

CENTER FOR JEWISH HISTORY

American Jewish Historical Society

American Sephardi Federation

Leo Baeck Institute

Yeshiva University Museum

YIVO Institute for Jewish Research

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTER FOR JEWISH HISTORY

FALL/WINTER 2007

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Albert Einstein once said, “Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning.”

That quote could well sum up one of the key visions of the Center for Jewish History: to preserve the richness of the Jewish past, foster greater knowledge and understanding of our history and culture, and provide inspiration for a vibrant, shared future. The Center and its partners go about fulfilling that mission through a combination of approaches, academic scholarship, public education, exhibitions, and programming. Whether you're a researcher, scholar, student, or anyone simply interested in expanding your knowledge and horizons, there is something available at the Center every day that will pique your interest and enrich your mind.

From an academic perspective, we are delighted to welcome this year's fantastic group of doctoral candidates participating in the Center's Fellowship Program. (See page 4.) Their enthusiasm and dedication to rigorous research is inspiring! These fellows are overseen by our Academic Advisory Council, made up of 15 members who serve on the faculty and staffs of leading academic and research institutions, and who also assist the Center as it explores ways to enhance its academic and research opportunities. What's more, there are an expanding number of individual Fellowships awarded through the Center's partner organizations.

In the area of public education, the Center is constantly working to improve access to the vast treasures that make up its partners' archival collections. We're very excited about the dramatically increased amount of materials that will soon be available on our Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC), thanks to generous grants from the Leon Levy Foundation and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. (See page 3.) Also, greater numbers of individuals

are able to trace their family roots through the expansion of our Ackman & Ziff Family Genealogy Institute; and even children's books will soon be more easily accessible through a new digitization initiative underway. (See page 5.)

Tied closely to our public education efforts are the programs and exhibitions that take place at the Center each and every week, attracting hundreds of loyal members and new visitors alike. Each partner organization hosts a wealth of stimulating and informative events; many others are presented as joint collaborations, drawing from the rich and synergistic collections and themes that unite us under one roof. Just a sampling includes the thriving Jews and Justice series, with its recent program on “Jewish Lawyers in the Civil Rights Movement;” the “Returning Home” film series, curated and produced by a member of our Academic Advisory Council; and the commemorative event celebrating the 100th birthday of Abraham Joshua Heschel, whose activism and writings continue to inspire and inform activists and scholars.

In short, there are ways in which the Center's visions are being realized anew every day – as we continually strive to energize the next generation of scholars and the public.



Bruce Slovin
Chairman



Celebrating the Richness
of the Jewish Past, Present, and Future



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTER FOR JEWISH HISTORY

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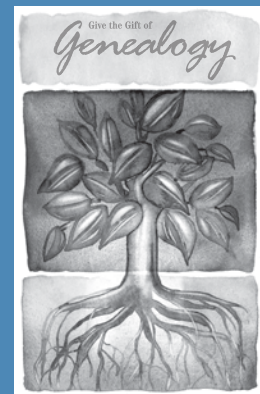
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THE CENTER IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE LAUNCH OF ITS GENEALOGY MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM



The Ackman & Ziff Family Genealogy Institute can help you give the gift of genealogy to family and friends: become connected with your heritage, learn more about your family, and understand how you fit in within the larger context of Jewish history.

- Learn about and reunite with branches of your family from around the world.
- Bring your family members – young and old – together for a meaningful and exciting experience.
- Document the lives of your relatives so their names and memory can be commemorated.

The Center's Ackman & Ziff Family Genealogy Institute makes tracing your family's history easier with our cadre of Genealogy and Preservation professionals and the vast treasures and resources housed at the Center. The Center's Genealogy Membership Program has something for every level of ancestry research interest.

Kick Start Kit: You will receive the A to Z Genealogy Kit, designed to kick start your research process, and will be invited to special genealogy workshops.

Novice Genealogist: The benefits of the Kick Start Kit, plus a personal one-hour consultation with a genealogy expert and Basic Membership at the Center for Jewish History.

Genealogy Investigator: The benefits of the Novice package, plus 10 hours of research services, an additional consultation, and an upgrade to Associate Center Membership.

Bronze Genealogy Membership: The benefits of the Investigator package, plus 10 additional research hours (for a total of 20 hours), the support of the Center staff to document your research in a Family History Album, and a Contributing Center Membership.

Silver (\$3,500), Gold (\$5,000), and Platinum (\$10,000) Memberships also are available and will be customized to suit your research needs.

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LEON LEVY FOUNDATION AWARDS \$670,000 GRANT TO TRIPLE CENTER'S CATALOG OF ARCHIVAL MATERIALS

It is no secret that the Center for Jewish History houses one of the world's most extensive collections of archival materials documenting centuries of Jewish life, events, and culture. What has not been truly known, however, is the full extent of those materials, since only a fraction have been cataloged for ready access by researchers and other Center visitors.

That situation is about to change dramatically, thanks to a generous grant of \$670,000 awarded to the Center by the Leon Levy Foundation. The Leon Levy Archival Processing Initiative will, over a period of three years, catalog 1,200 linear feet of archival materials from more than 50 collections of the Center's partners – in essence, tripling the amount of materials previously cataloged through a grant from the National Historical Publications & Records Commission.

The addition of these materials to the Center's Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) will vastly increase the OPAC's value as a critical research tool for scholars, researchers, students, and the general public. The materials that will be cataloged represent millions of official documents, manuscripts, correspondence, newspaper clippings, photographs, audio recordings, and much more, providing an unparalleled window into the diversity of the Jewish experience throughout history and around the world.

“We are immensely grateful to the Leon Levy Foundation, since the archival collections at the Center are more than just linear feet of unnamed materials,” said Bruce Slovin, the Center's chairman. “From the astonishing riches housed in the Center's stacks emerge not only records of someone's immigrant grandparents, but also the documents and images that recreate the depth and beauty of their Jewish communities in Europe, Asia, the Middle East, and beyond.”

John W. Bernstein, president of the Leon Levy Foundation, said, “A primary focus of the Foundation has been to help New York cultural institutions organize, catalog and archive their important historical material so that they will be more accessible to scholars and the general public. The Center's partners' collections encompass many papers of the most famous Jewish leaders and intellectuals. The Leon Levy Foundation is pleased to support this important archival effort with this grant.”

Illustrating the untapped wealth of the archival collections are treasures uncovered in just the past year by archivists at the Center's partner organizations. YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, for example, made headlines around the world with its release of a recently discovered file of letters and documents detailing the efforts of Otto Frank, father of Anne Frank, to escape Holland with his family.

The archives that are slated to be cataloged through the Leon Levy Archival Processing Initiative span a range of research interests – from the papers of Henry V. Besso, a scholar who dedicated his life to the pursuit of Sephardic studies; to archives on the noted Yiddish author Abraham Cahan; to correspondence and photos of Nobel Laureate, German novelist, and intellectual, Thomas Mann; to correspondence, writings, legal briefs, and other materials relating to Arthur Waskow's involvement in leftist activities, anti-Vietnam War activities, and Middle East peace policies, to name just a tiny sampling.

In addition, the initiative will dovetail with work underway to catalog 30,000 library records, a project made possible by a \$250,000 grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

FELLOWSHIPS AWARDED TO FIVE DOCTORAL DEGREE CANDIDATES

Scholarship is one of the cornerstones of the Center for Jewish History – and because of the Center’s depth and breadth of resources, competition for its Fellowship Program is always lively. Since the program’s inception in 2002, fellowships have been awarded to 30 graduate students working on their dissertations, a number that includes five doctoral candidates recently chosen as fellows for the 2007-2008 academic year.

Named as the latest group of fellows are David H. Horowitz of Columbia University (Cahnman Foundation Fellowship); Emily Levine of Stanford University; Ellie R. Schainker of University of Pennsylvania; Elizabeth Strauss of University of Notre Dame (Dr. Sophie Bookhalter Fellowships in Jewish Culture); and Hilit Surowitz of University of Florida (Morris and Alma Schapiro Fellowship). The candidates have completed all of the requirements for the doctoral degree, except for dissertation.

Each award carries a stipend of \$12,500 for a 10-month period beginning in September 2007 disbursed in installments over that period. Fellows are expected to spend the equivalent of two full days per week conducting research for their respective dissertations in the Center’s Lillian Goldman Reading Room, accessing multiple partner collections, for the duration of the fellowship period.

In addition to their research, the fellows are asked to deliver a one-hour seminar presentation that will include a bibliography of the resources they have consulted in the course of their research. The seminars have proven to be an unparalleled teaching and learning tool for both professional staff and academicians.

For example, Daniella Doron, a Ph.D. candidate in both History and Hebrew and Judaic Studies at NYU and a 2006 CJH Fellow, presented a seminar last spring on her dissertation topic, “Envisioning the Jewish Family: Children, Family and Identity in Postwar France, 1944-1954.” By beginning with a specific case regarding the return of a Jewish child from a Christian family to the Jewish community, Daniella was able to demonstrate the highly charged nature of her study at large.

In her introduction to the topic, Daniella explained that her presentation focused on custody disputes among the various factions, which “vied and debated over ‘ownership’ of orphaned Jewish youth.” She further explained that this scenario was not unique to France by citing similar debates in settings such as the Displaced Persons (DP) camps in which organizations of the United Nations were also at odds with the philosophy of Jewish agencies. In support of her study for

the case of France, Daniella explained the difference in that “the French national context figured prominently in the ways in which French Jews and Christians expressed and contested disputes over children, families, and ethnicity.” Also presenting a seminar last spring was Laura Jockush, a Ph.D. candidate in Hebrew and Judaic Studies at NYU and a 2006 CJH Fellow whose dissertation topic was, “Collect and Record! Help to Write the History of the Latest Destruction.’ Jewish Historical Commissions in Europe, 1943-1953.” Her presentation included a brief overview of the history and background of the She’erith Hapletah (the Surviving Remnant) in Europe in the postwar years, and study of the historical commissions relating to the research on the She’erith Hapletah, in general.

Her research included a comparative study of commissions in five European countries, which she described as the “survivors’ encounter with their past in the immediate postwar years seen through the prism of the Jewish historical commissions.” What each of the commissions had in common was that as survivors they were motivated to document their experiences. It became a “moral imperative towards the dead and for future generations,” and was “a way of mourning and commemorating the dead.”

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM PLEASE VISIT
WWW.CJH.ORG/COLLECTIONS/FELLOWSHIP.PHP

2007 CENTER FELLOWS PROFILES

David H. Horowitz, Columbia University, is the 2007/8 Cahnman Fellow. His research centers upon the important triple community of Hamburg-Altona-Wandsbeck, towns which were located in neighboring Denmark and Germany, but which were federated under a single rabbinic jurisdiction. Mr. Horowitz examines and challenges the traditional view of the relationship between Jews and the German state, providing a new context for one of the most explosive religious conflicts in 18th Century Jewry.

Emily J. Levine, Stanford University, is a 2007/8 Dr. Sophie Bookhalter Fellow in Jewish Culture. During her time at the Center, she

will explore the lives and works of philosopher Ernst Cassirer, art-historian Erwin Panofsky, and the historian of art and culture Aby Warburg. Ms. Levine will attempt to understand their stories in the context of greater German history and Jewish experience, Weimar culture, and their urban, religious, and political landscape.

Ellie R. Schainker, University of Pennsylvania, is a 2007/8 Dr. Sophie Bookhalter Fellow in Jewish Culture. Her research studies the secularization of Jewish life in the Russian empire, exploring the statistics of conversion, the motivations behind such conversions and their social implications. By examining this facet of the Jewish community, which constituted a substantial cohort in the 19th Century, Ms. Schainker will shed light on relations between Jews and Russians during the time period.

Elizabeth Strauss, University of Notre Dame, is a 2007/8 Dr. Sophie Bookhalter Fellow in Jewish Culture. During her Fellowship, she is approaching the topic of the elderly in the Jewish ghettos of Lodz, Vilna, and Riga from three angles: socioeconomic, intergenerational and familial relations, and Nazi ideology. By focusing on this vulnerable group within Jewish society, Ms. Strauss’ research will illuminate the impossible circumstances of ghetto life.

Hilit Surowitz, University of Florida, is a 2007/8 Morris and Alma Schapiro Fellow. Bringing together literature on the Atlantic World, the Americas, diaspora theory, and Sephardic history, her research explores questions of diaspora community development and identity among Portuguese Jews and New Christians in the New World known as La Nacion.

SAMBERG FAMILY HISTORY PROGRAM GRADUATES THE CLASS OF 2007

In celebration of another successful summer, the Samberg Family History Program held its annual graduation ceremony. Forty teenagers completed this year's Samberg Program, our summer Fellowships for students to conduct genealogy research, which has achieved many accolades including in a recent feature on ABC News. Accessing the vast treasure troves of family records at the center, these student-genealogists made powerful connections with their own history and heritage. Now in its seventh year, this program has been made possible by the support of The Samberg Family Foundation.



CENTER WRITES NEW CHAPTER IN PRESERVATION OF JEWISH CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Children's literature not only brings joy to young readers (and listeners), but it also reflects the societal values and cultural norms of its time. That makes a new initiative being undertaken by the Center for Jewish History doubly exciting: through the Jewish Children's Book Project, the Center is digitizing and illuminating historical Jewish children's books from the collections of its partners, transforming the cultural treasures into "virtual books" that will be available to new and expanded audiences.

The majority of the 300 books being considered for the Jewish Children's Book Project are no longer in print, and are only readily available through the Center's partner collections. Included are educational materials, original stories, folk tales, and fairy tales, as well as classic works for children by authors such as Hans Christian Andersen and Mark Twain (both of whose works were translated into Yiddish), among others.

Notes Bob Sink, Chief of Archive and Library Services at the Center, "Because it represents a range of styles and subject matter tracking the development of Jewish juvenilia from the turn of the century through its pre-Holocaust peak, this important project is not only a measure of historical, literary, and artistic preservation, but also one of enrichment of modern Jewish culture."

The Center has received an initial pilot grant from the Metropolitan New York Library Council to explore this vital preservation work. The pilot project will result in the digitization of 40 books from

the collections of Yeshiva University Museum and YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, nearly all of which have been completed. Materials are being digitized by experts in the Center's state-of-the-art Gruss Lipper Digital Lab, and will be available free of charge to academics, teachers, parents, children, and the general public through the Center's Digital Collections Online Library (<http://digital.cjh.org/>).

In addition, the Center is planning a dedicated Web site where selected texts and accompanying commentary will provide the general public with a short introduction to the history of these books. The digitized books will also be added to the International Children's Digital Library (ICDL), which makes children's literature available online free of charge at www.icdlbooks.org. The ICDL is currently developing both Yiddish and Hebrew translation software, as well as working on adding audio files of the texts being read aloud.

"Jewish children's literature parallels other children's literature of the period in its interest in natural history, exploration, and international folklore; it differs from them in often being overtly political," adds Sink. "The preservation and digitization of these books is an invaluable undertaking that will bring old and treasured books to a new generation of readers. The first-rate technical facilities and promotional resources of the Center place it in a unique position to deliver virtual books of the highest quality, and to contribute to academic, literary, and artistic study."

ONLINE BIBLIOGRAPHY PROVIDES VIEW OF THE VAST HOLOCAUST RESOURCES AT THE CENTER

Topics related to the Holocaust are consistently among the most requested subjects by both professional researchers and lay persons who visit the Center for Jewish History.

Now, the vast bibliography of unpublished Holocaust-related materials housed at the Center is available online – providing access from anywhere in the world to more than 2,000 annotated entries representing records in 32 languages.

The *CJH Holocaust Resources: An Annotated Bibliography of Archival Holdings at the Center for Jewish History* went “live” late last year, culminating a two-and-a-half-year project made possible by a grant from the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, Inc. The bibliography represents all archival records of the Center’s five partner organizations, with the actual materials accessible through the Center’s Lillian Goldman Reading Room. Included are almost 3,000 individuals’ names, more than 300 organizational names, and nearly 700 geographical locations with alternate languages and spellings to aid in a search.

“The several thousand entries in the fully searchable bibliography act as a guide to uncover original documentation from varying perspectives (the Jewish community as well as from the National Socialist regime) during that epoch in our history,” says Diane Spielmann,

Director of Public Services. “One need only zero in on the collections in order to see the abundance and diversity of the holdings.”

Among the vast archives cataloged by the bibliography are personal memoirs of life in the ghettos and camps both prior to and after the “Final Solution.” For example, collections contain such artifacts as ghetto scrip; swatches of the Star of David, which Jews were compelled to wear after September 1, 1941; desecrated Torah fragments; typewritten and handwritten deportation lists; and even a cookbook compiled by an inmate in Terezin to assuage the hunger of her fellow inmates.

There is also extensive material for those who managed to escape Europe, fleeing to such destinations as Shanghai, where 18,000 Jews found refuge under the Japanese occupation; as well as ample documentation from before the outbreak of the war, including such items as the Nuremberg Laws, tracing the slow and steady dehumanization process of the Jewish

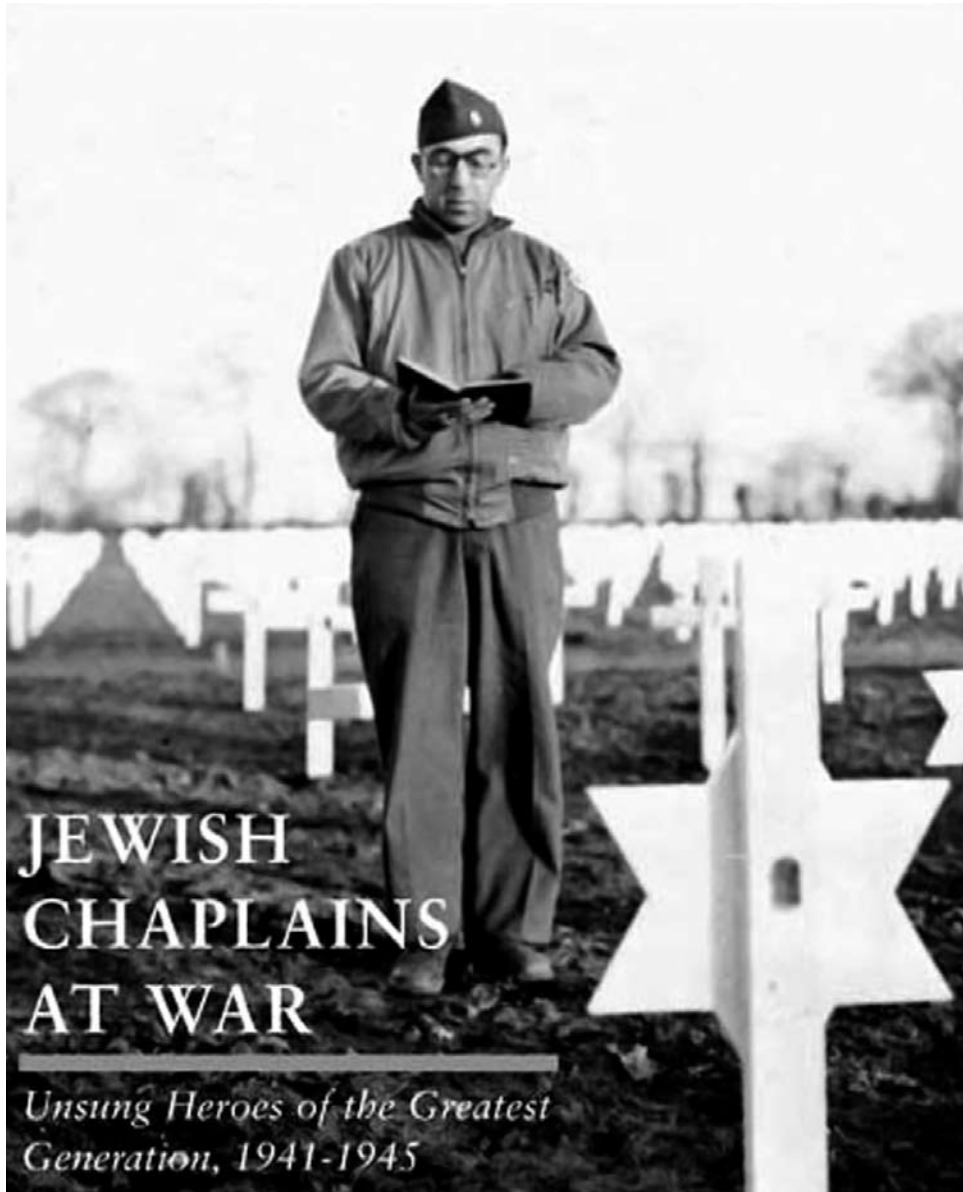
community. Additional artifacts include such items as a Jewish physician’s plaque and a prescription pad inscribed “practice limited to Jews only,” and an anti-Semitic board game for children called “Out with the Jews” (Juden Raus).

Researchers are able to trace the rise of the National Socialists through news clippings that were compiled from both general and virulently anti-Semitic sources beginning in the 1920s through 1938, when the news media announced the mandatory decree that all Jews have the name Sara (for women) and Israel (for men) appended to their birth certificates and other vital documents. Events such as the Evian Conference in 1938 (which de facto closed emigration to Jews trying to escape persecution after the Nuremberg Laws) and the infamous *Kristallnacht* of the same year (November Pogrom in which hundreds of synagogues and Jewish businesses were destroyed) are also documented in the collections.

All these materials and much more can be found in the collections housed at the Center – and the *CJH Holocaust Resources: An Annotated Bibliography of Archival Holdings at the Center for Jewish History* is an invaluable tool that provides a gateway to those collections. The bibliography is accessible through the Center’s Web site at www.cjh.org, or it can be reached directly by logging on to www.holocaustresources.cjh.org.



INSPIRING EXHIBITION CELEBRATES HEROISM OF WWII'S JEWISH CHAPLAINS



Because of their limited numbers, these Jewish chaplains had to travel great distances to service the Jewish soldiers stationed at battlefields across the globe. At Passover, many would conduct several Seders in one day, and they often traveled more than 50 miles through the snow to conduct a single funeral. To alleviate the pressures of their tasks, the various branches of Judaism agreed on a uniform set of Jewish prayers, combining all of the denominations.

Chaplain Herbert Eskin, who was 25 years old in 1943, illustrates the role these brave and caring men played. As the Americans gained control of the war, he visited several field hospitals throughout Germany on a daily basis. At one, he administered last rites to a dying Christian soldier in accordance with his faith. "At that moment, neither of us felt of having differences nor barriers. In action and in spirit, I sensed our comradeship and demonstrated it in my capacity of an Army chaplain," Chaplain Eskin wrote of the experience.

Chaplain David Max Eichhorn spoke for all the Jewish chaplains when he wrote to his wife, simply, "I only hope that I can be a good soldier and a good rabbi."

Jewish Chaplains at War: Unsung Heroes of the Greatest Generation, 1941-1945, opens a window on the activities of these rabbis – told in their own words, which have been preserved in the archives of the American Jewish Historical Society for more than 50 years. The exhibition is supported by photographs and selected objects, some of which have not previously been on public display. The photos, also drawn from the AJHS archives, include candid scenes of chaplains conducting Jewish services in far-flung battlefronts – from Iwo Jima to the Battle of the Bulge, from Pearl Harbor to Burma. A standard-issue melamine Seder plate and official military prayer books highlight the objects on display.

Running from October 10, 2007 through May 4, 2008, the exhibition is the first of two planned exhibits on Jewish Chaplains during and after World War II. The second exhibition is scheduled to open on May 14, 2008.

Of the more than half a million Jewish men and women who served in World War II, 311 were rabbis who volunteered as chaplains in the Army, Navy, Marines, and Army Air Corps. The inspiring story of these brave and compassionate men is now being told through *Jewish Chaplains at War: Unsung Heroes of the Greatest Generation, 1941-1945*, the first of two exhibitions on the subject being presented by the American Jewish Historical Society.

Throughout World War II, the Jewish chaplains participated in non-combat duties, comforted

the wounded, buried the dead, and sustained the faith and practices of all military personnel without regard to race, ethnicity, or religion. They fought anti-Semitic stereotypes and encouraged interfaith understanding wherever possible.

In addition, more than anyone, the Jewish chaplains restored the well-being and faith of European survivors of the Holocaust. They were the chief advocates of concentration camp survivors, insisting that they not be co-mingled with prisoners of war, many of whom were SS military.

TREASURES FROM THE COLLECTION OF AMERICAN SEPHARDI FEDERATION

EXHIBITION OF PHOTOGRAPHS CAPTURES JEWISH LIFE IN OLD BUKHARA



This past summer, the American Sephardi Federation was pleased to present this evocative and informative photo exhibition by award-winning photographer, Joan Roth. Roth traveled to Bukhara in the late 1980s – the famous Uzbek city along the Silk Road – and through her lens, documented the people, traditions, and daily life of the city’s Jewish community. Adding a special touch to the exhibit were household objects, wedding robes, prayer books, musical instruments, and a sefer torah case on loan from the Bukharian Jewish Museum and from the collections of the American Sephardi Federation.

The exhibition opening, in the ASF/Leon Levy Galleries on June 18, was a sold out event with an audience of 300 people. Ms. Roth was on hand to share her experiences and introduce the exhibition; also offering opening remarks were Lynne Winters, ASF’s Director of Programming; David Dangoor, ASF president; and Dr. Zoya Maksumova, president of the women’s organization Esther HaMalka and editor-in-chief of *Ladies World Magazine*, who served as chair of the Program Committee for the evening’s event. Following these speakers, guests were treated to an uplifting musical performance by the Ensemble Maqam, and a



reception featuring the delicious, traditional cuisine of Bukhara.

A Rich History

Bukharian Jews trace their ancestry to the Israelites who never returned from the Babylonian exile in the 7th century BCE. Essentially disconnected from the rest of the Jewish world for over 2,000 years, they managed to survive in the face of countless odds. They are considered one of the oldest ethno-religious groups of Central Asia, where they developed their own distinct culture and speak a dialect of the Tajik (Persian) language.

Over the centuries, Bukhara became a center of Jewish life in Central Asia, absorbing Jews fleeing cities torn between warring Islamic parties. During the spread of Islam in the 7th and 8th centuries, control of Bukhara was transferred between many different Islamic administrations. In 1219, the Mongols, led by Genghis Khan, conquered Bukhara, pillaging and burning the city to the ground, and destroying the Jewish community. Later, at the beginning of the 16th century, Central Asia was invaded and conquered by nomadic Uzbek tribes that established strict observance of Islam. During this period of religious

fundamentalism, many Jews were forced to convert to Islam. More Jews relocated to Bukhara when an earthquake destroyed the city of Samarkand later in the 16th century.

Because of their ability to speak numerous languages, Bukharian Jews often served as liaisons between various groups of foreign traders. Some were financiers, while others were known for their crafts, especially silk weaving and the dyeing of cloth. Wealthier Jews invested in caravans that traveled along the Great Silk Road.

By the 20th century, Bukhara fell under Soviet rule; and despite Russian anti-Semitism and intermittent persecution, Soviet society allowed many Bukharian Jews to obtain higher education and enter professions. Some Jews attained prominent status in the sciences, medicine, education, engineering, and the performing arts – as long as they suppressed public evidence of religious practice. During World War II, many Jews from Europe and the Soviet Union went to Bukhara seeking refuge.

With the final disintegration of the Soviet Union and the foundation of the independent Republic of Uzbekistan in 1991, however, there was an abrupt growth of nationalism, chauvinism, and xenophobia in the Uzbek public consciousness, spurring large emigrations from Bukhara. More than 100,000 Bukharian Jews immigrated to Israel and another 50,000 to the United States. Today, about 2,000 still remain in Uzbekistan, where several synagogues, schools, and communities remain. But no matter where they dwell, the Bukharian Jews maintain many of their unique customs and celebrate their proud traditions.

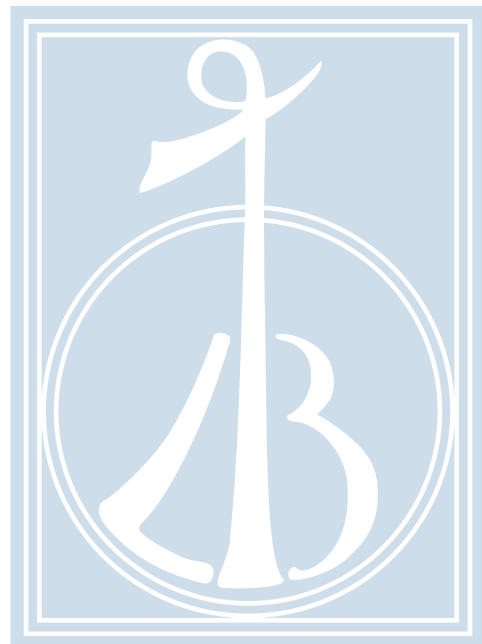
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DIVERSE PROGRAMS REFLECT CONTRIBUTIONS OF GERMAN-SPEAKING JEWRY

For more than 50 years, Leo Baeck Institute has collected and cataloged the legacy of German-speaking Jewry. As a result, its library and archives are filled with materials that reflect the cultural heritage of the modern world. Breakthroughs in science, innovations in architecture, milestones in music, theater, and avant-garde literature are just some of the accomplishments of Central European Jewry. New developments in religion also began in Germany, where orthodoxy became secularized through translations of the Bible into German and through the expansion of Talmudic learning to include the non-Jewish universe as well.

Because of the rich scope of its history, Leo Baeck Institute remains relevant to ongoing events in the world today. Illustrating this clearly is the variety of programs, lectures, and exhibits that the Institute offers to the public. Some recent highlights include:

- ***Freud's Jewish World***, a conference that addressed the life and work of Sigmund Freud within the context of his Judaism – his roots, his ambivalence, his social milieu. Organized by Dr. Arnold Richards, the conference featured psychologists and academics who celebrated Freud's 150th birthday by analyzing the "Jewish" aspect of some of his many contributions to the 20th century.
- Exhibit on ***Erwin Piscator, Political Theatre in Exile***. Together with the playwright Bertholt Brecht, Erwin Piscator revolutionized American theatre through the introduction of multimedia techniques and a sharp social focus. When Piscator began to employ montage, lectures, film, and photography in theatrical productions in 1939, the New York stage became politicized in new ways, to new effect. The exhibit, co-curated by Elysium-Between Two Continents, included photos of rehearsals and performances, as well as original artwork and letters.
- Book signing by Fritz Stern, author of ***Five Germanys I Have Known***, introduced by former German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer. In his fascinating new book, Professor Stern – who is widely regarded as the foremost scholar on modern German history – reveals the changes he personally experienced, from Weimar to Third Reich, to postwar Federal Republic, to Soviet East-West split, to reunification. He spoke about his life as it has been intimately tied to Germany; and Fischer offered insights into the developments in his country that Stern wrote about, and the evolution of his own views from rebel to statesman. The moving exchange between these two important friends of Leo Baeck Institute was a truly memorable evening.
- In addition, LBI hosted several "Salons" in Berlin, inviting German corporate leaders to presentations on topics relevant to their business and to the shared heritage. For example, Professor Gerald Feldman of University of California at Berkeley gave a talk on ***The Fate of Jewish-Owned Multinational Businesses in Germany Before World War II***.
- ***LBI Annual Award Dinner***, where Horst Köhler, President of the Federal Republic of Germany, awarded the Leo Baeck Medal to James Wolfensohn, former president of the World Bank. Paul Volker and Henry Kissinger were co-chairs for the gala dinner, held at New York's Waldorf-Astoria. The evening was successful both as a fundraiser and in bringing LBI new visibility and prominence through the remarkable group of guests who attended.



“The core business of LBI is preserving the documentation that ensures the future of our past,” says Carol Kahn Strauss, Executive Director of LBI. “Every researcher uses LBI materials in ways that are unique to his or her interests, and each application of historical knowledge reveals new links to contemporary life. The Institute is a very lively place.”

EXHIBITIONS FROM PARIS AND JERUSALEM OFFER HISTORICAL, ARTISTIC INSIGHTS



This fall, Yeshiva University Museum will unveil two exciting, international exhibitions – one from the Jewish Museum in Paris and the other from the Israel Museum in Jerusalem.

Running from October 14 through February 17 will be *Alfred Dreyfus: The Fight for Justice*. This exhibition of more than 200 documents and objects includes a wealth of materials never before on public view from the collection of the grandchildren of Alfred Dreyfus, presented in 1997 to Paris' *Musée d'Art et d'Histoire du Judaïsme*, which organized the exhibition.

The Dreyfus Affair was a pivotal historical moment at the end of the 19th century, an extraordinary tale of injustice, deceit, and cover-up that has continuing implications in today's world. Dreyfus was the son of an Alsatian Jewish textile manufacturer who had a successful career in the French military despite the anti-Semitism prevalent at the time. He was falsely accused of treason and arrested in 1894. *The Fight for Justice* traces his personal drama in an engaging presentation of art, artifacts, documents, and audio installations, organized in chronological order.

The Dreyfus exhibition presents the opportunity for a range of public programs, including lectures, panels, performances, and film on



such topics as legal process, national security and personal liberty, and xenophobia in Europe today. One planned program, a special international symposium on the impact of the Dreyfus Affair on French and American history, culture, and legislation and on contemporary anti-Semitism, is being organized by the Museum and the University's Cardozo School of Law Professors Michel Rosenfeld and Sheri Rosenberg.

Lead sponsor of the exhibition is the Leon Levy Foundation, with additional support provided by the David Berg Foundation, the Brenner Family Foundation, and the Liman Foundation.

Photography from the Holy Land

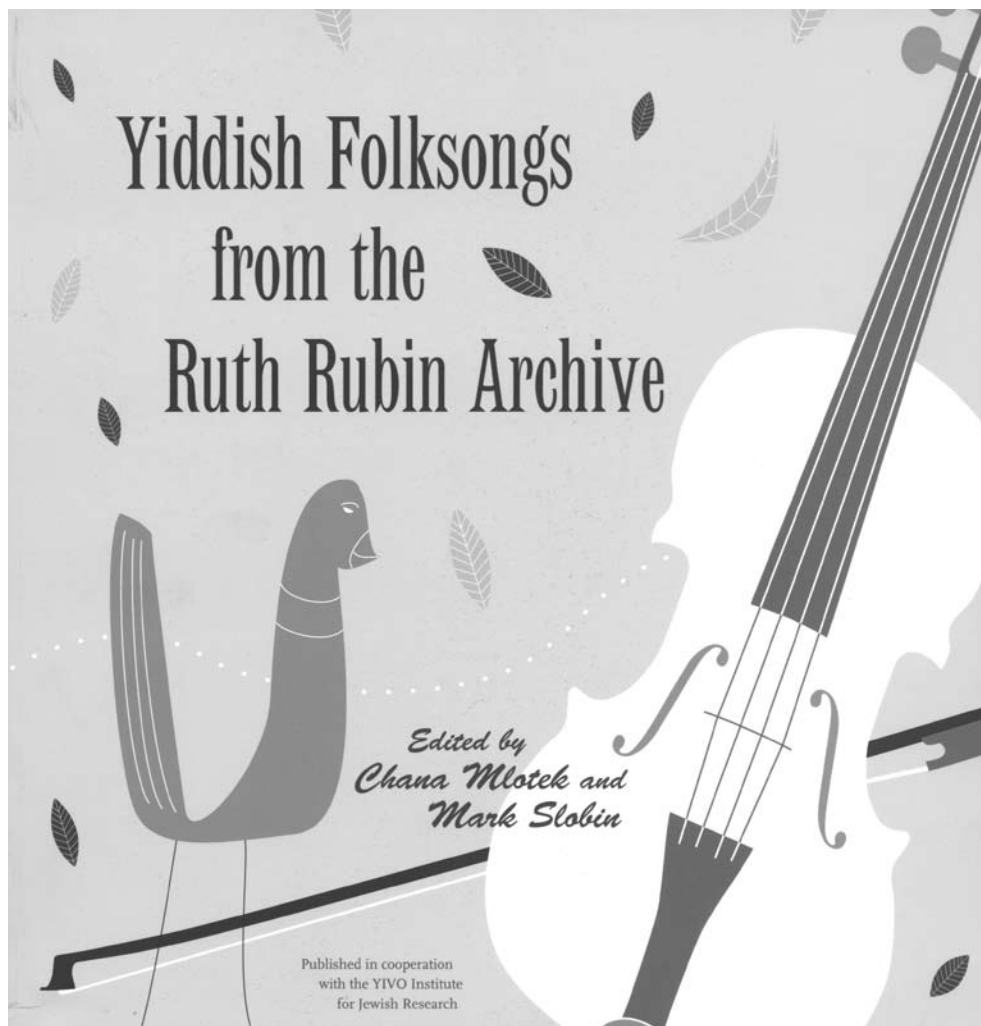
In December, *Picturing Jerusalem: James Graham and Mendel Diness, Photographers*, organized by the Israel Museum, Jerusalem, will have its debut at YUM. The centerpiece of this exhibition is an exceedingly rare album of photographs of the Holy Land by James Graham that was presented to the Center for Jewish History in honor of the Center's former executive director Peter A. Geffen by Katja B. Goldman and Michael W. Sonnenfeldt, as inspired by James Garfinkel, now a member of the YUM Board. The album is jointly owned by CJH and IMJ.

The exhibition focuses on the photographs of two leading pioneers of photography working in Palestine in the 1850s, the critical formative years of early photography. Scottish missionary James Graham was one of the few European photographers to visit Palestine and the Near East in the early 1850s. His arrival in Jerusalem and his interest in photographing the city are a turning point in the history of photography. Graham's student, Mendel Diness, a Jewish convert to Christianity, became an accomplished photographer in his own right. Diness is a complex historical figure, having changed his name, identity, nationality, and religious allegiance multiple times. Diness' workmanship in photography is especially interesting as his dispute with another photographer about authorship was one of the first of its kind in the new medium.

The exhibition will display two important albums of photographs by Graham and Diness, in addition to related artifacts, including some of Diness' equipment (lens, wooden negative box) and his notebook. Visitors will also learn about photography in the 1850s and its history and growth, especially in Palestine and the Near East, as well as the politics and society of the Holy Land under Ottoman rule. A catalogue produced by the Israel Museum, Jerusalem will accompany the exhibition, which will travel to other sites in the United States after it closes at YUM on April 6.

Yeshiva University Museum is planning a festive opening for the exhibition on Monday, Dec. 3, 2007, in collaboration with the Center for Jewish History, The Israeli Consulate, and Yeshiva University community. This opening will also mark the launch of a variety of events and public programs to celebrate the upcoming 60th anniversary of the State of Israel.

TRADITIONAL YIDDISH FOLKSONGS
COMPILED IN NEW BOOK



A new book of traditional Yiddish folksongs, based on the ethnomusicology work of the late Ruth Rubin (1906-2000), was just published in August by Wayne State University Press in cooperation with the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research. Entitled *Yiddish Folksongs from the Ruth Rubin Archive*, the book is based on a manuscript and supporting materials from the Ruth Rubin Collection in the YIVO Archives that Rubin was unable to publish before her death. The book includes an introduction, with additional annotation and commentary provided throughout, by noted music scholars Chana Mlotek and Mark Slobin.

Among researchers and collectors of Yiddish folksongs, Ruth Rubin was unmatched in

both her expertise and enthusiasm. Over many years her persistence paid off: Rubin collected some 2,000 songs from generations of people who had grown up in the broad Yiddish-speaking world – a world that was largely consumed by Nazi annihilation and Stalinist repression.

The songs were gathered in oral interviews with Yiddish-speaking men and women who came to North America from Eastern Europe throughout the first half of the 20th century. Wayne State University Press notes that, “This book presents Rubin’s commentary on these treasured songs, along with the sheet music for all of the songs. An audio CD is also packaged with this collection.”

Editors Mlotek and Slobin have gathered thousands of Yiddish songs and poems by hundreds of poets and composers. A considerable portion was hitherto unpublished and unknown. This collection comes directly from oral tradition and has not been subject to adaptation, standardization, or harmonization. The text of the songs is given in standard Yiddish, unless the singer is singing in a different dialect. Variants of songs are indicated and linked with folksong collections described in the bibliography section.

The anthology contains some very rare songs, but it is intended for a popular audience of singers, scholars, folklorists, students, and those interested in the rich but ravaged repertoire of one of Europe’s most long-running and colorful folksong cultures.

Chana Mlotek, the music archivist for YIVO, is a leading scholar of Yiddish song. She has written numerous articles on the field and, together with her late husband Joseph, compiled three major anthologies of Yiddish songs. They also wrote a column on Yiddish poetry and song in the Yiddish-language *Forverts* newspaper. Mark Slobin is professor of music at Wesleyan University and past president of the Society for Ethnomusicology. He is the author of *Tenement Songs: Popular Music of the Jewish Immigrants and Fiddler on the Move: Exploring the Klezmer World*, both of which received the ASCAP-Deems Taylor Award.

Yiddish Folksongs from the Ruth Rubin Archive is available directly from Wayne State University Press (800-978-7323), or from the bookstore at the Center for Jewish History (917- 606-8220). It is softbound in a cloth cover and sells for \$44.95.



GENERAL INFORMATION

HOURS

AJHS-ASF-LBI-YIVO GALLERIES

Monday-Thursday 9:30am-5pm

Friday 9:30am-3pm

Sunday 11am-5pm

YUM Galleries

Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday &

Thursday 11am-5pm

Lillian Goldman Reading Room

and Ackman & Ziff Family

Genealogy Institute

Monday-Thursday 9:30am-5pm

Constantiner Date Palm Café

Sun-Thurs 11am-4pm

Fanya Gottesfeld Heller Bookstore

Mon-Thurs 11am-6pm; Sun 11am-5pm

Group Tours

Docent-led tours include exhibitions of the five partners and other public spaces.

Call (917) 606-8226 for groups of 10 or more. Lunch arrangements can be accommodated.

Free public tours, exclusive of the YU Museum galleries, are held Tuesdays and Thursdays at 2pm.



For information on wheelchairs, assisted listening devices and other accessible options available at the Center, call (917) 606-8200 / TTY service New York Relay at 711

Contact Information

General Information	(212) 294-8301
Box Office	(917) 606-8200
Lillian Goldman Reading Room	(917) 606-8217
Ackman & Ziff Genealogy Institute	(212) 294-8318
Group Tours	(917) 606-8226

PARTNERS

AJHS	(212) 294-6160	www.ajhs.org
ASF	(212) 294-8350	www.americansephardifederation.org
LBI	(212) 744-6400	www.lbi.org
YUM	(212) 294-8330	www.yumuseum.org
YIVO	(212) 246-6080	www.yivo.org

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