Dec. 23, 2016 (Reprinted from the Berman Jewish DataBank)-
Berman Jewish DataBank mourns the passing of Mandell "Bill" Berman

The Berman Jewish DataBank sadly announces the passing of Mandell "Bill" Berman, the Jewish communal activist and philanthropist whose foresight and generosity led to the creation of the North American Jewish Data Bank 30 years ago and to its permanent endowment under its current name at the Jewish Federations of North America in 2013. Bill was among his generation's greatest supporters of research in the American Jewish community. He believed strongly in the value of producing and sharing knowledge. In addition to the DataBank, he funded major national surveys of the US Jewish community, research and evaluation in Jewish education and for programs helping children with disabilities, scholarships for students to pursue their studies, and fellowships for academic and applied researchers to conduct their work. He also played a major role in creating the Berman Jewish Policy Archive, with which the DataBank closely collaborates. Additionally, Bill's volunteer and philanthropic leadership extended to many communal organizations. Among these were the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit, Hillel, The Jewish Federations of North America, the Jewish Education Service of North America, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, the Meyers-JDC-Brookdale Institute, and the Jewish Agency for Israel. He also supported a wide range of civic, educational and charitable organizations in his native Michigan. Bill is survived by his wife, two children and three grandchildren. The DataBank is proud to carry Bill Berman's name and hopes that our work will serve as a lasting legacy to his vision. May his memory be a blessing to his family, his community and to all of us who benefitted from his kind and generous spirit. 😊
Bill Berman: Man of Vision and Valor

The ASSJ is delighted to announce that Mandell L. Berman is the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award for contributions to the social scientific study of Jewry. Berman has advanced the social scientific study of Jewry in myriad ways by supporting scholars and scholarship at every stage of knowledge production, collection, dissemination, and application. His love of the Jewish people and his commitment to continuity are evident in all that he does. The field, and all of us who work in it, owe Bill Berman an immense debt of gratitude and honor.

Philanthropists are known for their generosity, but some stand out for other reasons as well. When I first met Mr. Berman, "Bill" to those who know him, I was struck by three things: his height, his interest in my daughter's well-being, and his inspiring ability to get down to business. While I had come prepared to discuss my research on intermarriage and gender, Berman saw the whole scholar and wanted to make sure that I felt comfortable in my new surroundings. Little did I realize then how much Berman's exceptional skill at human relations was the product of his life devoted to learning, building, and giving of time, energy and, yes, money.

Born in 1917 in Detroit, Berman was one of four children. His mother was from Toledo, OH, and his father emigrated from Poland. Bill graduated from Detroit Central High School with distinction and Shaarey Zedek High School. He earned his bachelor's degree from Harvard College (Magna Cum Laude) in 1940 and his MBA from Harvard Business School in 1942. He served four years as a naval officer in World War II. In 1950, Bill married Madge, née Madeleine Brodie. The Bermans have four children (including two in-laws), Ann and her husband Dan, Jon and his wife Amy, and three grandchildren: Laurence, Sarah, and Max.

Prior to becoming a major donor to Jewish causes, Berman helped build America through his involvement in the housing construction industry. He was a partner in Bert L. Smokler & Company from 1946 through 1975, a real estate development and building enterprise, and held the position of President of both that company and Dreyfus Development Corporation from 1969-1972. In addition to being the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Michigan State Housing Finance Authority, Bill was President of South Eastern Michigan Builders Association and on the Board of New Detroit in the early 1970s. He also served on the Boards of the Dreyfus Corporation (a Mellon Bank Subsidiary), the Guardian Industries (NYSE), the Lennar Corporation (NYSE), and was past Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Euroad, the largest private trucking company in Poland. Given his industrious business career, it should be no surprise that his philanthropic interests are equally prolific and far reaching.

Berman has uniquely shaped the landscape of data collection, storage, and distribution. While serving as the president of the Council of Jewish Federations (the predecessor of the UJC, now known as the Jewish Federations of North America), Berman co-funded the 1990 National Jewish Population Survey (NJPS) and subsequently the 2000-2001 NJPS. In 1986, he founded the Mandell L. Berman Institute North American Jewish Data Bank (NAJDB) currently housed at the University of Connecticut in Storrs. The NAJDB, which will celebrate its 25th anniversary in 2011, is the archive for both NJPS's, approximately 200 local Jewish community studies, and other documents related to Jewish demography.

A philanthropist who believes in structure and substance, Berman has funded capital projects and a wide range of fellowships. He supported the Mandell L. Berman Center at University of Michigan Hillel and, since 1997, Berman Fellowships have enabled committed individuals to receive the teaching and training for careers as campus Jewish professionals, akin to a hospital
residency for a new MD. From 2008 to 2010, the inaugural Berman postdoctoral research fellowship at the University of Michigan's Frankel Center for Judaic Studies enabled this author to launch an interdisciplinary book project, illustrating Berman's desire to encourage early career scholars to conduct research on contemporary American Jews using various methodological approaches.

Bill Berman has been a stalwart supporter of the next generation of social scientists, both quantitative and qualitative. At Brandeis University, for more than five years, he has funded a Fellowship Program enabling doctoral candidates in sociology and social policy to develop quantitative skills. The Fellows, as part of research teams, have worked on a variety of projects at the Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies and Steinhardt Social Research Institute, including Jewish community studies of Boston, the Berkshires and Asheville, NC, as well as national socio-demographic studies. Berman's dual concerns focused on answering today's practical questions faced by the Jewish community and the development of scholars to assist the community in the future. My own qualitative work continues to benefit from his ceaseless encouragement and faith.

Recognizing the relationship between social science, social work, and community, Berman is one of few philanthropists who truly understand the need for research and training to fully engage the diverse American Jewish community and social context. Jewish special education has benefited from Berman's generosity through fellowships at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York where, starting in 1996, Berman was a member of the original Board of Overseers of the William Davidson Graduate School of Jewish Education. The annual Berman merit fellowships began in 2006 and past recipients have gone on to teach special education at Jewish day schools. Thanks to his concern for the youngest members of the Jewish world and the international community, in 1999 Berman established the Fund for Research on Children with Disabilities at the Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute in Israel. Berman's support also helped restart the Jewish Communal Leadership Program at the University of Michigan's School of Social Work last year, enabling students to travel to national conferences where they encounter the people, organizations, and issues driving American Jewish life, preparing them for the challenging discussions ahead.

"How do you make policy for a community if you don't know what's happening?" the New York Jewish Week quoted Berman saying in 2009; "I'm particularly interested in the mining of data." Toward that end, he made a five-year donation to launch and support, along with the Charles H. Revson Foundation, the Berman Jewish Policy Archive at NYU Wagner. The BJPA online library houses more than 4,000 policy-relevant publications from Jewish journals, organizations, and scholars. A visionary step for this pioneering maverick, Berman's foresight exceeds his grasp of electronic resources, the BJPA brings together quantitative and qualitative data under one roof. Given his keen comprehension of the need to disseminate research findings through multiple means, Berman also granted the necessary funds to help the ASSJ transition its self-published journal, Contemporary Jewry, from an annual publication to one produced thrice per year through Springer.

In addition to all of his philanthropic ventures, extending from Detroit to Jerusalem, Berman's communal activities exemplify an overachiever. He is co-founder of the Jewish Education Service of North America (JESNA), where he is currently Honorary Chairman, serves on the Board of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, and the United Israel Appeal. He served on the Board of the Jewish Agency and the Board of World Zionist Education Authority. Berman was the First Chairman of the Skillman Foundation, Past President and Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Metropolitan Detroit Jewish Welfare Federation, Past President of United Hebrew Schools, and past Board Member of the United Way.

Bill Berman is a mensch on a mission. Ad me'ah v'esrim, may he live until 120! 😊
**Table of Contents**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>With Great Sadness</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Berman</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Members</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donors</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obituary, Jonathan Woocher</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President’s Message</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upcoming Conferences</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>The American Jewish Year Book</em></td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>News from Members</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viener Book Prize</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASSJ Sklare Award</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASSJ Berman Award</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The ASSJ</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASSJ Book Series</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Contemporary Jewry</em></td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Israel Studies</em></td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Berman Jewish Data Bank</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brandeis Publications</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Members in the News</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fulbright</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report from JPR</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who Will Lead Us?</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sociology of Anti-Semitism</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>America’s Religious Landscape</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amram Blau</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Association for Jewish Studies</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interfaith Families</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Jewish Year Book</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Journal of Religion, Spirituality and Aging**

Volume 29, Issues 2-3 is a special issue, edited by my wife Gail and me, on aging in the Jewish world. It is the first collection of articles on this topic to appear since the 1990’s. Among other topics it covers aging among American Jews and among Israelis and special populations such as Soviet Jews in the United States and Holocaust survivors. It also looks at Jewish sponsored services such as long term care as well as changes in American Jewish religious life to reflect the recognition of aging as a separate stage in the life cycle.

**New Members**

*Welcome to our New Members*

**Adina Bankier-Karp**, Monash University  
**Nicole Samuel**, *Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies, Brandeis University*  
**Daniel Held**, *The Julia and Henry Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Education, UJA-Federation of Toronto*  
**Jennifer Rich**, Rowan University  
**Mark Trencher**, Nishma Research  
**Jennifer Heettner**, JDC  
**Roberta Kwall**, DePaul University

**Donors**

*Thank You to our Donors*

Graduate Student Travel Grants: **Sergio DellaPergola, Joelle Bahloul**  
Sklare Award Fund: Hebrew Union College (in honor of **Bruce Phillips, Arnold Dashefsky**  
General Fund: **Judit Liwerant**
Obituary

Dr. Jonathan Woocher

Died July 7, 2017

H-Judaic mourns the untimely passing, from cancer, of Dr. Jonathan Woocher, Former President and Senior Fellow of the Lippman Kanfer Foundation for Living Torah, and one of the preeminent figures in US Jewish Education over the last half-century. A summa cum laude graduate of Yale University, in the fateful year of 1968, Woocher went on to study religion at Temple University, where he received his MA & Ph.D, greatly influenced by Daniel Elazar and Charles Liebman. He expanded his doctorate into the much-discussed book, *Sacred Survival: the Civil Religion of American Jews* (1986), a volume that applied the then developing concept of "Civil Religion" to American Jewish life and coined the phrase "Civil Judaism." Woocher went on to teach at Carleton College and in what was then known as the Hornstein Program in Jewish Communal Service at Brandeis University, before being recruited to JESNA (Jewish Education Service of North America) where he worked for 27 years, serving as its longtime president and Jewish Ideas Officer -- the latter a title that bespoke his passion for ideas that could be translated into practice. Upon JESNA's closing, in 2013, Woocher became president of the Lipplman Kanfer Foundation for Living Torah. In addition to his many administrative accomplishments, Woocher will be remembered for his fertile mind and path-breaking articles, forty-nine of which are available through the Berman Jewish Policy Archive. We extend deepest condolences to his wife, Sherry, and to the entire Woocher family.
I have just returned from Israel. Intense as always, I was there during a weather and political heat wave. Issues vis-a-vis Israel and world Jewry were on many people's minds, propelled from the background to the foreground by suspension of the Kotel agreement and debate about the conversion bill. As a student of the Diaspora/Israel relationship, what most struck me was the contrast between discussion of the fraying bonds and the fact that thousands of young people were in Israel. Birthright Israel is having its largest-ever summer (over 32,000 diasporans) and upwards of 10,000 athletes are participating in the Maccabiah games.

I note the situation in Israel because, as social scientists, our data about Jewish engagement with Israel are a central part of the debate. Just as political polls shape elections, so too do our findings about Jews' connections with one have the potential to be self-fulfilling prophecies. While I was in Israel, new data were presented by a US-based market research group. In contravention to professional standards (in particular, AAPOR guidelines), even rudimentary information about the questions and sample has not been made available. Our past-president, Steven Cohen, shares my concern about the essential need for transparency in our work. It's an issue that I am going to ask the ASSJ Board to consider.

On other ASSJ fronts, much of our work is focused on disseminating the body of research and ideas produced by our membership. Our journal, *Contemporary Jewry*, under Harriet Hartman's deft editorship, continues to expand its reach, publishing more articles across a broader range of topics and doing so while improving the quality of the work. In tandem, the ASSJ Book series has a number of superb books under development. Editor Rela Geffen has now been joined by Charles Kadushin as Co-Editor. Two of our most senior and most respected scholars are now leading this effort. I encourage you to be in contact if you are developing a book.

Also on the dissemination front, last month I participated in the joint NRJE-ASSJ Jewish education conference, held at Brandeis. It was a small, but excellent meeting. As much an academic conference with a more than one thousand participants creates excitement, smaller meetings such as NRJE-ASSJ enable one to have intimate conversations and more meaningful discussions. I am in conversation with NRJE President Ben Jacobs about how to broaden the engagement of our two organizations.

Planning is also underway for our annual meeting, held in conjunction with the Association for Jewish Studies (AJS). This year, AJS will meet in Washington, DC. I know that many of you have submitted papers and symposia proposals. Bruce Phillips is program chair for social science and has assiduously led the review effort and made his recommendations to the program committee. A highlight of the convention will be the annual Sklare award ceremony and lecture. I am particularly pleased that Judit Bokser Liwerant is this year's awardee and will talk about transnational Jewish identity. I also hope to have another "conversation-like" session at the meeting where members can talk about the field.

Although we are a small association, lots of work goes on behind the scenes. As many who follow the listserv know, the Board has been discussing a variety of issues, including whether/when to issue public statements. For the time being, and in the case specifically posed to the Board (re: Israel's entry rules), we decided not to take a stance, but we will undoubtedly continue to discuss the issue. I am also trying to raise resources for the association -- to enable broader graduate student participation in the annual meeting, to subsidize membership fees for students and retired members, and to enable open access to *Contemporary Jewry* articles. Stay tuned.

Finally, a plea: We are a small association, but play a vital role for our members and for Jewish scholarship. Please, if you haven't already renewed your membership this year, do so. Also, please encourage your colleagues and students to join us.
Upcoming Conferences

- American Jewish Historical Society, TBA
- American Sociological Association, Montreal, August 12-15, 2017
- ASSJ at the Association for Jewish Studies, Washington, December 17-19, 2017
- Association for Canadian Jewish Studies, Toronto, May 28-May 30, 2017
- Association for the Sociology of Religion, Montreal, August 13-14, 2017
- Association for the Study of Religion, Economics, and Culture, Bologna, Italy, Sept. 7-9, 2017
- Australian Association for Jewish Studies, Perth, February 11-12, 2018
- Institute for Israel Studies, TBA
- Israeli Sociological Society, TBA
- Midwestern Jewish Studies Association, Detroit, October 22-23, 2017
- Network for Research in Jewish Education, Waltham, June 5-6 2017
- Society for the Anthropology of Religion, New Orleans, May 15-17, 2017
- Southern Jewish Historical Society, Cincinnati, November 3-5, 2017
- Western Jewish Studies Association, Claremont, CA, March 26-27, 2017
- World Union of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem, August 6-10, 2017

Anyone who knows of a Conference that might be of interest to our members, please send me the name of that Conference and I will include it in the future.
The *American Jewish Year Book* is published by Springer with the cooperation of The Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry. Edited by Arnold Dashefsky and Ira Sheskin.


Part II contains up-to-date listings of Jewish Federations, Jewish Community Centers, Jewish human service agencies, national Jewish organizations, Jewish overnight camps, Jewish museums, Holocaust museums, Israeli consulates, national Jewish periodicals and broadcast media, local Jewish periodicals, Jewish studies programs, holocaust and genocide studies programs, Israel studies programs, as well as Jewish social work programs in institutions of higher education, books, journals, and scholarly articles on the North American Jewish communities, websites and organizations for research on North American Jewry, and major Judaic research and holocaust research libraries. Finally, the volume contains a list of major events in the North American Jewish communities, a list of persons honored by the Jewish and general communities, and obituaries for the past year.

ASSJ members and others ordering through Arnie Dashefsky, can take advantage of the bulk rate price of $79.95 (inclusive of shipping). The price from Springer will likely be $189.

See the two page flyer at the end of this Newsletter.

The first five issues of the *Year Book* (2012-2016) have 20,800 chapter downloads from the Springer website. Thanks to all of our authors! 😊
News from Members

Adina Bankier-Karp
Monash University

Current research. Dissertation in progress: 'Catalysts of connectedness: Critical experiences influencing identity and engagement of young adults in the Melbourne Jewish community' Faculty of Education, Supervisors: Rebecca Cooper and Andrew Markus

Overview of thesis
- Aims: To identify the critical experiences associated with the sustaining, intensification and diminishment of Jewish identification and community engagement of young adults (aged 21-35) of the Melbourne Jewish community
- Relevant techniques: Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (qualitative analysis) and RapidMiner Studio (quantitative analysis)
- Responsibilities: Academic Advisory committee for 'Gen17: The Australian Jewish Population survey'
- Achievements: Assisting in recruiting and increasing participation rate (Gen08 6000, Gen17 almost 9000 participants). Collaborated with the Melbourne Adass (Hareidi) community, with over 200 participants completing the survey.

Research interests
My principal research interests lie in the fields of Jewish identity formation, Education, Bible and Philosophy. I have particular expertise and interest in Jewish identity formation and Bible. I am currently investigating factors associated with Jewish identity formation for my PhD, using SPSS and R to conduct Multivariate (quantitative) analysis and Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA) to conduct thematic (qualitative) analysis. My future research plans are to use my pedagogical and research skills in Educational programs and community institutions promoting the identity formation of young adults.

Presentations

Barry Chiswick
George Washington University

Steven M. Cohen
HUC-JIR
- The Alumni of Ramah Camps: A Long-term Portrait of Jewish Engagement
- Family, Engagement, and Jewish Continuity among American Jews for the Jewish People Policy Institute

Arnold Dashefsky
University of Connecticut

Publications

Panel Organizer

Sarah Bunin Benor
Hebrew Union College
- Sarah Bunin Benor, was promoted to Professor of Contemporary Jewish Studies at Hebrew Union College.
- She published a non-academic book called We the Resilient: Wisdom for America from Women Born Before Suffrage and a brief article about the book.
- She is finishing the manuscript of her book, Hebrew in the Sunshine: Language and Community at North American Jewish Summer Camps (forthcoming, Rutgers University), along with her colleagues Jonathan Krasner and Sharon Avni.
Joshua Friedman
*University of Michigan*

- I'm a cultural anthropologist and Jewish Studies scholar. This fall I'll be beginning a 2 year post-doc at Duke University, the Perilman Postdoctoral Fellowship, at Duke's Center for Jewish Studies. My main project there will be my book manuscript, tentatively titled "Yiddish Returns: Language and Economy in American Jewish Life."

Steven Gold
*Micigan State University*

- Research Presentation: "Israeli Infotech Migrants in Silicon Valley and Beyond." Panel sponsored by Jewish Studies, James Madison College, Department of Sociology, Department of Writing, Rhetoric and American Cultures, CREATE for STEM at MSU, the College of Arts and Letters, and the Asian Studies Center, Michigan State University, Friday January 20th, 2017.

Harriet Hartman
*Rowan University*


Samuel Heilman
*CUNY*

- My new book *Who Will Lead Us?* was published. 
  - Excerpts at Forward
  - Excerpts at Moment Magazine
- Sam has a chapter on Menachem Schneerson [here](#).
Ariela Keysar
Trinity College

Research
- U.S. Principal Investigator, Young adults and religion in a global perspective, YARG, 2015-2018

Publications

Presentations
- Association for Israel Studies, Annual Conference, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA, June 12-14, 2017, "Who is Making a Sincere Effort for Peace? Gaps Between American and Israeli Jews' Views of the Peace Process" Ariela Keysar, Trinity College and Sergio DellaPergola, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- World Congress of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem, Israel, August 6-10, 2017, The 20 Up Longitudinal Study: Young Americans and Canadians from the Bar/Bat Mitzvah Class of 5755

Keren R. McGinity
Brandeis, Hebrew College, Love & Tradition Institute

Recruiting
Seeking qualified graduate applicants-rabbis, cantors, communal professionals, Jewish educators, outreach practitioners—for second cohort to begin online Interfaith Families Jewish Engagement program in fall 2017. Generous scholarships available. Two academic tracks (MJEd and Certificate).

Teaching
- "Jewish Intermarriage in Modern America," Shoolman School of Graduate Jewish Education, Hebrew College (Fall 2016)
- "Models and Methods for Serving Interfaith Families," Shoolman School of Graduate Jewish Education, Hebrew College (Spring 2017)
- "Understanding and Engaging Interfaith Families in the Jewish Community," Commission for Jewish Education of the Palm Beaches (June 6-8, 2017)
- "Jewish Peoplehood, Race, and Intermarriage," Shoolman School of Graduate Jewish Education, Hebrew College, (Summer 2017)

Publications
- "If Jews Are People of the Book, Why Aren't We Studying Intermarriage?" Lilith, June 30, 2017
- "Let's Stop Romancing the Jewish Womb," and "Jewish Fatherhood Needs a Makeover," Lilith, February 17, 2017 (electronic) and Spring 2017 (print).
- "Why Would a Graduate School of Education Teach About Intermarriage?" eJewish Philanthropy, January 30, 2017
Presentations

- "I'm Jewish, My Partner Isn't," Mishkan Tefila-Hebrew College, Brookline MA, April 30, 2017

**Riv-Ellen Prell**  
*University of Minnesota*

- Riv-Ellen Prell curated an exhibition "A Campus Divided: Progressives, Anti-Communisms, Racism and Antisemitism at the University of Minnesota 1930-1941" at the University of Minnesota from August 14-November 30, 2017

**David Schoem**  
*University of Michigan*


**Edwin S. Segal**  
*University of Louisville*

- Announcing publication of *Heritage*, a small book of Judaically oriented poems. Although the book is not a work of social science research, it is heavily influenced by my social scientific training. Part of it can be understood as contemporary midrash and the rest can be understood as expressions of efforts to reconcile U.S. macro-culture with Jewish-American micro-culture. The book is available from [Apprentice House](#), the publisher, Barnes and Noble.com and, of course, Amazon.

**Ira Sheskin**  
*University of Miami, Geography and Director of the Jewish Demography Project of the Sue and Leonard Miller Center for Contemporary Judaic Studies*

**Monographs**

The 2016 Jewish Federation of Greater Houston Population Study: A Portrait of Jewish Houston (2017) (Houston: The Jewish Federation of Greater Houston)

Articles

Presentations
- “Why All this Attention to 2% of the Electorate?: The Jewish Vote in the Presidential Election,” invited presentation at State University of New York at Binghamton (2016).

In Progress
- I am currently working on community studies in Broward, Pinellas, and Indianapolis.
Chaim I. Waxman
Professor Emeritus from Rutgers University and Hadassah Academic College, Jerusalem

Publications


Bruce Phillips
Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, LA

- Bruce won the Marshall Sklare award for 2016.
- "Not Quite White: The Emergence of Jewish 'Ethnoburbs' in Los Angeles, 1920-2010"

Kimmy Caplan
Bar Ilan University


See cover elsewhere in this Newsletter.

- Amram Blau (1900-1974) was one of the founders of Neturei Karta, an extreme anti-Zionist Haredi group, and its leader until the mid-1960s. He was a well-known personality within extreme Haredi circles, in Haredi society, and in surrounding circles of Israeli society. His presence and activities, primarily in Jerusalem, left a mark in the Israeli public sphere, and in Israeli society's collective memory. Individuals who crossed paths with him did not remain indifferent towards Blau. Some hated him, others disagreed with his ideological approaches and acts, and others yet depicted him as a meaningless representative of a world that disappeared. Some adored him, perceived him as walking myth, or took interest in him.

This biography traces and explores the life and activities of a person who devoted himself to opposing Zionism and Israel, and places him within social, historical, cultural, and religious contexts. This biography consists of personal, political, social and religious dimensions, and crosses back and forth between myth and reality. It presents a different, at times counter agenda to the National Zionist narrative, and is an invitation to see Zionism and the State of Israel from the standpoint of one of their most consistent and fierce rivals in 20th century Jewish society.
Suzanne Rutland
University of Sydney

- In the same IRE Magdelena H. Gross and Ari Y. Kelman also have a most interesting article on trips to Poland: 'Encountering the Past in the Present: An exploratory study of educational tourism'
Viener Book Prize


Noam Pianko's "Jewish Peoplehood" appears in the series "Key Words in Jewish Studies." With his careful assessment of the roots and development of the concept "Jewish Peoplehood," Pianko breaks new ground in demonstrating that the American Jewish experience has contributed key concepts of Jewish self-definition that have shaped the Jewish world more broadly. This is an important departure from an older historiography that saw American Jewry as contributing relatively little to the broader development of Jewish thought. Moreover, Pianko challenges the "tendency toward exceptionalism in recent writings on Jewish peoplehood" (9). He encourages scholars of Jewish history to broaden the scope of their analysis, and to move beyond a model of Jewish exceptionalism.

ASSJ Sklare Award

The Marshall Sklare Award is an annual honor of the Association for the Scientific Study of Jewry (ASSJ). The ASSJ seeks to recognize "a senior scholar who has made a significant scholarly contribution to the social scientific study of Jewry." In most cases, the recipient has given a scholarly address. In recent years, the honored scholar has presented the address at the annual meeting of the Association for Jewish Studies. The award is named in memory of the "founding father of American Jewish sociology" Marshall Sklare (1912-1992), who had been Klutznick Family Professor of Contemporary Jewish Studies and Sociology at Brandeis University.

Sklare Award Winners

1992 Sidney Goldstein (Brown, demography)
1993 Seymour Martin Lipset (Hoover Institute and George Mason University, sociology)
1994 Celia Heller (NYU, history)
1995 Daniel Elazar (Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, Temple University, and Bar Ilan University, political science)
1996 Samuel Klausner (University of Pennsylvania, sociology)
1997 Walter Zenner (SUNY at Albany, anthropology)
1998 Bernard Reisman (Brandeis, communal service)
1999 Sergio DellaPergola (Hebrew University, demography)
2000 Charles Liebman (Bar Ilan, political science)
2001 Calvin Goldscheider (Brown, sociology and demography)
2002 Jonathan Sarna (Brandeis, history)
2003 Samuel Heilman (CUNY, sociology)
2004 Egon Mayer (Brooklyn College, sociology)
2005 Elihu Katz (University of Pennsylvania and Hebrew University, communications)
2006 Deborah Dash Moore (University of Michigan, history)
2007 Barry Chiswick (University of Illinois at Chicago, economics)
2008 Paul Ritterband (Haifa University, sociology)
2009 Charles Kadushin (Brandeis, sociology)
2010 Steven M. Cohen (Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion)
2011 Riv-Ellen Prell (University of Minnesota, anthropology)
2012 Leonard Saxe (Brandeis University, social psychology)
2013 Morton Weinfeld (McGill University, sociology)
2014 Sylvia Barack Fishman (Brandeis, sociology)
2015 Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett (NYU, performance studies)
2016 Bruce Phillips (HUC/USC, sociology)
2017 Judit Bokser Liwerant


The Mandell L. Berman Service Award is given periodically to a civic or business leader or an academic for a career of distinguished commitment to the social scientific study of Jews either through service or financial support of such research. Named for a great philanthropist and supporter of the Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry and various other research entities, the Berman Service Award recognizes the work of leaders in many sectors of the Jewish community whose efforts have advanced the social science of Jewry.

Berman Award Winners

2010 Mandell “Bill” Berman Lifetime Achievement Award
2011 Irene and Eddie Kaplan (Washington, DC)
2012 Arnold Dashefsky (University of Connecticut, Storrs, Sociology)
2013 Rela Mintz Geffen, Gratz College
2015 Barry Shrage, CJP, Greater Boston’s Jewish Federation
The ASSJ

The Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry is a cross-disciplinary organization whose research concerns the Jewish people throughout the world.

The ASSJ encourages and facilitates contact among researchers, supports the dissemination of research, and assists in the cultivation of younger scholars.

The organization’s journal, Contemporary Jewry, is issued three times per year. All social science disciplines are represented, including anthropology, demography, economics, geography, history, Jewish education, political science, social psychology, social work, and sociology.

Our members are primarily academics, but also policy analysts, communal professionals and activists, and are engaged in a wide range of scholarly activity, applied research, and the links between them.

www.assj.org

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ASSJ Book Series

The ASSJ Book Series publishes significant social scientific books on Jews and Judaism. Social science is broadly construed as anthropology, communications, demography, economics, education, ethnography, geography, history, politics, population, social psychology and sociology.

The series, Studies of Jews in Society, highlights the contrasts and diversity of Jewry and the varied contexts in which Jews and Jewry are found.

Four books are in print with the University of Nebraska Press:

Falafel Nation, by Yael Raviv.
Toward an Anthropology of Nation Building and Unbuilding in Israel by Fran Markowitz, Stephen Sharot, Moshe Shokeid, and Alex Weingrod
JewAsian by Helen Kiyong Kim and Noah Samuel Leavitt
South African Jews in Israel by Rebeca Raijman

The series has now moved to Springer Publications and has received several excellent new proposals and manuscripts. When publication dates are set, we will be eager to announce them. We are always looking for more! Please send ideas and proposals to co-editors of the series, Rela Geffen (rela1@aol.com) or Charles Kadushin (kadushin@brandeis.edu).
Contemporary Jewry, the journal of the ASSJ since 1975, serves as the single source for the social scientific consideration of world Jewry, its institutions, trends, character, and concerns. In its pages can be found work by leading scholars and important new researchers from around the world. While much relevant scholarship about Jewry is published in general social science journals, as well as more narrowly focused periodicals, no other single scholarly journal focuses primarily on the social scientific study of Jewry. The distinguished editorial board reflects the multi-disciplinary nature of the journal.

Note from the Editor, Harriet Hartman

I want to take this opportunity to publicly thank all of you who have volunteered your time and effort as reviewers for Contemporary Jewry, as well as our main copy-editor, Marilyn Silverstein, who raises the quality and consistency of all of the manuscripts she reviews. Contemporary Jewry continues to expand and develop in each subsequent issue. In the current issue, v37(2), which will be published this July, our guest editor Joëlle Allouche-Benayoun brings us eight selections from a session she organized at the International Society for the Sociology of Religion (ISSR) 2015 conference in Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium. The contributions probe the impact of history on contemporary constructions of Jewish realities, how the collective memory is constructed and perpetuated, contemporary antisemitism in Belgium and France and the role sociologists play in constructing the conceptualization of antisemitism, a comparison of the status of black Jews in France and the United States, and the interstitial role Jewish Buddhists occupy. Each of these contributions highlights similarities and differences in the construction of Jewish identities across cultures, countries, and histories.

The third issue in v37 will include the Sklare address of 2016 and its commentaries, as well as several original articles.

In addition to interesting and varied original articles in v37(1), we introduced a new "Controversy and Debate" section inaugurated by a controversial perspective by Ian Lustick on the Holocaust in Israeli Political Culture, followed by four comments and Lustick's rejoinder. The creation of this section, and the choice of its inaugural paper, created its own "controversy and debate"; we hope you found it thought-provoking (whatever those thoughts might have been!), and look forward to additional contributions in this section in the future.

A highlight of last year was v36(3) which was a special issue on the development, methodology and conundrums of contemporary Jewish community studies. We hope you found it enlightening and - (as always) thought-provoking.

Last year we introduced new sections of research updates, under the able editorship of Helen Kim, and book reviews, edited by Daniel Parmer. Each of these editors has innovated and expanded these sections, either through interviews, geographical scope, presentation-witness the graphic book review in v36(3)-and reflection. We hope you find these of interest and encourage you to give feedback and make suggestions to each of the editors.

More generally, please send any ideas (e.g., for special issues, invited submissions) and feedback to me as the editor-in-chief. Contemporary Jewry is making an effort to reflect the multiple interests and methodological approaches of our multifaceted field of the social scientific study of Jewry. Please help to recruit contributions of quality boundary-stretchers, to help us all expand our understanding and conceptualization of contemporary Jewry, wherever it might be. The ASSJ listserv remains a good venue to discuss any of your reactions and suggestions for the journal.
Table of Contents for *Contemporary Jewry*, Volume 37, Issue 1

- Harriet Hartman, Editor's Introduction

**Original Articles**
- Laurence Kotler-Berkowitz, The Structure of Political Divisions Among American Jews
- Joshua J. Furman, Accentuate the Positive: The Influence of Kurt Lewin's "Bringing Up the Jewish Child" on Postwar American Jewish Life
- Helena Darwin, Jewish Women's KIPPOT: Meanings and Motives

**Controversy and Debate**
- Ian S. Lustick, The Holocaust in Israeli Political Culture: Four Constructions and Their Consequences
  - Dan Michman, Sergio DellaPergola, Paul Burstein, and Adam S. Ferziger, A Reply to Ian Lustick's Article
  - Jeffrey Kopstein, Comment on Ian Lustick's "The Holocaust in Israeli Political Culture: Four Constructions and Their Consequences"
  - Avinoam J. Patt, On "Holocaustia" and the Place of the Shoah in Contemporary Jewish Life
  - Yael Zerubavel, Response to Ian Lustick's "The Holocaust in Israeli Political Culture: Four Constructions and Their Consequences"
  - Ian S. Lustick, Response by Ian Lustick to Comments

**Research Updates**
- Helen K. Kim, Research Updates

**Book Reviews**
- Leonard Saxe, Book review of Kravel-Tovi, Michal, and Dash-Moore, Deborah (eds.), *Taking Stock: Cultures of Enumeration in Contemporary Jewish Life*

**Books received**

Table of Contents for *Contemporary Jewry*, Volume 37, Issue 2

- Harriet Hartman, Editor's Introduction

SPECIAL ISSUE:
International Society for the Sociology of Religion session on "Judaisms, Judaicities" in
Joëlle Allouche-Benayoun, Guest Editor's Introduction

Joëlle Allouche-Benayoun, Intermittently French: Jews from Algeria during World War II

Geneviève Dermenjian, Jews, Moors, Arabs and Kabyles of the Regency of Algiers Under European Gaze (16th Century-1830)

Valérie Assan, The Transmission of the Jewish Past in France Through the Prism of Community Organizations

Günther Jikeli, Explaining the Discrepancy of Antisemitic Acts and Attitudes in 21st Century France

Eliezer Ben-Rafael, Belgian Jews and Neo-Antisemitism

Paul Zawadzki, Some Epistemological Issues in the Public Debate on Contemporary Antisemitism in France

Aurélien Mokoko Gampiot, Black Judaism in France and the United States: An Example of the Intersection Between Religion and Race/Ethnicity

Mira Niculescu, Reading In-Betweenness: Jewish Buddhist Autobiographies and the Self-Display of Interstentiality

Research Updates

Helen K. Kim, Research Updates

Book Reviews

Daniel Parmer, Introduction to the Book Review Section

Daniel Parmer, Erratum to: Introduction to the Book Review Section


Books received

Robert Cherry, Jesus and the Baal Shem Tov: Similar Roles but Different Outcomes

Janet Krasner Aronson, 'I Wish They Had Birthright for Adults!': The Effect of Birthright Israel on Jewish Parents' Interest in Visiting Israel


Maryam Dilmaghani, Jason Dean, Labor Market Attainment of Canadian Jews During the First Two Decades of the 20th Century

Moshe Krakowski, Developing and Transmitting Religious Identity: Curriculum and Pedagogy in Modern Orthodox Jewish Schools

Menachem Keren-Kratz, Rabbi Yoel Teitelbaum—the Satmar Rebbe—and the Rise of Anti-Zionism in American Orthodoxy

Valérie Assan, The Transmission of the Jewish Past in France Through the Prism of Community Organizations
Special Section: Religion and Ethnicity
- Like a Phoenix: The Renaissance of Sephardic/Mizrahi Identity in Israel in the 1970s and 1980s by Avi Picard
- Philoumenos of Jacob's Well: The Birth of a Contemporary Ritual Murder Narrative, by David Gurevich and Yisca Harani
- William James in the Holy Land: Religious Experience and Secular-Believer Jewish Women in Israel by Hagar Lahav
- "Belfast Is Not Here": The Israeli Press and the Good Friday Agreement by Aidan Beatty

Articles
The Kibbutz and the Development Town: The Economic Dimension of Their Reciprocal Relations-The Case of the Hula Valley by Amir Goldstein
Kibbutz Under Fire: Back to the Days of Sickle and Bayonet by Zeev Drory, Eyal Lewin and Eyal Ben-Ari
The Fiscal Path to the State of Israel: Social Policy and State Building in the Yishuv during the Mandate by Michal Koreh and Daniel Béland
What is Israeli in Israeli Art? A Psychoanalytic Solution by Efrat Biberman
New Databank Holdings and Resources
In the past year, the DataBank has added numerous items to its collection as part of its continuing effort to serve and inform its stakeholders. The DataBank’s new materials include:

- The 2016 Survey of American Jewish Public Opinion, sponsored by the American Jewish Committee (AJC) and conducted by Social Science Research Solutions (SSRS).
- New Jewish population reports on the United States (prepared by Ira Sheskin and Arnold Dashefsky), Canada (Charles Shahar) and across the globe (Sergio DellaPergola), all originally appearing in the American Jewish Year Book.
- The data file and frequencies for the 2013 National Study of American Jewish Giving, commissioned by Connected To Give, a consortium of independent foundations, family foundations, community foundations and Jewish federations working in partnership with Jumpstart.
- A 2016 study of the alumni of Ramah camps, commissioned by the National Ramah Commission, Eileen and Jerry Lieberman, and the Berman Jewish Policy Archive, and conducted by Steven M. Cohen.
- The 2016 Houston Jewish Community Study, commissioned by the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston and conducted by Professor Ira Sheskin of the University of Miami.
- The 2016 Broward County Jewish Community Study, commissioned by the Jewish Federation of Broward County and conducted by Ira Sheskin.
- 2015 Greater Boston Jewish Community Study, commissioned by Combined Jewish Philanthropies and conducted by the Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies/Steinhardt Social Research Institute (CMJS/SSRI) at Brandeis University.
- The 2014 study of the Northern New Jersey Jewish community, commissioned by the Jewish Federation of Northern New Jersey and conducted by the Melior Group.
- The 2006-2007-2010 Surveys of the Jewish Community of Greater New Orleans, commissioned by the Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans and conducted by Professor Frederick Weil of Louisiana State University.
- The 2017 American Muslim Poll, with comparisons to American Jews, Catholics and Protestants. The study was commissioned by the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding and conducted by SSRS and Triton Polling and Research.

In addition, the DataBank has added study pages with links to the following:

- The 2015 Nashville and Middle Tennessee Jewish community study, commissioned by the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee and conducted by CMJS/SSRI at Brandeis University.
Three Pew Research Center studies, including:
  ● A 2017 report entitled *Americans Express Increasingly Warm Feelings Towards Religious Groups*.
  ● A 2017 study on *The Changing Global Religious Landscape*.

Partnerships and Acknowledgments
The Berman Jewish DataBank @ The Jewish Federations of North America is the central online address for quantitative studies of North American Jewry and information about world Jewish populations. The DataBank is funded through a generous endowment from the Berman Foundation. We proudly collaborate with the Berman Jewish Policy Archive at Stanford and the Center for Judaic Studies and Contemporary Jewish Life at the University of Connecticut. We are especially grateful to the commissioning organizations and researchers whose cooperation in providing materials both makes our work possible and reflects a commitment to transparency in the production and distribution of research in the Jewish community.

Contact the Databank
DataBank users can contact the DataBank at info@jewishdatabank.org and can sign up for the DataBank's email list on the bottom of every page of the DataBank website.

From Laurence Kotler-Berkowitz, Ph.D.
Director, Berman Jewish DataBank
Senior Director, Research and Analysis
The Jewish Federations of North America ☛
Dissertations

Journal articles

Institute Reports
Commentaries and Book Review

**Members in the News**

**Jonathan Boyd**, Institute for Jewish Policy Research
● Jewish schools: what’s the story? Jewish Chronicle, 20 January 2017
● Was 2016 really the worst year? Jewish Chronicle, 17 February 2017
● Do we really need a new school? Jewish Chronicle,17 March 2017
● A continental shift in population, Jewish Chronicle, 14 April 2017
● This is why I didn’t make aliyah, Jewish Chronicle, 12 May 2017
● Valuable data will go with Brexit, Jewish Chronicle, 9 June 2017
● Belonging to a shul matters, Jewish Chronicle, 9 June 2017

**Sarah Bunin Benor**, HUC
● “From Academic Scholarship to Popular Op-ed” Ejewishphilanthropy, January 31, 2017
● “We the Resilient Offers Glimpse at Unseen Women’s History” The Forward, May 8, 2017.

**Steven M. Cohen**, HUC-JIR
● “Dramatic Orthodox Growth Is Transforming the American Jewish Community” The Forward December 19, 2016
● “From Academic Scholarship to Popular Op-ed” Ejewishphilanthropy, January 31, 2017
● Appeared on Public Radio International: Trump’s pick for ambassador to Israel ‘regrets’ Holocaust-related slur
● “Israel vs. America: What Jewish Millennials Think About God and the Occupation” April 3, 2017
● “Fewer marriages and fewer children means fewer Jews doing Jewish” JTA, June 20, 2017

**Arnold Dashefsky**, University of Connecticut
● Arnold Dashefsky and Ira Sheskin addressed the question "What will the Jewish world look like in 2050" in the Jan-Feb issue of Moment.
● Arnold Dashefsky and Ira Sheskin were interviewed to discuss the contents of the American Jewish Year Book 2017 in the Connecticut Jewish Ledger on April 19, 2017.
● Arnold Dashefsky was quoted on US anti-Semitism in the April 3, 2017, issue of The Jerusalem Report.

**Sylvia Barack Fishman**, Brandeis University
● “Fewer marriages and fewer children means fewer Jews doing Jewish” JTA, June 20, 2017

**Samuel Heilman**, Queens College
● "My parents were saved on Schindler’s List.” Then America took us in. Op-Ed in Ha-aretz.
Robert Kwall, DePaul University
- "Saving Conservative Judaism," Commentary Magazine (April, 2017)
- "Why the Aversion to Conversion?" The Jewish Journal (June, 2017)

Keren McGinity, Brandeis University
- "Conservatives Welcome Non-Jews-But Will They Be Second-Class Citizens in Synagogue?" FORWARD, March 30, 2017
- "Trailblazing Initiative Focuses on Jewish Intermarriage," FORWARD, January 31, 2017
- "The December Dilemma: How Interfaith Families Make the Holidays Meaningful"
- "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Chrismukkah-But Don't Call It That"
- "If Jews Are People of the Book, Why Aren't We Studying Intermarriage?" ejewishphilanthropy, July 4, 2017.

Patricia Munro, Berkeley
- "Intermarriage as a Beginning, Not an End" in the Jewish News of Northern California

Leonard Saxe, Brandeis University
- "To Say 'Never Again,' First Remember," in US News and World Report

Ira Sheskin, University of Miami
- "Miami's Delis Evolve from Wolfie's to Zak the Baker" Miami New Times. June 6, 2017
- "Demographic study shows decline in Broward Jewish community." May 1, 2017
- "The New Israeli Americans" Moment Magazine, January 2017

He appeared on ● TV6 (Fox) Upper Michigan on American Jews.
● WLRN (91.3 FM) on Jews in South Florida (NPR)
● Caracol Radio (810 AM) on Holocaust Remembrance Day
● Caracol Radio (810 AM) on the anti-Semitic incidents in the US
● WIOD (610 AM) on the Trump-Netanyahu visit

Fulbright

The Fulbright U.S. Scholar competition for 2018-19 is now accepting applications for the Senior Scholar All-Disciplines Fellowship and the Postdoctoral Fellowship to Israel. Applications are due August 1, 2017.

The Postdoctoral Fellowship is open to researchers in all academic disciplines and supports programs of work in Israel for up to 20 months (two academic years).

The Senior Scholar All-Disciplines Fellowship is open to senior faculty members, professionals, and accomplished artists or writers in all fields of study and supports grants of four months. Scholars' proposed activities may include research, lecturing, or a combination of both.

For eligibility factors, detailed application guidelines and review criteria, please visit our website. Applicants are also encouraged to contact middleeastnorthafrica@iie.org with any questions and visit www.fulbright.org.il for more information about the Fulbright program in Israel.
JPR research team

- Jonathan Boyd, Executive Director
- David Graham, Senior Research Fellow
- L. Daniel Staetsky, Senior Research Fellow
- Donatella Casale Mashiah, Research Fellow
- Keith Kahn-Harris, Projector Director, European Jewish Research Archive

JPR reports


Privately-commissioned reports


Data presentations

- Jonathan Boyd, "The People and the Land: A View from the Diaspora." Nahum Goldmann Fellowship, Kinneret, Israel, June 2017
Survey monitor of antisemitic, anti-Israel and anti-Zionist attitudes in the population of Great Britain

JPR is currently engaged in the final stages of a highly ambitious study of antisemitism, anti-Zionism and anti-Israelism among the population of Great Britain. Working with our partners at Ipsos MORI, the study is designed to examine attitudes towards Jews both at the national level and among key sub-groups known or suspected of holding antisemitic views at levels higher than the national average, either today or in the past, (e.g. the far right, the far left, Muslims, Christians). It also looks at attitudes among sub-groups within sub-groups - e.g. in the case of the Muslim population, it is investigating specifically where antisemitic sentiment is strongest, for example by age, country of birth, generation of immigration, level of religiosity, Islamist leanings, mosque attendance, geography, etc.

It also examines the relationships that do or do not exist between people’s attitudes towards Jews, and their attitudes towards Israel and Zionism, to determine, empirically, whether and where these phenomena overlap, and it contextualises British people’s attitudes towards Jews, Israel, and Zionism, to assess the extent to which their views are specifically focused on these, or whether they also hold similar opinions about other minorities, countries or political ideologies.

The study further investigates the ‘action orientation’ of respondents - i.e. the extent to which those holding antisemitic views are liable to act on the basis of their views in some way, either in terms of political demonstrations, civil unrest or violence.

We will be publishing our key findings report in London in September.
Hasidism has had an extraordinary revival since it was nearly decimated in the Holocaust and repressed in the Soviet Union. Hasidic communities, now settled primarily in North America and Israel, have reversed the losses they suffered and are growing exponentially. With powerful attachments to the past, mysticism, community, and charismatic leadership, Hasidism is the opposite of contemporary Western culture, which is built on the ideals of constant change, secular rationality, and individual achievement. Yet Hasidism has thrived in the Zionist state and the democratic countries of the West. Why? And how? Samuel Heilman’s latest book, Who Will Lead Us? (UC Press, 2017), finds the answers to these questions in the fascinating story of five contemporary Hasidic dynasties and their handling of the delicate issue of leadership and succession. Prof. Heilman, recognized as a foremost expert on modern Jewish Orthodoxy, will discuss the book, which provides outsiders with the essential guide to continuity in the Hasidic world.

Samuel Heilman is Proshansky Chair in Jewish Studies at the Graduate Center and Distinguished Professor of Sociology at Queens College CUNY. He has written eleven books, including most recently (with Menachem Friedman) The Rebbe: The Life and Afterlife of Menachem Mendel Schneerson, winner of the National Jewish Book Award.

Shaul Magid is a Professor of Religious Studies and the Jay and Jeannie Schottenstein Chair of Jewish Studies in Modern Judaism at Indiana University. He is the author of Hasidism on the Margin, among other books.
"Sociology of Anti-Semitism"
American Sociological Association (ASA) Annual Meeting

Monday, August 14, 2017
6:30 - 8:10 pm
Montreal, Canada

Room: Level 5, 524A

Informal Meeting: Sociology of Anti-Semitism

Organizer/Convener: Arnold Dashefsky, Professor Emeritus of Sociology and Judaic Studies and Director Emeritus, Berman Jewish DataBank, University of Connecticut, arnold.dashefsky@uconn.edu

Topic: "Anti-Semitism and the Jews in Modern Western Social Thought"

Lead Discussant: Chad Alan Goldberg, Professor of Sociology, University of Wisconsin and author of Modernity and the Jews in Western Social Thought. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2017. cagoldberg@wisc.edu

Respondents: Attending participants

Session Abstract: This session provides an informal opportunity for participants to engage in discussion in regard to theory, research, and teaching on contemporary forms of anti-Semitism, with special attention to social policy implications.
Pew's Jews in the 2014 American Religious Landscape

Organized by the Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry and Berman Jewish DataBank

Association for the Sociology of Religion Annual Meeting

Monday, August 14, 2017
12:30-2:00 pm
Montreal, Canada

The InterContinental Montreal Hotel
360 St. Antoine Street, West Montreal, Quebec

Organizers: Arnold Dashefsky, University of Connecticut, arnold.dashefsky@uconn.edu; Harriet Hartman, Rowan University, hartman@rowan.edu

Convener: Arnold Dashefsky, University of Connecticut, arnold.dashefsky@uconn.edu

Keynote Speaker: The Jewish Place in America’s Religious Landscape, Alan Cooperman, Pew Research Center, acooperman@pewresearch.org

Keynote Speaker: Becka A. Alper Pew Research Center, balper@pewresearch.org

Panelist: Lynn Davidman, University of Kansas, lynndavidman@ku.edu

Panelist: Debra R. Kaufman, Northeastern University, debrarkaufman@gmail.com

Panelist: Morton Weinfeld, McGill University, morton.weinfeld@mcgill.ca
Unusual people

"Unusual people" is the title of this work, which is based on a rich variety of sources to reveal the world of religious and anti-Zionist ultra-Orthodox people in general and of Amram Blau in particular. It tells the story of someone who opposed the Zionist project and the State of Israel, while at the same time being an inseparable part of it. There is a reason to look at Zionism, the Zionist project, and the State of Israel from the point of view of one of the greatest and most recalcitrant opponents who rose in the Jewish society in the 20th century.
Call For Papers – Australian Association for Jewish Studies

The 30th AAJS Conference, 11-12 February 2018, Curtin University, Perth (Western Australia)

By the Rivers of Babylon: Memory, Emotion and Jews

Psalm 137 is perhaps the paradigmatic text for the interplay of memory and emotion in the construction of both Jewish history and the Jewish self. The psalmist lays the groundwork for the depiction and understanding of exile, and provides the paradigm for over 2000 years of fears, anxieties, hopes and aspirations, which for some culminates in the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948. This paradigm corresponds with the messianic hopes, which emphasize the optimistic future rather than the tragic present or past.

While memory and emotion have shaped the discourse about the Holocaust, and equally become significant reference points for reading Jewish history as a whole, they, particularly emotion, have been relatively de-emphasized in both rabbinic discussions of Halacha and academic analyses of Jewish rituals and practices. Even Jewish mystical speculation is largely presented in a rationalist mode. Hasidism, is perhaps the primary exception to this pattern; this is specifically found in the Baal Shem Tov’s rejection of the basis of the rabbinic system of his time, with a concomitant focus on emotion rather than reason as the fundamental basis of religious experience. Arguably, Chabad has provided a mechanism for moving Hasidic discourse back towards emphasis on reason.

Geography, particularly Zion, has been a consistent focus for memory and emotion expressed in longing. This trope is first expressed in the quotation from Psalms, it is also the heart and power of the poetry of Yehuda HaLevi. The importance of place is the heart of modern Zionism, and is one of the most significant motivators in modern Jewish life and thought.

The 30th Australian Association for Jewish Studies (AAJS) conference, to take place in Perth, Western Australia on 11-12 February 2018, seeks to redress the absence of these tropes in the understanding of Jewish practice and law, as well as exemplifying its importance in aspects of Jewish thought and historical experience; it also seeks to provide a forum for wider discussions of memory and emotions as they touch on all aspects of Judaism.

AAJS 2018 Perth, entitled "By the Rivers of Babylon: Memory, Emotion and Jews", will provide a trans-disciplinary forum for addressing perspicaciously both memory and emotion - both providing a basis for challenging and understanding their implications. It also seeks from the opposite direction to reassess our understanding of Judaism by resorting to general theories of memory and emotion. We hope that AAJS 2018 Perth would act as an epistemological bridge, as an antidote for parallel discourses surrounding Memory, Emotion and Jews.
Interfaith Families
Jewish Engagement Program

Preparing Jewish leaders
for today’s interfaith world
Interfaith Families Jewish Engagement Program (IFJE) provides clergy, educators, community leaders and outreach practitioners with the knowledge and innovative skills needed to support the growing population of interfaith families, engaging them in Jewish life.

Understanding Today’s Reality

Jewish intermarriage is a reality in the American context. Effective Jewish engagement of interfaith couples and families requires specialized knowledge about the relationship between intermarriage and gender; the influence of culture on interfaith marriage; denominational similarities and differences; and the ability to translate knowledge into action that suits the needs of a wide variety of constituencies.

L’dor V’dor...from Generation to Generation

What we do today — right now — will shape the future of Jewish life in America. Clergy, educators, leaders and practitioners all play key roles in both outreach and engagement of families; success helps to strengthen and enhance Jewish peoplehood, community and values, improving the world from generation to generation.

Skills and Tools: Real-World Application

IFJE students join a dynamic community of online learners from around the country and the world in an interactive virtual classroom with Hebrew College faculty. Theory and practical learning combine to create an educational experience that expands both knowledge and skills.

Students will gain an understanding of how intermarriage and conversion have changed throughout history; uncover myths perpetuated by popular culture and stereotypes; and gain insight on best practices for outreach and engagement — applying what they have learned in class to their professional lives and fieldwork.

Through the program, they will become part of a network of engagement educators similarly dedicated to enabling interfaith families to raise Jewish children as well as receive mentoring from intermarriage experts and outreach professionals.

“I am really enjoying the class so far and the readings are fantastic. In one week we've covered more material on intermarriage than I got in six years of rabbinical school.”

Rabbi Steven Abraham
Beth El Synagogue, Omaha, NE
IFJE’s inaugural graduate student cohort brings an exceptional richness of perspective, demonstrating the program’s broad appeal.

Steven Abraham is the rabbi of Beth El Synagogue, a Conservative congregation in Omaha, NE, where he has helped to reshape its image and approach regarding interfaith families. He earned rabbinic ordination as well as an MA in Jewish Education from JTS.

Cookie Mandell is Director of Congregational Engagement at Temple Rodef Shalom in Falls Church, VA. With a congregation of over 1650 families, it is the largest Jewish congregation in Virginia, with an estimated 35% interfaith families.

Alachua Nazareno is the Director of Programming at the Institute of Southern Jewish Life in Jackson, MS, a region with many intermarried couples and interfaith families.

Lex Rofes of Providence, RI, serves as the Strategic Initiatives Associate at The Institute for the Next Jewish Future where he also co-hosts its Judaism Unbound podcast. He is a second-year rabbinical student through ALEPH: The Alliance for Jewish Renewal.

Tema Smith is the Director of Community Engagement for Holy Blossom Temple, Toronto’s oldest and one of Canada’s largest synagogues. Within the Jewish Community, she works with racial diversity, racial equality advocacy and engagement of intermarried families.

Becca Weiner is a Judaics Specialist at the Charlotte Jewish Preschool in North Carolina, where she has taught for seven years and where most of her students come from interfaith families.

“IFJE is the only program of its kind in the Jewish world. As a Jewish professional working in the engagement sphere, the knowledge, tools, and community it would bring seemed invaluable to me to be able to better serve my congregation.”

Tema Smith
Director of Community Engagement, Holy Blossom Temple, Toronto, Ontario
For more information contact:

Keren R. McGinity, PhD
Director, IFJE Program
Shoolman Graduate School of Education
617-559-8620
kmcginity@hebrewcollege.edu

Two online tracks enrolling now:

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Classes begin spring 2017

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hebrewcollege.edu/interfaith-families

Funding for the Interfaith Families Jewish Engagement program was provided through generous support from the Crown Family and the Sy Syms Foundation.

Hebrew College is a recipient of a grant from
Avenues to Jewish Engagement for Intermarried Couples and their Families,
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American Jewish Year Book 2017, Vol 117

The Annual Record of the North American Jewish Communities

A. Dashefsky, I. Sheskin (Eds.)

Since 1899, the American Jewish Year Book, at various times published by the Jewish Publication Society and the American Jewish Committee, has been "The Annual Record of the North American Jewish Communities." This volume, now published by Springer, has been a very important and prestigious annual publication because it has acted as a major resource for academic researchers; practitioners and researchers at Jewish institutions and organizations; the media, both Jewish and general; educated leaders and lay persons; and libraries, particularly University and Jewish libraries, for up-to-date information about the American and Canadian Jewish communities.

For decades, the American Jewish Year Book has been the premier place for leading academics to publish long review chapters on topics of major interest to the American Jewish communities. Each volume features 5-7 major review chapters, including 2-3 long chapters written by top experts on each topic.

The planned 2017 volume features review articles on such topics as The Jewish Place in America's Religious Landscape by Alan Cooperman and Becka A. Alper of the Pew Research Center; Economics and American Judaism in the 21st Century by Carmel U. Chiswick and/or Intermarriage Among American Jews by Bruce Phillips. Also, several standard articles typically featured include American Jews and the Domestic Arena by Miriam Sanua Dalin; American Jews and the International Arena by Mitchell Bard; United States Jewish Population, 2017 by Ira M. Sheskin and Arnold Dashefsky; Canadian Jewish Population, 2017 by Charles Shahar; and World Jewish Population, 2017 by Sergio DellaPergola.

In addition, the volume contains up-to-date listings of Jewish Federations, Jewish Community Centers, Jewish social service agencies, national Jewish organizations, Jewish day schools, Jewish overnight camps, Jewish museums, Holocaust museums, Israeli consulates, national Jewish periodicals and broadcast media, local Jewish periodicals, Jewish studies programs, holocaust and genocide studies programs, Israel studies programs, as well as Jewish social work programs in institutions of higher education, major books, journals, and scholarly articles on the North American Jewish communities, websites and organizations for research on North American Jewry, and major Judaic research and holocaust research libraries.

Finally, the volume contains a list of major events in the North American Jewish communities, a list of persons honored by the Jewish and general communities, and obituaries for the past year.

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