

A Bumper Crop . . . of Books

Last year's Newsletter focused on the impressive accomplishments of our alumni. This year, so many faculty published major works that we had no choice but to make this our theme. – The Editor.



Congratulations to **Professor Carsten Schapkow** who published *Vorbild und Gegenbild. Das iberische Judentum in der deutsch-jüdischen Erinnerungskultur 1779-1939. Role Model and Counter Image, the English title, analyzes the perception of Iberian-Sephardic Jewry in German-Jewish remembrance culture from the late 19th to the early 20th century.*

Schapkow explains the deep identification of German Jewish historians, theologians, literary figures and publishers of popular literature with the Jews of medieval Spain. German Jews used the elevated status of what was once called the “Golden Age of Spanish Jewry” as the model for

their own emancipation in 19th century Germany. Schapkow's early reviewers sound these notes on his erudition, methodological rigor and clarity: “If Schapkow has left a stone unturned, I don't know where it is.” “Here Schapkow offers a very detailed and nuanced reading of Sephardic history in comparison to the numerically dominant Ashkenazic history. His lucid prose and ability to place, intellectual history in the context of contemporary political developments are admirable.” Professor Michael Brenner, one of the outstanding German-Jewish historians of his generation, calls Schapkow's *Role Model and Counter Image* “a truly pioneering work, which enriches our view of modern Jewish identities.” This is Schapkow's second book, having published *Spinoza and the Freedom to Philosophize* in 2001, and many essays and book chapters since arriving at OU in 2005. Schapkow's next two projects, on German Jewish exiles of the 1930s-1950s and the writer Ernst Toller, promise comparable enthusiasm.

Publications continued on Page 2

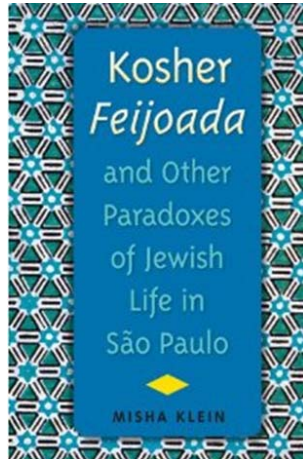
Kudos to Carsten Schapkow

Carsten Schapkow has been a vital part of the Judaic and Israel Studies Program since he arrived as a visiting assistant professor in 2005. He regularly teaches important core courses, such as *The Rebirth of Israel*, *Modern Jewish History* and *Jews and other Germans*. Students have been unanimous in praising him as a devoted and caring teacher. Schapkow also is a first-rate and highly regarded scholar who adds additional luster to our program's already well-earned, international academic reputation. In recognition of Schapkow's contributions to the History Department and the Judaic Studies program, he has been approved for tenure and promotion to associate professor. We consider ourselves fortunate to have him as a member of the OU JuSt faculty. — Norman (Noam) Stillman

BUMPER CROP ... continued

***Kosher Feijoada* by Professor Misha Klein**

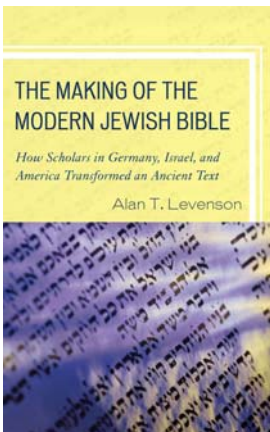
explores the contradictions inherent in being Jewish in Brazil, the world's largest Catholic country. The paradoxes are amplified in the context of the metropolis of São Paulo, home to Jews from more than 60 countries of origin, who forge a culturally diverse community by drawing on Brazilian ideologies of race and inclusion. Jews have experienced "Brazilification" through participation in mostly secular institutions and national practices. Klein's ethnography explores the intersection of multiple sources of identity, and considers the meaning of belonging for a diasporic group that intertwines ethnic, national and transnational practices in the construction of their identity.



Congratulations to Klein for her recent tenure and promotion to Associate Professor.

***The Making of the Modern Jewish Bible: How Scholars in Germany, Israel and America Transformed an Ancient Text* by Professor Alan Levenson**

explores the relationship between Jewish tradition and the Christian environment; between the subjective needs of the Jewish community and the objective world of the academy. He suggests that German Jews created a religious Bible, Israeli Jews a national Bible and American Jews an ethnic one. In each location, Jewish scholars confronted the non-Jewish environment and refuted the biases of the majority. But Jewish scholars also wrestled with their



own traditions, trying to balance fidelity to and independence from traditional commentaries. Levenson reveals an enduring preoccupation with the Bible in modernity. Contrary to popular perceptions, the author argues that the modern period has been the golden age of Jewish Bible study and that the quest for a modern Jewish Bible has served as keystone for three dramatically different Jewish cultures.

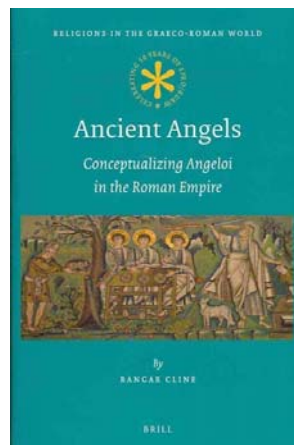
Alan also served as editor for *The Wiley-Blackwell History of Jews and Judaism* (2012) – details to follow in our next newsletter.

***Post-Wall Berlin: Borders, Space and Identity* by Janet Ward**, offers a powerful lens through which to view this city's latest self-reinvention. Presenting a trans-disciplinary approach to understanding one of the world's most iconic cities, the book relates to recent trends in post-Cold-War cultural history, memory studies, visual culture and border studies.

Through a focus on the moving boundaries of Berlin, Ward reshapes the parameters of urban enquiry and sheds new light on debates surrounding the city's division and rebuilding, post-1989 and post-9/11 globalization, the new Europe, urban preservation and 'memory sites'. This book is, in short, a bold reassessment of the modern and postmodern urban condition.



***Ancient Angels* by Professor Rangar Cline** brings together inscriptional, literary and archaeological evidence for angels (angeloi) in Roman-era religions. The book examines Roman conceptions of angels, angel veneration, and how Christian authorities responded to this potentially heterodox aspect of Roman religion.



***The Regimiento de la vida* by Moshe Almosnino**, edited by Professor Luis Cortest is a classic work of Sephardic literature. Almosnino was one of the great sages of the Jewish community of Thessaloniki (Greece) in the 16th century. *The Regimiento* is a practical treatise on moral philosophy.



Publications continued on Page 3

BIG Ideas — Smaller Packages

Almosnino discusses many topics (friendship, prudence, virtue) that demonstrate his vast knowledge of both Talmudic texts and Aristotelian philosophy. *The Regimiento* illustrates the greatness of Sephardic culture in one of its key historical moments. This study is a critical edition of the first printed version in Roman script, published in Amsterdam in 1729.

Professor Noam Stillman

authored:

1) "A Major New Source for the Study of Maghrebi Jewry, in *Studies in the History and Culture of North African Jewry*," eds., Moshe Bar-Asher & Steven D. Fraade (New Haven and Jerusalem: Yale University and the Hebrew University, 2011);

2) "Judaism and Islam: Fourteen Hundred Years of Intertwined Destiny? An Overview," in *The Convergence of Judaism and Islam: Religious, Scientific, and Cultural Dimensions*, eds. Michael M. Laskier and Yaacov Lev (Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 2011); and,

3) "Corporal Modesty in Judaism and Islam," in *Pesher Nahum* (Festschrift for Norman Golb, 2012).

Stillman delivered the following keynote addresses:

"Moroccan Jewry in Historical Perspective: Orientations and Reorientations" at the 2011 International Conference on The Jews of Morocco, University College London (June 20-22, 2011); and, "Jews and Christians in Muslim Eyes: Fixed and Changing Images", principal lecture at the International Conference on Jews, Christians and Muslims Imagining Each Other, at the Open University of Israel, Raanana (Dec. 27, 2011).

Congratulations to **Professor Shmuel Shepkaru** who recently published "The Preaching of the First Crusade and the Persecution of the Jews" in *Medieval Encounters*, 18 (2012).

Professor Stephen Norwood

authored:

1) "The Expulsion of Robert Burke: Suppressing Campus

Anti-Nazi Protest in the 1930s," *Journal for the Study of Antisemitism* (June 2012)

2) "Old Wine in New Bottles: Anti-Semitism in the American Far Left, 1917 - 1973," in Eunice G. Pollack, ed., *Anti-Semitism on the Campus: Past & Present* (2011)

3) "Antisemitism in the American University: Parallels with the Nazi Era," *ACTA: Analysis of Current Trends in Antisemitism* (2011)

4) "In Denial: American Universities' Response to the Third Reich, Past and Present," *Journal of Ecumenical Studies* (2011).

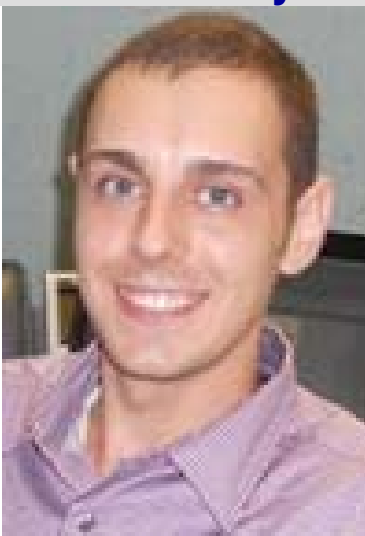
Dinah Assouline Stillman

delivered the following papers:

"Muslim-Jewish Relations in France through the Lens of Recent Cinema" at the Intertwined Worlds Symposium: The Judaeo-Islamic Tradition at Cambridge University (Sept. 11-13, 2011).

"French Jews, Nazis, and the Vel' d'Hiv' Roundup: A New Trend in French Literature and Cinema" at the 43rd Annual Meeting of the Association for Jewish Studies in Washington (Dec.18-20, 2011).

JuSt welcomes visiting Schusterman Professor



Gershon Lewental

Gershon Lewental is an AICE/Schusterman visiting professor in Israel studies, teaching in both the OU Department of History and the College of International Studies. He earned his bachelor of arts degree from Cornell University and received his doctorate in Middle Eastern history from Brandeis University in 2011, writing *al-Qadisiyyah* during the Arab-Muslim conquest of Iran and the changing perceptions of the engagement through time. His fields of expertise include Iranian history, early Islam, the Baha'i faith, and Israeli

history, and he seeks in his scholarship to examine the interplay of memory, religion, and nationalism in identity. Currently, he is preparing his dissertation for publication and working on a study of the Baha'i community in Israel from 1917 to the present. In Fall 2012 he will be teaching **HIST 3963—The Rebirth of Israel, and IAS 3473—The Arab-Israeli Conflict**. In spring 2013 he will teach "Early Islamic Empires" and "Religion and Society in the Middle East."

Faculty and Staff Changes

FOND FAREWELL TO JAN RAUH

Our Program's First Administrator

Jan Rauh was hired to fill a part-time position in April 1996—the first year of OU's Judaic Studies Program. She became a full-time employee in 2001 and held that position until her retirement at the end of August 2011. Jan received a Distinguished Performance Award in 2002. In 2012, she received a 15-year service pin and was honored as a University of Oklahoma retiree.

"With children and grandchildren scattered from Montana to Edmond to Kansas City, I could keep busy just going from one locale to another. But I also enjoy spending time at home, having coffee with friends and gardening, reading, knitting and sewing and walking. I'm looking forward to bringing my piano skills back up to par and doing some volunteer work."

Judaic Studies' new Administrative Assistant, Valarie Harshaw, is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma. After 20 years as a true "Air Force wife," she and her husband, Robert have settled in Cleveland County near family in Norman and Midwest City. They have a daughter entering Oklahoma State University this fall and raise various animals on their farm, including fainting goats. Harshaw has been a great addition to JuSt and invites students and faculty to visit her in our



repainted suite in Dale Hall Tower. Harshaw said, "I am very excited to be a part of OU's Judaic and Israel Studies. The faculty are great, the topics are fascinating, and I'm enjoying learning Hebrew."

Our Core Faculty and a few of their classes



Noam A. Stillman

**Jews/Christians Under Islam
Spain Under Islam**



Ori Krutz

**Jewish Literature From Antiquity to the Present
Intermediate Hebrew**



Shmuel Shepkaru

**History of Heaven and Hell
Evolution of Martyrdom**



Alan J. Levenson

**Judaism: A Religious History
Genesis Through Jewish Eyes**



Carsten Schapkow

**Jews and Other Germans
The Rebirth of Israel**



Lea Reches

Beginning Hebrew 1 & 2

Associated Faculty

Benjamin L. Alpers, Honors College
Hester Baer, Modern Languages (German)
Eve Barnett, English
Jose R. Canoy, History
David Chappell, History
Rangar Cline, History and Religious Studies
Luis Cortest, Modern Languages (Spanish)
Misha Klein, Anthropology
Brent Landau, Religious Studies
Nina Livesey, Religious Studies
William H. McDonald, English
Stephen H. Norwood, History
Karin L. Schutjer, Modern Languages (German)
Daniel C. Snell, History
Dinah Stillman, Modern Languages (French)
Janet Ward, History

The Judaic and Israel Studies program would like to thank Professor Marc Lee Raphael of the College of William and Mary for a major donation of books to Bizzell Memorial Library. The volumes include a wide range of historical monographs, prayer books, novels and Hebrew language instructional texts. Raphael, one of the foremost scholars of American Judaism, is the author of many books himself, including *Judaism in America* and, most recently, *The Synagogue in America: A Short History*.

12th Annual Yedida Stillman Memorial Lecture

Noted historian, translator and senior contributing editor of the *Jewish Review of Books*, Allan Arkush delivered the 12th annual Yedida Kalfon Stillman Memorial Lecture Feb. 8, 2012. His talk "Zionism in the 21st Century," was a sober assessment of the challenges faced by Israel in its desire to remain both a democratic and a modern Jewish state. Arkush dwelt particularly on the demographic realities of a growing Arab-Israeli sector and a growing Ultra-Orthodox sector. With laudable dispassion, Arkush delineated the consequences of Arab-Israeli citizens who cannot be expected to share aspirations to be a Jewish state, and of the Ultra-Orthodox, who do not generally participate in such key institutions of Israeli life as the army and the vibrant economy on a level equal to that of the majority of Israelis, both secular and modern observant.



Dr. Allan Arkush

Arkush, the author of *Moses Mendelssohn and the Enlightenment* and the translator of Mendelssohn's philosophical classic *Jerusalem*, also is the translator

and editor of three other books. His numerous essays on modern Jewish thought and Zionism have appeared in all major journals in the field. From 2006 to 2009, he served as editor of *AJS Perspectives*, the magazine of the Association of Jewish Studies. For the past two years, he has been Visiting Fellow at Princeton University in the Judaic Studies Program and the Department of Religion.

The Memorial Lecture was established through the generosity of family, friends and colleagues to honor the memory of the late beloved teacher and world-renowned scholar, Yedida Kalfon Stillman, who died in February 1998. The first Memorial Lecture was given in February 2001 by Professor Paula Sanders of Rice University. She was introduced by President David Boren, who shared his personal reminiscences of Yedida Stillman. The Memorial Lecture since has become a major annual campus event. The lecturers have all been distinguished scholars in fields related to the late Professor Stillman's wide-ranging interests in Middle Eastern and Sephardic history and culture. In his opening remarks, Noam Stillman expressed gratitude that every Memorial Lecturer not only worked in his late wife's field, but also were colleagues, and in this case, a friend.

David Goldsmith Completes Year in Israel

When I first felt the Israeli sun, I knew I was home. Israel is a phenomenal place, merging east and west, tradition with progress, history with modernity. Although I spent 12 months there, it wasn't enough. I traveled throughout the tiny country often; I hiked in the Negev, prayed at the Western Wall, partied in Tel Aviv, floated in the Dead Sea, walked through the Baha'i Gardens, and more. I met incredible people, friends I know I will have for a lifetime. I was able to experience, grow and mature. Israel will always remain fresh, offering up something new on a daily basis. For me, it's not a question of IF, but a question of WHEN, I will make aliyah — move to Israel. Until I return, the memories and relationships I acquired will have to suffice.

I am eternally grateful to the Schusterman/Josey Program in Judaic and Israel Studies as well as the Bezalel Foundation for making my journey possible.



David and friends at Sea of Galilee

COMING EVENTS



Marc Masurovsky

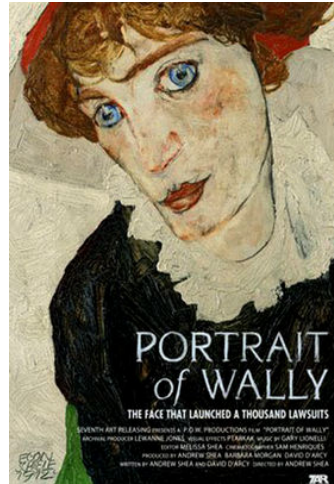
7:00 p.m.

Monday, October 29

Marc Masurovsky, co-founder of the Holocaust Art Restitution Project (HARP) and who oversees the ERR (Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg Plundered Art Project) Database at US Holocaust Memorial

Museum, will lecture on: **The Aryanization of European Culture and the Problematic of Postwar Restitution.**

The lecture is cosponsored by the College of Arts & Sciences, the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art, the Department of History, and the OU Hillel Foundation.



7:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 25

The OU Schusterman Program of Judaic and Israel Studies is proud to present "Portrait of Wally" in conjunction with Marc Masurovsky's lecture on October 29. This fascinating documentary examines the historic court battle over Egon Schiele's *Portrait of Wally*, a Nazi-looted painting that was stolen from

a Jewish art dealer fleeing Vienna and wound up in New York's Museum of Modern Art.

This film is cosponsored with the Department of Film and Media Studies and the Department of History.

JuSt Lunch Lectures for Fall 2012

We have our Fall JuSt Lunch brownbag lectures lined up and are excited about the speakers and their topics. Put these dates on your calendars!

September 5, "The Muslim Brotherhood and the Jews", Professor Noam Stillman, University of Oklahoma.

October 3, "The Baha'i Faith in Israel and It's Community's Relations with the Jewish State", Professor Gershon Lewental, Visiting Schusterman Assistant Professor, University of Oklahoma.

November 7, "The Enemy at the Gates: Sennacherib's Siege of Jerusalem through Judean Eyes", Dr. Robb Andrew Young, Graduate, Yale University.

December 5, "The Popularity of Sheva: The First "Benevolent Hebrew" on the English and American Stage", Professor Eve Bannett, Department of English, University of Oklahoma.

13th Annual Yedida Kalfon Stillman Memorial Lecture

Michal Friedman to deliver the 13th Annual Yedida Kalfon Stillman Memorial Lecture



Dr. Michal Friedman

Michal Friedman, Adjunct Professor of Jewish History at Carnegie Mellon University and a specialist in Sephardic and Spanish-speaking Jewish communities, and in Spanish history and culture, will speak on "Recovering Jewish Spain: Politics, Historiography and Institutionalization of the Jewish Past in Spain (1845-1935)" on Thursday, February 28, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Robert S. Kerr Auditorium in the Sam Noble Museum of Natural History.

Friedman did her MA at OU with Yedida and Norman Stillman, and was Yedida's teaching assistant before going to Columbia University where she received her Ph.D. (2012) which has been nominated for the prestigious Salo W. Baron Prize .

MORE EVENTS TO COME

This year's **JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL**, sponsored by Schusterman Program for Judaic and Israel Studies will feature the following films about Jews in South America. The films will be shown in November, time and place to be announced.

Jubanos: The Jews of Cuba

Cuba is known for its revolutionary leaders, communism, cigars, and 50's cars. When the Cuban Revolution hit in 1961, religion was banned, leaving the Cuban Jewish Community struggling to sustain itself for nearly three decades. **JUBANOS: THE JEWS OF CUBA**, tells the humbling story of the 1500 Jews who remained in the country despite the difficulties. The journey to rediscovering and reviving Jewish life raises questions about faith, sustenance, strength, and the future, which the Cuban Jews continue to face still today.



The Fire Within: Jews in the Amazonian Rainforest

This documentary focuses on the Jewish community of Iquitos, an isolated Peruvian city in the Amazon jungle of South America. Jewish men first came to Iquitos during the rubber boom in the late 19th century, married Amazonian women and raised families, while creating their own syncretic Jewish tradition.

This film recreates this story through the descendants of those Jewish immigrants, searching together with these "mestizos" for vestiges of Jewish presence in Amazonia and accompanying them on their return to Israel.

(Novos Lares) New Homes: The story of Jews in Nilópolis

The story of Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe who came to Brazil in the early twentieth century, settling in Nilópolis, a suburb located 30 kilometers from Rio de Janeiro.

Distinguished Scholar Alvin Rosenfeld to Lecture on October 15 on "What Is the 'New' Antisemitism? And What Can We Do about It?"

Professor Rosenfeld is the Irving M. Glazer Chair in Jewish Studies at Indiana University and Director, Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism. He is the author and editor of many books including *Imagining Hitler* (1985) and *A Double Dying: Reflections on Holocaust Literature* (1980) which have been translated into a number of languages including Japanese and Hungarian. He founded Indiana University's well-regarded Borns Jewish Studies Program and served as its director for 30 years. Rosenfeld is coming at the invitation of Professor Stephen Norwood, who receives an annual grant from the office of OU President David Boren to bring distinguished speakers to our campus.



Alvin Rosenfeld

Professor Nina Livesey and Bezalel Scholarship Students Participate in Historic Find in the Galilee



Photo by Melissa Weiss

Professor Nina Livesey, Religious Studies and Judaic Studies together with OU students took part this summer in the archeological excavations at the site of Huqoq in the Galilee. Three of the students (Melissa Weiss, Morgan Creekmore, and Carleigh Haughting) were there on Bezalel Foundation Study in Israel Fellowships. The team made international headlines when they discovered early one morning, a mosaic floor of a synagogue dating back to the Talmudic period (fourth-fifth centuries CE) depicting the biblical hero Samson and a Hebrew inscription. (More in Livesey's and the students' own words in the next newsletter.)



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2011-2012 Brown-bag Lecture Series Continues Diverse Offerings

JuSt Lunch, our monthly lecture series, captures the program's ethos: informal, diverse and high-quality. This noontime event on the first Wednesday of the month has been drawing students, scholars and OU community members since its inception.

**"Jews and Muslims: The Parting
of the Ways?"**

Professor Noam Stillman
OU Schusterman Program of Judaic
and Israel Studies

**"The New Jews: Conversion and Return
of the Anusim (Forced Converts)
in Latin America"**

Rabbi Juan Mejia
Leader of Worldwide B'nai Anusim

**"Our Heritage, Our Kin: Portugal's Urban
Murranos, Their Jewish Visitors, and the
Creative Alchemy of Ethnic Kinship"**

Professor Naomi Leite
Department of Anthropology,
University of Nebraska

**"The Brazil Effect, or Making Sense of
Jewish Tradition in the Country
of the Future"**

Professor Misha Klein
OU Department of Anthropology

"Plato and the Talmud"

Professor Jacob Howland*
Professor of Philosophy
University of Tulsa

*Sponsored also by departments of History, Philosophy
and Classics/Letters

**"Of Trauma, Monuments and Memory:
What Does Holocaust Architecture
Tell Us?"**

Professor Janet Ward
OU Department of History

**"Moshe Almosnino and the Lost Wisdom
of Al-Andalus?"**

Professor Luis Cortest
OU Department of Modern Languages,
Literature and Linguistics

**"Facing its Holocaust Past: the New
Fascination in French Cinema"**

Dinah Stillman
OU Department of Modern Languages,
Literature and Linguistics

OU wishes a fond farewell to Ariel Ahram and Daniel Reches and welcomes the new Hillel director, Suzy Sostrin-Rainer. She comes to us from Oregon, where she was the Assistant Director of Oregon Hillel.

JuSt OU is published by the Schusterman Program of Judaic and Israel Studies, a unit of the College of Arts and Sciences, Department of History, 455 W. Lindsey, Room 403A, Norman, OK 73019-2004.

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