Mandell "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! ☃️

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Keren R. McGinity would like to thank Sharon Alterman, Ofra Backenroth, Michael Brooks, Sarai Brachman-Shoup, Pamela Burko, Steven Cohen, Arnold Dashefsky, Deborah Dash Moore, Aimee Ergas, Karla Goldman, Joan Goodman, Harriet Hartman, Susan Kamin, Len Saxe, and Ira Sheskin for their contributions to this article.

Photo credits: page 1: Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit; page 3: Jewish Historical Society of Michigan.

☞ There will be a brief presentation of the “Lifetime Achievement Award” to Bill Berman by Arnie Dashefsky at the Marshall Sklare Award Reception at AJS in Boston in the Parliament Room, Sunday, 6:15 - 7:15 PM.
The population articles from the defunct *American Jewish Year Book* are now being published as part of a new series sponsored by the North American Jewish Data Bank, the Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry, and the Jewish Federations of North America. The series is called *Current Jewish Population Reports*. The article by Ira Sheskin and Arnold Dashefsky ("The Jewish Population of the United States, 2010") has been published as Report 2010-1. The article by Sergio DellaPergola ("World Jewish Population, 2010") has been published as Report 2010-2.

Dashefsky, Sheskin, and DellaPergola are acting as the editors of the new series. While this first year, only two Reports will be issued, we invite others to submit ideas for additional Reports. These should NOT be the types of research that should be submitted to *Contemporary Jewry* or a like journal and should also not be book length. Ideally, such reports should be descriptive works that can be read by both academics as well as educated lay persons.

All Reports will be published on [www.jewishdatabank.org](http://www.jewishdatabank.org), and the [www.assj.org](http://www.assj.org) web sites. If you are interested in authoring a Report, please send a one-page proposal to: arnold.dashefsky@uconn.edu and isheskin@miami.edu.
I am delighted to be contributing to our Newsletter, and once again want to thank Ira Sheskin, for putting together such an interesting issue.

By now all nominations are in for our upcoming elections, and I urge each of you to vote and to consider running for a position on the Board next year if you did not run (or win) this election.

Thanks to all who voted for our by-law revision. Of all the votes cast, 98% were in favor of the revision. Terms of office now count from the first elected term.

Thanks to the Berman Jewish Policy Archive for co-sponsoring another webinar with ASSJ: David Makovsky spoke on "Middle East Peace Negotiations: Is There a Chance for Success?" on October 6. Look for upcoming webinars in the spring, and be sure to send us your wish list for upcoming webinars.

Check out our website (www.assj.org) for links to the latest issue of Contemporary Jewry, and many thanks to Ben Phillips for making this possible.

For many years we've been trying to make it easier to pay your membership dues to ASSJ, especially for our international members. Thanks to the efforts of Gail Glicksman (Treasurer) and Ben Phillips (Secretary), you can now pay your dues through PayPal from our website (or with a special email arrangement with Gail Glicksman). No more excuses for procrastination! It is so easy, you should bring another member on board to do so as well!

ASSJ IS ON THE MOVE
What are we doing that we did not do 5 years ago?
1) Contemporary Jewry is published by Springer and has moved from an annual to three times per year
2) The Study of Jews in Society Book Series
3) The Current Jewish Population Reports in cooperation with the North American Jewish Data Bank and the Jewish Federations of North America
4) This Newsletter, published 2X per year.

We are looking forward to the upcoming Association of Jewish Studies meeting, where we host the Marshall Sklare Memorial Lecture on Sunday, December 19, at 4:15, followed by a reception for this year's honoree, Steven M. Cohen. The reception is co-sponsored by ASSJ, the Berman Jewish Policy Archive, and Synagogue 3000. The ASSJ Board meeting is from 2-4 PM before the Sklare award session, and you are all invited to attend.

This year at the Sklare session we will be honoring Bill Berman for his extraordinary support of the social scientific study of Jewry, and instituting a new tradition of honoring those who have contributed through service or support to our field of study. One more reason for you to attend the Sklare session and join us for this special award. See more on Bill Berman elsewhere in the newsletter.

I look forward to seeing those of you who attend AJS, and to hearing from all of you about any ASSJ-related matters.

Stay warm this winter,
Harriet (Hartman@rowan.edu)
The New Springer Book Series, “Studies of Jews in Society” is devoted to the social scientific study of Jewry in a broad sense, including all social sciences and their methodologies, focusing on contrasting the diversities of Jewry in its many manifestations, and the ways in which Jews and Jewry bridge between these diversities and to the wider contexts in which Jews and Jewry are found. It seeks to address methodological aspects of social scientific research, which often impact the meaning and conclusions of research.

If you or your colleagues are interested in submitting a book proposal or a manuscript, please prepare a detailed abstract with a chapter outline and timetable, and submit it with a current CV to the Series Editor (Harriet Hartman, Hartman@rowan.edu) or the Publishing Editor at Springer (Willemijn Arts, Willemijn.Arts@springer.com).

For submission guidelines and other information, please visit www.springer.com.

Book Series Editorial Board:
- Sarah Abramson, London School of Economics, Board of Deputies of British Jews
- Samuel Heilman, Queens College, NY
- Debra Kaufman, Northeastern University, MA
- Judith Bokser Liwerant, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico
- Bruce Phillips, Hebrew Union College, CA
- Uzi Rebhun, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel
- Len Saxe, Brandeis University

NEW SPRINGER BOOK SERIES

Studies of Jews in Society

Series Editor: Harriet Hartman
Rowan University
NEWS FROM MEMBERS

ARIELA KEYSAR
Trinity College, Public Policy and Law

- "Belonging, Believing and Behaving: Persistent Gender Gaps in American Religion" and "Religiosity of scientists and academics: an international comparison" were both presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion in Baltimore, October 2010

ARNOLD DASHEFSKY
Doris and Simon Konover Chair of Judaic Studies, Professor, Department of Sociology, Director, Center for Judaic Studies and Contemporary Jewish Life, and Director, Berman Institute-North American Jewish Data Bank, University of Connecticut

- Berman Institute - North American Jewish Data Bank," continues to operate at the Center for Judaic Studies and Contemporary Jewish Life, in cooperation with the Roper Center at the University of Connecticut, through the generous support of the Berman Foundation and the Jewish Federations of North America.

BARRY AND CARMEL CHISWICK
George Washington University, Economics

- Barry Chiswick and Carmel Chiswick are moving to George Washington University as of January 2011. Barry will be Professor and Chairman of the Department of Economics. Carmel will be Research Professor in the Department of Economics. They will be keeping their UIC e-mail accounts.
- Carmel University. Chiswick "How Economics Helped Shape American Judaism," pp. 646-662
**HARRIET HARTMAN & MOSHE HARTMAN**  
Rowan University, Sociology

- Harriet Hartman and Moshe Hartman  
- Harriet Hartman received the 2010 Berman Summer Research Fellowship at the North American Jewish Data Bank for her research on "The effect of Jewish identity on family and secular behaviors: a cross community comparison."

  For the analysis, she is utilizing 21 community studies archived at the Data Bank, collected under the supervision of Ira Sheskin, who has combined them in a single user file and is collaborating with her on the research.

- Harriet Hartman received the 2010-11 Jacquet Research Award from the Religious Research Association to study "Jewish Identity and its Influence on Secular Pursuits," which will extend the study she started for the Berman Summer Research Fellowship.

**IRA M. SHESKIN**  
University of Miami, Geography


**Papers Presented**

The Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry

Volume 2 Number 2


Media appearances
- WLVJ (1040 AM) on Shalom South Florida on the number of Jews in the United States (2010).
- WIOD (610 AM) on withdrawal of US forces from Iraq (2010).
- Channel 2 (Israel). Interview with Orly Vilnai-Federbush and Guy Meroz on the elderly in Florida (2010).
- BBC Radio World Have Your Say show on Israeli settlement policy (2010).

He is currently working on a Jewish demographic study for the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven and is working on a project with Harriet Hartman on Jewish identity. With Arnie Dashefsky and Sergio DellaPergola, he is one of the editors of the new Report series from the Data Bank.

Jack Nusan Porter
Independent Scholar

Just a note to announce my latest book---Happy (Freilich) Days Revisited: Growing Up Jewish in Ike’s America---my first-person memoir along with friends Gerry Glazer and Sandy Aronin of growing up in Milwaukee’s West Side in the frum community of Rabbi Jacob Twerski and his sons—Rabbi Abraham Joshua Twerski, Reb Michel Twerski, Reb Aaron, and Motel Twerski, facing the challenges of Judaism, anti-Semitism, the emerging teen culture . . . and girls . . . in 1950s Middle America Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Send $21.00 (postage included) to The Spencer Press, 79 Walnut Street, Suite 4, Newton, Mass. 02460-1331. It includes 48 photos, a bibliography on Midwestern Jewry, and a glossary of Yiddish terms.

Jerome A. Chanes
Research Fellow at the Center for Jewish Studies, CUNY Graduate Center,

- "Who Killed Mizrachi: Religious Zionism and Modern Orthodoxy in Israel and America," presented at a conference at Bar-Ilan University on "Whither American Zionism?"
- "Gedolim on Public-Affairs Issues: The Netziv, Rav Hutner, and Rabbi Soloveitchik on Antisemitism, the Holocaust, the Jewish Community—and Da’as Torah," at the 2008 AJS Conference
- Forthcoming at the 2010 conference: "The American Jewish Year Book: The Prism for Refracting a Century of Jewish Life."

Chanes’s reviews of books, art exhibitions, and other cultural matters appear regularly in the English-language The Forward, where he serves as a Contributing Editor, and the New York Jewish Week.

Recent publications include articles in the New York Jewish Week, "For American Jews, A Defining Moment," in a special section on "Forty years after the Six-Day War"; "Jewish Education and Superfunds: Exploding the
Myth of Federation Support”; a review-essay of Fred A. Lazin, *The Struggle for Soviet Jewry in American Politics: Israel Versus the American Jewish Establishment*, in *Studies in Contemporary Jewry*; and articles in various newspapers and journals on contemporary antisemitism, the role of the federation system and Jewish education, the Kasztner affair, and the death of Hebrew and of Religious Zionism in America.

Reviews include:
- Hasia Diner's *We Remember with Reverence and Love: American Jews and the Myth of Silence after the Holocaust*
- Zvi Gitelman's *Religion or Ethnicity?*
- Murray Baumgarten’s *Varieties of Antisemitism*
- Hayim Tawil's *Akkadian Lexical Companion*
- Robert Alter's *Pen of Iron*, of the new JPS translation of the *Miqraot Gedolot*
- Gal Beckerman's *When They Come for Us We'll Be Gone*
- Jerry Z. Muller's *Capitalism and the Jews*
- Abraham H. Foxman's *Jews and Money*
- Martin van Creveld's *In the Land of Blood and Honey: A History of Israel*

Chanes also published several articles on a range of Jewish public affairs issues in *Encyclopedia of Race, Ethnicity, and Society*, the *Cambridge Encyclopedia of Jewish Religion, History, and Culture*, and *Encyclopedia of American Jewish History*.

Jerry authors a monthly column, the award-winning "Journal Watch," for "Text/Context," a special section of the *New York Jewish Week*.


He has taught at Brandeis University's Gralla Fellows and Harvard University's Nieman Fellowship programs for journalists. He delivered the 2010 Lehmann Memorial Lecture (New York) on "'Eisav Sonei et Yaakov'? What's New About the 'New' Antisemitism: A Historical Analysis of American and European Antisemitism."

**Keith Kahn-Harris**
Honorary Research Fellow at the Centre for Religion and Contemporary Society at Birkbeck College

The first book-length study of contemporary British Jewry, *Turbulent Times: The British Jewish Community Today* examines the changing nature of the British Jewish community and its leadership since 1990. **Keith Kahn-Harris** and **Ben Gidley** contend that there has been a shift within Jewish communal discourse from a strategy of security, which emphasized Anglo-Jewry's secure belonging and citizenship, to a strategy of insecurity, which emphasizes the dangers and threats Jews face individually and communally. This shift is part of a process of renewal in the community that has led to something of a 'Jewish renaissance' in Britain.

Addressing key questions on the transitions in the history of Anglo-Jewish community and leadership, and tackling the concept of the 'new antisemitism', this important and timely
study addresses the question: how has UK Jewry adapted from a shift from monoculturalism to multiculturalism?

“There is a paradox at the centre of Jewish life in modern Britain. On the one hand Jews are arguably the most successfully integrated ethnic minority in Britain today. On the other, they feel marginalized and - still - unwelcome. Drs. Kahn-Harris and Gidley offer us the first scholarly dissection of this paradox. Their conclusions - based on the exhaustive examination of written and oral sources - will surprise many. But these conclusions could also offer the blueprint for a renewed engagement between Britain's Jews and the British state.” - Geoffrey Alderman, Michael Gross Professor of Politics & Contemporary History, University of Buckingham, UK

Published by Continuum (paperback and hardback).
Available for £14:99 at http://www.amazon.co.uk/Turbulent-Times-British-Jewish-Community/dp/1847144764/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8

Keren McGinity
Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies at Brandeis University and Frankel Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan

Keren is writing her second book focusing on intermarriage, fatherhood, and masculinity. She was the Scholar-in-Residence at Temple Beth El in Fort Worth, TX, where she delivered a talk entitled “Jews and Gender: Why Intermarriage Isn't the End of the World,” and facilitated a program for intermarried couples and parents of intermarried couples. Rabbi Ralph Mecklenburger described: "Dr. McGinity is young, pleasant, very bright, and well worth hearing!" She participated in the Roundtable Discussion, “Counting What Matters,” published in the October 2010 issue of the journal Sh'ma. She wrote a book review of Stars of David: Prominent Jews Talk about Being Jewish for publication in the multidisciplinary journal Women in Judaism (forthcoming).

Barry Kosmin
Trinity College

• Senior Associate, Centre for Hebrew & Jewish Studies, University of Oxford, re-appointed for academic years 2010-12.
• International Academic Board of Advisors, The Yale Initiative for the Interdisciplinary Study of Antisemitism, Yale University
• Advisor, Secular Studies Area proposal, Pitzer College, CA.

Editorial:
Guest Editor, Special Issue on Jewish Secularism, Contemporary Jewry, 30 (1), June 2010. (Springer)

Publications:
• Introduction to the Special Issue on Jewish Secularism, Contemporary Jewry, 30 (1), 2010, pp.1-2.

Public Lectures:
• University of London, School of African and Asian Studies, April 2010, Accounting for the U.S. Israel Lobby.
Conference Papers:
- "The ISSSC Curriculum on Secularism" 6th Annual Posen Project Conference, Tulane University, March 2010.
- "Is there a 21st Century Global Scientific Culture? An Examination of the Worldviews and Opinions of Scientists in India." International Society for the Comparative Study of Civilizations, Annual Conference, Brigham Young University, June 2010.

Media interviews & quotations:

Morton Weinfeld
McGill University

- (with Evelyne Massa), "We needed to prove we were good Canadians: Contrasting paradigms for suspect minorities." In the Canadian Journal for Social Research, 2010 3:1.

Shawn Landres
Co-founder, CEO & Director of Research, Jumpstart


- Jumpstart expects to release findings from the 2010 Survey of New Jewish Initiatives in North America in due course. Many of the issues raised by these studies will be addressed at the AJS in a session entitled "Reorganizing the American Jewish Community: What Can Changes in the American Philanthropic/Nonprofit Sector Tell us about Judaism & Jewish Life?" (Monday 12/20, 8:30am).
- In addition, Shawn moderated a discussion in Sh'ma (October 2010) on "Counting What Matters: A Roundtable"; this past year, he has served as a consultant to the AVI CHAI Young Leaders Project.

Steve Gold
Michigan State University

- The Store in the Hood: A Century of Ethnic Business and Conflict, Roman and Littlefield, 2010
- "After the Cold War: Comparing Soviet Jewish and Vietnamese Youth in the 1980s to Today's Young Refugees," in How to Help Young Immigrants Succeed edited by Gerald Holton and Gerhard Sonnert, Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 75-88, 2010
Paper Presentations

- "Sebastião Salgado and Visual Sociology" presented at "Celebrating the Work of Sebastião Salgado: A Sociological Lens on Salgado's Documentary Photography" in a session honoring Sebastião Salgado as recipient of the ASA Award for Excellence in the Reporting of Social Issues, American Sociological Association Meeting, Atlanta, August 2010

Ted Sasson
Brandeis University


Deborah Dash Moore
University of Michigan

Gender and Jewish History
Edited by Marion A. Kaplan and Deborah Dash Moore

Gender's critical importance to understanding Jewish history

"A major collection of scholarship that contains the most up-to-date, indeed cutting-edge work on gender and Jewish history by several generations of top scholars." —Atina Grossmann, The Cooper Union

By revealing the importance of gender in interpreting the Jewish past, this collection of original essays highlights the profound influence that feminist scholarship has had on the study of Jewish history since the 1970s. Gender and Jewish History considers the impact of gender on Jewish religious practices and political behavior, educational accomplishments and communal structures, acculturation and choice of occupations. The book stimulates conversations on such topics as Jewish women’s creativity and spirituality, violence against women, Jews’ reactions to persecution in the Holocaust, and Judaism as lived religion and culture. Honoring Paula Hyman, one of the founders of Jewish gender studies, this volume shows gender to be an eye-opening entry into realms of Jewish history previously untouched by it.
n September 2, 2010, Professor Shmuel Noah Eisenstadt passed away. The founder of the first Department of Sociology and Anthropology in Israel (at Hebrew University of Jerusalem) and the most prolific sociologist in Israel (dozens of books and hundreds of papers), he was the Rose Isaacs Professor Emeritus of Sociology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, where he chaired the department from 1950-1969, and also served as Dean of the Faculty of Humanities. His fierce defense of structural functionalism as THE sociology was catalyst for some of the most passionate politics of Israeli sociology. Founder of the Israel Sociological Society, he served as its first president. He was senior research fellow at the Van Leer Institute of Jerusalem since 1967. He held visiting positions the world over, too, including Harvard, Stanford, MIT, Chicago, Oslo, Zurich, Vienna, and Hong Kong. His contributions were recognized by numerous awards, among them the International Balzan Prize in Sociology, the McIver award of the American Sociological Association, Amalfi Prize for Sociology and Social Sciences, the Israel Prize and the Rothschild Prize in Social Sciences, the Max Planck Research Award, Ambassador of Cultural Dialogue Award, Polish Asia Pacific Council, Warsaw; EMET Foundation Prize in Sociology, and, most recently, of the Holberg International Memorial Prize. Known for his work on “multiple modernities” and historical diversity, on traditions and their constant
re-interpretations, on collective identities and the transformations of states, on globalization and primordiality, his work was translated the world over.

He did not neglect the social scientific study of Jewry, although it was but one among many of his interests. In the first decades of the new State of Israel, Professor Eisenstadt's graduate students were contracted to study government bureaucracy, the adaption of newcomers to unfamiliar milieus, immigrants' absorption into unfamiliar kinds of work, the success of immigration children in schools, and so on. His works in this area include (but are not limited to): *From Generation to Generation* (3 editions), *Israeli Society*, *The Transformation of Israeli Society: an Essay in Interpretation, Integration and Development in Israel Jewish Civilization: the Jewish Historical Experience in a Comparative Perspective*, *Explorations in Jewish Historical Experience: The Civilization Dimension*. More than any other sociologist, he placed the study of Jews and Israel in civilizational perspective.

Professor Eisenstadt played an important role in my development as a social scientist of Jewry. When I made aliya in 1969, my then husband-to-be waited for me with a copy of Eisenstadt's *Israeli Society* to help my acclimation to Israel and to sociology in Israel; I sat in many of Eisenstadt's seminars as a graduate student and later as his post-doc; I was one of the many cogs in his imperial wheels, perusing tons of literature toward his work on axial civilizations. A phenomenal multitasker, speed reader, owner of a vast library in his Rehavia apartment, his grasp on the larger comparisons of civilizations and global phenomena were inspirational and awe-inducing.

He will be sorely missed, but his contributions will endure for many years to come.

Harriet Hartman

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**Martin Kraar**

By Jacob Berkman · November 3, 2010

NEW YORK (JTA) -- Martin Kraar, who was instrumental in helping the Council of Jewish Federations merge with the United Jewish Appeal and the United Israel Appeal, has died at the age of 69.

As executive vice president, he led the CJF for 10 years until 1998. The CJF merger with UJA and UIA formed what ultimately has become the Jewish Federations of North America.

Kraar left the CJF just before the merger to lead the American Committee for the Weizmann Institute.

“It is with a heavy heart we note the passing of our friend and beloved colleague, Marty Kraar,” said Jerry Silverman, president and CEO of JFNA. “He led our organization with vision, courage and wisdom through a period of transition, and spent his life devoted to the betterment of the Jewish people. We honor his memory with gratitude for the wonderful gimilut chasadim, acts of loving kindness, he performed on behalf of our people and will continue to find inspiration in the legacy of his leadership.”
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.

Steven M. Cohen

Steven M. Cohen is among the most prominent sociologists of American Jewry of his generation and has been a major player in the sociological study of American Jews for several decades. His research and his reviews are central to understanding the field and are almost without exception used in courses in the sociology of American Jews. He therefore not only has influenced colleagues and policy makers but has shaped the way the next generation is exposed to the main themes in the sociology of American Jews. His research is thoughtful and provocative and has generated important discussions in the field. As a scholar, he has been responsive to communal issues and has sharpened and modified his views in interaction with his colleagues. His research has been insightful and more often than not policy directed. Because he has published extensively in the field and has contributed to both the scholarly and to more popular/policy reports to Jewish communities on aspects of Jewish identity and the American Jewish community, he has been a major bridge between the academy and policy fields. As such he has brought recognition of the value of studying the Jewish community to the academic studies of American ethnic and religious groups and has brought academic research studies to the direct attention of policy makers.

He has made important critical methodological assessments of community and national surveys and has exploited existing data sources to examine neglected research questions. Some have occasionally disagreed with his theoretical orientation and have expressed reservations about his methodological strategies. But his research is always challenging and cannot be ignored. He has served within the American Jewish community in a variety of capacities, the foremost of which is as consultant on sociological aspects of Jewish community studies. He has always made available the core data files that he has used and has organized electronically extensive bibliographic and data sources. For that alone his contributions have the highest value.

He has held a series of academic appointment since the completion of his degree at Columbia University. He has been a Full Professor of Sociology at Queens College, CUNY in New York, at the Melton Center for Jewish Education in the Faculty of Humanities at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, and is currently Research Professor of Jewish Social Policy at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion and Director of the Berman Jewish Policy Archive at NYU Wagner. He has been a visiting scholar at Brandeis, Yale, and the Jewish Theological Seminary.
He has written or edited a dozen books and hundreds of scholarly articles and reports on such issues as the American Jewish community, Jewish identity, and Jewish education. With Arnold Eisen, he wrote *The Jew Within: Self, Family and Community in America*, co-authored with Charles Liebman *Two Worlds of Judaism: The Israeli and American Experiences*, and *Cosmopolitans and Parochials: Modern Orthodox Jews in America* with Samuel Heilman. His earlier books include *American Modernity and Jewish Identity* and *American Assimilation or Jewish Revival?* His current research interests extend to emerging forms of Jewish community and identity among younger Jews in the United States. His research on intermarriage since his dissertation in 1974 has shaped the way social scientists and communal professionals have understood the determinants and extent of marriages between Jews and non-Jews in the United States. He has also co-edited books on the Jewish family, Jewish education, the distribution of Jews, and population.

One of his most recent research articles on distancing between Israeli and American Jewish communities generated considerable response and reaction and has been organized in the October 2010 issue of *Contemporary Jewry*. Again the links between policy and research, between data analysis and interpretation, between theoretical argument and practical application are conspicuous features of Steve Cohen's work. And in this latest effort he has brought together scholars, communal leaders, and organizational executives to consider a key set of issues. In these efforts, he continues to have a major impact on the sociology of American Jews and on the organization of the American Jewish community.

Submitted by

**Calvin Goldscheider**  
Professor Emeritus of Sociology  
Ungerleider Professor Emeritus of Judaic Studies  
Brown University

**Scholar in Residence**  
Center for Israel Studies  
American University  
Washington, DC
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, sociology)
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)

WWW.JTA.ORG

One web site that should be of significant interest to all members is www.jta.org. This is the web site of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, which is basically an Associated Press for Jewish news. In particular, you can sign up for an e-mail that comes each weekday that provides headlines from the Jewish world and links to stories in other publications.

WWW.JEWISHIDEASDAILY.COM

This web site will also send you a daily e-mail with links to stories. While JTA tends to carry many news items, this web site tends to link to, and write some of their own stories, that include more in-depth analysis. In early December, they covered Sergio DellaPergola’s World Jewish Population, 2010 Report!

JUMPSTART RESEARCH

Are you interested in research on Jewish organizations and/or organizational development, innovation, and Jewish and/or faith-based social entrepreneurship? Jumpstart is interested in identifying quantitative and qualitative researchers (located anywhere in the world) who are or would like to be in conversation about these issues. All welcome, from senior faculty to advanced graduate students to independent scholars. Please contact Shawn Landres at shawn@jewishjumpstart.org.

ASSJ BOARD MEETING

ASSJ Board Meeting at AJS, Boston

Room: Courier (7th Floor)
Sunday, 2:00 – 4:00 PM

All are invited to attend.
About the ASSJ

The Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry is a cross-disciplinary organization of individuals 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. The journal publishes research that draws on a range of social scientific fields and methodologies, and encourages cutting-edge research and lively debate.

All social science disciplines are represented, including sociology, social psychology, anthropology, demography, geography, history, social work, economics, political science, and Jewish education.

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.

ASSJ Board of Directors

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- Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies (Brandeis University)
- Frankel Center for Advanced Jewish Studies (University of Michigan)
- Center for Judaic Studies and Contemporary Jewish Life (University of Connecticut)
Contemporary Jewry, the journal of the ASSJ, 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 North America, Europe, Australasia and Israel. 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.

Over 175 articles have been published in Contemporary Jewry since its inception. Each issue includes articles or review essays across a variety of social science disciplines, including anthropology, demography, economics, education, ethnography, history, politics, population, social psychology, social history, geography, and sociology. In addition, many issues include research notes or important work originally published in Hebrew but translated and made available to the English language reader. Special issues have focused on such topics as the National Jewish Population Survey, Jewish community surveys, Ultra-Orthodox Jews, Women in the Holocaust, economic frameworks for understanding Jewry, secular Jewry, the distancing hypothesis, and Jewry in Israel. Individual articles have ranged from Jewish identity in Syria, the Ukraine, New Zealand and Israel; from an analysis of rabbis’ salaries to a historical study of Jewish women physicians in Central Europe; from survey research to ethnography to historical analysis.

Each year Contemporary Jewry includes the Marshall Sklare Award lecture, delivered at the Association of Jewish Studies conference in co-sponsorship with the Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry, the founding association of the journal, by distinguished scholars chosen to receive the award because of their contributions to the field of the social scientific study of Jewry. The distinguished editorial board reflects the multi-disciplinary nature of the journal.

You can access the journal on-line at the “Journal” tab at www.assj.org.

Available Now Via On-Line First
- A Rabbi, a Priest, and a Psychoanalyst: Religion in the Early Psychoanalytic Case History, Maya Balakirsky Katz
- Social Networks and Jews, Charles Kadushin
- Comment on Kadushin, Social Networks and Jews, Paul Burstein
- Jewish Nonprofit Organizations in the U.S.: A Preliminary Survey, Paul Burstein

The most downloaded article from Contemporary Jewry:

Census-Based Estimates of the Hasidic Jewish Population by Joshua Comenetz

--------------------------------------------------------------
The Mandell L. Berman Institute North American Jewish Data Bank is the central repository of social scientific studies of North American Jewry.

The Data Bank’s primary functions are to:

- Acquire, archive, and disseminate quantitative data sets and reports, both contemporary and historical, and
- Encourage utilization of the archive through training and provide information about methods for studying Jewish communities.

Our goal is to aid in understanding North American Jewish communities, and to improve the quality and utilization of research conducted about North American Jewry.

What’s New at the Data Bank
(www.jewishdatabank.org.)

- World Jewish Population, 2010 by Sergio DellaPergola
- Jewish Population in the United States, 2010 by Ira M. Sheskin and Arnold Dashefsky
- The results of a Louisville (2006) mail survey of the Jewish community by Bruce Gale.
- The new population articles on US Jewish population by Ira M. Sheskin and Arnold Dashefsky and on world Jewish population by Sergio DellaPergola will soon be posted.
- Intermarriage and Jewish Journeys in the United States by Arnold Dashefsky in collaboration with Zachary I. Heller.
- The Cleveland Intermarriage Study (2007) by Pearl Beck.
- Educators in Jewish Schools Study (2007) by Michael Ben-Avie, Jeffrey Kress, and Shira Rosenblatt.
The Berman Jewish Policy Archive @ NYU Wagner (www.bjpa.org) now contains 7,500 freely downloadable documents dating back to 1900. Most of our recent additions come from Sh’mah: A Journal of Jewish Responsibility, from its inception in 1970 until today. You will also find the latest Jewish social science research on BJPA, including Jack Wertheimer’s “Generation of Change: How Leaders in their Twenties and Thirties are Reshaping American Jewish Life” and Riv-Ellen Prell’s “Jewish Summer Camping and Civil Rights: How Summer Camps Launched a Transformation in American Jewish Culture.” BJPA is a valuable resource for researchers and students. Do send any material that you would like to include on BJPA to Mordecai Walfish at mwalfish@nyu.edu.

BJPA @ NYU Wagner (www.bjpa.org) has installed several new features:

●"Bookshelf" allows you to keep a permanent personalized list of documents to which you may return.

●"Bibliography" allow you to generate lists of citations suitable for use in academic papers, course syllabi, etc.

To use these and other new features, register and login. We will offer an even more advanced 'advanced search,' with auto-complete for searching by author and topic and the ability to exclude search terms. Soon you will be able to submit and post your documents on the Archive. We invite you to follow our progress and learn more about our offerings via Twitter, Facebook, the new BJPA blog, and our monthly newsletter.

Prof. Steven M. Cohen
Director, Berman Jewish Policy Archive @ NYU Wagner, Steve34nyc@aol.com.

The BJPA is generously funded by the Mandell L. and Madeleine H. Berman Foundation and the Charles H. Revson Foundation.
Earlier this year, I and my colleague Jonathan Boyd, at the Institute for Jewish Policy Research (JPR), conducted the first nationwide British study of Jewish people's attitudes towards Israel. This survey also broke new ground for the community as it was the first national survey conducted solely online and utilizing UK census data on religion and other Jewish survey data to calibrate and weight the 4,000 responses.

We found that, in general, respondents exhibited strong support for Israel, although they were not averse to expressing some concerns. In contrast to their American brethren, the vast majority (95%) had visited Israel. They almost all consider it their "ancestral homeland" (90%) and feel responsible for its survival (87%). Further, most say it plays a "central" or "important" role in their Jewish identities (82%). On the other hand, despite these strong levels of personal attachment to Israel, respondents did express criticism, especially about the state of Israeli society: 74% think that Orthodox Judaism has too much influence; 67% consider there to be too much corruption in Israel's political system; and 56% feel that non-Jewish minority groups suffer from discrimination.

In terms of the peace process, it was clear that a majority of respondents both desire peace and is prepared to see Israel make concessions to achieve it. However, respondents were equally clear that Israel's security is of great importance, although they differed on which security measures are necessary, and the extent to which security considerations should influence government policy. For example, on a number of dovish positions, strong and clear agreement exists across the sample: three of four favor a two-state solution to the conflict with the Palestinians; the same proportion believes it is wrong for existing settlements in the West Bank to be expanded, and 67% favor exchanging land for peace. However, on security issues an equally forthright, though more hawkish stance exists: 72% believe that the security fence is "vital" for Israel; and 72% feel that Operation Cast Lead was justified in terms of self-defense. On other key issues, a majority of the sample is also in agreement, but to a lesser extent: 55% see Israel as an occupying power in the West Bank; 52% support the idea of Israel negotiating with Hamas. This last statistic was highlighted by several journalists.

We were also keen to explore what the term 'Zionist' means to Jews in contemporary Britain and found that in many respects, a certain repositioning of the term has occurred. Respondents who labeled themselves 'Zionist' (72% of the sample) were more likely than those who did not (21% of the sample) to exhibit greater support for Israel and the choices its government makes. They also tended to be more willing to give Israel the benefit of the doubt on contentious political and domestic issues. However the results also suggest that the terms 'Zionist' and 'non-Zionist' have lost much of their classical meanings (with respect to the right of Jews to political self-determination in their own country), and more closely related to the extent to which Jews in Britain are sympathetic to, or critical of, Israeli government policy. For example, the data show that 'Zionists' and 'non-Zionists' do not always exhibit predictable patterns of opinion. On several points, Zionist respondents exhibited dovish stances on security issues and the policies of Israel's government, whereas non-Zionist respondents expressed opinions which are more readily associated with traditional Zionist positions, for example, expressions of close attachment to Israel and concern about its security.
Previous studies have shown that a person's Jewish religious positioning impacts their political stance on Israel. Generally speaking, respondents tending towards the religious end of the religious-secular continuum were likely to exhibit more hawkish sentiments on security issues. However, we noted that the gradient of opinion, as one moves across the religious-secular dimension, is far steeper in relation to political issues than to existential and ethnic ones. For example, on issues such as Israel being "the ancestral homeland of the Jewish people," the differences between religious and secular Jews were not that marked: fully three-quarters of 'Secular' respondents ascribed to the "Israel as Jewish ancestral homeland" concept. Yet raise the question of talking to Hamas or assigning responsibility for past failures in the peace process, and the secular-religious camps exhibited a clear divergence along denominational lines.

Finally, and perhaps of particular interest to ASSJ members, we obtained a rather surprising result relating educational achievement to political stance. The more highly educated the respondents, the more likely they were to hold dovish views and to be critical of Israel's domestic policies. For example, respondents with at least postgraduate qualifications were more likely than their less well qualified counterparts to agree that non-Jewish minority groups in Israel suffer from discrimination. They were also more likely to agree that Israel should cede land for peace and that Israel is an occupying power, but they were less likely to agree that the security fence is vital for Israel, or that the Operation Cast Lead was a legitimate act of self-defense.

The Initial Findings report can be downloaded from: (http://www.jpr.org.uk/index.php) which also contains links to media coverage.
Shaul Kelner's book is auspiciously timed, with discussion still swirling about American Jewish attitudes toward Israel. While much is contested about Peter Beinart's controversial essay, there is agreement that a sizable proportion of young people, especially among the non-Orthodox, are disengaged from Israel: what the proportion is, who they are, whether the proportion is increasing and whether it is part of a more general disaffection from Jewish involvement or specific to Israel are all in dispute. These disaffected Jews are, however, precisely the target population of Taglit-Birthright Israel, the program that funds Israel-experience trips for young adults and is the focus of Kelner's "Tours that Bind: Diaspora, Pilgrimage and Israeli Birthright Tourism."

Kelner has intimate knowledge of Birthright, having gone on three separate trips as a "participant observer," written his doctoral dissertation on it and participated in its evaluations while at the Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies, at Brandeis University. So, I expected the book to be a definitive evaluation of the program. But while Kelner does use existing research to discuss how well the tours have worked, he's more interested in how they manage to "bind" their tourists — and what they manage to "bind" them to.

As a quantitative sociologist, I rely on many cases to make me feel comfortable with the conclusions of research. Yet Kelner gives a supreme example of how a case study can be successful. Drawing mainly on his own participant-observation experiences, Kelner situates the program in a context of political tourism, giving us new tools with which to understand the visceral, emotional and cognitive impacts on the participants. This provides a sophisticated lens through which to analyze what the Birthright program, and others like it, does, how it accomplishes its goals, what those goals are and why the mechanisms used may also limit its impact.
As Kelner describes how the program is experienced through the participants' own words, I couldn't help but compare this to my own first experience of Israel. I was one of seven high school representatives of U.S. Girl Scouts to the International Scout Jamboree; only two of us were Jewish. I knew at the time that I would have the privilege of a different window onto Israel than I would have had with a Jewish youth or synagogue group (as my sister had). Indeed, I visited many of the Christian sights the Birthright participants don't; I mingled with Israeli Druze and Arabs through the jamboree, and spent 10 days as an international visitor worker on a kibbutz.

Unlike the Birthright participants, I had very little exposure to any Israeli telling me I had come "home," little prodding from my leaders or peers to re-examine my Jewish or Diaspora identity, and little exposure to the political forces of the day (especially as they were much less imminently pressing in the mid-1960s than they are today). And yet, Israel worked its wonder on me and touched a core of my Jewish identity and pride that was, as it were, life-changing. With the tools in Kelner's book, I can look back to that experience and analyze how and why this effect was realized, what role I played in it as agent, and what role others' agency and structure played in it. I would thus recommend the book to anyone who has made a "first visit" to Israel (or anywhere else as a "political tourist"), because of the insight it offers.

With typical ethnocentrism, Jews may be surprised to learn that they are not the only diasporic people who have engaged in "political tourism" to the homeland. Drawing on research from Taiwan, China, South Korea, Africa, India, and Central and Eastern Europe, Kelner provides a refreshingly broader spectrum of comparison for Israel-experience tours. He also summarizes the background of these tours as they began and developed, utilizing the Israeli educational tiyul (literally, hiking, but also used more broadly as a "ritualized sanctification of space") for forging personal ties to the land, bringing us to the current Birthright program.

 Appropriately for the amount of money spent on them, these programs are highly developed. Exploring the guidelines and implementation of the program as he observes it firsthand, Kelner reveals the ongoing and vital importance of the interaction between guides and tourists. Neither group is just a passive pawn of the system. Through detailed narrative examples, he shows how both verbal and nonverbal factors affect political understandings, and how questions, joking behavior and actions of the particular tourist group affect implementation of any intentional messages.

Kelner explains why there is no monolithic shaping of attitudes about the Arab-Israeli conflict and why there could not be, even if that were the intent of the forces behind the program. J Street may be rooted in the experiences of some of Birthright's participants, just as the American Israel Public Affairs Committee may get its support from others. As Kelner points out, on the other hand, by exploring in-depth the multifaceted nature of Israeli society without doing the same for Palestinian or Arab society, the tours do, in fact, shape the pro-Zionist emotional impact of the political socialization. Israeli culture is presented and Diaspora living is not disparaged, allowing for a blossoming of Jewish identity that carries over beyond the tours themselves.

With Kelner, we accompany groups as they experience the climb to Masada, the entrance to Jerusalem, their encounter with Yad Vashem and Mount Herzl, and their visits to Tel Aviv, Safed and the Dead Sea, and see how they "consume place" through symbols, products and commodified experiences, imbuing the tourist places with meaning, and how by doing so, they
become aware of the public, collective, embattled, empowered and consequential nature of Jewishness in Israel. "Doing Jewish" becomes part and parcel of the participants' way of life — while in Israel, to be sure, but also, for many after they return home.

Kelner also shows us that the very nature of tourism distances the participants from Israel. From the border-control entry, to the temporary nature of the sojourn, to the consciousness of tourists being the "other" when they meet "native" Israelis, tourism structures a distance between the Diaspora inhabitant and the homeland. By encouraging the participants to face this in open discussion, structuring communal encounters with place and reinforcing normative goals, tour guides and staff provide opportunities for multilevels of experience that touch emotion, identity and cognition.

But be forewarned: Readers looking for a simple answer to "Are these tours successful?" won't find it here. This is not a simple book, nor a particularly fast read. You have to think about what Kelner writes. In his sophisticated discussion, Kelner suggests that there are no clear recipes for increasing that elusive attachment to Israel or for strengthening (diasporic) Jewish identity, though both are official goals of the program. As Kelner writes, "Rather than providing an answer to the question of home, the tours open the question further and introduce new dimensions of complexity that may not previously have been experienced or recognized."

What Kelner does is show us just how much goes into the "performance" of the Israel experience, and why this experience has such potential for making an impact on its participants' lives. No participant will come away from the Birthright experience untouched, and many, indeed, find it life-changing.

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**2010 Jordan Schnitzer Book Award**

Shaul Kelner (Vanderbilt University) will be honored with the 2010 Jordan Schnitzer Book Award at the Association of Jewish Studies Meeting in Boston (2010) in the Category of Social Science, Anthropology, and Folklore for *Tours that Bind: Diaspora, Pilgrimage, and Israeli Birthright Tourism* (NYU Press)

**Honorable Mentions**


Jews & the City: The Intersection of Urban Space, Culture, and Jews and Judaism.

Historians and sociologists have long called Jews the quintessential urban dwellers. Over the next two years, the Feinstein Center for American Jewish History, in collaboration with multiple partners within the Temple University community and outside of it, is devoting its attention to exploring the intersection between Jewish identity and urbanism with a special emphasis on the American context. The two-year theme began with a very successful conference on November 11 with over one hundred people in attendance. At the conference scholars and some of the leading Jewish urban planners, architects, developers, and politicians reflected on the relationship between Jewishness and urbanism over the last three decades.

For the spring 2011, we are expanding our exploration of Jews and urbanism by moving in time and space throughout the span of Jewish history. All of the programs will address the pivotal role of urban environments and contexts as the meeting ground, common ground, and battleground of nascent concepts of identity, ethnicity and civic responsibility in the evolution of Jewish communities over time.

Programs and Invited Participants:

Program One, Feb 2, 2011:
The Iniquity of the City: The Agrarian Ideal and Early Israelite Religion

- Dr. Mark Leuchter, Assistant Professor of Religion, Director of the Jewish Studies Program, Temple University.
- Response: David Stern, Moritz and Josephine Berg Professor of Classical Hebrew Literature, University of Pennsylvania

Program Two, Feb 9, 2011:
Anti-Urbanism and the Dead Sea Scrolls

- Dr. Lawrence Schiffman, Ethel and Irvin A. Edelman Professor of Hebrew and Judaic Studies; Professor of Hebrew and Judaic Studies; Chairman, Skirball Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies, New York University. Dr. Schiffman is one of the world's foremost authorities on the Dead Sea Scrolls and Jewish sectarianism in Jerusalem and the nearby communities in the Greco-Roman period.
Program Three, March 2, 2011:
The Built Spaces of New York Jews

- **Dr. Anne Polland**, Vice-President of Education, Tenement Museum. Author of *Landmark of the Spirit: The Eldridge Street Synagogues*. Dr. Polland is co-writing a history of Jewish New York City with Daniel Soyer.

- **Dr. Daniel Soyer**, Professor, Chair of the History Department, Fordham University. Author of *Jewish Immigrant Associations and American Identity in New York*. Dr. Soyer is co-writing a history of Jewish New York City with Anne Polland.

Program Four, March 30, 2011:
Roundtable Workshop: Palestine/Israel and the Modern City

This workshop brings together scholars of Palestine/Israel to explore the formation of urban space and its multiple social, cultural, economic, and political ramifications from an interdisciplinary perspective. Questions to be considered include:

1. How do cities function as spaces of encounter and how do they function as spaces of isolation?
2. What is the relationship between national identity and urban planning and development?
3. How do cities define their geographic boundaries?
4. What roles do cities play in defining power relationships and centers of privilege?
5. How does city space shape, transform or circumscribe gender relations?

Participants:

**Barbara Mann**: Dr. Mann is associate professor of Jewish Literature and serves as the Simon H. Fabian Chair in Hebrew Literature at The Jewish Theological Seminary. Her areas of expertise include Israeli and Jewish literature, cultural studies, modern poetry, urban studies, literary modernism, and the fine arts.

**Mark LeVine**: Dr. LeVine is professor of modern Middle Eastern history, culture, and Islamic studies at the University of California, Irvine, and author of the several books. (Invited)

**Ann Shlay**: Dr. Shlay is a history professor at Temple University whose expertise is modern Israel and Jerusalem, including the history of the contested areas within Jerusalem/East Jerusalem currently at the center of debate between Israeli and Palestinian governance.

**Maoz Azaryahu**: Dr. Azaryahu is an associate professor in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies at the University of Haifa and is a visiting scholar this year at Brandeis University. He has written extensively on urban landscapes, memory, and society.

**Rochelle Davis**: Dr. Davis is an assistant professor of Arab Culture and Society at Georgetown University. She has written on Palestinian Jerusalemites in a book entitled *Palestinian Village Histories: Geographies of the Displaced*. (Invited)
SUMMER RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

The Myer and Rosaline Feinstein Center for American Jewish History announces its annual summer fellowship to support research in the American Jewish experience. The grant of $2,500 is available to graduate students and recently graduated Ph.D. students. There is no requirement that applicants use Temple archives for this fellowship.

For the summer of 2011, the Feinstein Center has a special interest in research that focuses on American Jews and the multiple dimensions of urban life (including politics, culture geography, the arts, religion, and sexuality). Fellows may be asked to participate in Center workshops or public lectures for the 2011-2012 year.

A complete application must include:
• Cover letter
• Proposal with title (no more than 5 pages)
• Letter of recommendation on letterhead (can be scanned into a PDF)
• CV

Materials are due by March 18, 2011. We prefer that all application materials be emailed to feinsteincenter@temple.edu. You may also mail the materials to: Dr. Lila Corwin Berman, Director, Feinstein Center of American Jewish History Temple University, 916 Gladfelter Hall (025-24), 1115 West Berks Street, Philadelphia, PA 19122-6089. Announcement of awards will be made in May. Please direct any questions to Nancy Isserman (isserman@temple.edu).
Program Guide to Sessions of Interest at AJS 2010 (Boston)

The AJS 42nd Annual Conference: December 19-21, 2009, Westin Copley Place, Boston

Methods, Challenges, Paradigms: Doing Research on the Jews
Chair: Fern Chertok (Brandeis University)
Session 1.13
Room: St. George D
Sunday, 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Session Participants
Discovering the Networks of the Taglit Generation, Charles Kadushin (Brandeis University) and Michelle Shain (Brandeis University)

Encountering Hostility to Jews: Research Ethics and Interim Findings from Conversations with the Westboro Baptist Church, Hillel Gray (Miami University)

Identifying Indicators for Secularism in Israel and among Diaspora Jews, Ariela Keysar (Trinity College)

Exploring Jewish Identity: the Australian and New Zealand Population Study
Chair: Mark Baker (Monash University)
Session 2.7
Room: Defender
Sunday, 11:15 - 1:00 PM

Session Participants
Context (or Community) in the Determination of Jewish Identity, Andrew Markus (Monash University)

Examining the Least Connected: “Cultural Residue,” “Symbolical Ethnicity,” or a Different Pathway toward Sustaining Jewish Continuity?, John Goldlust (Monash University)

Investigating the Impact of Holocaust Background on Jewish Identity: Comparing Strength in Jewish Identity of Three Generations of Holocaust Survivors in an Australian Sample, Nicky Jacobs (Monash University)

Respondent: Ira Sheskin (University of Miami)

Abstract:
This panel is concerned to explore key questions related to identity within the Jewish population of Australia and New Zealand.

The Australian and New Zealand population study (Gen08) comprises three data sets: first, the 2006 census, which included a question on respondent’s religious identification and a supplementary question on ancestry. It is estimated that the religion question identified 70%-80% of the Jewish population. Second, focus groups, some 25 of which have been conducted and are on-going. Third, a major survey comprising 144 questions which was undertaken from September 2008 to April 2009. The survey was completed by 6,200 respondents (5,840 in Australia and in total over 5% of the adult population) and included a random component drawn from community databases. Administration involved online and print versions and tailored approaches to sub-groups (defined on the basis of ethnicity, religious identification, age and lack of community involvement). Gen08 engaged wide interest and commitment – 89% of those who began the online survey completed it, despite its length. Over 1,000 surveys were completed by respondents who indicated minimal or no engagement with the community. POST HOC validation involved cross-checking of results across three respondent categories and matching of population demographics (including place of residence) against census data.

Preliminary project findings were reported at the 2009 AJS conference. This panel provides the opportunity to present the results of detailed analysis utilizing four identity scales, drawing on research for a project which is considering the future of Jewish communities. The presentations explore three issues of key contemporary relevance for Diasporic studies: the salience of community (or context) for identity formation, the characteristics of the least connected, and the ongoing impact of Holocaust experience and of descent from a Holocaust survivor. Dr Ira Sheskin will serve as a panelist, providing a comparative American context for consideration of the Australian and New Zealand findings.
Reinterpreting Jewish Continuity
Chair: Sherry Israel (Independent Scholar)
Session 2.9
Room: Essex North West
Sunday, 11:15 - 1:00 PM

Session Participants
Yours, Mine, and Ours: Fairness and Gender in Intermarried Couples’ Lives, Jennifer Thompson (Drake University)

Unintentional Hybridities: Christian Elements in Jewish Interfaith Families, Samira Mehta (Emory University)

Shiksas are for Practice: Dismantling the Myths behind the “Other” Woman, Keren R. McGinity (Brandeis University/University of Michigan)

Respondent: Ann Braude (Harvard Divinity School)

Abstract:
Much of the study of intermarriage between Jews and non-Jews in the United States has been concerned with "Jewish continuity," an interest in ensuring Jewish community by maintaining distinctions between Jews and non-Jews. This focus has helped Jewish organizations understand what kinds of programs help advance this goal, but it has done less to increase understandings of intermarried couples' own experiences and interests. This panel addresses intermarriage in ways that will broaden how scholars and community leaders conceptualize Jewish continuity by using qualitative research to understand how intermarried Jews and their spouses make decisions about the place of Judaism in their lives.

Jennifer Thompson uses ethnography to understand how American religious and cultural ideas shape some intermarried couples' ways of making decisions about their families' religious lives. Intermarried couples used different ideas about fairness and individuality to decide which religious traditions their families would observe. These families accommodated and resisted traditional gender roles depending on how they understood fairness and individuality. Ultimately, intermarried couples drew heavily on both American and Jewish cultural contexts in framing the role of Jewishness in their lives.

Samira Mehta explores the claims of popular contemporary intermarriage advice manuals by holding them against interview data and memoirs from intermarried families. The manuals advise intermarried couples to choose one religion for the family to ensure a coherent religious identity, but in practice, families create traditions that involve elements of the Christian calendar and Christian traditions. Regardless of the original intention of the couple, ultimately a cultural, if not theological, hybridity forms.

Keren McGinity reverses the familiar fictional portrayal of gentile women's "otherness" by asking who the actual "shiksas" are and what marriage to a Jewish man means to them. Interweaving traditional archival sources and popular culture with contemporary ethnography, McGinity argues that born-gentile women are attracted to Jewish men's qualities as the "stranger." Women perceived Jewish men to be accepting of their career ambitions, and those who had grown away from Christianity welcomed Jewish religion as a well of spiritual sustenance.

Ann Braude, whose work concerns the religious history of American women, including Jewish women, will respond.

Cultural Patronage/Cultural Policy
Chair: Ari Y. Kelman (University of California, Davis)
Session 3.4
Room: Empire
Sunday, 2:00 - 4:00 PM

Session Participants
A History of Alternative Jewish Cultural Production, Ayala Fader (Fordham University)

Artists as Emissaries? Using the Encounter with Art as a Means of Connecting Jews to Judaism, Bethamie Horowitz (New York University)

Jewish Cultural Patronage and Artistic Expression: Case Studies in Israel and the United States, Galeet Dardashti (University of Texas at Austin)

On Patrons, Protégés and “Pet Negros”: The Relationship of Fannie Hurst and Zora Neale Hurston, Alisa Braun (Hebrew College)
Abstract:
In recent years, the Jewish world has witnessed a "cultural turn." Philanthropists and communal organizations have grown increasingly attentive to the role of "culture" in Jewish life, and have, in turn, invested increasingly in "culture" as a kind of trans-denominational, trans-national space for Jewish expression and engagement.

Whether housed in museums, performed at clubs, hosted at festivals, or published in magazines, "culture" has been called to perform a different kind of communal "work" than religion, politics, charity, service, and other, more traditional avenues of Jewish life. In some circles, culture has been tasked with maintaining Jewish ethnicity, advancing the cause of continuity, or otherwise invigorating segments of the Jewish community excluded or disinterested. In other words, "culture" has been mobilized to do communal work in ways that are both worth celebrating and worth complicating.

On the one hand, the "cultural turn" has opened up the chorus of voices that represent Jewish experience. On the other hand, philanthropic support for cultural endeavors has meant, often, the expectation of a "return on investment."

This panel will host an interdisciplinary conversation about the tensions embedded in the "cultural turn" by examining the relationships between cultural patrons and cultural producers, between communal and cultural policy, and between foundations, the cultural efforts they support and the audiences they seek to engage. Taking contemporary Jewish culture as our pretext, panelists will investigate elements of the broader social, artistic, political, and economic relationships that have enabled the cultural turn in the first place. This discussion will open a new direction in research about Jewish culture that not only accounts for the cultural products themselves, but for the deeper constellation of communal concerns, issues and relationships that support them. Framing the investigation of Jewish culture in terms of patronage, policy, politics and communal organizations adds a much-needed level of complexity and sophistication to the already robust arena of Jewish cultural studies.

Shifts in the Denominational Affiliation of American Jews, Benjamin Phillips (Brandeis University)

Family Relations of Newly Orthodox Women in Argentina, Roberta G. Sands (University of Pennsylvania)

The Politics of Recognition and the Identities of Newly Found Jews, Stuart Zane Charme (Rutgers University)

Perspectives on the American Movement to Free Soviet Jews
Chair: Robert M. Seltzer
(Hunter College, CUNY)
Session 3.15
Room: St. George D
Sunday, 2:00 - 4:00 PM

Session Participants
"An army of students and housewives": Toward an Understanding of the Grassroots American Soviet Jewry Movement, Jonathan Krasner (HUC-JIR)

"Every Jew a .22": The Jewish Defense League Challenges the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry and the American Jewish Community, Amaryah Orenstein (Brandeis University)

Contestations over Religious Framing in the American Movement to Free Soviet Jews, Shaul Kelner (Vanderbilt University)

"Outside the Shul": The American Soviet Jewry Movement and the Rise of Solidarity Orthodoxy (1964–1986), Adam Ferziger (Bar-Ilan University)

Respondent: Gal Beckerman (Forward)
Abstract:
Over twenty years have passed since the Soviet Jewish exodus began in full force, culminating a decades-long campaign for unrestricted Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union, that can be traced at least as far back as 1963. Integral to the campaign were a variety of establishment and grassroots American organizations, which pressured the American government to prioritize the plight of Soviet Jewry in its relations with the Soviet Union. This panel will explore various aspects of the American movement to free Soviet Jews. The panel starts from the premise that the American movement was far from monolithic. Indeed, although so-called establishment and grassroots organizations usually professed similar long-term goals, they often disagreed on strategy and tactics, and more often than not competed against—rather than cooperated with—one another. Previous accounts of the rivalry between these groups focused on organizational constraints, the influence of Israel's Foreign Ministry, and the close relations between the non-establishment groups and the refuseniks. This panel seeks to further develop this line of analysis and to explore other factors. Each of the papers utilizes a comparative methodological approach to shed light on the character of the movement as a whole, and the similarities and differences between its various actors. Jonathan Krasner explores the development of two of the most important grassroots groups, the Union of Councils of Soviet Jews and the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry. His analysis sheds light not only on why these organizations shared different priorities from establishment organizations but also on how and why they differed from one another. Amaryah Orenstein focuses on the rivalry between the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry and the Jewish Defense League. The JDL helped to radicalize the Soviet Jewry movement but also compelled activists to define the boundaries of acceptable forms of protest. Adam Ferziger explores the connection between Orthodoxy and the SJM. Finally, Shaul Kelner (Vanderbilt) uses ritual as a lens through which to understand and illuminate the differences between establishment and grassroots groups. Indeed, he contends that their various uses of ritual reinforced the perception that the movement was factionalized.

ASSJ Board Meeting
Room: Courier (7th Floor)
Sunday, 2:00 - 4:00 PM
All are invited to attend.

The ASSJ
Marshall Sklare Memorial Lecture
Sponsor: Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry
Room: Great Republic
Sunday, 4:15-6:15 PM

The Sklare Reception will follow the session and will be co-sponsored by ASSJ, the Berman Jewish Policy Archive, and Synagogue 3000.

Chair: Harriet Hartman (Rowan University)

Session Participants
The Demise of the “Good Jew”: How Much American Jewish Identities and Their Measurement Have Changed
Steven Martin Cohen (HUC-JIR)
Discussants:
Sarah Bunin Benor (HUC-JIR)
Ari Y. Kelman (University of California, Davis)
Shaul Kelner (Vanderbilt University)

Abstract:
The Marshall Sklare Award is given annually by the ASSJ to a scholar who has made a significant scholarly contribution to the social scientific study of Jewry, primarily through the publication of a body of research in books and articles. The Sklare Memorial Lecture is delivered by our honoree of the year at the Sklare Memorial Lecture session.

This year Steven Cohen has been selected to receive the Marshall Sklare Award. See the bio of Steven earlier in this Newsletter.
Marshall Sklare Award Reception
Room: Parliament
6:15 - 7:15 PM Sunday

Brief Presentation of the “Lifetime Achievement Award” to Bill Berman by Arnie Dashefsky

Gala Banquet
Room: Essex Ballroom
Sunday 7:15 - 9:15 PM Sunday

Jordan Schnitzer Book Award Reception
Room: Staffordshire
9:30 - 10:30 PM Sunday

Reorganizing the American Jewish Community: What Can Changes In the American Philanthropic/Nonprofit Sector Tell Us about Judaism and Jewish Life?
Chair: Andrea M. Most (University of Toronto)
Session 5.8
Room: Adams
Monday, 8:30 - 10:30 AM

Discussants:
Caryn Aviv
(University of Colorado at Boulder)
Paul Burstein (University of Washington)
Felicia Herman (The Natan Fund)
J. Shawn Landres (Jumpstart)

Abstract:
Although innovation and social entrepreneurship are increasingly popular subjects of nonprofit, philanthropic, and voluntary sector research, the relationship between Jewish Studies and the nonprofit, philanthropic, and voluntary sectors remain under-explored. Discussant Professor Paul Burstein (University of Washington) will provide a historical map of the 20th century Jewish nonprofit sector. The U.S. is a society based in large measure on voluntary organizations, and Jewish immigrants from Europe lived in communities based on organizations they created themselves. Thus American Jewish history has been a history of dynamic and creative organization-building. Discussant Shawn Landres (Jumpstart) will review key findings from the 2008 Survey of New Jewish Organizations and the 2010 Survey of New Jewish Initiatives (to be released in September 2010). These surveys offer an opportunity to examine the emergence of new nonprofit and philanthropic ventures within the larger American Jewish organizational landscape. Discussant Dr. Felicia Herman (The Natan Fund) will consider grant making as fieldwork in organizational life, describing how shifts in the Jewish and general philanthropic landscape over the past generation have contributed to and resonate with shifts in patterns of affiliation and community-building. Building on the 2008 and 2010 survey data, she will consider the philanthropic context within which new organizations appear to be shifting their emphasis from human and social services toward identity development, culture, and the arts. Discussant Dr. Caryn Aviv (University of Colorado, Boulder) will place Jewish organizational innovation in its broader historical and cultural context, arguing that contemporary Jewish innovators are in important ways the 21st century equivalents to the maskilim (enlighteners or reformers) in Europe two centuries ago. Like their predecessors, she argues, 21st century maskilim are multicultural translators working in two directions simultaneously. They use the tools, concepts, and frames of their own indigenous Jewish cultures of Los Angeles, New York, and Jerusalem, while also harnessing emerging ideas, philosophies, and technologies of the contemporary secular cultures in which they live. However, modern day maskilim and ‘traditionalist’ Jewish organizations may be more interdependent on each other than their 18th- and 19th-century counterparts. Understanding Jewish organizational dynamics may provide a key to anticipating the American Jewish future.

Is the Prospect for the Future of American Jewry Positive or Negative?
Chair: Laurence Kotler-Berkowitz (Jewish Federations of North America)
Session 7.1
Room: Essex Ballroom South
Monday, 11:15 AM - 1:00 PM
Sponsored by Mandell L. Berman Institute–North American Jewish Data Bank

Session Participants:
A Data-Based Approach to Examining the Future of American Jews, Ira Sheskin (University of Miami)

Discussants:
Arnold Dashefsky (University of Connecticut at Storrs)
Sergio DellaPergola (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
Harriet Hartman (Rowan University)
Bethamie Horowitz (New York University)
Bruce A. Phillips (HUC-JIR)
Abstract:

This session assesses the collective future of American Jewry, presenting both the optimistic and pessimistic scenarios, by relying on data archived in whole or in part at the Berman Institute – North American Jewish Data Bank. The session will include a keynote address followed by a panel of respondents representing diverse disciplinary fields.

Abstract of Seminar Paper (Keynote Presentation): Most researchers examining the long-term viability of the American Jewish community are themselves Jewish. Thus, their opinions are impacted (even if only subconsciously) by the anecdotal evidence encountered daily as they interact as members of the American Jewish community. This paper contributes to the debate about the viability of the American Jewish community between the optimists and pessimists by examining data from the National Jewish Population Survey and local Jewish community studies.

The demise of the Jewish community has been predicted by many over a number of years. The paper finds significant strength in terms of Jewish institutional structure. It then proceeds to examine some basic demographics that affect the future. Five questions are examined:

First, how many American Jews are there? Estimates vary from 5.2 million to over 6 million. Second, is the Jewish population of the United States increasing, decreasing, or remaining the same? While almost everyone agrees it is not increasing, it is not clear whether the American Jewish community has shown any significant decrease. Third, what light does data on Jewish continuity have to shed on the question of the future of American Jews? Most measures of Jewish continuity seem to show stability in Jewish connectivity over time, but this future varies from community to community.

Fourth, what are the political, psychological, and economic implications of the likely decrease in the US Jewish population? A decrease in Jewish population will eventually impact the ability of the Jewish community to affect public policy but the community will remain large enough for the next decades to continue its impact. The effects on psychology are mixed. The economic impact will be greatest in small to medium communities. Fifth, are the educational interventions of the organized Jewish community beginning to counteract the forces of assimilation? Both Jewish formal and informal Jewish educational programs, including Jewish overnight camps and Birthright Israel have been shown to be effective in convincing younger Jews to maintain a Jewish identity.

Session Participants:

Jewish Intermarriage in Comparative Context, Bruce A. Phillips (HUC-JIR)


Narrative Responses to Demographic Findings: Jewish Identity and the “Ever-Dying” People, Debra Renee Kaufman (Northeastern University)

The American Jewish Year Book: The Prism for Refracting a Century of Jewish Life, Jerome A. Chanes (The Graduate Center, CUNY)

Israel and Diaspora(s): Convergences and Divergences

Chair: Jonathan D. Sarna (Brandeis University)

Session 10.11

Room: Essex North East

Tuesday 8:30 - 10:30 AM

Israel–Diaspora: Demographic, Socioeconomic, and Identificational Convergences and Divergences, Sergio DellaPergola (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

Ideological Controversies: Israeli Revisionisms, Eliezer Ben-Rafael (Tel Aviv University)

Latin American Jewish Life: New Paths of Interaction and New Worlds of Identities, Judit Bokser Liwerant (UNAM Mexico)

Europe’s Jews between Changing Worlds, Julius Schoeps (Moses Mendelssohn Centre for European Jewish Studies)
Abstract:
In an era of globalization, the Jewish People develops its singularity amidst a world of transnational Diasporas. Like other Diasporas, and possibly even more, Jews are experiencing changing models of interactions and cohesion along with cleavages that question the continuing existence of “One People”. These potential ruptures cross territorial as well as identity axes. Among several relevant considerations from an historical perspective stands the fact that Israel was created both as a kind of anti-thesis to the Diasporic condition and as a mean to a renaissance of the Jewish people. The global goal of generating an overall aggiornamento in Judaism led to the coexistence of both the denial of the diasporic condition and the aspiration of a renewal of Jewish life as a whole. Thus, negation and affirmation of the Diaspora were two dimensions that coexisted in tense ways. Different moments and faces characterize the changing patterns of global interaction, redefining the overall profile of a transnational people.

Old and new tensions and fluctuations are inherent to this condition. While recognition of the legitimacy of diverse territorial conditions prevails, still some forces in Israel tend to see this society as but feebly related to world Jewry. On the other hand, we also witness the development throughout the Jewish world of different kinds of “diasporism” which are reluctant to recognize Israel as an authentic expression of Judaism. Critical attitudes toward Israeli policies regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict also tend to be intertwined with polemics concerning the legitimacy of Zionism. On a parallel vein, new trends redefine relations within World Jewry among which take place in a scenario of stable communities.

Cultural and religious redefinitions cross borders and mix with Israel-centered identification patterns. Thus, de-secularization and new expressions of religiosity take place in different settings. Convergences and divergences operate on different planes. The goal of this session is to explore and analyze processes, forces and trends that articulate convergences and divergences from a Klal Yisrael-global peoplehood perspective. Papers will focus on Latin America, Europe and North America and their relation to Israel, on the one hand, and on Israel’s attitude toward the Diaspora, on the other.

Israel–Diaspora Relations: Past and Present
Chair: Miriam Bodian
(University of Texas at Austin)
Session 11.9
Room: Essex North West
Tuesday 10:45 AM - 12:45 PM

“Bonding” the Jewish People: Marking Sixty Years since the Historic Jerusalem Conference, a Watershed in Israel–Diaspora Cooperation, Natan Aridan (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev)

The U.S. Israel Lobby: Public Opinion Polls and the Sociology of Contemporary Zionism, Barry A. Kosmin (Trinity College)

American and Canadian Soldiers in Israel’s War of Independence, Samuel Z. Klausner (University of Pennsylvania)

Struggle for Cooperation and Integration: American Zionists and the Question of Israel in the Middle East in the 1940s and 1950s, Zohar Segev (University of Haifa)

Learning to Do Good: Jewish Adult Involvement in Service
Chair: Leonard Saxe (Brandeis University)
Session 13.7
Room Essex North West
Tuesday 4:45 - 5:45 PM

The “Who, What, and Why” of Jewish Adult Service: The Post-College Years, Matthew E. Boxer (Brandeis University) and Joshua Tobias (Brandeis University)

Missing Roadmaps and Potential Pathways: Trajectories of Civic Engagement for Jewish Service Learning Alumni, Fern Chertok (Brandeis University) and Shirah Rosin (Brandeis University)

Reaching out in Boston: Engaging Jewish Young Adults in Meaningful Community Service, Nahma Nadich (Jewish Community Relations Council of Boston)
one of the most important aspects of their Jewish identities (Sales & Saxe, 2006).

American Jewish communal leaders are focusing increasingly on the potential of Jewish service, both for addressing the most pressing needs of the developing world and for engaging young adults. A central organization for Jewish service, "Repair the World" was launched in July 2009 with an initial goal to “create a generation of Jews who become a powerful force, dramatically and positively leading the Jewish community and addressing pressing needs in the U.S., Israel, and around the world.”

This panel will explore the intersection of pro-social values of justice and compassion, Jewish identity, and service involvement among young adults. As part of the panel Matthew Boxer will present research describing what motivates Jewish young adults to serve, the varieties of service in which they engage, and how they construe the connections among their involvement in service, Jewish values and identity. Nahma Nadich from the Jewish Community Relations Council of Boston will provide a local perspective on the potential for developing service programs for post-college Jewish young adults. Focusing on data from short-term immersive Jewish service programs, Fern Chertok will explore the role of post-service programming in the development of commitment both to service and to the role of “citizen” within the Jewish community.

Berman Foundation Dissertation Fellowships in Support of Research in the Social Scientific Study of the Contemporary American Jewish Community

The Association for Jewish Studies is pleased to announce the Berman Foundation Dissertation Fellowships in Support of Research in the Social Scientific Study of the Contemporary American Jewish Community. The Berman Fellowships—two awards of $16,000 each—will support dissertations in the social scientific study of the North American Jewish community. The formal call for applications will be issued December 2010; applications will be due in early spring 2011, with awards being announced in the late spring 2011. Fellowships will be issued to support doctoral work in the 2011–12 academic year. Applicants must be Ph.D. candidates at accredited higher educational institutions who have completed their comprehensive exams and received approval for their dissertation proposals (ABD). Fellowships will be awarded for one academic year, with the possibility of renewal, upon submission of an application, for a second year. The Berman Fellowships aim to support the development and expansion of the field of the social scientific study of the North American Jewish community; enhance funding opportunities for up-and-coming scholars in the midst of institutional cutbacks in the social sciences and humanities; encourage graduate students in sociology, social psychology, social anthropology, demography, contemporary history, social work, political science, and Jewish education to expand their research to include study of the North American Jewish community; and nurture a new generation of scholars in this critical area of research. Support for this project is generously provided by the Mandell L. and Madeleine H. Berman Foundation. For further information, please contact the AJS at ajs@ajs.cjh.org.