

THE CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Within the University of Minnesota's College of Liberal Arts is a vibrant research and outreach center focused on Jewish history and culture—one of just a few such university programs anywhere in the country.

THE CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA IS:

■ **AN INTELLECTUAL HOME FOR DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARS** from many different fields who are exploring important questions about Jewish history and culture from antiquity to the modern age. The Center's faculty represent many disciplines, from anthropology to rabbinics, comparative literature to global studies, philosophy to women's studies.

■ **AN ACADEMIC HOME FOR AN INNOVATIVE AND TRANSFORMATIONAL UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM** in Jewish Studies and exceptional research opportunities for emerging scholars.

■ **A UNIQUE HUB FOR UNIVERSITY-COMMUNITY DIALOGUE** and exchange that expands understanding of Jewish history and culture.



Center faculty members use their research on Jewish historical and literary topics as a springboard for classroom and community discussion. Here, historian Gary Cohen, left, and German-Jewish studies specialist Jack Zipes, center, meet with Rabbi Sharon Stiefel, associate director of Hillel, and graduate student Sharon Stein.



Community philanthropists Lyle Berman, left, and Theresa Berman contributed funds to endow the Berman Family Chair in Jewish Studies and Hebrew Bible. The chair is held by Bernard Levinson, right, an internationally recognized expert in ancient Near Eastern studies and the Hebrew Bible (focusing especially on Biblical law and literary approaches to Biblical studies).

POISED FOR GROWTH

This is an exciting moment for the Center for Jewish Studies.

Acclaimed faculty, pathbreaking research, an expanding undergraduate program, and deepening ties both within the University and across the community ties all attest to the Center's success in fostering new understanding of Jewish culture and history.

The Center has launched a \$3-million capital campaign to ensure its future excellence. With strategic investments in faculty expertise and student support, the Center is well-positioned to become not only an important academic center at the University of Minnesota, but also one of the country's preeminent research and curricular Centers in the field of Jewish Studies.

GOAL: Endowed Chair in Modern Jewish History*

The Center is expanding its longstanding strengths in study of the Bible and ancient Jewish life to include the modern period—i.e., the role of Jewish peoples in the emergence of modern European and American experience since the late 18th century. Gifts totaling \$2 million will endow a faculty position to anchor the modern component—as the existing Berman Family Chair in Jewish Studies and Hebrew Bible has anchored the ancient track. Together, these twin pillars will ensure that the Center's curricular program addresses the entire trajectory of Jewish culture and civilization.

GOAL: Student scholarships and fellowships^f

To nurture future scholars and leaders in Jewish Studies, the Center must attract and retain talented students from diverse backgrounds, from new freshmen to graduate students. Gifts totaling \$1 million for scholarships and fellowships will offset steep tuition increases and ensure enriching learning and research opportunities. These funds also will make possible student assistantships to ensure the success of the Center's research and community engagement projects.

*Naming opportunities possible. ^fFellowship gifts of \$25,000+ may be matched by the University.

CENTER ACTIVITIES

RESEARCH—Interdisciplinary research by leading scholars on language, literature, culture, history, and social experience involving Jewish people across the centuries and around the world.

JEWISH STUDIES MAJOR—Rich interdisciplinary degree program (plus a minor) covering Jewish history, literature, languages, and culture—from ancient life (including historical analysis of the Bible) to popular culture and contemporary literature.

RESEARCH SUPPORT—Stipends for faculty projects, presentations, and travel to libraries/archives, plus research opportunities for students.

LECTURES & CONFERENCES—Forums bringing together students, faculty, and community members to address stimulating and timely issues in Jewish Studies.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES—Collaboration on Jewish community activities, including Jewish book fairs, film festivals, and special events such as a community visit by Angel Kreiman, former chief rabbi of Chile.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH—Speakers, discussion leaders, materials, and other resources for the community on a wide range of topics—from Judaism to global affairs to the Holocaust.

Recent research has explored questions related to ethnicity, gender, national identity, cultural memory, literary theory, and social and political transformation.

Courses include Introduction to Judaism; History of the Holocaust; Biblical Law and Jewish Ethics; Jewish Literature, Art, and Film; Jewish Women in the United States; Diaspora Poetics; and Biblical and modern Hebrew language courses.

Among recent Center-sponsored (or cosponsored) activities: a forum with Israeli author Savyon Lebrecht, a discussion of post-Holocaust New York Yiddish writers with University of Chicago expert Jan Schwarz, and conferences on "Lessons and Legacies of the Holocaust" (with the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies) and "Arts and Reconciliation in Israel/Palestine" (with the Department of Theater Arts and Dance).

THE CENTER'S INTERDISCIPLINARY FACULTY



Faculty member Andrea Berlin (top photo, at left) is a renowned Biblical archaeologist who takes University of Minnesota students along to help unearth the ancient town of Kedesh on the Israel-Lebanon border. Renana Schellner (bottom photo) teaches many of the Hebrew language courses that are part of the Center's increasingly comprehensive curricular programs.



- Bernard Bachrach History
- Andrea Berlin Classical & Near Eastern Studies
- Hyman Berman History
- Ra'anan Boustan Classical & Near Eastern Studies
- Bruno Chaouat French & Italian
- Gary Cohen History
- Maria Damon English
- Stephen Feinstein Center for Holocaust & Genocide Studies
- Amy Kaminsky Women's Studies
- Ruth Karras History
- Ron Krebs Political Science
- Bernard Levinson Classical & Near Eastern Studies
- Alex Lubet Music
- Leslie Morris German, Scandinavian, & Dutch
- Riv-Ellen Prell American Studies
- Linda Schloff Nathan and Theresa Berman Upper Midwest Jewish Archives (U of M Anderson Library)
- Renana Schneller Classical & Near Eastern Studies
- Philip Sellew Classical & Near Eastern Studies
- Barbara Weissberger Spanish & Portuguese Studies
- Eric Weitz History
- Jack Zipes German, Scandinavian, & Dutch



The Center serves as a bridge between the University and the Twin Cities community. Here, Center director Leslie Morris—whose research often focuses on issues of exile, diaspora, and translation—meets with Steve Hunegs, a Minneapolis attorney who has held positions of leadership in the Jewish Community Relations Council and Joint Religious Legislative Coalition, among other organizations.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Center for Jewish Studies
College of Liberal Arts
University of Minnesota
305 Folwell Hall
9 Pleasant Street S.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55455

E-mail: jwst@umn.edu
Tel: 612-624-4914
Fax: 612-624-4894

<http://jwst.cla.umn.edu/>

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11/03 Written and designed by Kate Tyler Communications

PLEASE SUPPORT THE CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES

DEAR FRIENDS,

Your support of the Center for Jewish Studies will have a profound and lasting impact. Our work provides the university and the community with an important bridge to a deeper understanding of Jewish culture and history. Our faculty includes widely recognized experts in subjects ranging from archaeology to Jewish literature, Biblical law to Holocaust art, music and film to gender issues, anti-Semitism, and Jews in America.

Our existing strengths give us an extraordinary platform on which to build for the future. Your support of our capital campaign will ensure we have the resources we need to probe as broadly as possible across Jewish history and culture, to nurture close community ties, to foster exciting and necessary critical debate, and to provide the best possible education for the next generation of professionals, scholars, and community leaders.

—Leslie Morris, director (612-624-4047 or morri074@umn.edu)

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