Cyrus freeing the Jews from the Babylonian Captivity.
The University of Illinois campus can offer an embarrassment of riches. When I have attended Quad Day or learned about the program through their campus networks, I offer this anecdote as a concrete example ended up taking. I offer this anecdote as a concrete example...
programming to achieve its intended aims, we feel that it needs to meaningfully engage a broad audience (not to mention bringing the two speakers from Israel), so we are working with campus administration to determine when we might be able to organize an appropriate series of events with the greatest potential for the desired impact. We know that many of you will want to take part in the visit when it happens, so we will let everyone know as soon as we have a clear sense of target dates. While many of our cherished and carefully crafted plans were detailed by the stay at home order and the adjustments to the exigencies of the pandemic, we also found new ways to connect and learn together during our forced separation. During the last several months of the spring semester, we began sharing select material from the program archives—recordings of some of the many extraordinary visitors that we have had the luxury of hosting over the years and articles written by program faculty about and/or inspired by sponsored lectures and events. I was quite moved and humbled by the experience of, not only sharing some of the extraordinary examples through the weekly email, but by the embarrassment of riches that I had to choose from as I perused our archive of material. Our library of materials includes a veritable “who’s who” of Jewish Studies, from our own faculty to a panoply of amazing visitors who afforded brilliant, entertaining, and provocative insights on a diverse array of topics and issues. I hope to continue this tradition in the fall, so feel free to pass along any requests for a specific speaker/topic that you enjoyed (or even one that you were sorry to have missed). We do not have recordings of every lecture, but we do have a nice set of notable videos and write-ups about our distinguished visitors. Towards the end of the spring semester, we began building on these efforts and organized several virtual discussions and panels about highlighted material. You can read more about these efforts in the Virtual Kallah piece included here. For the moment, we fully anticipate offering more virtual programming during the fall semester. We hope to build on the lessons learned from some of the early efforts and take advantage of the flexibility that virtual platforms afford, including being able to bring together people in disparate locations. Whether you are here in town or several airplane rides away from Champaign (a.k.a. Champaign-Urbana), you can join us for lectures and workshops. Please visit the Jewish Studies calendar and our Facebook page for the latest information about upcoming events.

For now, I want to thank everyone who helped make an admittedly difficult year so rewarding and productive. I hope that you are all safe and well. I look forward to an admittedly difficult year so rewarding and productive. I hope that you are all safe and well. I look forward to

FROM THE ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

This past spring more than 100 colleges and universities across the country scrambled to move classes online. The suspension of in-person classes brought mixed reactions from parents, students, and educators. Some questioned the quality of remote learning. Others pointed out that the makeshift online courses—due to COVID-19 pandemic—are not representative of high-quality education. The public health crisis has presented universities a challenge, as well as a unique opportunity to reevaluate online learning and communication. In many respects, the Program in Jewish Culture & Society is ahead of the curve in producing high quality online education. We now have three high quality online general education courses.

I taught online “Zionism: A Global History” to more than 100 students from diverse backgrounds. Richard Herman, the former chancellor at the U of I, audited the course. He remarked that the “course offers both a sense of excitement of being let in on that which undergrads, at a philosophical and practical level, the creation of the state of Israel. One learns, in a critical way, the history and development of Zionism beginning in the latter half of the 19th century. At the same time, what emerges is the depth of thought and passion of the individuals who, step by step, brought the nation of Israel into being. Heady stuff.”

The course engages those with a passion for history at one level, but also provides essential knowledge for those who regularly encounter anti-Zionism and antisemitism. Next fall, Rachel Harris plans pans to teach a new online course, “Holocaust on Screen.” In partnership with LAS Online—an initiative at the U of I to create a diverse set of online offerings that meet or exceed the expectations of face-to-face courses—we conducted an educational market research study to explore the feasibility and generate insights about a potential online Jewish Studies Program. Drawing on the findings and recommendations of the market research analysis, our goal in the near future is to expand our offerings in history, religion, and comparative literature. One thing that the coronavirus pandemic has confirmed is that enough students benefit from high quality, online education. Students have taken advantage of the opportunity to study at their own pace and to balance life and work. At both the national and regional levels, online course offerings in Jewish Studies are not common. The Program in Jewish Culture & Society at the U of I hopes to create a truly unique, interdisciplinary program that speaks to a broad audience.

— Eugene M. Avrutin

THE PROGRAM IN JEWISH CULTURE & SOCIETY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Kenneth Anspach
Evan Bennett
Sheldon B. Cohen
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David S. Egeland
Steven Erlebacher
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Richard Herman
Douglas H. Hoffman (Chair)
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Jennifer Rosenblum
Lorelei G. Rosenthal
Roger Rudich
David D. Schwab
Michael Shapiro
William Shiner
Gayle Snitman-Rubin
Spencer C. Stern

Performance by Michael Barenboim and the West-Eastern Divan Ensemble at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, February 2020
Eugene M. Avrutin

Eugene M. Avrutin is Professor of Modern Jewish History and the Tobor family scholar in the Program of Jewish Culture and Society at the University of Illinois. With the support of a LAS Online grant, Eugene Avrutin spent the bulk of the summer writing and recording lectures for a new course, “Zionism: A Global History.” He presented a paper on Jews, empire, and race at a conference on rethinking violence in Jewish history at Stanford University. Together with Elissa Bemporad (professor of Jewish history at CUNY), he organized a workshop on the history of anti-Jewish violence in Eastern Europe at the Center for Jewish History in New York, with plans to publish the presentations in a book provisionally entitled “Igrobos: A Documentary History” with Oxford University Press. His book, “The Velūž Affair,” will soon appear in a Russian edition.

Eric Calderwood

Eric Calderwood is associate professor of comparative and world literature and a current Contrad Humanities Scholar. His specializations are North African literature and film, modern Spanish literature and film, al-Andalusian cultural memory (medieval Muslim Iberia), modern Arabic literature, Mediterranean studies, postcolonial studies, and travel writing. Professor Calderwood has recently published “Colonial al-Andalus: Spain and the Making of Modern Moroccan Culture” (The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2018), which was translated into Spanish as “Al Andalus en Marruecos” and published by Almudara Press, 2019. He is currently working on a book entitled “The Invention of al-Andalus: Uses of the Past in Contemporary Mediterranean Culture.”

Virginia Rosa Dominguez

Virginia Rosa Dominguez is the Edward William & Jane Marc Gruigell Professor of Anthropology, past president of the American Anthropological Association, and co-founder and consulting director of the International Forum for U.S. Studies, past chair of Task Force on Advocacy and Outreach Activities, and a member of organizing committee of the World Council of Anthropological Association. She is currently a president of Anthropologists without Borders, associate editor of World Anthropologies Section in “American Anthropologist” and a member of the steering committee in the World Anthropological Union. Professor Dominguez is a political and legal anthropologist whose most recent books are, “America Observed: On an International Anthropology of the United States”, co-edited with Jasmin Habib (Berghahn Books, 2017) and “Global Perspectives on the US”, co-edited with Jane Desmond (University of Illinois Press, 2017).

Dara E. Goldman

Dara E. Goldman, director of the Program in Jewish Culture & Society, is associate professor of Spanish, specializing in contemporary Caribbean and Latin American literatures and cultures, gender and sexualities studies and cultural studies. She is the author of “Out of Bounds: Islands and the Demarcation of Identity in the Hispanic Caribbean” (Backubell University Press, 2008) and numerous journal articles on Cuban, Dominican, and Puerto Rican literatures and forms of cultural expression such as film, websites, music, and art. She is currently completing a book manuscript that examines how Cuban writers and artists represent and respond to recent changes in Cuban culture, politics, national identity, and worldviews. Among other materials, the book analyzes two novels with central Jewish characters and themes, Leonardo Padura Fuentes’s “Heresyes [Heresyes: A Novel]” and Ena Lucia Portela’s “Cien botellas en una pared” (100 Bottles). Professor Goldman delivered a paper at the Association for Jewish Studies and presented her research on Cuban Jews at several symposia and local synagogues. She was expected to deliver a paper at the Latin American Jewish Studies Association in Guataco and to co-host (with professor Dana Rabin) a symposium on Jews of the Caribbean at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; both of these events have been postponed until 2021 due to COVID-19 pandemic. After the university moved to remote operations in March 2020, professor Goldman organized and participated in several virtual events, including a discussion of Elgar Registrar’s work and two online discussions dedicated to the Netflix series Unorthodox and the Deborah Feldman memoir on which it was based. This year, Dr. Goldman was also elected to the executive council of the Latin American Studies Association and to the delegate assembly of the Modern Language Association.

Rachel Harris


Brett Ashley Kaplan

Brett Ashley Kaplan is the director of the Initiative in Holocaust, Genocide and Memory Studies and professor in the Program in Comparative and World Literature. Her books, “Unwanted Beauty: Aesthetic Pleasure in Holocaust Representation” (UP Illinois, 2007) and “Landscapes of Holocaust Postmemory” ( Routledge, 2011) examine the Shoah’s intersections with art and space. Turning to race and power in contemporary Jewish American literature, she published “Jewish Anxiety in the Novels of Philip Roth” (Bloomsbury, 2015). She is at work on three books: “Convergences: Portraits of Artists who Explore Jewishness and Blackness” (creative non-fiction); “Rare Stuff” (a novel, drafted), and a second novel about Vera Solomon, a survivor of the Kindertransport living in provincial England who befriends a Vietnamese refugee center in 1979 a Belgian intellectual posing as a do-gooder while hiding his painfully antisemitic articles written during the height of World War II. In addition to scholarly articles and book reviews in venues such as “Memory Studies”, “H-France Review”, “American Literary History”, “Journal of Jewish Identities”, “Modern Philology”, “Textual Practice”, “Criticism”, “German Quarterly”, “Contemporary French Civilization”, “Comparative Literature”, “Studies in Jewish American Literature”, she has written for more public-facing outlets such as “The Conversation”, “As I’ve Ought To Be Magazine”, “Ha’aretz”, and “AJ’s Perspectives”. She has printed interviews in “Contemporary French Civilization” and “9th Letter” and been interviewed on the “AJ’s Podcast”, “NPR”, and “The 21st”.

Brett Kaufman

Brett Kaufman joined the faculty at Illinois in 2018. He is an archaeologist specializing in the Mediterranean and Near East, ancient engineering and design, the formation and maintenance of socio-political hierarchy, and reconstructing ecological management strategies of ancient and historical societies. He has directed or supervised archaeological excavations in Tunisia, China, Italy, Israel, and New York. His research has been supported by grants from the National Science Foundation, the National Geographic Society, and the National Natural Science Foundation of China. He received a BA from Brandeis University, and an MA and PhD from the University of California, Los Angeles. Prior to joining the Department of Classics, he held a postdoctoral fellowship at Brown University, and a faculty appointment at the University of Science and Technology Beijing where he maintains an affiliation.

Harriet Murav

Harriet Murav is the Catherine and Bruce Bastian Professor of Global and Transnational Studies, professor of Slavic languages and literatures, professor in the Center for Advanced Study and professor in the Program in Comparative and World Literatures. She is editor of “Slavic Review”. In Spring 2019, she was a Joyce Z. Greenberg Visiting Professor at the University of Chicago. In Spring 2020, she will be a fellow at the Frankel Institute at the University of Michigan. In 2019, her book “David Bergelson’s Strange New World: Untimeliness and Futility” was published by Indiana University Press. Professor Murav’s new research project, “Archive of Violence: The Russian Civil Wars and the Literature of Abandonment” uses the Kiyev District Commission for Relief to Victims of Pogroms (1920-1923) and selected literary works in Yiddish, Russian, and Ukrainian to analyze the extraordinary proliferation of literary creativity in tandem with the extraordinary proliferations of violence in Ukraine and Russia in the revolutionary period.
The Initiative in Holocaust, Genocide, and Memory Studies

This year has been extremely tough on everyone. Before the entirely necessary lockdown, the Initiative in Holocaust, Genocide, and Memory Studies continued our four main strands of events: a lunchtime faculty seminar for graduate students and faculty, an annual graduate student colloquium in memory studies, showcasing the work of HGMS graduate students, and a major event each April to coincide with the annual commemoration of the Armenian genocide (April 24). We kicked off this year’s events with the second multi-media performance by Erhan Madarietà, and then engaged in the faculty seminar series on a variety of topics throughout the fall and early spring semesters. Please go here for a description of the performance piece: hgmsblog.weebly.com.

The third annual graduate student colloquium, (scheduled for late March 2020), was coming together beautifully with students from across campus including from Ecology, Evolution, and Conservation Biology, Painting, and a dance performance from two dance students. We had to postpone it due to the virus, we now plan to hold it (most likely virtually) on Friday, September 4, 2020. Mark your calendars!

I am most disappointed that we had to postpone a major, multi-part visit from Kevork Mourad. He is an exceptionally interesting and engaging visual artist, based in New York and I am very grateful to HGMS and comparative literature graduate student Claire Baytas for co-organizing this visit and very grateful that we received generous funding from The Beckman Institute, The Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology, IPRH(now Humanities Research Institute), SLCL, and the Unit. This was to have been September 14, 2020 but we pushed this visit back to Monday, September 13, 2021.

Please check out this video of a talk Julia gave via York University: www.youtube.com/watch?v=dK1d4gG3Xxw.
Virtual Kallah
Dara Goldman

Those of you who have been part of the extended community of the Program in Jewish Culture & Society—even before it was formally known as such—may remember the annual Kallah that was held. These symposia highlighted the work being done by scholars in the program, and several of them took place in the Chicago-land area. It was an initiative launched by the then director, Michael Shapiro, in collaboration with co-founder Gary Poron. Many of us probably associate the term with marriage rituals (the bride). In this case, however, the term refers to a scholarly meeting that probably associate the term with marriage rituals (the bride). In this case, however, the term refers to a scholarly meeting that was the early years of the Jewish scholars regularly held during the Babylonian captivity. Given this historical connection with the early years of the Program and the association with gathering to learn together in captivity, we decided to revive the term and launch a modified version, a virtual Kallah.

During the second half of the spring semester, we included the “Virtual Kallah” as a regular feature in the weekly email. We highlighted some of the endowed lectures from previous years and several pieces that Jewish Studies faculty had written about past events. Regular readers of the message may recall links to highlights from previous years, to share your memories of the event featured, and/or to engage in discussion about the content.

In April, we expanded our efforts and organized online events that would allow us to connect and interact (in real-time). We organized a discussion of Etgar Keret’s work. Participants watched the recording of Keret’s 2010 lecture, and professor Brett Kaplan and I shared our perspective on the author’s oeuvre. A few weeks later, we turned our attention to the wildly successful Netflix mini-series, Unorthodox, based on Deborah Feldman’s memoir. This event gave us the opportunity to invite David Myers (UCLA) to rejoin us and discuss some of his work on the Satmar community of Kiryas Joel that he had presented at the Jewish Studies workshop last year. Taking advantage of the virtual platform and the circumstances of stay at home orders, we were able to include Nomi Stolzenberg (USC)—who happens to be David’s wife and co-author of the book on Kiryas Joel—to discuss Satmar communities from her perspective as a legal scholar. Our own Rachel Harris, who has published extensively on women in Israeli and Jewish cinema as well as on representations of orthodox Jewish women, offered her analysis of the mini-series and compared it to other films that feature similar thematic content. Israel Institute visiting scholar Liat Maggid Alon responded to the presentations and commented on how these issues are represented and understood in an Israeli context (which was especially interesting given professor Stolzenberg’s analysis of the Satmar communities as a particularly American phenomenon). It made for a lively and engaging discussion, with only a few technical difficulties (thankfully), with amazing questions coming in from participants (far more than we could adequately address in the allotted time). Over 180 users joined the session (at its peak), which translated into an even higher number of viewers connected via the same device. We recorded the session and posted it in mid-May. Since then, over 320 people have viewed the video, with about 18% watching the whole thing.

We are delighted that so many people have connected with the content, especially given the plethora of events about Unorthodox that were organized before and since our panel. Honestly, I am not sure if any of our in-person programmes has ever reached such a large and geographically expansive audience. For those of you who did not have a chance to attend, you can still access the full video via Illinois Media Space. We are also in the process of putting together highlights and brief clips for anyone who might be interested in a particular topic or want to utilize portions of the recording in their teaching. Look for an announcement on the program website and in the Jewish Studies weekly email once those become available.

We are hoping to be able to return to in-person programming (although presumably with some modifications) as soon as it is feasible and—as most importantly—safe to do so. At the moment, we anticipate that will not happen before next year (i.e. Spring 2021). Consequently, we will continue this new tradition of the Virtual Kallah and offer programming and resources that can speak to and through this moment. We hope that you continue to enjoy and benefit from these offerings. Please let us know if there is anything that you would like to see or if you have ideas about how we can improve our virtual offerings. We are all learning and evolving as we try to adapt to the circumstances, and we would welcome any assistance that might allow us rise to the occasion and help the PJCS community to thrive to the greatest extent possible.
SAVE THE DATE

We are excited to announce that the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign will play host to the Association of Israel Studies annual conference next summer. The event, which attracts scholars from all over the globe, combines presentations on the latest scholarship with cultural events.

It has been more than 30 years since the event was hosted in the Midwest and in that time Israel studies has grown from a small field with no endowed chairs, dedicated publications, or even journals to a thriving scholarly endeavor. In recent years the annual conference has attracted up to 500 scholars. We are excited to have the opportunity to host, as a result of a special gift that will help subsidize costs for the event. Our own Rachel S. Harris, associate professor of Israeli literature and culture, will be chairing the conference, supported by Lara D. Goldman and the Program in Jewish Culture and Society.

Given recent events at the university, there is also a strong desire on our campus to refocus the conversation and highlight our intellectual engagement with Israel and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Indeed, the university administration is especially keen at this time to support academic engagement with Israel and focus on our capacity as a research institution to promote discussion rooted in scholarly expertise.

For 14 years the university has been home to the Israel Studies Project (ISP), housed in the program. Through the resources of the ISP, we have strategically implemented a variety of Israel studies events across campus—including organizing visits from prominent Israeli cultural figures on campus, developing conferences and workshops, and promoting multiple new and revised courses focused on Israel within the Program in Jewish Culture & Society. Through the conferences, workshops, courses, and visits from prominent Israeli figures, we estimate that over the last 10 years more than 2,000 people participated, including more than 700 students participating in semester-long coursework. The hosting of the event will ensure that our annual conference is the next step in our efforts to showcase Illinois as an institute of note in the study of Israel.

Dr. Liat Maggid Alon Joins University of Illinois in visiting position

Introductory note: Over the years, the Program in Jewish Culture & Society has enjoyed several productive collaborations with the Israel Institute. They have supported visiting scholars to our campus and also co-sponsored conferences and events that we have hosted. We were delighted to be able to host Liat Maggid Alon as an Israel Institute visiting scholar during the 2019-2020 academic year. She taught Israeli Cinema and Television and a course on Middle Eastern history, presented her work to several campus and community groups, and participated in major events, discussions, and debates throughout the year. We therefore enthusiastically supported her application to serve as an Israel Institute teaching fellow, a program that will allow her to remain at the University of Illinois for an additional three years. In the coming year, she will be teaching a new course for us on the Arab-Israeli conflict, which currently has about 30 students enrolled, along with three additional courses on Israel and the Middle East. We wanted to give Dr. Maggid Alon this opportunity to introduce herself. We hope that those of you who have not met her yet will have the opportunity to do so in the coming years and—get at least—some small sense of the value that she is adding to our program and community.

Hello all. Though I have met many of you in person already, the annual newsletter provides me with a wonderful opportunity to introduce myself to all. As of August 2020, I will be the Israel Institute Teaching Fellow at the University of Illinois. I will be teaching courses every semester on matters related either to modern Israel and Israeli society or to Modern Middle Eastern societies – Jewish ones included.

I first arrived at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in the summer of 2018, which now seems like a million years ago and at least one reality leap away. I was a post-doc associate—an opportunity for which I deeply thank professor Kenneth Cuno (Department of History). In March of that year, I was invited by Lara D. Goldman, our wonderful director of the program and Rachel (Harris, associate professor in comparative and world literature) to a three-day workshop on women in Israel studies that gave birth to a wonderful partnership with the Israel Institute. As a result, I spent the 2019-2020 academic year as the Israel Institute visiting scholar with the PJCS and Department of History at Illinois, during which I have applied for the three years teaching fellowship position.

In the coming years, I wish to contribute PJCS’s efforts to inform and educate our students about modern Israel. Together, I hope we will be able to provide many students from all walks of life and backgrounds, with opportunities to engage in a respectful, deep and extensive dialogue about issues that are at the heart of many heated debates both in the classroom (hopefully, in person as soon as possible) and outside it.

I hope to see you in my classes as well as in the public events we will be holding throughout the year and will be happy to hear from you in person and engage in conversation. Feel free to reach out to me at lmm@illinois.edu.

Dr. Liat Maggid Alon
T he Initiative in Holocaust, Genocide, and Memory Studies invited Kevork Mourad to visit campus in April 2020, but regrettably, we had to postpone when all campus events were canceled due to the outbreak of Covid-19. Kevork is a Syrian-born, New York-based Armenian artist who works both in 2D and 3D. He produces large-scale installations, ink drawings, illustrations for animated films, live-action sketches to music, and mixed media pieces for visual performances. An overview of images from Mourad’s diverse portfolio can be found on his website: www.kevorkmourad.com

Helen Makhdoumian, HGMS and English graduate student and the mover and shaker behind our annual Armenian studies events and genocide commemorations, had met Kevork and greatly admired his diverse and moving work; we were utterly thrilled both that he graciously accepted our invitation and that we received generous support from MillerComm, Spurlock, IPRH, CWL, English, Fine Arts, Jewish Studies, and REEEC to bring him to campus in April for a multi-part visit. The wonderful director of the Spurlock Museum, Elizabeth Sutton, was delighted to host an on-site installation and exhibition of Kevork’s work and we had put our call for art students to volunteer to help set up the exhibit. In addition to a major talk at the Spurlock Museum’s Knight Auditorium entitled “Conceptualizing Migration, Memory, and Place through Art,” Kevork was to have given an HGMS faculty seminar series workshop and a lecture in Chicago at the Illini Center.

Installation view, The Memories of Stone, Aga Khan Museum, Toronto, 2019, Courtesy Kevork Mourad

During the pandemic, I conducted an online interview with Kevork in May 2020.

BK: Starting with the pandemic in which the whole world is currently embroiled, you made a series of videos that are very moving and very timely while in quarantine. One of them, “Social Distancing,” features a series of beautifully drawn people socializing at a café who sort of float away from each other as social distancing makes our former physical proximities impossible. Can you talk about that piece?

KM: That video was my first quarantine piece. While all of us have been forced to live in quarantine and in some ways have been having similar experiences, some groups have felt the consequences of this quarantine more strongly and immediately than others (those who are in the arts, for example), which is why I have the musicians end up the last ones in the frame, playing alone in an empty café.

BK: More than most visual artists, your work incorporates music—especially cello—but other musical instruments and genres as well. Can you talk about how you see the connections between the visual and the musical in your pieces?

KM: I come from an illustration background (one of my degrees is in illustration) and my grandfather was a troubadour in the Kurdish part of Syria near the border with Turkey. With time I realized that to illustrate music was something natural to me and organic to my work, and I treated my drawing tool like a sort of bow hitting on strings. I’ve often felt like the gestures of my drawing directly translate the rhythms of the music. With this quarantine series, I’ve been treating the videos like visual poems related to the present and inspired by the emotions I receive from the music. Regardless if the music is cello, percussion, banzoonde, or duduk, I receive the emotions and feel compelled to put them into the visual dimension.

BK: It feels as though part of your artistic practice very consciously involves collaborative projects such as the site-specific installation you were scheduled to produce with art students here at the Spurlock Museum and which has now been delayed until April 2021. Can you talk about the importance of both creating work in a space for a space and also of working in conjunction with other (emerging) artists?

KM: For my installation pieces, I have the idea of what the piece is about, but the space in which the installation will be created dictates, by virtue of the size and layout of the room, how the piece will be viewed exactly—from which angles, from what height. And this in turn affects the creation the piece because, in order for the piece to translate the ideas well, I need to know exactly how it will be physically experienced. My installation pieces are large endeavors and would take months to create if I were alone, so having a team of young artists to help in the technical aspects of the creation is essential, but I also received so much energy from the exchange of ideas I experience with other artists. I openly share with them my techniques but also enjoy the inspiration I get from their sharing their own works with me.

BK: Much of your work revolves around the traumas of displacement and the Armenian Genocide. And yet so many of your images are of homes, villages, abodes, often very closely stacked together and very imaginatively configured. Is that a way of registering the importance of the very thing which so many people living in exile find hardest to secure?

KM: I think that many people in exile seek a sense of community, which can be hard in our societies. I grew up in Aleppo in which we did grow up in spaces where we felt like we lived on top of each other, many faiths together, families and communities stacked up in a city that is full of the history of centuries of all these people living together. My art, in which I recall the architecture and the energy of the city I grew up in, celebrates and is nostalgic for the idea of this multiculturalism and tolerance that is today so easily forgotten or erased.

BK: How do the large scale, global, refugee crises impact your work and compare with the experience of Syrian refugees from the civil war?

KM: I myself am the son and descendant of refugees. Wherever refugees go they try to bring with them and recreate some of the beauty that they left behind. I am indebted to the heritage and the strength of my ancestors and of the Syrian people who welcomed them and allowed them to thrive in a new place. I can’t speak to the exact experience of Syrian refugees today since I am fortunate not to have suffered what they have, but my heart and therefore my art is full of the courage they have shown.

BK: In addition to beautiful still drawings you make videos. Can you talk about what it feels like to work in so many media and how you perceive the differences between them?

KM: Growing up, I felt like you were expected to choose a box and stay within it; you were not encouraged to cross-media. Here in New York, in this time, I have discovered that working in different media has been essential to me to be able to use whatever tools seem most fitted to the project at hand, the message I need to get across. No matter the medium in which I’m working, I am playing with similar ideas of time and linearity, even while exploring whatever theme the individual pieces address.

BK: What has it been like to be in New York City during this pandemic? It has been a curse and a blessing to be in New York at this time. It’s a hub of creativity and it has been devastating to see things so quiet and to know how much suffering is around us. At the same time, the energy of this place is always with us and I feel like more than ever I have a duty to speak up through my art and show that art is always essential. We need the ideas and hope to inspire us forward, even in the midst of a time that feels like it’s about basic survival.

Kevork’s videos made during the pandemic:

vimeo.com/407827624
vimeo.com/410025400
vimeo.com/399894511
vimeo.com/406646654
vimeo.com/19826523
Fall 2019 Ronald H. Filler Scholarship Winner
(previous semester)
Johnna Jones is a junior in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, majoring in economics and minoring in Jewish Studies. Johnna is an outstanding student, who has been a James Scholar and made Dean’s List both in her first and second years at the University of Illinois. She is also a H.O.P.E. recipient and National Collegiate Scholar. She has held internships in the juvenile court system and the Department of Corrections. After graduation, Johnna hopes to attend law school and eventually serve as a judge. She is also a member of the University of Illinois Illinettes Dance Team, which affords her the opportunity to interact with community members, children, sports fans, and other dancers.

Spring 2020 Ronald H. Filler Scholarship Winner
(previous semester)
Joshua Kravitz is a senior in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, majoring in political science and minoring in Jewish Studies. This award is the most recent addition to his list of accolades and achievements, which include making Dean’s List every semester and earning multiple recognitions by the National Honors Society. He is a familiar face to many of us in the Program in Jewish Culture & Society, as he is currently completing his fourth semester of Hebrew in addition to the Jewish Studies coursework he has taken toward his minor and his involvement in many of our sponsored and co-sponsored activities. He also completed a study abroad semester at Tel Aviv University during the Fall 2019 semester. Josh will also be leading a Mayanot Birthright abroad semester at Tel Aviv University during the Fall 2019 semester and co-sponsored activities. He also completed a study minor and his involvement in many of our sponsored Honors Society. He is a familiar face to many of us in the university.

Gendell Family and Shiner Family Fellowship Award Winner
Lizy Mostowski is a PhD student in the Program in Comparative & World Literature and recent recipient of Gendell Family and Shiner Family Fellowship from the Program in Jewish Culture & Society for the spring semester of 2021. Her dissertation, tentatively titled “Polish-Jewish Literature After the Holocaust: Witnessing, Collective Memory, and Fictitious Remembering”, is a study of post-Holocaust Polish-Jewish literature as a form of witnessing. It addresses the works such as the Polish manifestos “My, yzd policy” (“We, Polish Jews”) (1944) by Polish national poet, Julian Tuwim, the Yiddish epic poem “Tsi Poyln” (“To Poland”) (1946) by Abraham Sutzkever, and the Polish memoir “Rodzinnia historia Jek [“Family History of Fear”] (2005) by Agata Tuszy ska as forms of reconstructing and preserving lost cultural landscapes. In putting disregarded works of Polish and Yiddish literature back into conversation with one another, the dissertation, a study of the problem of remembering after the Holocaust, itself is an act of recovery of Polish-Jewish culture. The project is incredibly timely as it will examine the haunting presence of Polish-Jewish culture in contemporary Polish society and its impact on the memory of the Holocaust in Poland.

Gendell Family and Shiner Family Fellowship Award Winner
Tyler P. Dolan is a doctoral student in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. His dissertation project seeks to make two interventions. First, the demonstrated cultural, juridical, and historical connection between Jewish writers in Yiddish and in Russian in the revolutionary period naturally engenders a comparative approach, but also a generic evaluation. Pogrom literature, as it was written across the linguistic terrain of the borderlands, is a unified genre worthy of unified consideration. By weaving the pogrom stories in Yiddish—a language whose influence was never as wide before and so drastically reduced in the aftermath of the Holocaust—with those writing in the dominant language of the early Soviet Union, the dissertation builds upon extant scholarship that mainly addresses each national literature separately. This project is not among the first to interrogate the division of literatures into national canons, but the almost universal multilingualism of the East European Jewish community makes the explicit rejection of these divisions more urgent. Second, a close attention to the historical conditions that inform pogrom literature requires a reckoning with changes in political, national, and ethnic consciousness that make the pogroms a historical possibility for literary consideration. The biopolitical turn so crucial to our understanding of modernity—in its “decisive event”—also grants insight into the aesthetics of violence at the core of pogrom literature. With biopolitics as a frame, the project situates the pogrom violence of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries within the context of emerging and changing modernity and the historical conditions that make the human body—and populations of human bodies—precisely what it is at stake in political calculations; pogrom literature, like all literature, is both created by its political and cultural context and has a role to play in the creation and framing of that same reality.

Karasis Scholarship Award Winner
Leiana Xena Hamel is a PhD candidate in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures (also completing a graduate certificate in Jewish Culture and Society) at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Her dissertation project, entitled “Undisciplined Bodies: Deviant Female Sexuality in Russian and Yiddish Literatures, 1870s-1930” analyzes the depiction of female bodies and eroticism in Russian and Yiddish literatures alongside medical, anthropological, and journalistic examinations of female sexuality. The project employs a Foucauldian framework to analyze how the discourses surrounding the erotic female body sought to know and thus control its subject, with the literary text and the scientific tract serving very different functions within these discourses. She argues that artistic literature served as a space of increasingly unregulated pleasure for the reader, while the non-fictional texts tried to exercise discipline and control over the reader’s carnal thoughts and behavior. Furthermore, the dissertation shows how the Russian and Yiddish print cultures interacted with one another in the late imperial and early Soviet periods. With its strongly historical, theoretical, and comparative approach, the project offers new insights into the constructions of female sexuality in Russian and Yiddish literary and non-fictional texts from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Leiana is planning to use the Karasis scholarship to access materials in Jerusalem, participate in a conference in Israel (in whatever format the conference now takes), and continue her study of Yiddish through the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research.
The campaign to support Hebrew instruction

O ver the past few decades, modern Hebrew instruction on the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign campus has been housed in several departments. From 1987 to 2003 it was taught in the Department of Linguistics. 1992 to 1996 were the years of peak enrollment, at least 50 students took first semester Hebrew in each of those years. From 2003 to 2010 classes were split between the departments of Religion and Linguistics. During these years enrollment in Hebrew was going down across the country, but the enrollment collapse at U of I was particularly severe. Perhaps this was due to the rootlessness of Hebrew instruction.

With enrollments shrinking steadily from 2010, it became necessary to find more academic units to pay for the cost of instruction as revenue from tuition was inadequate to cover expenses. Beginning about 2010 our Program in Jewish Culture, the College of LAS, and other academic units each kicked in a little money to maintain modern Hebrew classes.

In 2014 the university determined that overall, the campus should not support all the less commonly taught languages, which includes Hebrew. From the peaks of the mid-1990s, by 2007 enrollment in first semester Hebrew was down to about 30. In 2011 the enrollment had shrunk so far that only one section was required, something less than 20 students.

The college recommended to the executive committee that it administer modern Hebrew instruction using whatever paid instructor was required, something less than 20 students. However, the college should not support all the less commonly taught languages, which includes Hebrew. From the peaks of the mid-1990s, by 2007 enrollment in first semester Hebrew was down to about 30. In 2011 the enrollment had shrunk so far that only one section was required, something less than 20 students.

The program took up the challenge of funding Hebrew in 2014 with some surplus funds on hand, but with reimbursement based on student enrollment continuing as low as it is and not rebounding, the ability to cover some of the expenses from tuition has been minimal. The program did employ a full-time instructor, Sarah Feldman, until 2018 when she left for a position at Harvard University.

Since then, we have been employing graduate students, but they’re a transient lot. Also, on occasion, the best possible candidate has been a foreign graduate student, legally only able to teach for three courses per year.

A full-time instructor would be preferable for multiple reasons. Students would be confident to enroll in Jewish Studies knowing from year to year that there would be an instructor, allowing them to plan on taking Hebrew for the foreign language requirement. If there is a full-time Hebrew language instructor on campus, they could do far more for the students than just teach, they could help students in other ways. We’ll do all we can to get the word out that there is a full-time instructor. Hopefully, the instructor would advertise the program, bringing in more students. Tuition dollars from a larger number of students will only help.

The College of Liberal Arts & Sciences has made a firm commitment to continue its support if the program can guarantee permanent funding. To that end, the Advisory Council agreed to initiate a fundraising campaign to ensure the continuation of modern Hebrew instruction.

The campaign has a very specific target, $545,000. There is a reason for this unusual amount. The (first) $45,000 will be used to support an instructor for three years. From this fund, $15,000 will be used each year to support the instructor. The college will contribute supplemental salary and benefits as soon as we raise the remaining $500,000 the college has promised to contribute supplemental salary and benefits on top of whatever will be earned by the $500,000 endowment. Naming rights are available.

When you make a pledge, the college is allowing four years of support for us to actually contribute. One member of the advisory council has offered a matching gift program if certain fundraising goals are met. As of June 30, eight donors have pledged a total of $62,000. $37,000 is designated for the first three years, the remaining $25,000 is pledged to the permanent endowment.

Paul Winterbotham, the college development officer who supports this effort, is reaching out to the advisory council and outside donors on our behalf, to ensure the survival of modern Hebrew instruction in Urbana-Champaign. Please make a pledge when he contacts you.

Endowments

Oscar and Rose A. Einhorn Fund
Ronald Filler Endowment Fund
Gendell Family and Shiner Family Fund
Samuel and Sheila Goldberger Endowment Fund
Greenfield/Lynche Lecture Series Fund
Hebrew Program Endowment Fund
Karasik Scholarship for Study Abroad Fund
Kroese Family Visiting Scholars in Judaism and Western Culture Fund
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Gary Porton Fund
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Thank you to all of this past year’s donors for your impact on the future success of the program. We encourage your continued commitment and hope others partner with us in the upcoming year. Gifts can be made directly by going to jewishculture.illinois.edu/giving and selecting the fund of your choice. For further information on giving towards a specific purpose, to better understand the impact of your gifts, or to learn more about our Teaching of Hebrew initiative, including leading gifts, please contact me directly at either (217) 300-6222 or paulww@illinois.edu. I look forward to learning about you would like the program to grow on campus!

– Paul Winterbotham
The Future of Trauma and Memory Studies Reading Group

Fall 2019-Spring 2020: Reflections
Dilara Caliskan and Claire Baytas

As part of the Initiative in Holocaust, Genocide and Memory Studies, for Fall 2019 and Spring 2020, we, the Future of Trauma and Memory Studies Reading Group, chose “memory in motion” as the central theme of the meetings. Our aim was to explore the intersections between the concepts of “memory” and “motion” from the perspective of different disciplines and backgrounds. In order to explore how the relationship between memory and motion can be investigated through different texts from different contexts, we conducted meetings on several topics such as “motion and cultural memory,” “gender and memory” and “borders, trauma and memory.” We read the theoretical texts of prominent memory studies scholars such as Jan Assmann, Ann Rigney, Maurice Halbwachs, and Avishai Margalit to provide a firm grounding memory.” We read the theoretical texts of prominent memory studies scholars such as Jan Assmann, Ann Rigney, Maurice Halbwachs, and Avishai Margalit to provide a firm grounding memory.” We read the theoretical texts of prominent memory studies scholars such as Jan Assmann, Ann Rigney, Maurice Halbwachs, and Avishai Margalit to provide a firm grounding memory.” We read the theoretical texts of prominent memory studies scholars such as Jan Assmann, Ann Rigney, Maurice Halbwachs, and Avishai Margalit to provide a firm grounding memory.” We read the theoretical texts of prominent memory studies scholars such as Jan Assmann, Ann Rigney, Maurice Halbwachs, and Avishai Margalit to provide a firm grounding memory.” We read the theoretical texts of prominent memory studies scholars such as Jan Assmann, Ann Rigney, Maurice Halbwachs, and Avishai Margalit to provide a firm grounding memory.”

As both of us co-directors spent some time abroad conducting dissertation research or fieldwork this year, we joined certain meetings virtually rather than in person, and held discussions with a perspective informed by our different experiences and environments. We had the enjoyable occasion to discuss a selection of chapters on memory, gender, and activism from the recently published Women Mobilizing Memory (Columbia UP 2019), including the opportunity to talk about Dilara’s contribution to this book with the author herself. The reading group furthermore had the pleasure of promoting HGMS’s annual Memory Studies Conference, as well as have graduate students affiliated with the reading group sign up to participate in the conference. Although the event had to be postponed due to the pandemic, we look forward to the virtual version of the conference when it is held over Zoom on September 4, 2020.

Looking at the intersections between memory and motion through our monthly meetings greatly enriched our past year’s program. We look forward to continuing to lead the Future of Trauma and Memory Studies Reading Group for the upcoming 2020-2021 academic year, to researching and discussing a variety of new topics, and to collaborating with institutions and scholars across and beyond our campus.

Illinois at the Association for Jewish Studies
 Reported by PhD student Lizy Mostowski

The Association for Jewish Studies held their Annual Meeting in sunny San Diego, California from December 15-17. Many University of Illinois faculty members and graduate students were in attendance.

Prof. Brett Ashley Kaplan presented her paper “JewKlansman” on a riveting panel called “Jewishness and Blackness Through the Lens of BLAIIKKLANSMAN”, Prof. Dara Goldman presented her compelling paper ‘A ‘Polaco’ by any Other Name: Jewish Characters and Jewishness in Recent Cuban Literature”, Prof. Dov Weiss presented his paper “Jews, Gentiles and Gehinnom in Rabbinic Literature”, and Prof. Rachel Harris co-organized the Women’s Caucus Breakfast. PhD Candidate Naomi Taub participated in the roundtable discussion “Jewishness Beyond Liberalism: New Directions in Jewish American Cultural Studies”. PhD Candidate Diana Saciłowski and I participated in a panel entitled Post War Communist Jewish Writing. Saciłowski presented her paper “Speaking Silence: Expressions of Polish-Jewish Identity in Hanna Krall’s Sublokoteka and Magdalena Talée’s Whose You’ll Be”, and I presented my paper “Polish national (Jewish origin) [narodowość polska (pochodzenie żydowskiej?): The Exilic Poetry of March of 1968”. Our panel was chaired by Katka Reszke, author of Return of the Jew, an important look at the

New course on Jewish American and U.S. Minority literatures

Professor Brett A. Kaplan developed a new course on Jewish American and U.S. Minority literatures in dialogue that was taught for the first time (by her) during the Fall 2019 semester. This course focuses on the connections across and among ethnic and immigrant groups in the U.S. that have both shaped and been shaped by Jewish American communities. The course counts towards the requirement, implemented a few years ago, that all undergraduate students take at least one course focusing on U.S. minority cultures. Professor Kaplan taught the inaugural version of the course this year. Here is what she had to say about the experience:

I hit the jackpot of students for the inaugural class of JS 209/ CWL 209E/ENGL 222, Jewish American and U.S. Minority Literatures in Dialogue. Hailing from physics, psychology, journalism, accounting, business, health sciences, civil engineering, history, social work, English and other disciplines, students came together to read a wide variety of literary texts expressing immigrant and/or minority experiences in the U.S. Over the course of the semester the pupils learned careful reading and writing skills, and honed their ability to make arguments about texts. For their final essay I encouraged them to write and think outside the box, and received an array of fantastic fiction and non-fiction essays telling stories of LGBTQ struggles to find an identity, immigrant experiences from Puerto Rico, Russia, Ethiopia, and many other places, love stories of cultural difference, fictional and non-fictional stories about adoption, race wars in schools, becoming the representative of the Jewish people as a Jewish minority, baking in a Chicago bakery with Polish, Jewish, and Mexican co-workers, and many other beautifully written narratives. Taken as a whole, these final essays offered profound reflections on the themes we discussed all semester including alienation; isolation; community; cross-cultural, religious, and racial convergences; generational differences; stereotyping and defying expectations; aesthetics and art. I feel very lucky to have learned from these exceptionally sensitive and bright young adults all semester!

The course is being offered again this Fall (Fall 2020) and will be taught by Lizy Mostowski, an advanced graduate student in Comparative and World Literature and Jewish Studies who works with Professor Kaplan.
In Memoriam

During the past year, the Program in Jewish Culture & Society lost three people who provided invaluable contributions to the program and local Jewish community at various stages of its development: Sandra Lee Brotman, a supporter of Beth Tikvah Congregation, the president of the Beth Tikvah Sisterhood and the president of the Midwest Federation of Temple Sisters; and Sheldon Drobny, whose support helped spur the initial development of the Program. We would like to take this opportunity to remember the lives of those we lost and honor their commitment to Jewish cultures, communities, and causes.

Sandra Lee Brotman
Sandra Lee Brotman (nee Epstein), 86, passed away peacefully on April 27, 2020. Sandra was the loving wife of the late Irwin Brotman for 49 years. Her love of Irwin Brotman began when she met him while attending high holiday services at the University of Illinois. She was Irwin’s partner in life and all that it offered. Sandra’s commitment to the Jewish community and scholarship is infinite. Beth Tikvah Congregation was a paramount part of her life and her family’s life for 53 years. Sandy was president of the Beth Tikvah Congregation and the president of the Midwest Federation of Temple Sisters. Her commitment to the Jewish tradition extended to OSRUI, a Jewish summer camp, which all of her children attended, and which she supported as a board member. Sandy will be missed by all, family and friends. She will live in our thoughts, our memories, and our actions each and every day.

Maurice P. Raizes
Maurice P. Raizes earned a bachelor’s degree and a juris doctor degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1951 and 1953, respectively. He and his wife, Sandra F. Raizes, a 1953 graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign have generously supported the University of Illinois through the Division of Intercollegiate Athletics 1 Fund, the Law School Annual Fund, the Abram Sachar Heritage Society Fund, the Fund for the Jewish Studies, and the Endowment Fund for the Program in Jewish Culture and Society. Expressing his loyalty to the affairs of the University in 1989, Maurice P. Raizes became a member of the President’s Council, the university’s highest donor recognition organization. He served as a member of the University of Illinois Foundation since 2007 and was a life member of the University of Illinois Alumni Association. The Program in Jewish Culture and Society expresses our deepest sympathy to the family of Maurice P. Raizes. The memory of his contribution will live on in our hearts.

Sheldon Drobny
Sheldon Drobny passed away on January 24, 2020, at his home in Highland Park, Illinois. Sheldon was a significant Chicago investor who founded Air America Radio, the first progressive talk radio network. During its early years, Sheldon and Anita Drobny provided significant support to the Program in Jewish Culture & Society. Sheldon was a loving father of Jennifer (Tom Chernaik) Drobny— Chernai, Michael Drobny, Dr. Jessica (Amidar Fedor) Drobny-Feder and the late Julie Beth Drobny. Proud grandfather Sasha, Sam, Eden, and Adam. Dear brother of Irving (Arlene) Drobny and Arnold (the late Susan) Drobny.

Last Year’s Events

2019

Thursday, August 24
“Primo Levi: Between Testimony and Fiction”
HGMS Workshop with Philippe Messoud
2090 Foreign Language Building, Noon

Sunday, September 1
Welcome Bagels
Launch of a new semester and connect with new and old friends.
Illini Hillel, The Margie K. and Louis N. Cohen Center for Jewish Life, 503 E. John St. Champaign, 11:30 a.m.

Monday, September 9
“Reflections of a Jerusalem Correspondent”
An Evening with Egor Lefkowitz
Illini Hillel, The Margie K. and Louis N. Cohen Center for Jewish Life, 503 E. John St. Champaign, 5 p.m.

Monday, September 16
FILM Guided Viewing and Discussion of Red Sea Diving Resort
Dr. Liz Magid Alon (Israel Institute visiting scholar) and Waga Brok (Illini Hillel) Illini Hillel, Cohen Center for Jewish Life, 503 E. John St. 7:30 p.m.

Monday, September 16
“Grandma’s medicine, iragamo zukuri”
HGMS student performance by Ethan Madera
210 Lewis Faculty Center, 7 p.m.

Thursday, October 10
First View:
Dance Performance Workshop
Omri Drulevich, visiting lecturer/choreographer
Dance Studios, 905 West Nevada, 5 p.m.

Thursday, October 24
Primo Levi: Between Testimony and Fiction
HGMS faculty seminar with Philippe Messoud
2090 Foreign Language Building, Noon

Friday, October 25
Faculty Shabbat
Shabbat dinner at the Cohen Center for Jewish Life, Illini Hillel, The Margie K. and Louis N. Cohen Center for Jewish Life, 503 E. John St. Champaign, 7 p.m.

Sunday, November 3
Community Gaga Class
Omri Drulevich (dancer) with Israeli-based Barzeha Dance Company, movement class
Nevada Dance Studio, 905 W. Nevada St. 1 p.m.

Monday, November 4
Next Year in the Caribbean: Race, Religion, and Roots in the Jewish Atlantic World
“Between Ancestry and Belief: ‘Judaism’ and ‘Hebdinism’ in the Nineteenth-Century”
PJCS Workshop with Laura Bantnick
109 English Building, Noon

Sunday, September 1
Welcome Bagels
Launch of a new semester and connect with new and old friends.
Illini Hillel, The Margie K. and Louis N. Cohen Center for Jewish Life, 503 E. John St. 11:30 a.m.

Monday, November 9
Exodus or Expulsion: Reconstructing the past of the Jews of Egypt in the 20th Century
PJCS workshop with Liz Magid Alon, Israel Institute visiting scholar (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev)
109 English Building, Noon

Monday, December 9
“From Metaphorical Wings to Holocaust in Independent Ukrainian Cinema”
HGMS seminar, Alina K. Segan, independent artist presentation on Holocaust art
109 English Building

Monday, February 10
“Pastures of Love and Mountains of Sacrifice. Pontic Parakathi Singing and the Memory of Violence”
HGMS seminar, Dr. Inaissi Tchakourian (Music, University of Illinois) 109 English Building

Saturday, February 15
Community reception
Sunday, March 1
“At the Heart of Islamic Empire: The Jews of Abbasid Baghdad and the Cairo Geniza”
Lecture given by professor Jennifer Grayson (Hebrew Union College/Xavier University) 503 E. John St. Urbana, 7 p.m.

Monday, March 2
“At the King’s Gate”: Jewish Government Officials and Rabbinic Authority in Abbasid Baghdad”
Lecture given by professor Jennifer Grayson (Hebrew Union College/Xavier University) 503 E. John St. Urbana, 7 p.m.

Monday, March 9
“Narrating the Legacy of Aristides de Sousa Mendes, Portuguese Consul of Bordeaux in June 1940: Intersections of Personal, Familial, National, and International Memory Projects”
HGMS seminar, Michelle Kever (communication, University of Illinois) 109 English Building

Monday, April 20
Virtual Kallah Zoom Session – Etgar Keret and 21C. Jewish Writing and Society with Etgar Keret, professor Brett E. Kaplan and professor Dana E. Goldin Discussion, 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 7
Virtual panel discussion of the mini-series: Unorthodox
Rachel S. Harris (University of Illinois), David Myers (UCCLA), and Nomi Sofshen (JCS) 7:30 p.m.
Mark your calendars for some of the exciting virtual programming that we have planned for this year. Our calendar of events will continue to evolve and develop long after this newsletter goes to print. Please refer to our program website, our weekly email, and our Facebook page for the latest information about upcoming events. You are also welcome to contact the PJCS/HGMS office for additional information about our activities.

2020

Monday, August 31
On a Personal Note: A conversation with Violinists Yulia Ziskel and Joe Deninzon
7:30 - 8:30 p.m. | Zoom

Friday, September 4
Third Annual HGMS Graduate Student Symposium
9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. | Zoom

Monday, September 14
HGMS Workshop
Bryan K. Roby, assistant professor of Judaic studies at the University of Michigan – Ann Arbor
Noon - 1 p.m. | Zoom

Monday, October 12
HGMS/Future of Trauma Studies workshop on Gender and Activism in Memory Studies
Noon - 1:30 p.m. | Zoom

Monday, October 19
Lunch & Learn with Ashager Araro
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. | Zoom

Monday, October 19
Roots and Routes: Ethiopian Cultural Communities and Diversity in Israel
Presentation with Ashager Araro
3:00 p.m. | Zoom

Monday, October 26
Book Launch with Rini Mehta
Noon - 1 p.m. | Zoom

Monday, November 9
Sound Monument, Concentration Camp Plaszow, Poland
PJCS - Krouse workshop with Karolina Ozog
Noon - 1 p.m. | Zoom

Tuesday, November 10
PJCS - Krouse Presentation with Kamil Karski
Re-Membering Plaszow. Key ideas for the Museum-Memorial Place of the Polish Force Labour and Concentration Camp (1942-1945)
3 p.m. | Zoom

2021

Sunday – Tuesday, April 11-13
Next Year in the Caribbean: Race, Religion, and Roots in the Jewish Atlantic World
Participants to include Aviva Ben-Ur of University of Massachusetts Amherst, Sarah Phillips Casteel of Carleton University, Laura Liebman of Reed College, and Stan Mervis of Arizona State University

Wednesday, April 21
“Conceptualizing Migration, Memory, and Place through Art”
HGMS & MillerComm invites Kevork Mourad
Spurlock Museum, 7 p.m.

June 6-9
37th Annual Conference of the Association for Israel Studies | Virtual

The following events, originally planned for Spring 2020, have been postponed. We are still exploring options for how the best reschedule them. We will share details as soon as they are finalized. Watch for updates in the weekly email and visit the Program website or contact the program office for additional information.

Presentation by Rena Potok (Villanova University), Chicago

“Cultural Migration and Fusion in “The Collected Plays of Chaim Potok”
Greenfield/Lynch Lecture: Rena Potok (Villanova University) with performance of selected scenes

In Conversation
Yossi Klein Halevi and Mohammad Darawshe on Israel and Palestine, campus-wide