Jewish Studies Hires European Jewish Historian

“...Dr. Naar...brings a wealth of knowledge, a great deal of energy and an extremely accessible teaching style to the UW.”

Dr. Devin Naar joins the Stroum Jewish Studies Program in the Jackson School of International Studies beginning fall 2011. This is a joint appointment with the Department of History.

“We are so thrilled and fortunate to have Dr. Naar joining our faculty. He brings a wealth of knowledge, a great deal of energy and an extremely accessible teaching style to the UW,” says Professor Noam Pianko, the SJSP’s newly appointed Program Chair.

Dr. Naar earned his PhD in history in 2011 from Stanford University. His dissertation, Visions of Salonica: Inventing the Jerusalem of the Balkans 1887-1941, won the Stanford history department’s prize for best dissertation. His advisor at Stanford University was Professor Aron Rodrigue, a familiar name in Seattle for those who remember his wonderful Stroum Lectures in 2005. Other people well known to the Seattle community who have advised and taught Dr. Naar include Hillel Kieval who was a professor at UW before moving to Washington University, St. Louis; Charlotte Fonrobert, a past Hazel D. Cole Fellow in Jewish Studies at UW; and Professor Steven Zipperstein, a 1995 Stroum Lecturer. Among multiple awards and grants, Dr. Naar received a Fulbright Fellowship to Greece in 2005. He is proficient and has conducted research in Ladino, Greek, Hebrew, French and Spanish.

The SJSP looks forward to formally introducing Dr. Naar to the community at a special welcome reception on Tuesday, October 25 at 7:00 p.m. at Hillel UW.
Remembering Althea Stroum z”l

The SJSP continues to mourn the passing of Althea Stroum in March 2011. The Program paid special tribute to its beloved benefactor at the 2011 Stroum Lectures this past May (view the video on the SJSP website under the 2011 Stroum Lectures listing). Beginning the new academic year without Althea causes those of us in the Program to pause and reflect on the magnitude of the incredible generosity and commitment of her and Sam, her late husband, to the Stroum Jewish Studies Program. We are forever grateful to the Stroums and will continue their vision of a strong, renowned Jewish Studies Program at the University of Washington.

The Stroum Jewish Studies Program is enormously grateful to the members of its Advisory Board who raise critical funds for the Program, serve as liaisons to the broader community and advocate for the Program’s needs. We wish to acknowledge each member for their time and effort on behalf of the Stroum JSP.

2011-2012 SJSP ADVISORY BOARD
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Thank you to Rabbi Rob Toren, Rabbi Will Berkowitz and Jeremy Brochin (Interim Director of Hillel UW), who completed their terms in the past year. We are pleased to welcome new board members Norman Behar, Rabbi Oren Hayon (the new Executive Director of Hillel UW), Barri Rind, Dave Stone and Patty Willner.

The Stroum Legacy: Innovation in the Field of Jewish Studies

When I think back over my seven years at the University of Washington, Althea Stroum figures prominently in my memory. Althea welcomed me warmly at my inaugural lecture in 2005. That evening I realized that our Jewish Studies Program benefited not only from Althea’s philanthropic support, but also her passionate commitment to our scholarly and communal mission. Last November, I saw Althea for the last time at my book launch lecture. While Althea’s health had clearly declined, her dedication to our Program and its faculty was still strong. After the lecture she came right over to the book signing table and we chatted as I inscribed her book. I placed the signed copy in her hand and told her how grateful I was for her support of my position and the Program.

My memory of Althea and the legacy of the entire Stroum family guides my thinking as I begin my role as new chair of the program that proudly bears their name. Althea and Sam Stroum championed innovation in the field of Jewish Studies. Take their idea to create an endowed lectureship over thirty years ago. The Stroum Lectures pioneered a new role for Jewish Studies programs as resources not only for scholars, but for community members as well. The vision of combining scholarly excellence with public engagement helped to transform the image and mission of Jewish Studies programs around the country.

Similarly, the Hazel D. Cole Fellowship (created by the Stroums in memory of Althea’s sister) created one of the first opportunities for aspiring scholars to have a place to hone their teaching and research skills. Thanks to these and other programs initiated by the Stroums, the University of Washington Jewish Studies Program emerged as one of the national leaders in the field.

Decades later, public lectures of the caliber of the Stroum Lectures and post-doctoral fellowships providing opportunities for young scholars have become quite common at universities around the country.

To continue the Stroum legacy, we will need to take a fresh look at Jewish Studies and its role in higher education and public Jewish life. What new opportunities do the tectonic shifts in technology, higher education, and Jewish demographics provide? How can our Jewish Studies program remain on the forefront of excellence in classroom teaching, scholarly research, and public intellectual life, given changing paradigms of education? For me, addressing these questions is an integral part of the Stroum legacy.

We already have a number of initiatives in place this year to continue the Stroums’ vision. As you can see highlighted in this newsletter, the SJSP will introduce a new service learning course, present a series of public lectures focusing on Judaism and justice, and develop a greatly expanded web presence. My hope is that these new directions, combined with our core strengths in research and teaching, will honor the Stroums’ legacy of innovation and excellence.

Professor Noam Pianko
Samuel N. Stroum Endowed Chair in Jewish Studies; Lucia S. and Herbert L. Pruzan Professor of Jewish Studies; Chair, Stroum Jewish Studies Program

The SJSP thanks Professor Gad Barzilai for his dedication and leadership over the past three years as chair of the Program. We wish him well in the coming year as he takes a well-deserved sabbatical in Israel.
President’s Medalist, Jacob Bobman

Jacob “Jake” Bobman completed his undergraduate career at the UW this past spring, earning one of only two UW President’s Medal awards for outstanding academic performance. He graduated summa cum laude as a member of Phi Beta Kappa, with majors in Mathematics and Biochemistry, as well as minors in Jewish Studies, Music, and Chemistry. Jake feels truly honored to have received the President’s Medal and views it as recognition of the balance he strove for during his time at the University. He plans to continue his education at Columbia Medical School in the fall.

Jake first encountered Jewish Studies as a freshman through Professor Joe Butwin’s course Modern Jewish Literature in Translation. As Jake always enjoyed literature, such a course based in Jewish culture struck a chord with him. Jake continued to follow his interest in Jewish Studies, taking courses throughout his college career. He especially appreciated being able to connect with his Jewish Studies professors and subject material through the small, discussion-based courses the Program generally offers.

For two years as a member of the honors college, Jake led freshman honors seminars and shared his advice with new students. “Get involved in research and take smaller, discussion-based courses,” he said, noting that he followed his own advice throughout his time at the UW.

In the coming years, Jake is looking forward to finding a synagogue in New York, as well as a good falafel restaurant. He hopes to continue his Jewish education through lectures and courses, for which there should be no shortage in the New York area.

SCHOLARSHIP & TRAVEL GRANT WINNERS

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES TO OUR 2011 GRADUATES!
Ashley Clemmer, Zachary Grashin, Samantha Kraft, Robb Levine, Cynthia Sisson, David Swenson

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2011-2012 SCHOLARSHIP & TRAVEL GRANT WINNERS!

I. Mervin & Georgiana Gorasht Scholarship in Jewish Studies

YOAV DUMAN
Graduate Student, Political Science
Research Project: Comparative study of the dynamics of international labor migration in Israel, Canada and Spain.

Rabbi Arthur A. Jacobovitz Memorial Scholarship in Jewish Studies

NATHANIEL GREENBERG
Graduate Student, Comparative Literature
Research Project: Comparative study of the 1952 Egyptian revolution and rise of Nasserism through the plays of Naguib Mahfouz and the 1945 Argentine revolution and rise of Peronism in the work of Jorge Luis Borges—specifically looking at the Jewish experience at the time for both writers.

Richard M. Willner Memorial Scholarship in Jewish Studies

SHIRA JARET
Graduate Student, Near Eastern Languages and Civilization;
Research Project: Biblical interpretation through hermeneutics and rabbinic exegesis

Mickey Sreebny Memorial Scholarship in Jewish Studies

JOSHUA “YOSHI” McLEOD
Undergraduate student, Human-Centered Design and Jewish Studies;
Research Project: Design, user-interaction and the creation of multimedia Jewish curriculum materials

Stroum Jewish Studies Program Travel Grants:

Charlotte Anthony
Major: Journalism; Minor: Near Eastern Languages and Civilization; Hebrew language study, Summer 2011 at Tel Aviv University

Rachel Carlson
Major: Classics
UW Tel Dor Archaeological Dig, Israel, Summer 2011

Elizabeth Cook
Major: Interdisciplinary Undergraduate Program; Israel Exploration Seminar, Summer 2011
2011 Stroum Lectures Highlights

2011 Stroum Lecturer Dr. Jonathan Sarna (Brandeis University) spoke to a packed house in Kane Hall on the University of Washington campus on two nights in May.

“If I am Only for Myself, What Am I?”

JUDAISM CONFRONTS HUMAN INJUSTICE

In a series of four conversations, the Stroum Jewish Studies Program, through a generous grant from the Legacy Heritage Fund and the Association for Jewish Studies, will bring together prominent experts from the field as well as UW scholars to examine the role of Jewish responsibility in social justice.

Please save the following dates to join in the conversation with special guests:

DECEMBER 1
Ruth Messinger, CEO, American Jewish World Service

JANUARY 24
Simon Greer, former CEO, Jewish Funds for Justice

FEBRUARY 23
Nigel Savage, Executive Director, Hazon

APRIL 3
Ken Weinberg, CEO, Jewish Family Service of Seattle

All events will be held in the evening at 415 Westlake in Seattle’s South Lake Union neighborhood. No charge to attend. Stay tuned for more details on this exciting series.

Thank you to the generous sponsors of this series:

Photos: Meryl Schenker
Stroum Lectures 2012

SAVE THE DATES

Dr. Steven Cohen
Emerging Patterns of Jewish Identity

APRIL 23
Jews in the Borderland: The Complicated, Fluid, and Episodic Nature of Jewish Identity (for Some) Today

APRIL 25
Devotion, Distancing and Disloyalty: The Diversity and Complexity of American Jews’ Relationships with Israel Today

Dr. Steven M. Cohen, a sociologist of American Jewry, is Research Professor of Jewish Social Policy at Hebrew Union College — Jewish Institute of Religion, and Director of the Berman Jewish Policy Archive at New York University —Wagner. With Arnold Eisen, he wrote, The Jew Within, and with Charles Liebman he wrote, Two Worlds of Judaism: The Israeli and American Experiences. His current research interests focus on the emerging patterns of Jewish identity and community among Jews in their 20s and 30s.

Artists in Residence Winter & Spring Quarters

The SJSP is pleased to partner with other units on campus to bring artists to the UW campus in the coming academic year to enrich the learning experience for students and the community.

Winter Quarter 2012: The SJSP joins with the UW School of Music to bring Klezmer and jazz musician Andy Statman to campus for a short residency in early January. Mr. Statman was at the UW last year for a brief time where he led one masters class in the School of Music, working with the UW Klezmer band. This time around Statman will spend more time in the classroom with Music as well as Jewish Studies students. A public performance is also being planned.

Spring Quarter 2012: The Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, through its Schusterman Visiting Artist Program, has chosen the University of Washington to host renowned Israeli playwright, director and author Joshua Sobol during spring quarter. The SJSP is partnering with the UW School of Drama and other campus units to develop a residency for Sobol that incorporates teaching as well as public performances. The SJSP will post a full schedule of Sobol’s activities on its website after the first of the year.

SJSP Goes to Boot Camp

In June 2011, the SJSP was selected as one of ten winners among 50 applicants from educational organizations across the country to participate in the 2011-2012 Darim Social Media Boot Camp for Educators. The ten-month program, led by Seattle native Lisa Narodick Colton, who is Founder and President of Darim Online, includes coaching and webinars to help members of the cohort integrate new technologies into core organizational functions in order to enhance educational effectiveness.

The SJSP is utilizing web-based technologies to create a portal for Jewish learning for both UW students and the broader community. Through blogging, video podcasts, Facebook and other technologies, the SJSP plans to create a digital strategy that will better reflect and meet the needs of today’s college students. In addition, this site will serve as a one stop location for thoughtful and rigorous exploration of Jewish life and Judaism for the entire community.

UW team members include SJSP Chair Professor Noam Pianko, SJSP Assistant Director Jennifer Cohen, Jewish Studies major Yoshi McLeod and Visiting Scholars Dr. Richard Benton and Hannah Pressman.
Reflections on the 2010-2011 Cole Fellowship: Dr. Richard Benton

When I was notified that I would be the Cole Fellow for the 2010-11 academic year, I was excited that I would be able to come to Seattle — my first time to this city. I was encouraged by the vote of confidence from the Cole committee that I would have an academic year dedicated to my research on Jewish liturgical hymns, the “piyyutim.”

I began with how the narrator of these hymns speaks to God. After this initial work, I studied Christian hymns from the same period, to compare how the narrator in the poems speaks to God and other biblical characters. This research has produced two articles, which I will be submitting to journals for publication. I look forward to applying this knowledge to comparisons of Jewish and Christian liturgical hymns, namely how they make the biblical story and its characters “real” for the audience of believers.

In spring quarter 2011 I taught the course, “The Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) in the Middle Ages.” Students learned the skill of reading difficult texts, the complexity of medieval thought, and the relationship of the Middle Ages to today.

The Fellowship also enabled me to travel to two conferences last fall. I attended the annual Society of Biblical Literature conference in Atlanta, Georgia, where I delivered a paper on some of my linguistic research on the Biblical Hebrew verb system. I also attended for the first time the annual conference for the Association for Jewish Studies in Boston, Massachusetts.

I was pleased to interact with the welcoming Seattle community. In February, I gave a public talk at the UW entitled, “Biblical Interpretation in Poetry,” where I presented some of my work on this fascinating phenomenon. In May, I gave a talk at the Stroum Jewish Community Center entitled, “Parting of the Ways: Judaism and Christianity in the First Century.” This history-oriented talk led to interesting discussion about modern Jewish and Christian relations.

Through this fellowship I received invaluable experience and knowledge about research beyond the dissertation. The prestige of this Fellowship and the productive time I spent at UW undoubtedly will help me in the academic job market. I wish to thank the Jewish Studies faculty who offered guidance throughout the year in formal and informal settings.

My family and I are grateful for the work and community experience that the Cole Fellowship made possible.

HAZEL D. COLE FELLOWSHIP IN JEWISH STUDIES
2012-2013 Call for Applications
DEADLINE for receipt of applications is 5:00 p.m. on October 28, 2011.
The Fellowship may be used as a dissertation research/writing fellowship or for post-doctoral (PhD received within last three years) studies in any field of Jewish Studies. Applicants from all U.S. and foreign universities accepted.
Interviews will be held at the AJS conference in Washington, DC from December 18-20, 2011.
COMPLETE INFORMATION: http://jsis.washington.edu/jewish/fellowships.shtml
Faculty News

Professor Gad Barzilai has been elected President of the International Association for Israel Studies. During the past year, Professor Barzilai published several articles on the intellectual sources of law and society research and minority rights in Israel from a comparative perspective. During summer 2011, he led a UW exploration seminar in Israel with 19 students.

Professor Richard Block taught two courses for Jewish Studies this year: “Popular Film and the Holocaust” in which students were asked to identify how popular film uses and misuses the problems of representing the Holocaust to advance other unrelated and somewhat questionable ideological interests, and “Modern German Jewish Thought” in which students followed the change in Jewish thought in light of the socio-political shifts in German-speaking lands. Combined, the two courses attracted almost 200 students.

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Professor Joseph Butwin will be giving a talk at the Southern Jewish History Society meeting at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, October 28-30, 2011: “Old Countries: A Jewish Writer in the Southern Diaspora”. He will also be offering a short course at the local Torahthon (November 16, 2011) called, “Jewish American Writers: Three Generations.”


Dr. Julia Eulenberg gave a talk entitled The Women of the Wall: Historical Past, A Personal Experience, Present Tense, and an Unknown Future as part of the Israel 360: Israel from the Inside Out Series at the Stroum Jewish Community Center.

Professor Joel Migdal returned to the UW in 2010 to assume the position of Director of the Interdisciplinary PhD Program in Near and Middle East Studies. While at Princeton, Migdal completed the first draft of a book on the United States in the Middle East since 1945, which he has since been rewriting and will shortly send to publishers. In June, he chaired several sessions at the Association for Israel Studies conference at Brandeis, including a plenary session on What the U.S. Wants in the Middle East and What Should It Want.

Professor Scott Noegel has four articles appear this year including The Ritual Use of Linguistic and Textual Violence in the Hebrew Bible and Ancient Near East and Bodily Features as Literary Devices in the Bible (in Hebrew). He is still serving as Co-Editor-in-Chief and ancient Near Eastern Section editor for the journal Compass: Religion (London). He is in his second term as Chair of the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization at UW. He gave presentations at Cornell University and University of British Columbia, Vancouver. In 2011-2012 he will be on sabbatical at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and Madison.

Visiting scholar Hannah Pressman was awarded a grant from the American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise for research related to Israel during the 2011-2012 academic year.

Professor Michael Rosenthal published an edited volume, Spinoza’s Theological-Political Treatise: A Critical Guide, which he spoke about at the “People and Their Books” Series, sponsored by the Stroum Jewish Studies Program. In May, he gave a paper on Spinoza and Cosmopolitanism at a conference at Goethe University in Frankfurt, Germany. Currently, Professor Rosenthal is finishing his book on Spinoza’s political philosophy. He was appointed to serve as the new Chair of the Department of Philosophy.

Professor Naomi Sokoloff gave multiple talks in the community during the past year including at the 2010 Herzl Torahthon, the Stroum Jewish Community Center, and The Summit at First Hill. She gave a paper at the National Association for Professors of Hebrew (NAPH) conference, Teaching Elgar Keret. As the lead instructor in the introductory Israel course, Professor Sokoloff added some new features including a writing link and a two credit film course held at Hillel with 50 students. Professor Sokoloff wishes to acknowledge the two outstanding teaching assistants in the course Anat Goldman and Shira Jaret.

For a full list of Jewish Studies Faculty, please visit the SJSP website at jsis.washington.edu/jewish.
FOLLOW THE JEWISH STUDIES PROGRAM ONLINE…
Website: jsis.washington.edu/jewish
Jinterest email listserv: email jewisht@uw.edu
to be added to the email distribution list.
We NEVER share our list.

Keep up on lectures
and events.

SAVE THE DATE

The Stroum Jewish Studies Program newsletter is published
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Professor Noam Pianko
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
Jennifer A. Cohen
EDITORS
Professor Noam Pianko
Jennifer Cohen

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BETWEEN THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE AND THE GREEK NATION-STATE: THE SEPHARDIC JEWS OF SALONICA
Dr. Devin Naar, University of Washington
Tuesday, October 25, 2011 • 7:00 p.m. • Hillel UW
How the largest Ladino-speaking Jewish community in the
world negotiated the end of more than 400 years of Ottoman rule
and adapted to the new context of modern Greek society during
the early twentieth century.
An inaugural lecture and kosher dessert reception welcoming
Dr. Devin Naar to the University of Washington. This event
is sponsored by the Stroum Jewish Studies Program, Jackson
School of International Studies, Department of History and
Hellenic Studies. No charge to attend.
2010 - 2011 Tributes  (JULY 1, 2010 – JUNE 30, 2011)

IN APPRECIATION OF
Joe and Barbara Buchman
Carl and Joann Bianco

IN HONOR OF
2011 graduates and scholarship and travel grant recipients
Carole and Bob Goldberg
Diana Pritkin
Professor Jere Bacharach
Lenny and Beth Kashner
Professor Gad Barzilai
Judith BenDor
Prof. Paul Burstein and Florence Katz Burstein
Bob and Pam Center
Jennifer Cohen and Michael Spiro
Sonny and Gena Gorasht
Michael Krasik and Nancy Geiger
Prof. Noam Pianko and Rabbi Rachel Nussbaum
Jennifer Cohen
Tom and Helen Spiro
Jewish Studies Advisory Board
Terry and David Azose
Prof. Marty Jaffee
David Bennett and Beth Huppin
Sonny Gorasht, Janet Lackman and Carole Goldberg
Bob and Blanche Shindell
Michel and Bobbie Stern
Elizabeth Meyers’ graduation
Bruce and Carol Meyers
Professor Noam Pianko
Janet and Bob Lackman
Herb and Lucy Pruzan’s work with Jewish Studies
Nate and Judy Ross
Irwin and Betty Lou Treiger
Erin Scharff’s graduation from law school
Judith BenDor
Ameeq Sherer
Noah Tratt and Daphne Minkoff
Jeff Stein’s graduation from Boston University and William Fante’s from Newport High School
Marty and Joan Brashem

IN MEMORY OF
Lucille Carp
Alan and Ricki Cohen
William Daleski
Goldie Tobin
David Dawson
Dena Dawson
Harry and Jeanette Glickman
Arlene Ehrlich
Stephen G. Goldberg
Lynne Wolf
Sam Katz
Sonny and Gena Gorasht
Merrily Laytner
Bob and Pam Center
Marian Magid
Judith BenDor
Emily Shaffer
Goldie Tobin
Joyce Shane
Barry Shane
Ernie Stiefel
Marty and Joan Brashem
Althea Stroum
Jerry and Dorothy Becker
Judith BenDor
Carrie Brimme
Mercy and Mike Bubalo
Prof. Paul Burstein and Florence Katz Burstein
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Lilly De Jaen
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Lila and Joe Greengard
Herb and Lucy Pruzan
Dr. Mina Miller and David Sabritt
Bob and Blanche Shindell
Ginny and Leonard Shulman
Goldie Tobin
Annette Tobin
Madeline Caplan
Lila and Joe Greengard
Lynne Wolf
Stan Tobin
Madeline Caplan
Lila and Joe Greengard
Sam and Sue Tarica

Lynne Wolf

BIRTHDAYS
Marilyn Arensberg
Karen Cone
Carole Goldberg
Sonny and Gena Gorasht
Jamie and Jeff Merriman-Cohen
Bob and Blanche Shindell
Michel and Bobbie Shindell
Goldie Tobin
Frieda Sondland’s 90th birthday
Ted and Barbara Daniels
Rochelle and Ben Goffe
Tom Spiro
Ina Willner
Philip Flash

BAT MITZVAH
Nettie Becker’s granddaughter Samantha
Carole and Bob Goldberg

SPEEDY RECOVERY
Paul Malakoff
Carole and Bob Goldberg

WE DID IT!

Honor your friends and loved ones while supporting Jewish Studies at the UW. We’ll send your recipients a card notifying them of your thoughtful gift. To make a tribute gift, call 206-543-4835 or use the envelope included with this newsletter.

Thanks to our generous donors we completed the $25,000 matching gift challenge established by an anonymous donor. The SJSP greatly appreciates this wonderful support from community members.

Fall 2011 Stroum Jewish Studies Program
Thank you very much to our Fiscal Year 2011 donors! Your generosity enabled the SJSP to meet the needs of UW students through exceptional course offerings and scholarship/travel grant opportunities, offer learning opportunities for the broader community and meet the ongoing requirements of operating an academic unit. In addition, we were able to meet the $25,000 matching gift challenge established by an anonymous donor through contributions from first time donors and increased giving from current donors. Thank you so very much!

INTERESTED IN MAKING A GIFT TO THE STROUM JEWISH STUDIES PROGRAM?
Use the enclosed envelope. Make your gift online at jsis.washington.edu/jewish. Call the Stroum JSP at 206-543-0138.
Thank you!