

# STROUM CENTER

## JEWISH STUDIES IMPACT REPORT

VOLUME XXVII  
FALL 2016



STROUM CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

The Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies

# W



## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

As we witness the passionate and polarizing debates taking place in our country during this election season, I find myself thinking about ways in which the Jewish experience can be a starting point for considering otherness and tolerance in our society. Jewish Studies as a field emphasizes multiple perspectives and open conversations. Over the past year, as the Stroum Center has grown into a thriving center in the Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies, we have developed more avenues for exploration of the topics that challenge global citizens in the twenty-first century.

The impact of the Stroum Center's growth is measurable in several concrete ways. Our undergraduate program reached over 650 students, our website had over 150,000 unique users, and we hosted over 50 public programs during 2015-16. We have two new named professorships: Dr. Devin E. Naar now holds the Isaac Alhadeff Professorship in Sephardic Studies, and we will begin our search for the Jack and Rebecca Benaroya Endowed Chair in Israel Studies during this academic year.

While expanding our impact on campus and in the community, we remain dedicated to our comparative, nuanced, and pluralistic approach to studying the Jewish experience. To showcase this potential in our newsletter, we invited faculty and graduate students to explore the notion of tolerance from their disciplinary perspectives. My hope is that these short articles (you can find full-length versions at [jewishstudies.washington.edu](http://jewishstudies.washington.edu)) will give you a taste of what the Stroum Center can contribute both to the University of Washington and to broader public debates.

I owe an enormous debt of gratitude to the people who are responsible for the accomplishments you will see featured in these pages. To our community supporters who fund all of our programs and initiatives: your investment makes all of our work possible, and we thank you so much for your support. The Stroum Center also has an outstanding staff whose dedication and professionalism I appreciate on a daily basis! The Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies, under the leadership of Prof. Reşat Kasaba, provides an intellectual and administrative home for our Center. Finally, I want to thank my faculty colleagues who volunteer their time and energy to enhancing Jewish Studies at UW.

Warmly,

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

**"We remain dedicated to our comparative, nuanced, and pluralistic approach to studying the Jewish experience."**



# 2016-17 EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



## Women of the Book Exhibit and Lecture Featuring Prof. Mika Ahuvia

The UW Stroum Center and the Stroum Jewish Community Center have teamed up to bring a collection of limited-edition artworks by female artists from around the world. As part of the exhibit, Prof. Mika Ahuvia will lecture on "Drawing on the Past: Biblical Women in History, Memory, and Ritual Life."

LECTURE: 7:30pm-8:30pm

Thursday, September 29, 2016

Stroum Jewish Community Center  
3801 E Mercer Way, Mercer Island, WA

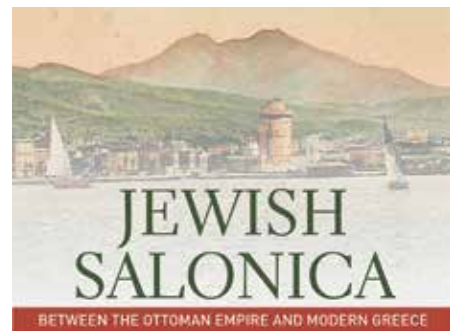
## Immigration, Religion, and Human Rights Panel Discussion Moderated by Prof. Michael Rosenthal

Should our country discriminate among potential immigrants on the basis of religion? Our policy has been not to do so. But there have been recent calls by prominent politicians to change this. Panelists will discuss this and related questions from philosophical, sociological, and historical perspectives. Panel is part of a Simpson Center conference on "Immigration, Toleration, and Human Rights," which will take place October 27-28th.

7:00pm-9:00pm

Thursday, October 27th

Husky Union Building, Room 332  
UW Campus



## Jewish Salonica Book Launch with Prof. Devin E. Naar

Prof. Devin E. Naar highlights the diverse experiences of Jewish Salonica, a lost religious, linguistic, and national minority at the crossroads of Europe and the Middle East. Light kosher reception to follow.

7:00pm-8:30pm

Thursday, November 3, 2016

UW Tower Auditorium  
4333 Brooklyn Ave NE

*Light kosher reception to follow*

## STROUM CENTER WEBSITE ENGAGEMENT OVER THE LAST 4 YEARS

2012-2013\*  
ACADEMIC YEAR



\*New website launched Fall 2013

2013-2014  
ACADEMIC YEAR



2014-2015  
ACADEMIC YEAR



2015-2016  
ACADEMIC YEAR



TOP  
BLOG POST  
FOR 2015-16

"Of Genizahs, Sufi Jewish Saints & Forgotten Corners of History"

- by Gorasht Fellow  
Sasha Prevost

TOTAL  
PAGEVIEWS  
4,239

### Community Film Screenings with Prof. Naomi Sokoloff

Access students and community members are invited for a series of screenings from the Israeli television series *Ha'Ivrim* (The Writers) followed by a discussion with Prof. Naomi Sokoloff.

FALL SCREENING: 11:45am–1:15pm

Wednesday, November 9, 2016

Husky Union Building, Room 145  
UW Campus

*Please check website for Winter and Spring Quarter dates, times and locations*

### Oriental Neighbors: Middle East Jews and Arabs in Mandatory Palestine Lunch & Learn with Prof. Moshe Naor (University of Haifa)

Prof. Naor will speak about his new book, which brings the Oriental Jewish community to the fore.

12:30pm–1:30pm

Tuesday, November 29, 2016

Thomson Hall 317 UW Campus

## STUDENT OUTREACH 2015-16 ACADEMIC YEAR



### International Ladino Day

This year the program will explore the 1978 film "Song of the Sephardi." Prof. Devin Naor will moderate a panel of community members to discuss the future of Ladino and Sephardic culture in Seattle and beyond.

7:30pm–9:00pm

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

Kane Hall 120 UW Campus

*Light kosher reception to follow*

### Jewish Studies Graduate Fellowship Lunchtime Presentation

A series of three talks showcasing research by the five members of the 2016-17 Jewish Studies Graduate Fellowship.

12:00pm–1:30pm

TALK 1: Thursday, December 8, 2016

TALK 2: Thursday, March 9, 2017

TALK 3: Thursday, May 11, 2017

Thomson Hall 317 UW Campus

### Dr. Sheldon Rubinfeld (Baylor College of Medicine)

Dr. Sheldon Rubinfeld will present a talk on Medicine and Medical Ethics After the Holocaust.

7:00pm–8:00pm

Wednesday, February 1, 2017

Thomson Hall 101 UW Campus



### 2017 Stroum Lectures featuring Prof. Jonathan Israel (Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton University)

Jonathan Israel is one of the most sought-after public intellectuals in the world today. He studies the emergence of modern ideas of democracy, equality, toleration, freedom of the press, and individual freedom. Prof. Israel has won numerous awards, including the the 2015 PROSE Award in European and World History for his book *Revolutionary Ideas*.

7:00pm–8:30pm

LECTURE 1: Sunday, May 21, 2017  
*In What Sense was Spinoza a Revolutionary Thinker?*

LECTURE 2: Tuesday, May 23, 2017  
*Eighteenth-Century Jewish Emancipation: a Consequence of the Radical Enlightenment?*

Kane Hall 220 UW Campus

*Kosher reception to follow first lecture on May 21, 2017*

Dates and times are subject to change. For the most up-to-date event information, please visit [jewishstudies.washington.edu/events](http://jewishstudies.washington.edu/events) or call the Stroum Center at 206-543-0138.

[jewishstudies.washington.edu](http://jewishstudies.washington.edu) /UWStroumCenter @uwjewst [jewishst@uw.edu](mailto:jewishst@uw.edu)





**Ilan Stavans Stroum Lecture**



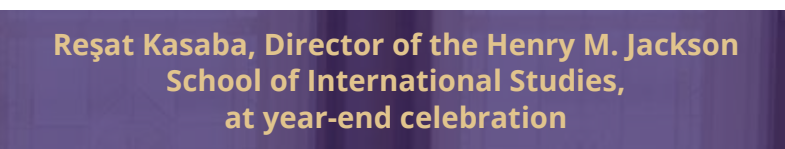
**2015 International Ladino Day**



**Adam Rubin, Beth Huppín, Marty Jaffee  
at *Sifre Devarim* e-book launch**



**Writer and filmmaker Sayed Kashua with  
Noam Pianko and Yaffa Maritz**



**Reşat Kasaba, Director of the Henry M. Jackson  
School of International Studies,  
at year-end celebration**



**Dara Horn Stroum Lecture**

“[W]e are witnessing public discourses expressing extremely varying levels of tolerance.”

— Oded Oron, Rabbi Arthur A. Jacobovitz Fellow

# TOLERANCE ROUNDTABLE

## INTRODUCTION: THE LIMITS OF TOLERANCE

BY NOAM PIANKO

Questions about tolerance, and its limits, have defined the Jewish experience across time and space. Indeed, Jewish emancipation into European society began with a 1783 “Edict of Toleration” issued by the Hapsburg Emperor. A few years later in the United States, George Washington assured the Jewish community of Newport with a letter declaring that the U.S. government “gives to bigotry no sanction”: a resounding affirmation that American tolerance would expand to include the Jewish community in addition to other Christian denominations.

Of course, political declarations of tolerance also had their limitations. Claims for tolerance included a price, as accepting one group resulted in the exclusion of other groups. A survey of modern Jewish history shows the complicated legacy of this concept. For example, the Hapsburg Edict of Toleration demanded that Jews change certain religious behaviors in order to better serve the Empire and insisted that they relinquish the use of Jewish languages. The concept of tolerance created the vocabulary for

Jewish inclusion, while also forcing societal assimilation through the exclusion of certain practices.

This year’s Presidential race demonstrates that the question of tolerance

remains an open issue in the United States. The election cycle has been full of calls for tolerance as well as concerns about the dangers of being overly tolerant. Tolerance contains within it a challenge: as a society, how comfortable are we with individuals and groups who hold different religious beliefs, cultural practices, and political allegiances? The perspectives shared in this virtual roundtable discussion look to the Jewish experience for perspectives on our contemporary debates about tolerance and its limits.



“The First Amendment guarantee of religious freedom is the cornerstone of our practice of toleration.”

— Prof. Michael Rosenthal

## PHILOSOPHICAL PERSPECTIVES ON RELIGIOUS TOLERATION

BY MICHAEL ROSENTHAL

**Most citizens** of the United States, especially those who belong to religious minorities, like the Jews, believe that religious tolerance is a central value of our liberal society. But what exactly does it mean, and what are the limits of tolerance? Recent debates over the immigration of Muslims to our country have put these questions at the forefront yet again.

The First Amendment guarantee of religious freedom is the cornerstone of our practice of toleration. The authors of the Constitution had seen firsthand how government interference in religious life led to conflict and instability. They were influenced by modern philosophers who came up with new ideas—like the social contract and natural rights—that redefined the government’s relation to religion.

My research focuses on a seventeenth-century thinker, Baruch Spinoza, who was a victim of intolerance and became the advocate of a new idea of tolerance that shaped modern society. Although Spinoza was ultimately expelled from

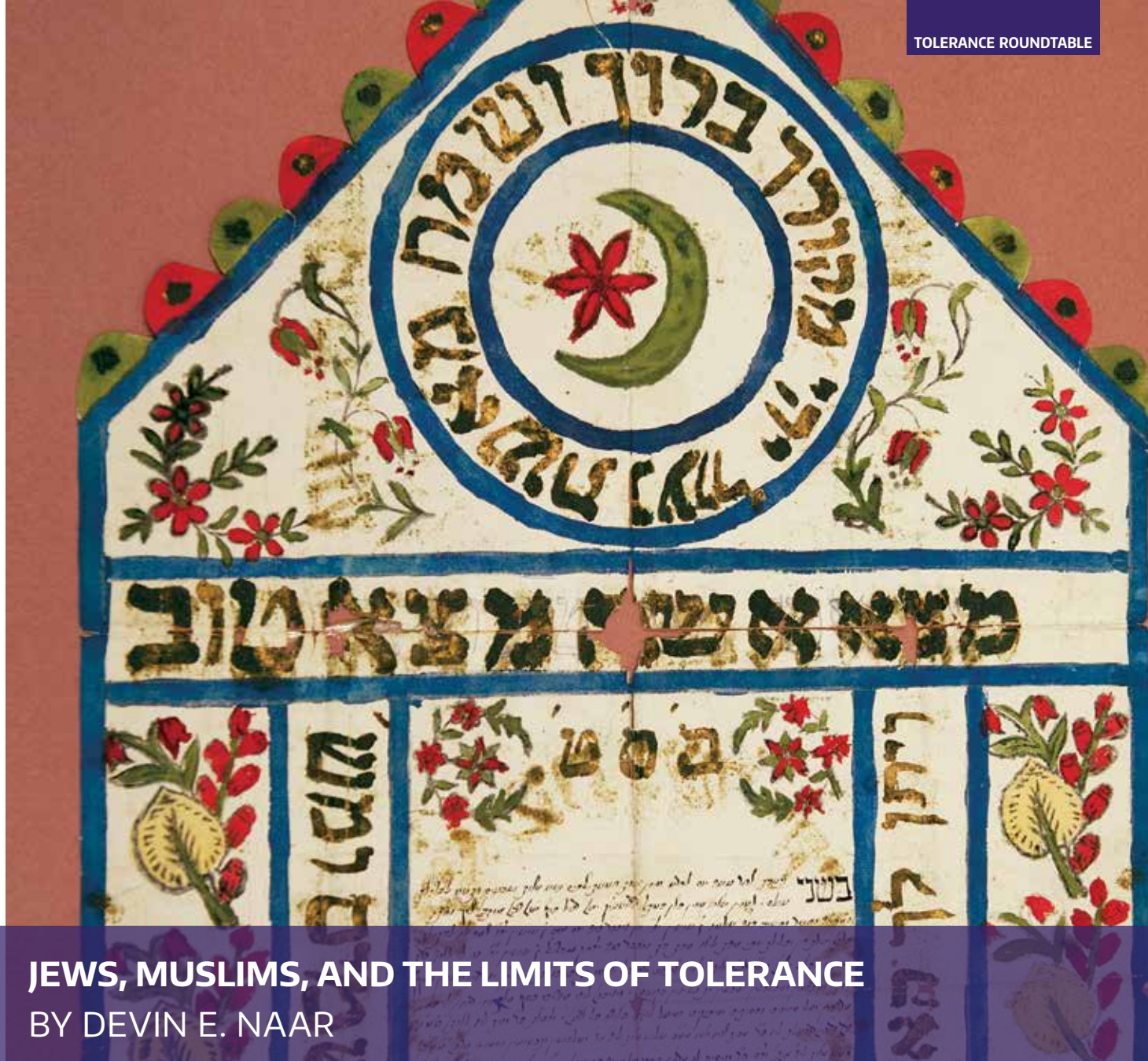
the Jewish community for his unorthodox beliefs, he helped create the conditions in which Judaism could adapt and even flourish in the modern world.

This fall, with the support of the Stroum Center, I am organizing a panel discussion on religion as part of a larger conference on “Immigration, Toleration, and Human Rights” sponsored by the Simpson Center for the Humanities and the Office of Global Affairs. As democratic majorities push back against liberal policies regarding immigration—witness the recent “Brexit” decision—it is crucial to discuss the role that xenophobia and religious intolerance plays in these debates about national identity.

I hope that you will join us on the evening of October 27th for what promises to be an illuminating panel discussion on religion and immigration.

*Prof. Michael Rosenthal is the new Samuel and Althea Stroum Chair in Jewish Studies. He is currently finishing a book on Baruch Spinoza’s Theological-Political Treatise.*





## JEWES, MUSLIMS, AND THE LIMITS OF TOLERANCE

BY DEVIN E. NAAR

**A beautifully illustrated** Jewish wedding contract, or *ketubah*, adorned with the symbols of Islam—the star and the crescent: this is one of the most striking artifacts that has surfaced as part of the Sephardic Studies Program’s effort to collect, digitize and make accessible the cultural heritage of Sephardic Jews. Shared with us by Rabbi Solomon Maimon and Albert Maimon, the *ketubah* dates from 1919 and pertains to the Bensussan family from the town of Tekirdağ, then in the Ottoman Empire (today’s Turkey). The *ketubah* made its way to Seattle nearly a century ago.

This rare document compels us to reconsider the relationship between Judaism and Islam

by reminding us that, although contemporary media may present it otherwise, Jews and Muslims were not always in conflict, but rather lived side by side for centuries in the realm of the Ottoman Empire. Indeed, Jewish chroniclers lauded the Ottoman Empire as a Jewish safe haven. In 1550, Jews in Salonica declared: “Turkey is entirely open to you, settle here, our brethren, in the best of the land! ... the Turks do not let us suffer any evil or oppression.” Even the famous eighteenth-century French philosopher, Voltaire, in his “Essay on Toleration,” praised the Ottomans: “The Sultan governs in peace twenty million people of different religions....”



But “tolerance” in the Ottoman context was double edged, for it served as an alternative not only to the persecution of the pre-modern Christian world, but also as an alternative to equal rights. Governed by Islamic law, the Ottoman Empire guaranteed a place in society for non-Muslims so long as they recognized their inferior status, paid special taxes, and pledged their allegiance to the sultan. In exchange, they gained the protection of the sultan and the privilege to build their own houses of worship. They certainly were tolerated, but they were not equals.

Given this history, it is perhaps fitting that the authoritative Ladino (Judeo-Spanish) dictionary defines *toleransya* as “indulgence of what we do not like.”

*Devin E. Naar is the chair of the Sephardic Studies Program in the Stroum Center for Jewish Studies. His first book, Jewish Salonica: Between the Ottoman Empire and Modern Greece, has just been published by Stanford University Press.*




## WHY JEWISH STUDIES?

“Each quarter I would be on the lookout for which Jewish Studies class I could take next, with great admiration for the intelligence and passion of the professors I studied with, and for the diversity of classes offered by the Stroum Center. There is no doubt that all of the fascinating, inspiring, and challenging Jewish Studies classes I took at the UW led me to the decision to continue my education in Israel where Jewish Studies will be innately embedded in whatever I do.”

— **Ondina “LB” Lipney-Burger**

 HOMETOWN: San Francisco, CA

 MAJOR: Jewish Studies & International Studies with a focus on International Human Rights, Law, State & Society



## THE IMPORTANCE OF WELCOMING REFUGEES

BY KATHIE FRIEDMAN

“After years of interviews with the refugees and later their adult children, I understand where their stories led me.”

– Prof. Kathie Friedman

**Since I joined the faculty** at the Jackson School in 2000, I’ve been teaching courses on immigration, ethnic and religious group relations, and refugees. After completing a project about the adult children of former Soviet Jews in the United States, in 2002 I started to interview refugee survivors from the 1992-95 Bosnian war.

Initially, I put aside my questions about memories of ethnic cleansing and the war itself. I was more interested in learning about how refugees from such extreme ethno-religious violence were assimilating into multicultural America. However, the refugees always started with war stories; frequently there was anger, tears, and silences. So much of my early research was like “witnessing.” It was frequently grim and demoralizing. I wasn’t certain then where the interviews would lead me or what I would learn.

Starting over after so much loss is hard, and even in the United States, a place of relative safety and refuge, there is not nearly enough toleration for refugees. After years of interviews with the refugees and later their adult children, I understand where their stories led me. As we face new refugee crises from ongoing wars of extreme ethno-religious intolerance and persecution, I’ve learned from Bosnian refugee families the importance of a welcoming country.

*Prof. Kathie Friedman is at work on a new book about immigration, tentatively titled The Afterlife of Ethnic Cleansing: Bosnian Refugee Identity and Belonging in America. This past year she spoke at two Neighborhood House panels about the Syrian refugee crisis and Seattle’s current immigrant population.*





## RESEARCH AND TEACHING ON THE POLITICS OF MIGRATION

### BY ODED ORON

**The working title** of my dissertation is *"Rights Here, Right now!: A Comparative Study of Irregular Migrants' Mobilization for Rights and Recognition in Israel and the United States."* I study political organizing of migrants without permanent legal status, comparing mobilization efforts led by African migrants in Israel with similar endeavors led by Latino migrants in the state of Washington.

This past summer, with the support of a Jewish Studies Opportunity Grant, I conducted close to 40 in-depth interviews in Israel with migrants from Eritrea and Sudan. I heard from them firsthand about their polarized experiences when encountering Israelis—those who embraced them wholeheartedly and tried to help, and those who directed racist and xenophobic slurs to them just for being black and not Jewish. The Israeli government, for its part, has branded these asylum seekers "illegal job seekers" and "infiltrators" and has led a public campaign to force them to leave.

With the recent crisis in Syria looming large and capturing the media's attention, as well as the approaching U.S. election with immigration being a prime topic of contention, students are constantly engaged in conversations surrounding these matters. The issue of tolerance in terms of humility and acceptance is being challenged, especially in times of crisis; as policies take shape to deal with recent migration challenges, we are witnessing public discourses expressing extremely varying levels of tolerance. The efforts of host societies as they try to integrate migrants can teach us a lot about tolerance, especially when it is put to the test.

*Oded Oron (above left) is in his third year of the Ph.D. program in International Studies at the Jackson School. He was the 2015-16 Deborah and Doug Rosen Fellow, and he will hold the Rabbi Arthur A. Jacobovitz Fellowship for 2016-17.*

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Visit [jewishstudies.washington.edu](http://jewishstudies.washington.edu) for full versions of the Toleration Roundtable articles by our faculty.

“There’s a sense of collaboration among faculty, students, and professors; we all work together as a whole to provide the best university experience for everyone.”

— Shawn Laramie, Class of 2016

## DEBUT OF “SEPHARDIC LIGHTHOUSE” DIGITAL MUSEUM EXHIBIT

This year Ashley Bobman, UW Class of 2016, helped to create the first-ever online exhibit for the new Sephardic Studies Digital Museum. A Public Health major and Nutritional Science minor, Bobman spent three and a half years working with Prof. Devin Naar, chair of the UW Sephardic Studies Program at the Stroum Center, on an independent research project about the life of Albert D. Levy (1896-1963).



The task of cataloguing and translating Albert Levy’s prolific Ladino output for “A Sephardic Lighthouse: Albert Levy & The Sephardic Jewish Journey” was especially meaningful because Levy, a prominent Sephardic community leader born in Salonica, was Ashley Bobman’s own maternal great-grandfather.

Several Stroum Center staff members collaborated on realizing the vision for this exhibit. Prof. Naar worked with Ty Alhadeff, the Sephardic Studies Research Coordinator, to locate the best archival items for each section. The Stroum Center’s media team, Hannah Pressman and Kara Schoonmaker, consulted on ways to organize the material in a visually exciting way. Schoonmaker then designed and built the pages over the Spring 2016 quarter.



[jewishstudies.washington.edu/sephardic-digital-museum](http://jewishstudies.washington.edu/sephardic-digital-museum)





Bobman explains the meaning behind the exhibit's title: "One of the newspapers that he [Albert Levy] worked for was called *El Luzero Sefaradi*, which means 'The Sephardic Lighthouse,' and while it wasn't a paper that was around for all that long, it—to me at least—really reflected what he did. A lighthouse is a beacon of light; it draws your eyes to things and brings them to your attention, and that's exactly what I felt like he was doing with his works."

Bobman will attend Yale University this fall to pursue a Masters of Science in nursing. However, via cross-country coordination with Prof. Naar, she hopes to continue both her original Ladino poetry writing as well as her work translating her great-grandfather's writings.

Prof. Naar, reflecting on his stellar student, said, "I hope that Ashley and her work will inspire other students, here and elsewhere, to delve deeper into Sephardic culture and the Ladino language and make their own contributions to the documentation and resurgence of this rich heritage. Ashley: *Mazal alto ke tengas!*"



## WHY JEWISH STUDIES?

"This is a great question. I'm not Jewish; I identify as Black and Filipina. I just loved to spend my time with JSSAC (Jewish Studies Student Advisory Council) members. They are from incredible and diverse backgrounds, cultures, languages, hometowns, etc. I went to every single JSSAC meeting, Feastings with Faculty, and I even went to the Jewish Film Festival (at which I had a BLAST watching 'Bulgarian Rhapsody' and hearing Ladino in real life)."

— Rayna Zahara Mathis



HOMETOWN: Vancouver, WA



MAJOR: History



Jewish Studies Graduate Fellows Spring 2016 Research Symposium

## GRADUATE FELLOW CANAN BOLEL



Ina C. Willner with Canan Bolel  
at the Spring Research Symposium

Through the Jewish Studies Graduate Fellowship, I became part of a perfect cohort of graduate students, all working on fascinating topics related to the Jewish experience. Listening to a project based on Jewish women's experiences in East Germany excited me as much as listening to a study about my own hometown of İzmir, Turkey. Meeting with senior members of the local community, sharing my project on the history of Jewish childhood spaces in Seattle, and getting feedback on my work was invaluable. Moreover, with the guidance and support of the fellowship, this past spring I participated in the Seminar on Archival and Historical Research at the Center for Jewish History in New York, as well as the Advanced Summer School in Judaic Studies at the Katz Center of the University of Pennsylvania.

The Jewish Studies Graduate Fellowship is now entering its 5th year of supporting masters- and doctoral-level research projects related to Jewish Studies. Graduate Fellows have come from many UW departments:



COMPARATIVE  
RELIGION



ENGLISH



FRENCH &  
ITALIAN  
STUDIES



HISTORY



INFORMATION  
SCIENCE



INTERNATIONAL  
STUDIES



LINGUISTICS



NEAR & MIDDLE  
EASTERN  
STUDIES



POLITICAL  
SCIENCE



SLAVIC  
LANGUAGES &  
LITERATURES



The working title of my dissertation is “The Young, the Poor and the Infected: Spaces of Marginality among Sephardic Jews in the Nineteenth-Century Ottoman Empire.” There is a growing interest in the relationship between maps and narratives in Jewish Studies. My aim is to use spatial technologies to help visualize the urban landscapes in which Jews lived. I believe that digital mapping practices have a lot to offer regarding the spatial dynamics of memory and implementation of personal narratives and memories into spatial categories.

This past summer, with the help of a Jewish Studies Opportunity Grant, I completed a seven-week Hebrew immersion program at Middlebury College. I am planning to continue taking Hebrew courses at UW to be able to work on archival materials from the Ottoman Empire, which I will integrate into my digital mapping project. The upcoming academic year is especially important for me as I will be taking my comprehensive exams and working on scholarship applications for archival work in Turkey and Israel next year. I will also be the teaching assistant for Prof. Joel Walker’s course on “The Ancient World.” I am looking forward to the Stroum Center’s activities as delightful breaks from my intense schedule.

*Canan Bolel is a third-year PhD student in the Interdisciplinary Program in Near and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Washington. She was the 2015-16 Richard M. Willner Memorial Scholar at the Stroum Center.*



## WHY JEWISH STUDIES?

“What really struck me about the Jewish Studies program was the level of student outreach and encouragement to get involved. UW can sometimes feel rather impersonal; it’s easy to go unnoticed in a community of tens of thousands of students. That’s why it was such a pleasant surprise when (Director of Student Engagement) Lauren Kurland got in touch with me right after I had registered for a minor in Jewish Studies. As an undergrad, this was completely new to me; I felt that my opinions mattered. As I was to discover, this is emblematic of the program as a whole: it has an extraordinary ethos of providing a voice for its students.”

— Shawn Laramie



HOMETOWN: Puyallup, WA



MAJOR: International Studies—Comparative Religion; Jewish Studies & Near Eastern Languages and Civilization Minor

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7

The number of **OPPORTUNITY GRANTS** awarded to undergraduate and graduate students for Spring / Summer 2016! Funding is offered in two cycles: Winter/Spring and Summer/Autumn. Opportunity grants support UW-approved research and study opportunities related to Jewish Studies. The 2016 winners used their grants for fantastic experiences both domestically and abroad, including:

**HEBREW  
LANGUAGE  
PROGRAM**  
at Middlebury  
Language School

**ucLADINO  
JUDEO-SPANISH  
SYMPOSIUM**  
in Los Angeles

**UNIVERSITY  
OF  
MELBOURNE**  
Australia

**VOICES OF WITNESS  
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TRAINING**  
in San Francisco

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and Tel Aviv



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 Dr. Stanley and Nancy Zeitz

## DONOR HIGHLIGHT THE GORASHTS AND MERRIMAN-COHENS

This year we recognize two generations of community supporters who are enthusiastic advocates for our program: Sonny and Gena Gorasht, and Jamie and Jeff Merriman-Cohen. Sonny and Gena have been a crucial part of making UW Jewish Studies what it is today. Through the I. Mervin and Georgiana Gorasht Scholarship Fund, they continue to boost our undergraduate and graduate student scholarship program. Sonny has served as Chair of the Jewish Studies Advisory Board and now serves on the Honorary Board. In general, the Gorashts can be counted on to attend just about every event on the Jewish Studies calendar, from small Lunch and Learns to big Stroum Lectures. We appreciate their infectious enthusiasm and leadership.

Jamie Merriman-Cohen is our new Advisory Board Chair, having also served on the board for two terms. Jamie and her husband Jeff have been stalwart supporters of Jewish Studies, particularly in the realm of community programming and faculty. In 2014, Jamie was the Co-Chair of our 40th Anniversary Gala, which inaugurated the Jewish Studies Forward Fund. That same year, Jamie and Jeff established the Gorasht Family Faculty Support Fund to advance the work of our dedicated faculty members. They were also part of our first Community Learning Fellowship in 2015 and have taken other classes through the Access program. For all that they do, we extend our thanks and *yasher koah* (congratulations)!



# OUR FACULTY

**Noam Pianko:** Samuel N. Stroum Chair of Jewish Studies; Lucia S. and Herbert L. Pruzan Professor of Jewish Studies; Associate Professor, Jackson School of International Studies; Director, Samuel and Althea Stroum Center for Jewish Studies

**Mika Ahuvia:** Althea Stroum Endowed Chair in Jewish Studies; Marsha and Jay Glazer Endowed Chair in Jewish Studies; Assistant Professor, Jackson School of International Studies

**Daniel Bessner:** Assistant Professor, Jackson School of International Studies

**Richard Block:** Associate Professor, Germanics

**Joseph Butwin:** Associate Professor, English

**Daniel Chirot:** Herbert J. Ellison Professor of Russian and Eurasian Studies; Professor, Jackson School of International Studies; Job and Gertrud Tamaki Professor of International Studies and Sociology

**Galya Diment:** Thomas L. & Margo G. Wyckoff Endowed Faculty Fellow; Joff Hanauer Distinguished Professor in Western Civilization; Professor, Slavic Languages and Literatures

**Kathie Friedman:** Associate Professor, Jackson School of International Studies; Adjunct Associate Professor, Sociology

**Susan Glenn:** Professor, History

**Ana M. Gómez-Bravo (Raftery):** Professor, Spanish

**Barbara Henry:** Associate Professor, Slavic Languages and Literatures

**Deborah Kerdeman:** Professor, College of Education

**Levis A. Kochin:** Associate Professor, Economics

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

**Devin E. Naar:** Isaac Alhadeff Professor in Sephardic Studies; Director, Sephardic Studies Program; Associate Professor, Jackson School of International Studies; Associate Professor, History

**Scott Noegel:** Professor, Near Eastern Languages and Civilization

**Michael Rosenthal:** Professor, Philosophy; Samuel and Althea Stroum Chair in Jewish Studies

**Naomi B. Sokoloff:** Professor, Near Eastern Languages and Civilization; Professor of Hebrew and Comparative Literature, Department of Comparative Literature, Cinema & Media

**Robert Stacey:** Dean of College of Arts & Sciences; Professor, History

**Sarah Culpepper Stroup:** Associate Professor, Classics

**Hamza Mahmood Zafer:** Assistant Professor, Near Eastern Languages and Civilization; Assistant Professor of Comparative Religion, Jackson School of International Studies

## LECTURERS

**Hadar Khazzam-Horovitz:** Near Eastern Languages and Civilization

**Gary Martin:** Near Eastern Languages and Civilization

**Hannah S. Pressman:** Graduate Fellowship Coordinator, Samuel and Althea Stroum Center for Jewish Studies

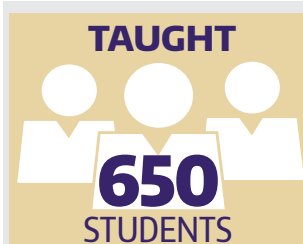
**Tovi Romano:** Near Eastern Languages and Literature

**Ruggero Taradel:** French & Italian Studies

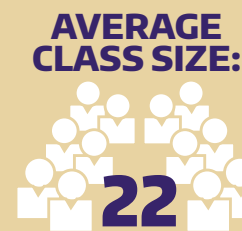
## RETIRED & EMERITUS

For a list of our Retired and Emeritus faculty, please visit [jewish-studies.washington.edu/emertus-retired-faculty/](http://jewish-studies.washington.edu/emertus-retired-faculty/)

## CLASSES: 2015-16 ACADEMIC YEAR



**OFFERED**  
**30**  
COURSES





# NEW COURSES IN 2016-17

## SPRING 2016

### Gender, Sex, and Religion

taught by Mika Ahuvia

## FALL 2016

### Radical Jews: From Jesus to Bernie Sanders

UW Collegium Seminar  
facilitated by  
Lauren Kurland

## WINTER 2017

### Funny Jews

with Noam Pianko

### Sephardic Culture Pre-1492

with Ana Gómez-Bravo  
(Raftery)

### Bioethics: Secular and Jewish Perspectives

with Hadar  
Khazzam-Horovitz

## STROUM CENTER STAFF

Noam Pianko, Director

Devin E. Naar, Sephardic Studies Program Chair

Dana Rubin, Associate Director

Hannah S. Pressman, Communications Director

Lauren Kurland, Student Engagement Director

Kara Schoonmaker, Digital Media Coordinator

Ty Alhadeff, Sephardic Studies Research Coordinator

Doria Nelson, Student Intern

## THANKS TO OUR 2016-2017 ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Adina Almo

Paul Azose

Terry Azose (ex-officio)

Rena Behar

Tamar Benzikry

Bob Center (ex-officio)

Jeremy Derfner

Lela Franco

I. Mervin (Sonny)

Gorasht (ex-officio)

Rabbi Ben Hassan

Joy Maimon

Jamie Merriman-  
Cohen (Chair)

Herb Pruzan (ex-officio)

David Sabban

Amee Huppin Sherer

Carol Starin

Noah Tratt

## THANKS TO OUR 2016-2017 HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS

Terry Azose

Norman Behar

Joann Bianco

Dr. Joseph and  
Barbara Buchman

Bob Center

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David Stone

Goldie Tobin

Ina C. Willner

*Special thanks to 2015-2016 outgoing Board Chair Terry Azose and 2015-2016 outgoing Board member Patty Willner. We are thrilled to welcome incoming Board Chair Jamie Merriman-Cohen.*

Annual Impact Report photography by Michael Young, Meryl Schenker, and Mitch Olsen; design by YaM Brand.



## STROUM CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES

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Dr. Elie Levy with Prof. Naomi Sokoloff at the 2016 "Hebrew and the Humanities" Symposium

