies across the milennia, from a rigorous two-year sequence in biblical Hebrew language to advanced classes in modern Hebrew literature. However, like many aspects of Jewish Studies, Hebrew instruction is made possible by community support. Funding for Hebrew continues to be a critical need both to sustain the current curriculum and to build the program for the future—which is brimming with possibility. As Prof. Pianko notes, "The Stroum Jewish Studies Program has the potential to be a center for scholarly research in the field of Israel Studies and Hebrew culture. In addition, our program can serve a much-needed role in providing a pluralistic environment to discuss the most pressing issues connected to Israel and the relationship between American Jews and the Jewish state." Migdal agrees that a formalized center for Israel Studies at the UW could be an amazing next step.

As Theodor Herzl famously said, "If you will it, it is no dream." Here's to the next forty years of national leadership in teaching Hebrew language and Israel Studies.

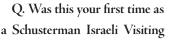
-H.P.

## Visiting Faculty Q&A: Meet Shalom Sabar

World-renowned art expert Shalom Sabar is Professor of History of Art and Jewish Folklore at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He is the author of many landmark studies of Jewish art including Jerusalem - Stone and Spirit: 3000 Years of History and Art (with Dan Bahat; 1998); Ketubbah: The Art of the Jewish Marriage Contract (New York, 2001); and The Life Cycle [of the Jews in the Lands of Islam] (Jerusalem, 2006).

Prof. Sabar was the Schusterman Israeli Visiting Professor of Israel Studies at the University of Washington for 2012-2013, a residency supported

by the American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise (AICE) and the Samis Foundation. During his busy year in Seattle, he taught art history courses on campus and gave several presentations at Jewish schools and community organizations. We interviewed Prof. Sabar to find out more about his year in Seattle and his upcoming



#### Professor, or have you had other residencies at American universities?

A. Yes, this year was my first as a Schusterman Israeli Visiting Professor, but I have taught in American universities in the past: UCLA; Case Western Reserve; Jewish Theological Seminary; the University of Pennsylvania. I also taught several courses at the University of Sydney, Australia.

#### Q. What have been some highlights of your year in Seattle?

A. Meeting with students of interesting backgrounds—it was really a challenge for me to familiarize them with Jewish history and concepts, and raise their interest in Jewish culture, art and folklore; the peaceful lifestyle of Seattle (totally opposite from my hometown, Jerusalem); the unusual weather and landscapes of Seattle; and—above all—the warm and hospitable Jewish community of Seattle, which gave us the opportunity to meet and make many new wonderful and dear friends. Also, as a Schusterman Professor and expert in Jewish art, I was invited to lecture this past year in different frameworks across the US and Canada.

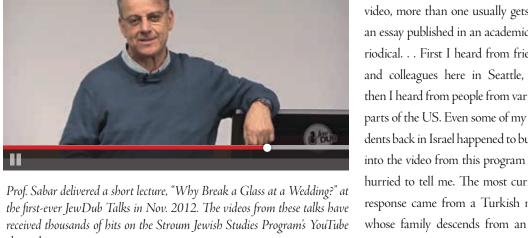
Q. In addition to your courses and travels, you had several teaching engagements in the Jewish community this year. Was this type of outreach with younger students and synagogues a goal of yours, and why?

A. Yes, I lectured widely in various frameworks in the city, in particular for synagogue audiences such as Beth Shalom and Beth Am, on Shabbat, holidays, and other occasions. I also had the pleasant opportunity to introduce some aspects of Jewish art to kids in two schools: the Jewish Day School and Northwest Yeshiva High School.

Q. You participated in our first JewDub Talks event in November. What has been the response to your video, "Why Break a Glass at a Wedding?," which is now on our YouTube channel and being seen

#### around the world?

A. I received many reactions to my video, more than one usually gets for an essay published in an academic periodical. . . First I heard from friends and colleagues here in Seattle, but then I heard from people from various parts of the US. Even some of my students back in Israel happened to bump into the video from this program and hurried to tell me. The most curious response came from a Turkish man whose family descends from an old pre-Islamic and nomadic Turkmen



tribe (associated with what is known today as Tengrism), and their custom, which he remembers from childhood—though nowadays not practiced that much—is that the bride, just before entering the groom's house, breaks a glass covered in cloth. He wanted to learn more about this custom and Google led him to my JewDub lecture on YouTube!

#### Q. Quite an amazing connection! What's next on the horizon for you in terms of research projects or travels?

A. A few days after I return to Israel (late June), I will lead a travelling seminar to Jewish sites, libraries, and museums with Jewish materials in Moscow and St. Petersburg; in October, a seminar in Uzbekistan to learn the culture of Bukharan Jews; and later in the year, a seminar in Morocco. Research and writing projects for the summer and next academic year include the following topics: the visual and artistic aspects of Jewish amulets throughout the ages; art and ideology in Israeli Hanukkah lamps; the three commandments of the Jewish woman in art and folklore; the traditional life cycle of Bukharan Jews; daily and religious life of the Jewish woman in light of illuminated Haggadah manuscripts from medieval Spain.

— H.P.

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# From the ARCHIVES



1979

Deborah Lipstadt, the first Jewish Studies faculty member at UW, with Shemaryahu Talmon, the 1979 Stroum Lecturer, on a ferry ride.



## From Student Trailblazer to Program Booster

An Interview with Dorothy Becker



Every year hundreds of students take courses through the Stroum Jewish Studies Program. However, when the program began to offer an official curriculum in the 1970s, there was a much smaller number of students exploring Jewish history, language, and religion at UW. These students were, in their own way, trailblazers in an emerging field that was only about ten years old in the American university scene.

Post-war America saw the rise of academic Jewish Studies programs around the country, as part of a broader expansion of ethnic studies and area studies at liberal-arts campuses. In 1969, the Association for Jewish Studies was founded at Brandeis University as the professional organization for scholars in the new

field. It is against this backdrop of increased momentum in the national Jewish Studies movement that we can contextualize the rise of Jewish Studies here in Seattle.

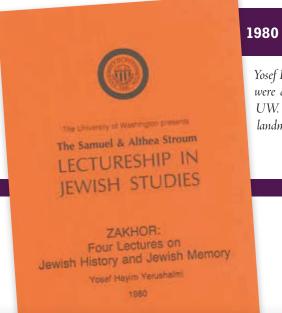
What better way to understand the early history of our program than to speak with the people who made that history? We decided to track down one of the first Jewish Studies majors at UW and see what her experience was like at the very beginning of this new academic venture. As it turns out, Dorothy Becker was not only in the first cohort of Jewish Studies majors to graduate from the UW in 1979, she was also Jewish Studies' first Program Coordinator, serving officially in that capacity from 1984-1996.

Prof. Bob Stacey, current Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, was Chair of the Jewish Studies Program when Mrs. Becker retired in 1996. He declared in his congratulatory remarks that "in the eyes of many people inside and outside the University, Dorothy Becker is the UW Jewish Studies Program."

Dorothy Becker graciously agreed to be interviewed for the newsletter and provided archival documents and photographs for the accompanying collage. Throughout our 40th anniversary year, as part of an ongoing feature on our web site, we will document other key people and turning points in the history of the program. After all, it is thanks to the pioneering work of our faculty, staff, students, and community supporters that we can now celebrate our 40th and look forward to the next forty.

#### Q. When did you start taking classes at UW?

A. I graduated high school in 1948 and was accepted into the UW. Back then I was a home economics major. I did two years of coursework, but left the university when I got married. Years later, my daughter Arlene had Deborah Lipstadt as a Prof. at the UW. She said, "Mom, you have to



Yosef Haim Yerushalmi's Stroum lectures in 1980 were a watershed moment for Jewish Studies at UW. His book Zakhor, based on the lectures, is a landmark study of Jewish memory.

A feature on Samuel Stroum in The Jewish Transcript examined his vision for engaged Jewish scholarship. JEWISH TRANSCRIPT

A Gift for Jewish Scholarship

The Land Space. The University of Collisions of Berling Stellars in the Land Space. The University of Collisions of Berling Stellars in the Land Space. The University of Collisions of Berling Stellars in the Land Space. The University of Collisions of Berling Stellars in the Land Space. The University of Collisions of the Land Space of th

take classes with her!" So I went back to school and started taking Jewish Studies courses in the late '70s. I got a degree in General Studies in 1979 with a major in Jewish Studies; I was one of the first students to graduate with this major.

Q. Deborah Lipstadt's years here (1974-1979) are considered pivotal in the history of Jewish Studies at UW. What was your experience studying with her? What other coursework did you take as part of your JS degree?

A. We were very pleased and excited to be part of Jewish Studies when Prof. Lipstadt was here. My daughter and I, along with Cindy Fein Straus, were some of Deborah's research assistants for her book *Beyond Belief: The American Press and the Coming of the Holocaust*, 1933-1945. We spent hours looking at microfilms in the library. We were very close to Deborah. She used to join us at our house for meals during the holidays!

I also really enjoyed taking the history of the Jews of Spain with Joan Ullman, and I look two years of Hebrew.

Q. It seems like a lot of momentum gathered in the 1980s and early 1990s as Samuel and Althea Stroum established core aspects of the program. How did you begin your work as Program Coordinator for Jewish Studies, and what did that work involve?

A. What the Stroums were doing was all new! When they started funding the visiting Stroum Prof.s, there were all kinds of things that had to be done. So while I was still a student, they made me the "student representative" on the Jewish Studies faculty. I attended faculty meetings and organized a lot of the details for the lecturers' visits — found their apartments,

rental cars, etc. When the visiting lecturers were here, I would show them around the region and take them on ferry rides out to Whidbey Island. Sometimes I even hosted the Cole Fellows in my house if they needed a place to stay.

My role started out as a volunteer position. Then Prof. Joel Migdal helped to set me up with a part-time job. This eventually turned into the Program Coordinator position that I held from 1984 until 1996.

## Q. Do you have any stories about faculty or students that you'd like to share?

A. Shmuel Eisenstadt, a sociologist from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, was one of the first visiting Stroum Prof.s. He was here from 1985-1986. He got to campus and wanted something called "bitnet" [a network allowing electronic transfer of files between academic institutions — a forerunner of today's internet]. I didn't know what "bitnet" was! I called up the computer person, who arranged it so that our Stroum Prof. was one of the first people on the whole UW campus to get the internet.

Q. When you retired in 1996, Bob Stacey said: "...through all the changes of chairs, and faculty, and students, Dorothy Becker has been here, at the heart of the University of Washington Jewish Studies Program." How do you feel to have been involved in the program at such a formative time?

A. It was very exciting. I loved every minute of it, and I made a lot of lasting friendships.

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-Martin Jaffee, Emeritus Professor

"The Stroum Jewish Studies Program's

revamped web presence is exceptional. It's hard to believe that we've gone from

mimeographed newsletters to blog posts!"

This 1995 photo shows faculty members Bob Stacey and Hillel Kieval with Samuel Stroum and Visiting Stroum Prof. Kenneth Stow.

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON JEWISH STUDIES

In the Spring of 1983, courses included Introduction to Judaism and Hebrew language instruction. Thirty years later, we offer a broad array of interdisciplinary courses and teach more than 700 students per year.

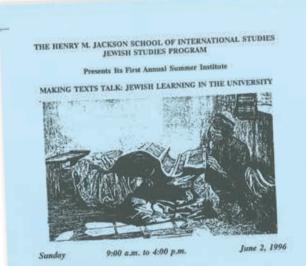
lewish Studies NEWSLETTER

This flier for a June 1996 day of text study showcases one of our program's strengths: diverse public programming featuring an array of scholars.

Ullman, Professor Emeritus of History.

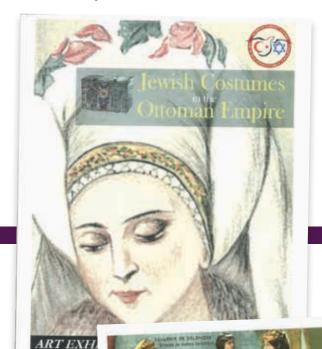
Althea Stroum with Ina Willner (past Advisory Board

member and longtime friend of the program) and Joan



Susan Handleman's Stroum lecture series explored the mentor/disciple relationship in Judaism.

This flier for a 2004 art exhibit on Jewish costumes in the Ottoman Empire is an example of the varied programming available to those interested in Sephardic Studies at UW.



Postcard for the Inaugural Lecture of Dr. Devin Naar, October 25th, 2011.

This newsletter from Autumn 1990 begins with a message from Prof. Hillel Kieval, an early chair who helped to consolidate the growing program. The newsletter logo was designed by Dr. Harold Rosenbaum, a longtime supporter.

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## For These Student Leaders, the Sky's the Limit

#### Introducing the Jewish **Studies** Student Committee

In 2012-13, over 700 students participated in thirty courses in Jewish Studies, coming from a wide variety of backgrounds and interests. Students have enjoyed these classes so much that over a dozen of them have come forward to form a brand new Jewish Studies Student Committee (JSSC). The JSSC will work closely with program staff and faculty to provide student input in program planning and reach out to their peers to build a vibrant Jewish Studies student community on the UW campus. We look forward to seeing what they have in store for us this year!

The following profiles provide just a snapshot of the incredibly talented and enthusiastic students who together established the ISSC. We asked each student to showcase an object related to a Jewish Studies experience that had a meaningful impact on them.



#### **Griffin Taylor**

Major

Speech & Hearing Sciences; Linguistics

> JSSC Role Curriculum

#### Why JSSC?

I'm so thrilled to be working so closely with the undergraduate committee and such inspiring faculty to make sure that the entire campus community benefits from the Stroum Jewish Studies Program.

Why this object?

The hamsa, a symbol of power, strength, and protection from evil, embodies what is to be gained from knowledge and our work within academia.



#### Ha Do

Major **Economics** 

**ISSC** Role **Events** 

#### Why ISSC?

I am very excited to be a part of the JSSC. Everybody in the community is very enthusiastic and talented. I can learn much more about Jewish culture, which I am very interested in.

#### Why this object?

I took the Jewish Cultural History class this winter, and I came to a couple of Jewish cultural events. I enjoyed those events a lot and I hope I will have more opportunities to participate.



#### **Halev Jane** Gustafson

Major Jewish Studies; Law, Societies & Justice

> **JSSC** Role Outreach

#### Why JSSC?

I am a big fan of sharing the things I love, whether that be food, hockey or a passion for Jewish culture. I want to reach out to students, and show them another amazing facet of both our university's curriculum and of the world.

#### Why this object?

I chose the book I'm holding (Zionism and the Roads Not Taken by Noam Pianko) because it's what I'm currently reading. The book examines the roots of Zionism and looks into its past to broaden our understanding.



#### **Shirin Lotfi**

Major

Political Science and International Security; Minor: Middle East Studies

**ISSC** Role Community Relations

#### Why ISSC?

ISSC is a non-religious, nonpolitical, and new organization at UW, which seeks to bring students from all majors together to learn more about Jewish culture. I am excited to increase Jewish knowledge across campus by encouraging students from diverse backgrounds to take Jewish Studies courses.

#### Why this object?

Arguing The World is a book about four Jewish New York intellectuals who lived during the post-WWII era. Although they never became religiously observant, each of them found ways to express their Jewish identity.



#### Silvi Goldstein

Major

Comparative History of Ideas; Psychology

> ISSC Role Outreach

#### Why JSSC?

I am excited to be a part of the ISSC because I think it is a great way for the student voice to have a say in Jewish Studies classes and programs.

#### Why this object? I chose a book on Sep-

hardic Studies (The Beauty of Sephardic Life by Sam Bension Maimon, ed. by Albert Maimon and Eugene Normand) because it is a huge part of my heritage, and I am enthusiastic about exploring this part of my culture. I love that the Jewish Studies Program provides me with an outlet to engage and learn about my ancestry in a meaningful way.



#### **Lindsay Little**

Major History; Spanish

**JSSC** Role Curriculum

#### Why JSSC?

It is my belief that history is best understood when you attempt to interpret it from as many angles as possible. I am excited to work with the committee and further my participation in Jewish Studies to make connections with American History and share my passion for history with the campus and community.

#### Why this object?

The Promised Land by Mary Antin (1912) is the personal memoir of a young lady's educational experiences in the Russian Pale of Settlement and her immigration to the United States. As a student of United States history with a focus on the nineteenth century, her experiences are interesting to compare to my other studies.



#### Rebecca Steelman

Major

Jewish Studies; Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations; Political Science

> **ISSC** Role Co-Coordinator

#### Why JSSC?

I'm excited to see how the ISSC can increase involvement in and excitement about the Jewish Studies Program. Through Jewish Studies, I've found a community that supports me academically and socially, and I hope to connect this wonderful community I've found to my peers.

#### Why this object?

The Jew Dub Talks showed me how important it is to get the student community involved in all of the great events the Stroum Jewish Studies Program puts on.

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Jewish Luck (1925) Starred the famous Russian-Jewish actor Solomon Mikhoels and featured intertitles written by Isaac Babel.





**Laughter Through Tears** (1928) This film was based on stories by Sholem Aleichem and featured a shtetl backdrop.

purge

Another landmark film from the period is "The Return of Nathan Becker," a Yiddish talkie directed by Boris Shpis and Mark Milman with a screenplay by the Yiddish writer Peretz Markish. This 1932 movie features Soviet-endorsed themes of industrialization, ethnic and gender equality, and anti-capitalism. The title character, having spent years in America, returns to Russia to find it a workers' paradise. "Nathan Becker" demonstrates the integration of Soviet ideology with Russian-Jewish creativity. However, it was not longer before state-sponsored anti-Semitism overtook this period of relative tolerance; Markish was murdered with other prominent Soviet Yiddish authors in a Stalinist purge in 1952. The Jewish voices that had been welcome in Soviet cinema in previous decades were systematically persecuted and silenced.

Prof. Diment, who is now Klots' advisor, praises his academic seriousness and solid background in history, literature, and culture. She observes, "Anatoliy's research is much needed, since this area is quite underexposed. It is also very timely, since more and more films from that early period are being uncovered in numerous Russian archives — including those in the former Pale of Settlement — and made available for scholars and viewers. His study has great potential both for his further graduate work, including his dissertation, and the fields of Jewish Studies and Russian/Soviet Studies."

KLOTS'

academic journey into the complex cultural territory of Soviet films began during his undergraduate coursework at the University of

Washington. Having enrolled with the goal of becoming a teaching professional, Klots started exploring the Jewish Studies curriculum. He took full advantage of the Hebrew program and cultural courses taught by Joe

Butwin, Richard Block, Noam Pianko, and Naomi Sokoloff. In 2011 he earned his BA, cum laude, in International Studies with a concentration in European Studies and Comparative Literature. Interested in honing "a multidisciplinary approach that combines studies of history and culture," Klots then began masters coursework in Slavic Studies. After a busy year teaching Russian language courses to undergraduates, Klots will take his masters exams this fall and hopes to apply to Ph.D. programs to further pursue his interest in Jewish cultural history.

New possibilities have been opened by Klots' participation in the

# "JEWISH FILMS FROM A CENTURY AGO PRESENT THE SAME ISSUES PEOPLE FACE NOW"

Jewish Studies Graduate Fellowship, which draws masters and doctoral-level students from a variety of departments with a common interest in exploring Jewish civilization. "It was a great experience being able to share ideas with a group of young scholars who work in different fields of Jewish Studies: folklore, late Soviet culture, and modern Israeli society . . . It is important to form a scholarly community that allows people from various departments to exchange information and opinions," Klots remarks. He is now interested in studying the Jewish film scene in Eastern Europe, which would add a comparative angle to his current project's focus on Russia. He also aspires to study Yiddish to be able to better understand Russian cultural output in that language.

In addition to a helpful network of peers and mentors, the Graduate Fellowship gave Klots the opportunity to present his research to the community at the Jewish Studies Spring Research Symposium last April. Sharing a panel on Soviet popular culture with history student

Sarah Zaides, Klots provided an array of slides featuring screenshots of rare Soviet-era films. The Jewish performers he highlighted were working in a rapidly evolving artistic medium during a volatile period of world history.

For Prof. Diment, students like Klots represent the way that Russian Jewish Studies can form a productive bridge between her home department of Slavic Studies and the Stroum Jewish Studies Program. This is no coincidence, as she explains: "In the past fifteen years or so my own work has been focused more and more on the intersection of Slavic and Jewish Studies, which resulted in the publication of my book *A Russian Jew of Bloomsbury: The Life and Times of Samuel Koteliansky* (McGill University Press, 2011), about a Russian Jewish translator

who came from the Pale of Settlement (Ukraine) to London in 1911 and became instrumental in facilitating the Bloomsbury group's obsession with Russian literature, art and culture."

Diment adds that it was her increasing interest in Russian Jewish Studies that led her to offer last year's course on Yiddish film — which ended up being the impetus for Anatoliy Klots' research project. She is currently advising two other MA students whose projects also intersect with Jewish Studies, one of whom, Cyrus Rodgers, who will join the Jewish Studies Graduate Fellowship class of 2013-14 as the Richard M. Willner

Memorial Scholar in Jewish Studies. This robust group of students expands the potential for future interdisciplinary collaboration. "With now two people in my department, Prof. Barbara Henry and me, actively working in this field of research, this is obviously a great area for partnership between the graduate students and faculty of both programs."

Inspired by his teacher to push himself into new intellectual territory, Anatoliy Klots emphasizes that he is working on cultural texts with contemporary relevance. He sees these films as far more than quaint artifacts from a bygone era: "Jewish films from a century ago present the same issues people face now: anti-Semitism, interfaith marriages, family relations, conflicts between the

generations. They are worth reviewing and exploring." Although Klots specializes in black-and-white movie reels, his fascinating research proves that Jewish national and artistic affiliation in the USSR was anything but black and white.



Jewish Studies Graduate Fellow Anatoliy Klots was inspired to research Jews in cinema after he discovered Soviet films featuring many different Jewish characters in a Winter 2012 UW course taught by Prof. Galya Diment.

— Н.Р.

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#### A message from donors Joe and Barbara Buchman

The endowments of the Stroum and Kasaba and the appointment of Bob Stacey as footing for Jewish Studies at the University of Washington. When the '08 recession took a toll on the University's endowments, many of backgrounds, we have a home in Jewish Studies. us stepped in to help close the shortfall. The scholarship and travel gifts led by the Gorashts and others and our part in supplementing the teaching and administrative salaries gave donors at every level a stake in sustaining the program as budgets were cut. The Jackson School's Reşat

Pruzan families established a firm Dean have added to our excitement about the direction of Jewish Studies and its place at the University. As a family of East coast, small college As we are of diverse heritage, it is with great pride that we are able to participate in the planning and implementation of the 40th Anniversary of Jewish Studies. Charitable giving to this microcosm for world leadership has continued the tradition of our family foundation, Abe and Sidney Block.



Dr. and Mrs. Joseph and Barbara Buchman

#### 2013 - 2014 + Stroum Jewish Studies Program Faculty

Noam Pianko + Associate Professor, Jewish Studies, Jackson School of International Studies; Lucia S. and Herbert L. Pruzan Professor of Jewish Studies; Samuel N. Stroum Chair of Jewish Studies; Chair of the Stroum Jewish Studies Program

Gad Barzilai + Professor of International Studies, Law & Political Science, Jackson School of International Studies

Richard Block + Associate Professor of Germanics

Paul Burstein + Professor of Sociology, Samuel and Althea Stroum Professor of Jewish Studies

> Joseph Butwin + Associate Professor of English

Daniel Chirot + Job and Gertrud Tamaki Professor of International Studies and Sociology

Kathie Friedman + Associate Professor of International Studies

Susan A. Glenn + Professor of History

Ana Gomez-Bravo + Associate Professor, Spanish and Portuguese Studies

Barbara Henry + Associate Professor, Slavic Languages and Literature

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Joel S. Migdal + Robert F. Philip Professor of International Studies. **Jackson School of International** 

Studies

Devin Naar + Marsha and Jay Glazer Endowed Chair in Jewish Studies, Jackson School of International Studies, Assistant Professor of History

Scott Noegel + Professor and Chair, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization

Michael Rosenthal + Associate Professor, Chair, Department of Philosophy

Naomi B. Sokoloff + Professor, Near Eastern Languages and Civilization and Department of Comparative Literature

Robert Stacey + Divisional Dean, Arts and Humanities Divisions, Professor of History

Sarah Culpepper Stroup + Assistant Professor of Classics

Hamza Mahmood Zafer + Assistant Professor, Near Eastern Languages and Civilization

#### **Visiting Faculty**

Tovi Romano + Herbert I. Rosen Hebrew Lecturer in Modern Intermediate Hebrew

Hadar Horovitz + Hebrew Language Lecturer

David Bunis + Schusterman Israeli Visiting Professor of Israel Studies

Thank you to any donors not listed above by mistake, we try our best to keep our list as accurate as possible.

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## **ON THE WEB**

#### WWW.STROUMJEWISHSTUDIES.ORG

SJSP HAS ONE OF THE MOST DYNAMIC WEB PRESENCES IN THE COUNTRY, MAKING JEWISH STUDIES SCHOLARSHIP ACCESSIBLE AND ENGAGING FOR STUDENTS AND THE COMMUNITY. HERE'S A SMALL SAMPLE OF THE BEST OF OUR CONTENT ON THE BLOG, YOUTUBE, FACEBOOK, AND TWITTER.



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No. 1 So Why Yiddish?

Barbara Henry

JewDub Talks



No. 2 In Search of Uncle Salomon

Devin Naar

JewDub Talks



**N**°. **3** THE MYTH OF THE KHAZAR CONVERSION

**Shaul Stampfer**Lunchtime Learning Lecture



N° 4 HIGHLIGHTS FROM NEW VOICES IN WORLD JEWISH MUSIC SERIES

#### **BLOG ALL ABOUT IT**

#### WHY I HEART HEBREW SCHOOL

"... So why is it that a sense of hopelessness hangs around Jewish supplementary learning? Why are there fewer less-respected jobs in the Jewish professional world than 'Hebrew school teacher'?"

- JILL LEVY

## WHY IS CIRCUMCISION A HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE?

"... I was shocked to read in the papers last summer that a court in Cologne, Germany had ruled that circumcising young boys represents grievous bodily harm and that the practice should be criminalized."

- MICHAEL ROSENTHAL

### SEATTLE SEPHARDIC HAZZAN VISITS CARELTON COLLEGE

"... During his lecture-demo in the Athenaeum, Isaac Azose sang his way through a multitude of prayers to show how he adapts Ladino songs to Hebrew scripture during Shabbat and holiday services."

- MAUREEN JACKSON

#### MEET DAN HELLER

"My decision to pursue research that would explore how Jews lived in Poland, rather than solely focus on the destruction of European Jewry, was in no small measure a tribute to my grandmother's passion for life."

- DAN HELLER

#### SEATTLE SEPHARDIC TREASURES: A GUIDEBOOK FOR SEPHARDIC IMMIGRANTS

"... Imagine that it is the height of the First World War and you are a young Sephardic Jew weighing the options for your future. Whether due to economic motives, the desire to avoid military service or to evade increased anti-Jewish sentiment, you decide to leave your native town ..."

- DEVIN NAAR



## WHAT'S THE STORY, LITTLE BIRDIE?

FOLLOW UW SJSP ON TWITTER AS @JEW\_DUB

**@JEWDUB** Feisty comments on Ruth Calderon, her #Knesset speech, & the future of #Zionism from the awesome Marty Jaffee. http://bit.ly/12Q6eDL #word

@EREIT I've been to shy to ask, but thanks to @JEW\_DUB, I now know why Dr. Henry picked #Yiddish. Great video & prof. http://bit.ly/13WnSZ3

@JEWDUB In case you missed it while boiling matzah balls: Lauren Kurland's inspiring piece on human trafficking & Passover.

**@YEHOSHUASHIMON** The Jewish Studies program @UW is doing an awesome job in social media and growing the program. So excited to see this. #proudgrad @JEW\_DUB

**@JEWDUB** Daniel Heller begins his Cole Lecture @UW with a picture by Roman Vishniac — of his own grandfather. #photography #uncanny

@JEWDUB #Yiddish mavens on shpilkes over the national spelling bee: http://nyti.ms/19wl2Lt #youwantishouldspellthatforyou?

@SARAHAROESTE Thanks Seattle & especially @JEW\_DUB for such a welcome reception. A great audience and a pleasure sharing Ladino stories with you!

**@JEWDUB** Happening right now: a tribute to Marty Jaffee. Thanks, Marty, for nearly four decades of amazing scholarship and teaching at #UW!

@JEWDUB "Little Women" in #Ladino?! @jdforward has the story on Louisa May Alcott's #Sephardic genes. http://forward. com/articles/177159/discovering-louisa-mayalcotts-jewish-history-on-p/ ... #whoknew

*@JEWDUB* Devin Naar is on a quest to discover #Sephardic Holocaust experiences. This month @UW, those stories will be told. http://bit.ly/11hMA2o

@JEWDUB What's it like to be Jewish in St. Petersburg right now? Read this musing on new museums and old prejudices: http://jewdub.org/?p=5837

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**Above:** Prof. Aron Rodrigue delivered the keynote address to a packed auditorium at the April 2013 symposium on Sephardic Jewry and the Holocaust. **Top Right:** Program supporters Gena and Sonny Gorasht with Esra Bakkalbasioglu, the 2013-2014 I. Mervin and Georgiana Gorasht Graduate Fellow in Jewish Studies. **Bottom:** Prof. Paul Burstein at the Jewish Studies 2013 End of Year Celebration.

Photo credit: Meryl Schenker