

The Golden Peacock



The Sam and Helen Stahl Center for Jewish Studies at UW-Milwaukee | Fall 2011 Newsletter

Jewish Studies Moves To New Home

During the summer of 2011, the faculty and staff of UWM's Jewish Studies program moved into the newly renovated Greene Museum on campus. A \$2 million gift from the Baye Foundation and the family of Nathan and Pearl Berkowitz in 2008 allowed the center to relocate from a two-office suite on campus to the historic building on Downer Avenue.

The Sam and Helen Stahl Center for Jewish Studies was named in memory of the parents of the late Pearl Berkowitz, a trustee of the Baye Foundation and wife of the late Nathan Berkowitz, the former foundation president. The gift is the largest single gift ever given to UWM's College of Letters & Science, which houses the Center, said Anne Panter, director of major and planned giving with UWM's Office of Development.

The donation is also the largest gift the Baye Foundation has given.

Pearl Berkowitz hoped the gift would raise the profile of Jewish Studies and continue the legacy of teaching Jewish history, religion, and culture for future generations. UWM's Jewish Studies program, which was created in 1997, offers a multidisciplinary undergraduate major and minor in Jewish Studies, and other educational opportunities for all UWM students.

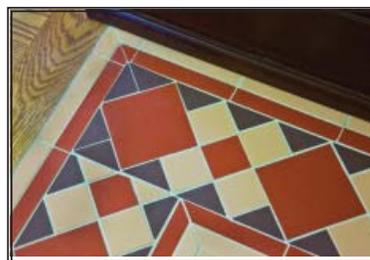
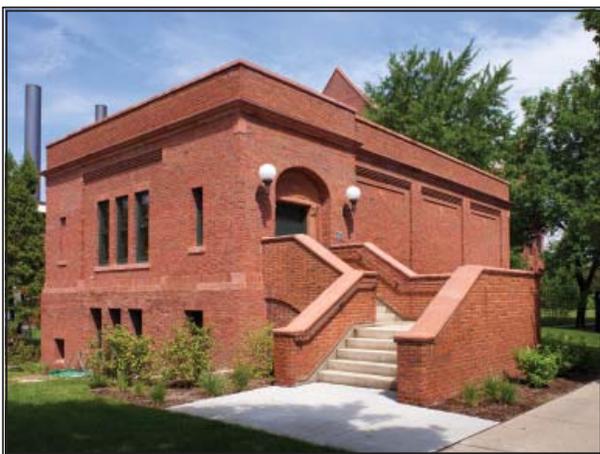
"My parents, Sam and Helen Stahl, set an example for our entire family through their dedication and furthering of Jewish learning," Pearl Berkowitz told the *UWM Report* in 2009.

The two-story building has office and meeting spaces for the Stahl Center faculty and staff members. A flexible-use space on the second floor generally serves as a study space, and can also be used for lectures, colloquia, seminars, and workshops.

The 3,000-square-foot Greene Museum was built in 1913 to house

the plant, mineral, and fossil collection of Thomas Arnold Greene; the collection was moved to Lapham Hall in 1992. The building, which the university acquired in 1964 with its purchase of Milwaukee Downer College, was designed by notable local architect A.C. Eschweiler. The Greene Museum is listed in the National Register of Historical Places.

"The [Stahl Center] and the Baye Foundation saved the building," said Kurt Young Binter, UWM facilities architect. "Many on campus believed the building would justly succumb to benign neglect and be torn down. The renovation allowed this significant historic building to be adapted to a different use and a modern program."



Clockwise from left: Downer Avenue Entrance
Second Floor Skylights
Tiled Entryway

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Message From the Director

Welcome to the first issue of *The Golden Peacock*, the newly established biannual newsletter for the Sam and Helen Stahl Center for Jewish Studies. The bird that gives its name to this publication, and its image to our new logo, figures prominently in Jewish folklore. In folk song, the golden peacock frequently arrives bearing some important message. As Yiddish and Hebrew secular poetry flourished in the 19th and 20th centuries, we find the peacock winging through the works of a number of leading poets, such as the great Hebrew bard Hayyim Nahman Bialik, and the eminent Yiddish poets Moyshe-Leyb Halpern, Itzik Manger, and Anna Margolin. We proudly adopt this figure as a symbol that connects us to the long tradition of Jewish learning and creativity.

The past year – my first at UWM – has been extremely productive and enjoyable. The Jewish Studies program at UWM is blessed with talented and committed colleagues, eager students, a supportive



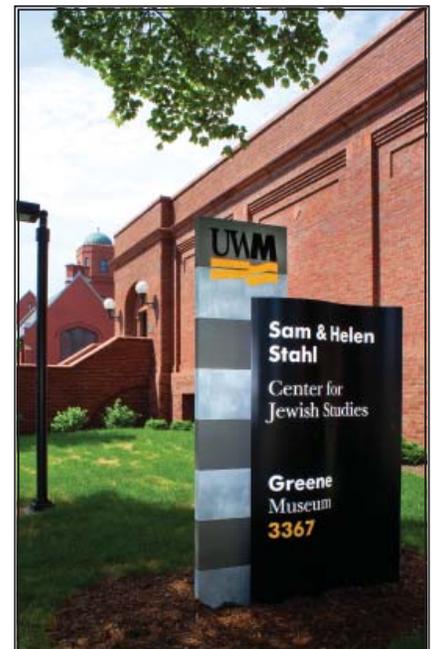
administration, and a generous, highly engaged community. One result of that generosity – a major gift from the Baye Foundation – gave the Stahl Center both its name and a new home in a historic building, the Greene Memorial Museum, on the eastern perimeter of campus. In addition to having lovely office space, we have a flexible-use room on the second floor that is perfectly suited to hosting gatherings, and it serves as a welcoming place for our students to work at other times.

We are getting positive attention beyond our immediate community as well. This year, the Jewish Studies program competed successfully for a nationwide grant from the Association for Jewish Studies that will provide funding for a series of public programs throughout the coming academic year. The Legacy Heritage Jewish Studies Project will support events on the theme of “Roots and Restlessness: Jewish Lives at Home and Abroad,” exploring the historical roots of Wisconsin Jewry in Central and Eastern Europe, and the lives built by European Jewish immigrants in America. In addition to presentations led by UWM’s Jewish Studies faculty, the series will feature lectures by three notable visiting speakers: klezmer pioneer, radio producer, and Yiddish cultural authority Henry Sapoznik; novelist/essayist/memoirist Lev Raphael; and Robin Judd, accomplished historian of European Jewry.

Our reach even extends overseas. UWM recently entered into a study-abroad partnership with Hebrew

University in Jerusalem, and is moving toward establishing a similar relationship with Ben-Gurion University, in the southern Israeli city of Beersheva. These connections will greatly enhance learning opportunities for our students, and existing and new scholarships and awards can help students take advantage of such programs.

Back on campus, we continue to nurture and expand partnerships with other programs, departments, and divisions. The Stahl Center will co-sponsor two conferences in the fall of 2011: one in late October on language endangerment and revitalization, and the other in early November on critical refugee studies. Updated information on all of our activities can be found on our website, as well as our Facebook and Twitter pages. We hope to see you there, or even better, to see you in person at one or more of the many exciting events taking place in the coming year.



Nationwide Grant To Fund 2011-12 Public Programs

The Sam & Helen Stahl Center for Jewish Studies has received a prestigious Legacy Heritage Jewish Studies Project grant that will fund a series of public programs over the 2011-12 academic year. The series, "Roots and Restlessness: Jewish Lives at Home and Abroad," will explore the roots of the Milwaukee-area Jewish community in both the United States and Europe, and will span such

fields as music, theatre, popular entertainment, and European and American history.

The grant is administered by the Association for Jewish Studies, the primary learned society in the field. The Legacy Heritage Project aims to

promote sustained Jewish Studies programming in mid-sized and smaller cities and to foster relationships between scholars and the wider communities in which they work. UWM's Jewish Studies program was one of just four recipients, along with Michigan State, the University of Colorado, and the University of Washington.

The \$22,000 grant enables the Stahl Center to offer programs that feature the talents of UWM Jewish Studies faculty members as well as distinguished visiting speakers. All of the events will be free and open to the public.



Jewish Roots and Restlessness in American Yiddish Music and Radio

Henry Sapoznik

October 24, 2011

6 pm

North Shore Cinema

Photo Credit: Andreas Feininger

On page seven is our program schedule for the 2011-12 "Roots & Restlessness" series. If you are not already on our mailing list, we would be happy to send you a brochure.

Roots & RESTLESSNESS

Jewish Lives at Home and Abroad



Join Our E-Mail List

Interested in announcements about our programming and news? Sign up today for our e-mail list. Send your name and contact information to: cjsuwm@uwm.edu.

We welcome your story ideas, comments or feedback. Drop us a line just to re-connect or contact any of us:

Telephone: (414) 229-6121

E-mail: cjsuwm@uwm.edu

Dr. Joel Berkowitz, Director
berkowitz@uwm.edu

Erik Ebarp, Program Assistant
ebarp@uwm.edu

Megan Loiselle,
Communications Assistant
loiselle@uwm.edu

Corré Family Gift Creates Scholarship Fund

The Sam and Helen Stahl Center for Jewish Studies recently received a major gift from the family of Dr. Alan D. Corré, Emeritus Professor of Hebrew, in honor of his 80th birthday last May. The gift establishes a new scholarship fund to support undergraduate students in Jewish Studies.

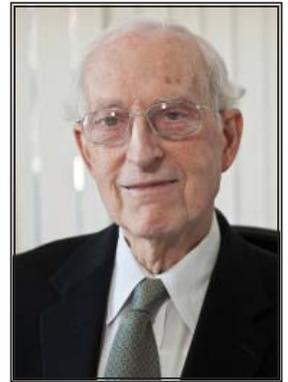
Dr. Corré, his wife Nita Corré, and their sons, Isaac and Jacob, donated \$25,000 to the Stahl Center to establish the scholarship fund. In appreciation of this gift and deferred additional gifts pledged by the Corré family, the first-floor conference room in the Stahl Center, located in the Greene Memorial Museum, is being named in Alan Corré's honor.

Alan Corré served as Professor of Hebrew Studies at UWM from 1963 to 1993. For much of that time, he also served as Chair of the Department of Hebrew Studies and on numerous committees. His many scholarly articles and reviews on subjects such as Hebrew linguistics, Judeo-Arabic language and culture, canonical Jewish texts, and computational linguistics have been published in notable journals and encyclopedias.

Alan Corré was born in 1931 in London, where he received his bachelor's degree in ancient and medieval Hebrew in 1951. He earned his master's degree in Semitic Languages at the University of Manchester in 1953, and his Ph.D. in linguistics from the University of Pennsylvania in 1962.

Even after retirement, Dr. Corré continues to be active. His book, *Icon Programming for Humanists* can be found as a free download on the internet. His website includes translations of works originally written in Hebrew, Judeo-Arabic, and German; scholarly and journalistic writings; and stories for children on Jewish themes. Dr. Corré's website can be found at <http://pantherfile.uwm.edu/corre/www/>

In 2010, the Library of Congress selected the Lingua Franca section of Dr. Corré's site as a historic website that will be permanently archived in Washington, D.C.



2011 Student Awards



Senior Lecturer Dana Margolis and Sarah Ruble

- Chava Frankfort-Nachmias Award for best graduating major: Ryan Rudat. Ryan will be pursuing graduate work in History at King's College London starting in the fall of 2011.
- Marden Hebrew Studies Award: Megan Daniels. Megan graduated in spring 2011 with a double major in Anthropology and Religious Studies and a minor in Jewish Studies.
- Best Continuing Student: Sarah Ruble. Sarah is a junior majoring in Jewish Studies.
- Best Essay: April Slabosheski. April's essay was titled, "Beyond Mitzrayim: Exploring the Fluid Nature of Jewishness and Gender." She is a senior triple majoring in Religious Studies, Jewish Studies, and Community Education.

2010-11 Event Recap

- On October 8th, Professor Jennifer Cousineau (City University of New York) and Professor Charlotte Fonrobert (Stanford University) presented a panel on Jewish Urban Spaces at a conference on “Embodied Placemaking” organized by UWM’s Center for 21st Century Studies and co-sponsored by the Sam and Helen Stahl Center for Jewish Studies.
- Professor Jordan Rosenblum, (UW-Madison) spoke on “Jews and Food” on October 15th. That evening, Rosenblum also lectured on “Jews, Food, and Identity” as a part of the Philip Croen Lecture Series at Congregation Emanu-El B’ne Jeshurun.



Photo Credit: New American Vision

- *Eynayim p'kukhot (Eyes Wide Open)*, an award-winning Israeli film about a love affair between two Ultra-Orthodox men, was shown on October 24th at the UWM Union Theater as a part of the LGBT Film/Video Festival. Co-sponsored by the Stahl Center.

- Professor and Stahl Center director Joel Berkowitz spoke on “Malamud’s Markets” at the Jewish Community Center on November 12th.
- *Le chant des mariées (The Wedding Song)*, set in Nazi-occupied Tunis, was shown on February 4th and 5th during UWM’s 14th Festival of Films in French. Co-sponsored by the Stahl Center.
- Distinguished translator Peter Filkins (Bard College) led a master class on “Venturing the Art of Translation” on February 17th at UWM. Filkins lectured on “Panorama: H.G. Adler and His World” at the Jewish Museum Milwaukee on February 17th, and on writer H.G. Adler at the Stahl Center’s Jewish Studies faculty colloquium on February 18th.

- The Milwaukee premiere of the documentary film *Prisoner of Her Past* took place at UWM on March 10th. Based on a memoir by Chicago Tribune jazz critic Howard Reich, the film tells the story of Reich’s mother, a Holocaust survivor who

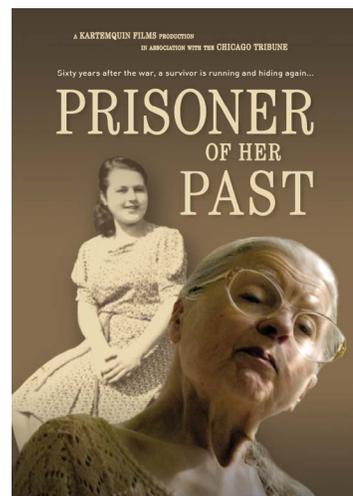


Photo Credit: Kartemquin Films

suddenly thought she was being hunted again, sixty years after the war. The screening was followed by a panel discussion with Reich, director Gordon Quinn, psychiatrist Herzl Spiro, and UWM German professor Ruth Schwertfeger.

- Deborah Dash Moore, Frederick G.L. Huetwell Professor of History and director of the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan, presented the annual Faye Greenberg Sigman “Woman of Valor” lecture, “Walkers in the City: Jewish Women Photographers in New York,” on April 3rd at the Jewish Museum Milwaukee. More about Dr. Moore’s visit can be found on the next page.
- Anthropologist and filmmaker Ruth Behar (University of Michigan) shared the story of her family’s immigration to Cuba from Eastern Europe in the 1920s and then to the United States in the 1960s. She has returned many times to write about the Sephardic Jews of Cuba. The Jewish Latin American Collection, part of the Special Collection at UWM Libraries, and the Setlick Fund for the Study of Jewish Latin America presented Behar’s lecture, “Through Jewish Cuban Eyes: the Jewish Latin American Experience,” on April 16th. Co-sponsored by the Stahl Center.

- Stahl Center director Joel Berkowitz gave a presentation on “Adventures in American Yiddish Drama” at the Jewish Community Center on May 13.

Noted Historian Delivers “Woman of Valor” Lecture

On Sunday, April 3rd, Professor Deborah Dash Moore delivered the annual Faye Sigman “Woman of Valor” lecture, held this year at the Jewish Museum Milwaukee. A leading historian of American Jewry, Deborah Dash Moore is the Frederick G.L.



Photo Credit: D.C. Goings

Huetwell Professor of History at the University of Michigan, where she also directs the Jean and Samuel Frankel Center for Judaic Studies. Author of the classic study, *To the Golden Cities: Pursuing the American Jewish Dream in Miami and L.A.*, Professor Moore has written and edited many other important works, including *GI Jews: How World War II Changed a Generation*. Among her many honors, she was named this year to the Distinguished Lectureship Program of the Organization of American Historians.

Professor Moore’s “Woman of Valor” lecture was called “Walkers in the City: Jewish Women Photographers in New York.” Beginning in the mid-1930s, a number of young American Jewish women picked up cameras to photograph their urban world. They learned their craft at the New York Photo League (1936-1951), a largely Jewish left-wing school and camera club that not only taught photography but also encouraged a way of seeing the world through collaborative projects.

Women at the league recognized the city’s gendered practices even as they used their cameras to explore its streets. Several, such as Helen Levitt and Vivian Cherry, focused initially on children and their games, finding music, lyrics, and dance in their street performances. Others, such as Lee Sievan and Rebecca Lepkoff, hung around the city’s poor neighborhoods, especially the Lower East Side, recording prosaic routines and uncovering grace in them. Moore showed the audience how, when viewed retrospectively, these photographs let us see intimacies of urban life through women’s eyes at a time when gender constrained most women’s gaze.



Photo Credit: Vivian Cherry

The Faye Greenberg Sigman Lecture Series honors the memory of Faye Greenberg Sigman, the mother of Myra Taxman and Lee Temkin. Lectures are dedicated to prominent women who contributed to Jewish heritage, history, scholarship, society, arts, and culture. The series was established in 2001 with a gift from Mr. and Mrs. Royal Taxman, Mrs. Lee Temkin, and the late Mr. Bud Temkin. Past speakers have included Joyce Antler, Sonat Hart, and Rachel Havrelock.

Faculty News



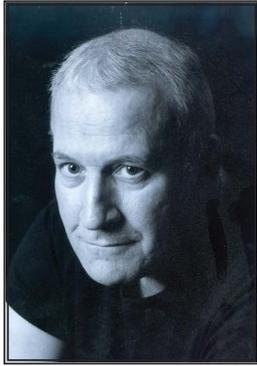
Rachel Baum was one of a dozen faculty members chosen for a course redesign

project. She redesigned the syllabus and assignments for Jewish Studies 101, conducted a study of student learning in the course, and presented her work at the UW-System Presidential Summit in Madison in April 2011. Professor Baum was also awarded two Learning Technology Center (LTC) grants. One funded the introduction of digital storytelling into her online class, “Representing the Holocaust in Words and Images.” Students created an electronic portfolio of reflections on their learning that culminated in a final project using images and narration. She will present this work at the International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning conference in October 2011. The second LTC grant was awarded as part of the “Virtual Worlds, Second Life” Emerging Technology Grant Program. Professor Baum will take her students to the Kristallnacht exhibit in the simulated world, Second Life, and engage them in questions of Jewish memory.

Joel Berkowitz became director of the Sam and Helen Stahl Center for Jewish Studies, with a faculty position in Foreign Languages and Literature, in the fall of 2010, after nine years on the faculty at the University at Albany, SUNY. He delivered the keynote lecture at the academic symposium of the Montreal International Yiddish Theatre Festival, and gave a lecture on “Yiddish Theatre in the 21st

Century” at the Greenfield Institute at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. With Lisa Silverman, he was principal investigator for the Stahl Center’s successful Legacy Heritage Jewish Studies Project application.

Yair Mazor was awarded a \$2,500 grant from the Center of Educational Studies for developing a new course entitled “Israeli Culture.” The course focuses on the Biblical and historical roots of Israeli culture, the development of the Hebrew language, and modern Israeli literature, arts, and culture.



Lisa Silverman received a UWM Faculty Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching Award in the fall of 2010, and was awarded a Global Studies Research Fellowship by UWM’s Center for International Education for the academic year 2011-2012. She also co-organized the symposium “Embodied

Placemaking” with Arijit Sen, assistant professor of architecture at UWM, in October 2010. The symposium was hosted by the Center for 21st Century Studies and co-sponsored by the Center for Jewish Studies. At the symposium, Professor Silverman moderated the panel “Creating Jewish Spaces.” She is currently co-editing with Professor Sen a special volume of *Buildings & Landscapes: Journal of the Vernacular Architecture Forum* based on the symposium.



2011-12 Roots & Restlessness Series

October 24th – 6 pm – North Shore Cinema

Jewish Roots and Restlessness in American Yiddish Music and Radio with Henry Sapoznik, director of the Mayrent Institute for Yiddish Culture at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

November 9th – 7 pm – Jewish Museum Milwaukee

From Falling to Jumping: Philip Halsmann and the Austrian ‘Dreyfus Affair’ with Lisa Silverman, assistant professor of history at UWM.



December 7th – 7 pm – Greene Hall at UWM

Franklin Roosevelt and the Jews with Tim Crain, senior lecturer in Foreign Languages and Literature at UWM.

February 1st – 7 pm – Cardinal Stritch University

A Second Life for the Jews of Europe: Shoah & Virtual Memory with Rachel Baum, senior lecturer in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature at UWM.

March 5th – 7 pm – Congregation Sinai

My Germany: A Jewish Writer Returns to the World His Parents Escape

with Lev Raphael, a prolific author of fiction and nonfiction.

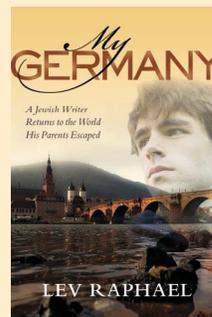


Photo Credit: University of Wisconsin Press

May 6th at 3 pm in the Music Building at UWM and
 May 8th at 7 pm in the Ritz Theatre at the Jewish Community Center
A staged play reading of Kadya Molodowsky’s After the Desert God
 The Vanity Theatre Company presents staged readings of Joel Berkowitz’s translation of Kadya Molodowsky’s drama.

May 22nd – 7 pm – Golda Meir Library Conference Center at UWM
Love at the Zero Hour: Jewish War Brides in WWII



with Robin Judd, associate professor of history at Ohio State University.

Photo Credits: Above – Philippe Halsmann/Magnum Photos, Right – United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Hory Kablito Jagoda

This program was made possible by the Legacy Heritage Jewish Studies Project, directed by the Association for Jewish Studies (AJS). Support for the Legacy Heritage Jewish Studies Project is generously provided by Legacy Heritage Fund Limited. In addition, all events in this series are co-sponsored by the Coalition for Jewish Learning, Hillel Milwaukee, the Jewish Museum Milwaukee, the Nathan and Esther Pelz Holocaust Education Resource Center, the Wisconsin Society for Jewish Learning, and UWM’s Golda Meir Library, Peck School of the Arts, and the College of Letters & Science.



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