

THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE
SOCIAL SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF JEWRY



NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2010
VOLUME 2 NUMBER 1

Ira M. Sheskin
Editor, University of Miami

ASSJ Announces New Book Series: Studies of Jews in Society

I'm proud to announce the creation of a new book series, "Studies of Jews in Society," to be published by Springer Publishing and promoted alongside *Contemporary Jewry* starting in 2011. In the best tradition of ASSJ, this book series will focus on social scientific studies of Jewry, taking a broad perspective on "social science," to include anthropology, communications, demography, economics, education, ethnography, geography, history, politics, population, social psychology, and sociology. The book series will publish works that address the myriad ways in which Jews bridge their many diversities both within Jewry and between Jewish and non-Jewish worlds including Jewish worlds from different national or religious orientations, religious and secular divides, denominational differences, historical changes, urban-suburban-rural divides, immigrant vs. native (in terms of internal and international migration) and even bridges between different modes of research and analysis (e.g. quantitative vs. qualitative studies of Jews; local vs. national vs. global studies of Jews).

Please spread the word to your colleagues about the book series, and contact the editor with any ideas for manuscripts. We aim to publish 2-3 monographs per year and to include as wide a variety as possible.

Editor: Harriet Hartman,
Hartman@rowan.edu ☎

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

President's Column

Welcome to the summer newsletter, and thank you again, Ira, for gathering info for such a stimulating issue.

Since our last newsletter, we've selected the 2010 Marshall Sklare Award honoree. Thanks to all of you who participated in the nominations, and the Board for the selection process. We can all look forward to a stimulating address in December at the Association of Jewish Studies annual meeting. The 2010 Sklare honoree is Steven M. Cohen, Research Professor of Jewish Social Policy, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, New York and Director, Berman Jewish Policy Archive at New York University, Wagner. A prolific researcher--author or co-author of 7 books, (and editor of 4 others), 25 articles in refereed journals (5 in the ASSJ's own *Contemporary Jewry*), 28 book chapters, over 50 applied

research reports, and even more articles in mainstream Jewish media outlets--he has bridged the worlds of qualitative and quantitative research, of Israel and America, and of the academy and Jewish communal institutions. For several decades, he has been among the most prominent sociologists of Jewry, and among the most influential, both in the academy and in the Jewish policy world. A full profile of Steven will appear in the December 2010 Newsletter.

We've successfully negotiated with Springer Publishers to begin a new book series, which will be promoted alongside *Contemporary Jewry*. See previous article.

The next issue of *Contemporary Jewry* will be a special issue devoted to "Secular Judaism," guest edited by Barry Kosmin. Several of the articles are already available online. We are very grateful to the Posen Foundation for their generous support of this special issue.

The Berman Jewish Policy Archive and ASSJ continue to work on plans for our next webinar--look for an announcement in the near future.

Toward the end of the summer we'll be calling for nominations for officers and board members--consider running for a position or nominating a colleague!

And, as always, keep the listserv in mind for any "hot topics" and be sure to contact me or any of the Board members with ideas you have for ASSJ.

Have a great summer!
Harriet

Harriet (Hartman@rowan.edu)

Association for the Sociology of Religion

August 13-15, 2010, Atlanta

Session K2: Jews and Jewish Identity: The Impact of Place - Sunday 12:30-2:30PM

Co-sponsored by the Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry (ASSJ) and the Mandell Berman Institute North American Jewish Data Bank

Organizers and co-conveners: **Arnold Dashefsky**, University of Connecticut, and **Harriet Hartman**, Rowan University

Chair: **Rela Mintz Geffen**, Towson University

Religion and Migration: The Religious Lives of Sephardic Jews in New York City **Joëlle Bahloul**, Indiana University,

Changes in Jewish Identity through Time and Place **Arnold Dashefsky**, University of Connecticut

Why Jewish Communities Differ, **Bruce Phillips**, Hebrew Union College,

Geographic Variations in the Demography and Religiosity of Jews from the Former Soviet Union Living in the United States, **Ira Sheskin**, University of Miami

Discussant: **Rela Mintz Geffen**



News from Members

ARIELA KEYSAR

- Self-Described Religious Identification of Adult Population: 1990-2008, **Barry A. Kosmin** and Ariela Keysar, *Table 75, Statistical Abstract of the United States*, U.S. Census Bureau, 2010.

- "Secular Americans and secular Jewish Americans: similarities and differences," Ariela Keysar, *Contemporary Jewry*, Vol. 30 no.1, 2010.

- *U.S. Latino Religious Identification 1990-2008: Growth, Diversity & Transformation, A Report Based on the American Religious Identification Survey 2008*, **Juhem Navarro-Rivera, Barry A. Kosmin** and Ariela Keysar, Institute for the Study of Secularism in Society and Culture, Trinity College, Hartford, CT, March 2010.

- "Birth, Marriage, Death & Religious Decision-Making, New Findings: American Religious Identification Survey (ARIS 2008)," Annual Meeting of the Society for the Social Scientific Study of Religion, October 2009.

- "What Can the American Religious Identification Survey Series Tell Us about Secularization in the United States Today?" Annual Meeting of the Society for the Social Scientific Study of Religion, October 2009.

- "Religious Decision-Making on Life Cycle Events" Annual meeting of the Association for the Study of Religion, Economics, and Culture, April 2009.

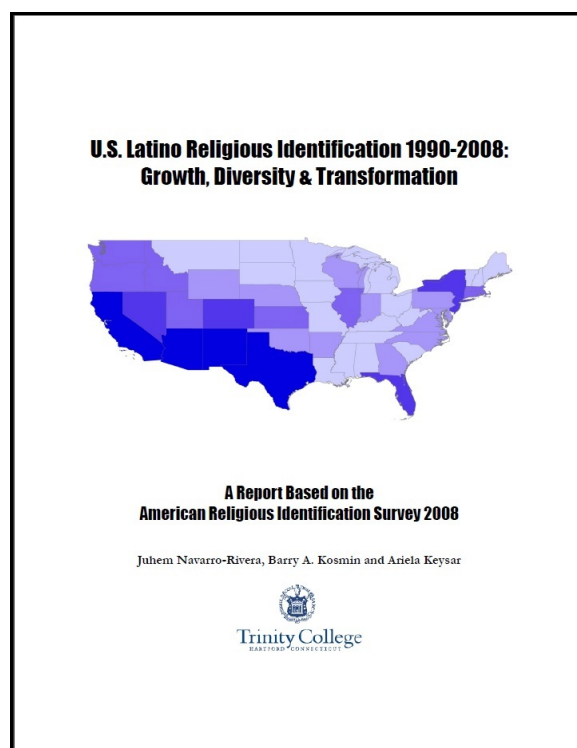
BARRY CHISWICK

I have recently learned about an "Israelitish" Company from Chicago in the Union Army in the Civil War. In looking over the list of 100 soldiers and officers many had non-German traditionally Jewish names, others had names that could be Jewish or non-Jewish German. This seems to have been a heavily--if not exclusively Jewish -- unit. Were there other such Jewish units on either side in the Civil War. How can I get information on such

units? I am particularly interested in their occupations before and/or after their military service.

- Book review for *Journal of American Ethnic History* on Eli Lederhendler, "Jewish Immigrants and American Capitalism, 1880-1920: From Caste to Class" (Cambridge University Press, 2009) (forthcoming, 2012).

- "The Economic Progress of American Jewry: From 18th Century Merchants to 21st Century Professionals", in **Aaron Levine**, *Economics and Judaism*, Oxford University Press, forthcoming.



CHAIM WAXMAN

Chaim I. Waxman retired from Rutgers University in 2006. At his departmental retirement party, Jackson Toby lauded him as a "Talcott Parsons poster boy," in that his scholarly output increased significantly after he received tenure and it accelerated at each higher position. Since achieving emeritus status and moving to Jerusalem, he has co-authored and co-edited four books, published more than a dozen scholarly

articles, and presented at scholarly conferences and presented papers at more than ten scholarly conferences in London, Moscow, and Israeli universities and institutes.

Details can be found at his website:
<http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~waxmanci/ciw.htm>

Chaim is now a senior fellow at the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute. His e-mail address remains waxmanci@rci.rutgers.edu

HAROLD HIMMELFARB

Himmelfarb, Harold S. The Courage to Teach. Ten Da'at. 20 (October 2009): pp. 5-15. (Address to the 3rd Commencement of the Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education, Yeshiva University, June 3, 2009.)

IRA M. SHESKIN

Department of Geography, University of Miami and Miller Center for Contemporary Judaic Studies

- Articles on Jewish demographics in Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Pinellas, Sarasota, and Orlando for *The Florida Jewish Directory*, 2010).

www.realfloridajewishdirectory.com/Florida.

- *The Jewish Overnight Camp Experience* (New York: The Foundation for Jewish Camp, 2010) 83 pp.

- "Assimilation of Jews from the Former Soviet Union," Association of American Geographers, Washington (2010).

- "The Future of the American Jewish Community," at the Embassy of Israel, Washington DC (2010).

- "A Profile of Israeli Migrants to the United States," Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs (JCPA), Jerusalem (2010).

- "The Future of the American Jewish Community," ORT Braude College, Karmiel, Israel (2010).

- "Jewish Demography and the Jewish Vote," National Jewish Democratic Council, Washington, DC (2009).

- "Temporal Changes in Basic Measures of Demography and Religiosity in the Results of Local Jewish Community Studies," Association for Jewish Studies, Los Angeles (2009).

He is currently working on a project on the impacts of Jewish camping on Jewish identity for the *Foundation for Jewish Camp* with **Steven Cohen** and **Ron Miller**, on a Jewish demographic study for the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven, and on a study updating the geographic distribution of the Jewish population of the Tampa Bay Area for Menorah House Nursing Home.

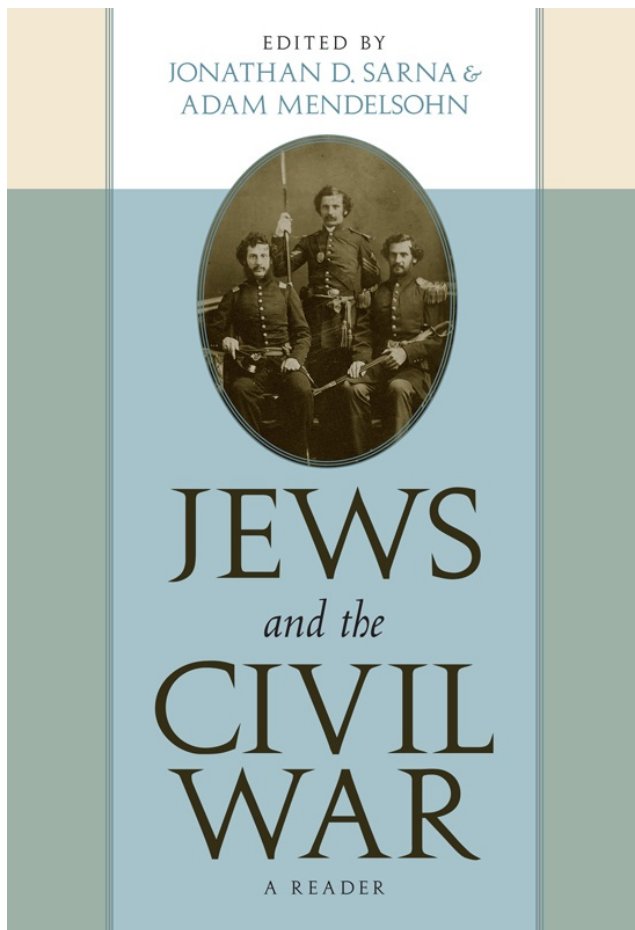
KEITH KAHN-HARRIS

Dr Keith Kahn-Harris is Honorary Research Fellow at the Centre for Religion and Contemporary Society at Birkbeck College, London. He works on issues of Jewish community, politics and identity. In July 2010, Continuum publishers will publish his book (co-authored with Ben Gidley) *Turbulent Times: The British Jewish Community Today*. This is the first sociological monograph on Anglo-Jewry for several decades.

JONATHAN D. SARNA

- Jonathan D. Sarna's *American Judaism: A History* appeared in a new Chinese-language edition. In honor of this event, Sarna spent three weeks in China, where he lectured at the Universities of Nanjing, Shanghai and Hunan.

- Sarna has recently co-edited, with **Adam Mendelsohn**, a volume of essays entitled *Jews and the Civil War* (NYU Press) and another volume, co-edited with **Lance Sussman** and **Pamela S. Nadell**, entitled *New Essays in American Jewish History* (Ktav/ American Jewish Archives).



JACK NUSAN PORTER

On April 15, Holocaust week nation-wide, I spoke at Miami-Dade College in Homestead, between Miami and the Florida Keys to a very cordial and respectful audience of about 80 students and faculty, mostly Hispanics and Caribbeans on the topic of "The Persecution of the Gays During the Holocaust." I came from Boston to speak thanks to Professor Randy Kaufman of Miami-Dade College.

Also in April, I spoke after services at Congregation Beth Abraham in Brookline, Massachusetts, a Sephardi shul (composed of mostly Iranian and some Kurdish and Egyptian Jews) about my trip last year to Kurdistan on the history of the Jews in Kurdistan and present-day relations with Kurds (quite good actually). It was my first talk

before a predominantly Sephardic audience and it went well. Many had left Iraq in the 1950s when very young and had never returned. With their American passports, they are able to return and visit if they wish.

KEREN MCGINTY

- Keren R. McGinty continues to work on her second book project, now titled *The Jewish Masculine Mystique: Intermarriage and Fatherhood as Cultural Prism*.
- A public presentation: "Jews, Gender, and Interfaith Marriage: What Can History Tell Us?" at the Kripke Center for the Study of Religion and Society at Creighton University in Omaha
- A public presentation: "Men Who Married 'Out': Jewish Intermarriage in A Sub-community," for Michigan State University's Jewish Studies and Center for Gender in Global Context in Lansing.
- A public presentation: "Ruthie's Irish Abe: Jews, Gender, and Intermarriage," at Temple Emanuel in Newton,
- A Program of the Keruv Committee and the Jewish Discovery Institute and at Temple Emmanuel in Wakefield, MA.
- Her entry on the topic "Intermarriage" in *The Cambridge Dictionary of Jewish Religion, History, and Culture* (Cambridge University Press) is forthcoming later in 2010.
- McGinty's first book, *Still Jewish: A History of Women and Intermarriage in America* (NYU Press) was selected as a Finalist for the 2009 National Jewish Book Award. *Still Jewish* continues to garner attention, most recently in the *Jewish Political Studies Review* and *Lilith* magazine.

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

- **Ira M. Sheskin** and Arnold Dashefsky, "Jewish Population of the United States" (forthcoming).

- **Ron Miller** and Arnold Dashefsky, "Brandeis (Sasson et al.) v. Cohen-Kelman: The Distancing from Israel Debate." *Contemporary Jewry* (forthcoming).

- Annual Meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion (Boston, MA, July 2008): "Crossing Boundaries and Jewish Journeys: Interfaith Marriage in the United States;" expanded version of above presented at UConn Judaic Studies Faculty Forum Luncheon Lecture (September 2008) and at Judaic Studies Program at George Washington University (April 2009).

- Annual Meeting of the Association for Jewish Studies (Washington, DC, December 2008): "The Distancing Hypothesis Reassessed: Israel Attachments in Local Community Studies" (**Ira Sheskin**, Arnold Dashefsky, **Ron Miller** and **David Kremelberg**).

- Commission on Jewish Education and Leadership (West Hartford, CT, March 2009): "Continuity or Discontinuity: Responding to Changes in the American Jewish Community in the 21st Century."

- Annual Meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion (San Francisco: August 2009): "The Religious, Cultural, and Political Context of Charitable Choices among American Jews."

Grants Received:

- "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.

- "UConn Provost's Competition for a New Course" on "Sociology of Anti-Semitism," one of only two known courses on this subject taught in the United States as of spring 2010.

Ph.D. Dissertation Supervision:

- **David Kremelberg** completed his Ph.D. in Sociology in July 2009 on "Sources and Targets of Anti-Semitism in the United States."

Edited:

- Data Bank Bulletin, Volume 4, Numbers 1 and 2 (2009): reviews of research papers and opportunities for research using resources of North American Jewish Data Bank.

RANDAL SCHNOOR

In 2008, **Alex Pomson** and Randal Schnoor published *Back to School: Jewish Day School in the Lives of Adult Jews* (Wayne State University Press). We have just received another four year research grant from the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada to expand on the subject of our first book. While the original study examined the relationship of Jewish elementary school to Jewish family lives, we wish to extend this examination to the High School level.

The transition to secondary/high school is well known as a time of social and emotional turmoil, but conventionally this transition has been investigated in terms of its impact on children not for what it might mean for the parents and family as a whole. In our current study we plan to explore what happens to the Jewish lives of families as they experience new life-phases and/or changed social circumstances during the period of their children's transition to high school.

The inquiry will be centered on the Tanenbaum Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto. We will examine both those families who enroll at the school, as well as day school families who consider enrolling but then choose to go elsewhere (out of the day school system). Comparative fieldwork will be conducted at other community Jewish High Schools in the United States and the United Kingdom.

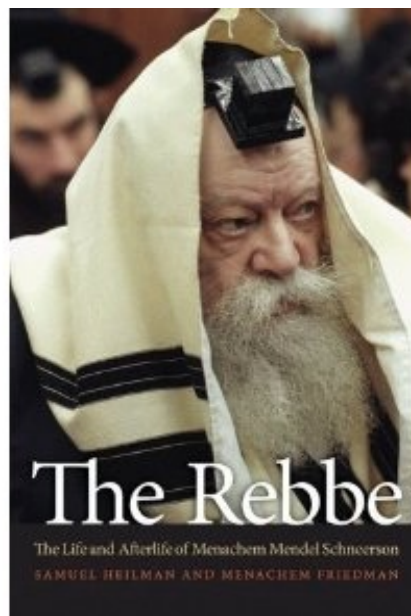
We look forward to sharing our findings of this ongoing research.

SAMUEL HEILMAN

Publishers Weekly review of my new book: *The Rebbe: The Life and Afterlife of Menachem Mendel Schneerson* Samuel Heilman and **Menachem Friedman**. Princeton University., \$29.95 (400p) ISBN 978-0-691-13888-6

Eminent Jewish scholars Heilman, of City University of New York, and Friedman, of Bar Ilan University in Israel, have teamed up to produce an outstanding biography of Menachem Mendel Schneerson, the seventh Lubavitcher rebbe. Their well-grounded contribution carefully avoids hagiography, but their restraint leads them to avoid critiquing some of the more outlandish claims made by the rebbe and his adherents. The issue of whether the rebbe is the Messiah, as contended by some of his disciples, is also treated with respect. More significant is the thorough analysis offered by Heilman and Friedman of the rebbe's great organizational success in sending emissaries throughout the world to persuade Jews to become pious. In addition, the history and influence of the Lubavitcher movement is carefully and candidly traced, including a complete account of Schneerson's experiences before and after he became the rebbe. The disputes that followed his death are methodically depicted. This well-written presentation, based on exhaustive scholarship, will stand as the

definitive statement about the life and times of a highly influential religious leader.



SHAUL KELNER

I'm pleased to announce the publication of my first book: *Tours That Bind: Diaspora, Pilgrimage, and Israeli Birthright Tourism* (NYU Press, 2010)

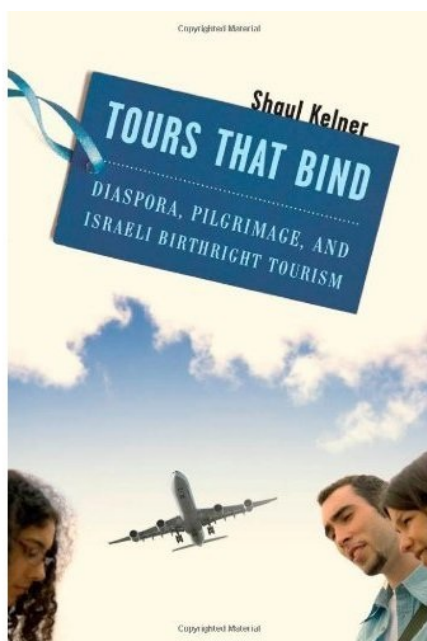
From the inside flap:

Since 1999 hundreds of thousands of young American Jews have visited Israel on an all-expense-paid 10-day pilgrimage-tour known as Birthright Israel. The most elaborate of the state-supported homeland tours that are cropping up all over the world, this tour seeks to foster in the American Jewish diaspora a lifelong sense of attachment to Israel based on ethnic and political solidarity. Over a half-billion dollars (and counting) has been spent cultivating this attachment, and despite 9/11 and the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict the tours are still going strong.

Based on over seven years of first-hand observation in modern day Israel, Shaul Kelner provides an on-the-ground look at this

hotly debated and widely emulated use of tourism to forge transnational ties. We ride the bus, attend speeches with the Prime Minister, hang out in the hotel bar, and get a fresh feel for young American Jewish identity and contemporary Israel. We see how tourism's dynamism coupled with the vibrant human agency of the individual tourists inevitably complicate tour leaders' efforts to rein tourism in and bring it under control. By looking at the broader meaning of tourism, Kelner brings to light the contradictions inherent in the tours and the ways that people understand their relationship to place both materially and symbolically. Rich in detail, engagingly written, and sensitive to the complexities of modern travel and modern diaspora Jewishness, *Tours that Bind* offers a new way of thinking about tourism as a way through which people develop understandings of place, society, and self.

<http://www.amazon.com/Tours-That-Bind-Pilgrimage-Birthright/dp/0814748163>



MARCIA TEXLAR SEGAL

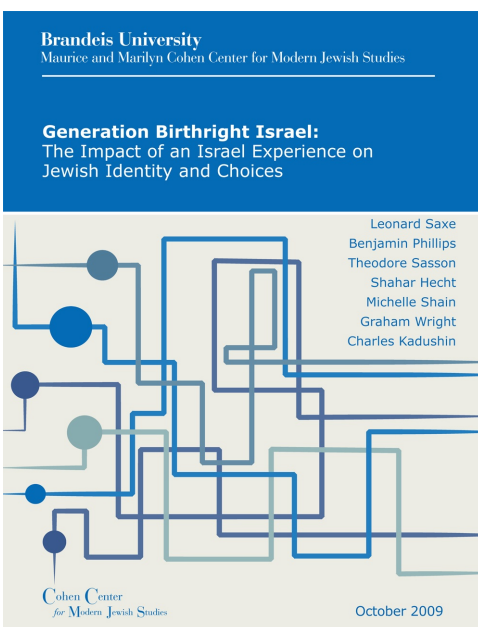
Interactions and Intersections of Gendered Bodies at Work, at Home, and at Play, vol. 14 in the *Advances in Gender Research* series published by Emerald is in press. Marcia Texler Segal is editor for this volume of the series she co-edits with **Vasilikie Demos**. Two articles may be of special interest to ASSJ members: "'Soul Food; Emotional Abuse in Childhood and the Important Role of Food" by **Marjorie C. Feinson** and **Tamar Ben Dror** of the Falk Institute for Behavior Health Studies in Jerusalem and "Engendering Ethnicity: Femininity, Masculinity, and Ethnic Jewish Identity" by **Marianne Cutler** of East Stroudsburg University. Feinson and Ben Dror conducted life history interviews with Israeli women recovering from disordered eating. Their findings suggest that emotional abuse is an important and neglected contributing factor. Cutler studied a Jewish social club in a southern city gathering data through participant observation and interviews. Among these young adults, negotiation of Jewish identity was actually a negotiation of gendered heterosexual Jewish identities. Unflattering gender-coded stereotypes often figured in their discourse.

TED SASSON

- Sasson, Theodore. "Mass Mobilization to Direct Engagement: American Jews' Changing Relationship to Israel." *Israel Studies*, 15:2 (Summer 2010).
- Sasson, Theodore and **Ephraim Tabory**. "Converging Political Cultures: How Globalization is Shaping the Discourses of American and Israeli Jews." *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics* 16:1 (Winter 2010).
- Sasson, Theodore. *The New Realism: American Jews' Views about Israel*. New York: American Jewish Committee, 2009.

Saxe, Leonard, Benjamin Phillips, Theodore Sasson, Shahar Hecht, Michelle Shain, Graham Wright and Charles

Kadushin. *Generation Birthright Israel: The Impact of an Israel Experience on Jewish Identity and Choices.* Waltham, MA: Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies, Brandeis University, 2009.



UZI REBHUN

American Israelis: Migration, Transnationalism, and Diasporic Identity
Uzi Rebhun and **Lilach Lev Ari** (2010)

<http://www.brill.nl/default.aspx?partid=210&pid=41021>

This book is a scientific and comprehensive analysis of Israelis who live in the United States. Using different complementary sources of data, and through cutting-edge approaches in the social sciences, this volume examines the settlement patterns of the Israeli immigrants, their social profile, their economic achievements, their Americanization processes, as well as the nature and rhythm of their Jewish identification including changes in attachment to the homeland. The characteristics of the immigrants shed light on Israeli society. At the same time they also have important

implications for the Jewish community in the host country and on Jewish continuity in America.

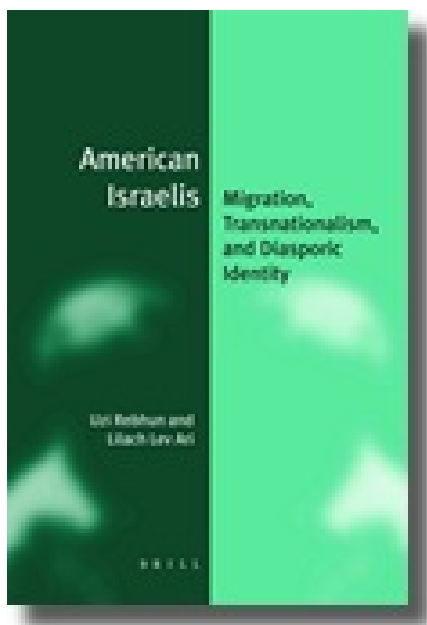
Table of contents

Chapter 1. Migration, Transnationalism, Diaspora, and Research on Israelis in the United States
Chapter 2. Migration and Settlement in the United States
Chapter 3. Socioeconomic Acculturation and Mobility
Chapter 4. Jewish Identification and Attachment to Homeland
Chapter 5. Discussion: The Multifaceted Israeli Diaspora

About the authors

Uzi Rebhun, Ph.D. (1997) in Contemporary Jewry, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, is Senior Lecturer at the Hebrew University. He has published extensively on Jewish migration, Jewish identification and the Jewish family including *Migration, Community and Identification: Jews in Late 20th Century America* (Magnes, 2001 in Hebrew).

Lilach Lev Ari, Ph.D. (2002) in Social Sciences from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. She is Senior Lecturer and Head, Sociology Department, Oranim Academic College of Education; and Head of Research and Evaluation Authority at Oranim. She is also a Lecturer in Contemporary Jewry department and a Research Fellow at the Rappaport Center, Bar Ilan University. Her book *The American Dream - For Men Only? Gender, Immigration and the Assimilation of Israelis in the United States* was published in 2008 by LFB Scholarly Publishing LLC.



BARRY KOSMIN

Honorary Appointments:

Senior Associate, Oxford Centre for Hebrew & Jewish Studies, University of Oxford, England - reappointed for 2009-11.

Publications:

- Barry A. Kosmin, "The Rising Tide of Secularity", *Freethought Today*, Vol. 16, no 10, December 2009
- Barry A. Kosmin and Ariela Keysar, "Self-Described Religious Identification of Adult Population: 1990-2008," Table 75, *Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2010*, The National Bata Book, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, D.C., 2010, p.61.
- Barry A. Kosmin, Book Review of Rodney Stark, *What Americans Really Believe*, Baylor University Press, 2008 in *Sociology of Religion*, vol. 71, no.2, 2010.
- Barry A. Kosmin, Guest Editor, Special Issue on Jewish Secularism, *Contemporary Jewry*, Vol. 30, no.1, 2010. (Springer)

Conference Papers & Guest Lectures:

- Center for Inquiry Transnational Summer Institute Amherst, NY, July 2009 "The Rise of the Nones"
- World Congress of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem, Israel, August 2009, "The Changing Population Profile of American Jews 1990-2008"
- Society for the Social Scientific Study of Religion Annual Conference, Denver, CO, October 2009 1. "The Secularization Debate in the Public Square" 2. "The patterns and dynamics of religious switching between childhood and adulthood in the U.S."
- Vanderbilt University, Cal Thomas Program in Moral Leadership, Nashville, TN, November 2009, "Shifts in the Landscape of American Religion"
- Freedom from Religion Foundation, Annual Conference Plenary Address Seattle, WA, November, 2009, "The Rising Tide of Secularity"
- Secular Coalition Annual Leadership Forum Washington D.C., January 2010, "The American Religious Identification Survey and the Rise of the Nones:"
- University of London, School of African and Asian Studies, UK, April 2010, "Accounting for the U.S. Israel Lobby"
- University of Oxford, Center for Hebrew and Jewish Studies, The David Patterson Seminar, UK, April 2010, "The Changing Population Profile of American Jews 1990-2008"

SARAH BUNIN BENOR

Sarah Bunin Benor has recently published papers in *Religion Compass*, *Jewish Quarterly Review*, and *Journal of Sociolinguistics* on Jewish languages, American Jewish English, and language and ethnicity. She has a few articles forthcoming in various edited volumes about the "Survey of American Jewish Language and Identity" that she conducted in collaboration with Steven M. Cohen. And she completed an ethnographic study of young Jewish leaders in Los Angeles as part of a

research team led by **Jack Wertheimer** and funded by the **Avi Chai Foundation**. As of July 1 she will be promoted to Associate Professor at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, where she teaches mostly in the School of Jewish Communal Service. She administers the masters thesis program, in which students have recently completed projects on the Federation's outreach to Orthodox Jews, Reform youth leadership programs, the Los Angeles Jewish communal response to the economic crisis, Israelis in Los Angeles, Hillel's Jewish Campus Service Corps, and young Jewish adults and personality, among others (many are available on the Berman Jewish Policy Archive).

School of Jewish Communal Service at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (Los Angeles)

Sarah wants to remind ASSJ members that the School of Jewish Communal Service at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (Los Angeles) is an excellent option for undergraduates who are planning a career in Jewish nonprofit work, as well as professionals with several years of experience. We have recently made several changes to the curriculum, and the supervised fieldwork experience remains the most respected of its type. The school is in the process of changing its name to the School of Jewish Nonprofit Management. Here is some information about the school:

The SJCS has earned an outstanding reputation for its interdisciplinary approach, which combines the study of Jewish tradition, history, and texts with pragmatic and effective tools from the fields of the social sciences and business. As the founding institution in the field, our experience, history, and faculty enable us to provide students with well rounded, forward thinking and academically significant professional education. The SJCS

draws upon the extraordinary resources of the University of Southern California (USC), one of the world's preeminent undergraduate, graduate, professional, and research institutions. HUC-JIR's School of Jewish Communal Service offers double degree programs with USC's School of Social Work, School of Policy, Planning and Development, the Marshall School of Business, the Annenberg School of Communications, and the Roski School of Fine Arts. These programs enable students to earn two Masters degrees in two years (all students earn a Master of Arts in Jewish Communal Service).

Joint masters degree programs in Jewish Communal Service and Jewish Education or Jewish Studies are offered through the HUC-JIR Los Angeles campus.

Since 1968, more than 600 alumni of the School of Jewish Communal Service have served as distinguished professional leaders in an array of Jewish communal institutions and agencies throughout the world, including Federations, JCCs, Hillels, synagogues, schools, camps, JCRC, JFS, and foundations.

At HUC-JIR we are committed to providing our students with the academic, practical, and spiritual training necessary to make them leaders of the highest caliber in the field of Jewish Nonprofit Management.



Obituaries

J. Alan Winter, 1937-2009

Jerry Alan Winter, the Lucretia L. Allyn Professor Emeritus of Sociology at Connecticut College, died on March 31, 2009, at his home in Waterford, CT, at age 71. Jerry was born and raised in the Bronx. He received his BA from New York University in 1958, his MA in 1960, and his PhD in 1964 from the University of Michigan. Jerry taught at Rutgers and Temple before coming to Connecticut College in 1970. Her retired in 2002.

A valued member of the faculty of the college, Jerry was a respected teacher and a recognized scholar. The author of five books, his most recent manuscript (on which Arnold Dashefsky was the co-author) was completed a few weeks prior to his death. According to his beloved wife, Gail, working on the book kept him alive.

At Connecticut College, Jerry taught courses in such fields as Social Problems and Social Theory, Sociological Theory, Human Nature and the Social Order, Dynamics of Organizations, Sociology of Religion, and Sociological Analysis of Jewry. Jerry was an active, productive scholar. Most, though not all, of his published research was in the sociology of religion. Books authored or co-authored by Jerry included *Jewish Choices: American Jewish Denominationalism* and *Continuities in the Sociology of Religion: Creed, Congregation and Community* as well as *Clergy in Action Training*; and he edited or co-edited *The Poor: A Culture of Poverty or a Poverty of Culture?* and *Vital Problems for American Society*. He was the author of more than a score of journal articles; over another score of book reviews; and a half dozen or so chapters in various scholarly books. He was the editor of the journal *Contemporary Jewry* (1992-97); previous to that, he was book review editor for the journal *Sociological*

Analysis. Jerry also wrote 100 or so columns in the local *Jewish Leader*. Titled "Jerry Meandering," these articles were Jerry's take, his casual yet astute kibitzing about life as a member of the local Jewish community, as a college professor, a husband, and especially as a loving father in Southeastern Connecticut. They were thoroughly enjoyable ramblings. Jerry was also Visiting Professor at Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Jerry was a practitioner of what Joseph Schumpeter admiringly called the art of creative destruction. So, for instance, he was instrumental in creating two departments at Connecticut College—the Department of Sociology and the Department of Anthropology—and instrumental in destroying one department, the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. He was also instrumental in creating the present generous Connecticut College tuition benefits program for employee dependent children and destroying the old inadequate, much less generous program.

Socially, Jerry was a radical egalitarian. He treated all equally—be they a custodian, secretary, dean or college president—much to the sheer delight of more than one custodian and secretary and to the dismay of more than one dean and college president. Indeed, Jerry spoke truth to all.

Jerry contracted cancer and became quite sick in 1992. He had an extremely painful bone marrow transplant in 1993. The operation was a success, but there were complications. Jerry lost a great deal of his physical mobility, and he had various, or rather many, painful physical ailments. But Jerry persevered. In spite of the intense pain and other difficulties, Jerry lived on, taught on, and fought on. Through tenacity, willpower, and a deep love of life, Jerry stayed with us.

For Jerry, day after painfully difficult day, he always wanted to come to his office another time; to be with his wife, Gail, another day; to see his children, Wendy and Miriam, another day; to see his grandchildren another time; to write and finish yet another book. And he did—bravely, with grace, good humor, smiles, good (as well as bad) jokes, and with an utter absence of bitterness.

To fully appreciate the legacy that Jerry left behind is to read the unsolicited comments that his colleagues offered upon learning of his death:

He was a true scholar and mentsch! . . . may his memory be blessed and may the family find comfort in his many good deeds and many friends.

He was such a nice, good humored man and a remarkable fighter to the end, despite his disabilities. It's very sad.

May his memory be for a blessing. He was a pleasure to work with and very inspiring and stimulating with his ideas.

I am so very saddened by the news of Jerry's death. I was very fond of him . . . He was a smart and funny man and I will miss him.

I am deeply saddened at the passing of my good friend, Jerry Winter. He had a wonderful sense of irony, which masked a great talent as a scholar. He helped publish me . . . and supported and mentored me when others would not. I will miss his wry sense of life and his conviviality. I will miss him very much.

He was an exceptional editor who showed professionalism, patience, insight, and kindness. I will always remember him.

We were on the porch [of Jerry's home] and a young bird fell out of the nest and seemed immobile. Out of his own thoughtfulness for all

living creatures, Jerry called the local ASPCA to assist. After a few minutes, the bird managed to fly away on its own. Thanks for letting me share a few thoughts on a very intelligent and caring person.

He and I were both friends and research colleagues for over 30 years. I greatly benefitted from his insight into our interests and his considerable writing talents, which often changed research presentations into enjoyable prose. But foremost among my experiences with Jerry, is my great admiration for the magnificent way he faced up to the blows served up to him by his struggles with cancer.

It is said in Scripture that "the days of our years are three-score years and ten" (Psalm 90:10). Remarkably, Jerry received his 70 years of life, and more. He was 71 when he passed away. He even finished that last book a few weeks before he ultimately was taken away. That same Psalm advises us to "number our days, that we may get us a heart of wisdom" (Psalm 90:12). That is, life is brief, its moments are precious, and they must not be wasted. That is indeed how Jerry lived his life.

Jerry is survived by his wife of 45 years, Gail D. Winter, two daughters, Wendy Winter Pelberg and Miriam Winter, their spouses, Robert Pelberg and David Lieber, and five grandchildren.

Arnold Dashefsky, University of Connecticut, and Spencer Pack, Connecticut College

Originally printed in the April 2009 issue of *Footnotes*.

Bringing Stratification Processes “Back In” to the Scientific Study of Religion

A Penn State Stratification and Social Change Conference, Nittany Lion Inn on the Penn State Campus, May 20 - 21, 2011

The Penn State Department of Sociology will convene its first Stratification and Social Change Conference, Bringing Stratification Processes “Back In” to the Scientific Study of Religion, during the spring of 2011 on the Penn State campus. John D. McCarthy, Professor and Head of the Penn State Department and Lisa Keister, Professor and Director of the Markets and Management Program in the Duke University Department of Sociology will serve as co-conveners of the Conference. We are soliciting 12-14 original manuscripts; selected authors will present their work at the conference and several leading scholars will serve as critical discussants. The collection of papers will be published in a special issue of *Research in the Sociology of Work*.

For additional information on the Conference Contact Erin Murtha at 814-863-4907 or via email to emurtha@psu.edu

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.

Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies Announces 2010-2011 Fellows In 2005

The Samuel and Jean Frankel Heritage Foundation provided a \$20 million gift to establish the Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan. Each year the Institute invites a dozen scholars together to Ann Arbor to pursue research projects on a general theme. They meet regularly with each other to discuss their work, interact with faculty and students, and enrich the intellectual life of the community.

The theme year for 2010-2011 is “Jewish languages.” Scholars from history, literature, and religious studies departments in Israel and North America will join head fellows Anita Norich and Joshua Miller from the University of Michigan to consider how the questions and implications of Jewish dialects motivate approaches to narrative and literary form, biblical and Talmudic studies, literary modernism, multilingualism and translation, and more.

The 2010-2011 Frankel Institute scholars are:

- David Aaron, Hebrew Union College—Winter 2011 *Language, Holiness, and Identity: The Concept of I'shon haqodesh [the Holy Tongue] from the Late Biblical Era through the Closing of Talmudic Era Literatures*
- Karen Auerbach, University of Southampton (UK)—Fall 2010-Winter 2011 *Jewish Publishers of Polish Literature: Integration, Language Choice, and Cultural Identifications (1850-1939)*
- Monique Balbuena, University of Oregon—Fall 2010-Winter 2011 *The New Faces of Ladino in Latin America Today: Language Revival and National Identity*
- David Bunis, Hebrew University—Fall 2010 *Expressions of Emotion in Jewish Languages*
- Andrew “Marc” Caplan, Johns Hopkins

University—Winter 2011 *The Weight of an Epoch: Yiddish Literature and German Culture in the Interwar Era*

- Elliot Ginsburg, University of Michigan—Fall 2010 *Ve-yesh sod la-davar (The Word's the Thing): A Thick Description of Jewish Mystical Prayer Practices*

- Benjamin Hary, Emory University—Winter 2011 *The History of Judeo-Arabic*

- Richard Kalmin, Jewish Theological Seminary—Winter 2011 *Aramaic Targumim in Jewish and Christian Mesopotamia*

- Joshua Miller, University of Michigan—Fall 2010-Winter 2011

- Anita Norich, University of Michigan—Fall 2010-Winter 2011 *Yiddish-English Translation*

- Avraham Novershtern, Hebrew University—Winter 2011 *The Image of Yiddish in the American Yiddish Discourse*

- Na'ama Rokem, University of Chicago—Fall 2010-Winter 2011 *The Divided Horizon: German-Hebrew Bilingualism in the 20th Century*

- Dan Shapira, Bar Ilan University—Fall 2010 *Turkic-Karaite Biblical Translations*

- Ruth Tsoffar, University of Michigan—Fall 2010-Winter 2011 *Cannibal Ideology: Sexuality, Ethnicity, and Colonialism in Hebrew Cultures*

- Yaron Tsur, Tel Aviv University—Fall 2010-Winter 2011 *Language, Colonialism, and Nationalism: The Case of North African Jewry*

- Kalman Weiser, York University—Fall 2010 *From Yidishe visnshaft to Yiddish Studies: Max Weinreich in America*

- Hana Wirth-Nesher, Tel Aviv University—Fall 2010 *Multilingual Jewish Writing: Hebrew-English Cross Scripts*

For more information, visit

<http://www.lsa.umich.edu/judaic/>

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Judaic Studies Announces Berman Research Fellow in Contemporary American Jewish Life

Following a national search, the University of Michigan's Jean & Samuel Frankel Center for Judaic Studies has named Michal Kravel Tovi—currently a fellow at the Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies—as the second Mandell L. Berman Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Contemporary American Jewish Life for a term of two years.

“I am delighted and honored to be the 2010-2012 Berman Fellow at the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies,” Kravel Tovi said. “Being a fellow at the Frankel Institute during this academic year as a member of The Culture of Jewish Objects research group and knowing the virtues and hospitality of this academic home render this appointment even more rewarding for me. I hope that both the process and the outcome of my work as a Berman Fellow will benefit the Frankel Center and the scholarly discussion on contemporary American Jewry.”

Kravel-Tovi is a cultural anthropologist from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem whose projects have been fueled by a desire to understand the complex way in which various groups and institutional structures within the contemporary Jewish world experience and manage acute crises collectively. While a fellow at the Frankel Institute, she examined the state-run project of conversation to Judaism in the context of national and demographic anxieties in Israel.

“The project I will be embarking on as a Berman Fellow—*Jewish Bio-politics and the Discursive Production of Continuity Policy among the Organized American Jewry*—will explore the ‘Jewish continuity’ policy and

discursive field in the organized American Jewish community,” Kravel Tovi explained. “My anthropological study aims to address questions such as: How has the idiom of Jewish continuity been developed and disseminated in the American Jewish community? What is the role of JS scholars in this circulation? How is the collective anxiety rendered as a discursive resource conducive to justifying policy decisions (e.g., with regard to conversion and intermarriage)? This study will be based on a multi-sited and a methodologically varied discursive research, based on an analysis of ethnographic and textual-historical materials.”

Kravel-Tovi succeeds inaugural fellow Keren McGinity, whose scholarship on Jews and intermarriage led to *Still Jewish: A History of Women and Intermarriage* (NYU Press, 2009), named a finalist for the National Jewish Book Award in the category of Women's Studies. Her tenure as a Berman fellow was spent investigating the experiences of Jewish men and intermarriage.

McGinity attests, “While I was the Berman postdoctoral fellow, I accomplished more research and analysis than at any other time of the same duration during my career as a scholar. Spared the responsibilities and pressures of teaching, and afforded the privilege of an unparalleled intellectual community, the Berman fellowship has been a dream opportunity.”

The Mandell L. Berman Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Contemporary American Jewish Life is designed to foster the long-term health of social science scholarship on American Jews. Mr. Berman, an influential figure in the Detroit Jewish community, has played a critical role on the national scene through the establishment of the North American Jewish Data Bank. He has previously supported graduate fellowships in Judaic Studies at Michigan.

Jews & the American City: Planning, Developing, and Imagining Urban Space and Jewish Space

November 11, 2010 Edward H. Rosen Hillel Center 15th and Norris Streets Philadelphia, PA 19122

This conference will serve as the inaugural event for the Feinstein Center's two-year exploration of Jews and American urbanism. Over the course of the day, three panels will explore the role that Jews and Jewish ideals have played in the redevelopment of urban space. The three panels- on real estate development, urban planning and architecture, and urban politics-will engage practitioners and scholars in these fields. Each panel will consider how we might understand American cityscapes in light of Jews' investment in the creation, destruction and re-creation of urban spaces and ideals. What role have Jews played in the redevelopment of urban space? How have Jewish networks and Jewish ideas about space informed American cityscapes? Are cities places of cross-cultural contact or are they divided into homogenous (racially, ethnically, religiously, economically) zones, and how has this relationship between cities as exclusive places and cities as inclusive places changed over time?

More information and a complete program will be posted on our website in the summer. www.temple.edu/feinsteinctr.

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.

Previous 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) 🌐



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. www.assj.org 🌐

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Contemporary Jewry



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 150 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, 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.

www.springer.com/humanities/religious+studies/journal/12397

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Matt Boxer opened up an [igive.com](https://www.igive.com) account for ASSJ. This is an easy way to donate to ASSJ. Next time you go to order on line, check out [igive.com](https://www.igive.com) and give ASSJ's name. A small percentage will be donated to our cause for every purchase made.



The Mandell L. Berman 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:

- ❶ Acquire, archive, and disseminate quantitative data sets and reports, both contemporary and historical, and to
- ❷ 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.

The Data Bank reports that, as a result of removing the need to login, the number of PDF downloads from the site has multiplied enormously. From November 2009 to February 2010, users downloaded over 54,500 files. This increased from almost 3,600 from July to October 2009.

Included in the 54,500 downloads are 26,700 from local Jewish community studies, 6,900 from national studies, 6,100 *American Jewish Year Book* articles, 2,900 Canadian study documents, 2,600 FAQ articles, 387 data sets, and 8,800 other files.

2,100 users receive the Data Bank Bulletins and Briefs. If you are not one, you might want to go to the website and join the mailing list. They only send e-mail about four times per year.

What's New at the Data Bank

(www.jewishdatabank.org.)

- ❶ The 2010 Annual Survey of American Jewish Opinion sponsored by the American Jewish Committee.
- ❷ The reports from *The 2009 Jewish Population Study of Greater Philadelphia*. While the questionnaire, reports, and slides are available now, the data will be released on August 1, 2010. The Principal Investigator on this study is **Etienne Phipps**, Ph.D., Einstein Center for Urban Health Policy and Research [Albert Einstein Health Care Network [Philadelphia, PA]].
- ❸ The slide sets from AJS 2009 from "How NOT to Do Jewish Population Studies: or, Jewish Population Studies for Dummies" by **Ron Miller** and "Temporal Changes in Basic Measures of Demography and Religiosity in the Results of Local Jewish Community Studies" by **Ira Sheskin**.
- ❹ *The Impact of Geographic Mobility on the Jewish Community 2009* by **Sid Groeneman** and **Tom W. Smith** on Jewish mobility.
- ❺ *Ultra-Orthodox Jewish Community of Montreal* (2003) by **Charles Shahar**
- ❻ 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.

The Berman Jewish Policy Archive @ NYU Wagner (BJPA) (www.bjpa.org), the online database of research on North American Jewry, offers open access to a fully-searchable and annotated archive of nearly 5,000 documents. Our primary areas of focus are: Jewish communal life, education, identity, religion, social activism, demographic trends, leadership, and organizational development.



I want to let you know about some recent developments:

Personal Bookshelf: You can now create a "personal bookshelf" of BJPA documents which you will be able to save and modify for future use.

Formatted Bibliographies: You can now designate items of interest and generate bibliographies (author, title, publisher, date, etc.) that you can download for use in your manuscripts, publications, and course syllabi.

Journal of Jewish Communal Service: By September, the entire 100+ years of the *Journal of Jewish Communal Service* will be fully digitized and text-searchable.

Blog: We are launching a blog to generate and host discussion on research, old and new. We will invite you to follow it and contribute to the discussion.

If you haven't already done so, please visit www.bjpa.org to register for our newsletter.

As always, BJPA provides the following possible uses:

Find articles and other research documents by author, subject area, or other search criteria, including a large number that had never before been digitized or were not widely available.

Pursue cognate research by using the BJPA facility that automatically points to other relevant items on the same topic and by the same author.

Design **course syllabi** with on-line items, saving students time and money.

Showcase your research, as we regularly rotate featured and highlighted articles on our homepage. Do let us know of recent, or forthcoming, research you'd like us to feature.

If you have work you'd like us to post on BJPA, please write to Mordy Walfish at mwalfish@nyu.edu. And, if you have any feedback or suggestions, I'd love to hear it.

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.

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