



October, 2013

Department Newsletter no. 2



From the Department Chair, Prof. Yaron Harel

In this newsletter, we are proud to present the reader with some of the achievements of the Israel and Golda Koschitzky Department of Jewish History over the past year.

Our greatest accomplishment was the addition of four new faculty positions, all of whom will begin teaching during the 2013-14 academic year. I wish to note the support of the outgoing university President, Prof. Moshe Kaveh, the Rector, Prof. Haim Taitelbaum, the Deputy President, Prof. Yaffa Zilbershatz and the outgoing Dean, Prof. Eliezer Tauber, and their positive response to our desire to improve our ability to teach and to carry out research.

This year we held our second international conference with the participation of scholars from 9 countries. Our department also hosted the inter-university conference for young scholars on Russian and Eastern European Studies. Some of our graduate students presented papers at the World Congress of Jewish Studies which was held in Jerusalem this past summer.

During this coming year, we intend to take steps to attract more students to the department. This is the primary mission for anyone who considers the study of the Humanities, and especially Judaic Studies, to be important. One of the steps that we are taking is to continue to organize meetings with high-school students, whom we see as our main pool of potential students.

As I complete two years of service as department chair, I wish to thank all of the department's faculty members for their cooperation and for electing me to lead them for two additional years. I also wish to thank the devoted department office staff for their hard work, and last but not least, the Koschitzky family for their ongoing support of our teaching and research.



Dr. Yigal Levin leading a group of students on a field trip to Megiddo.

Post-Doctoral Fellows This year our department had the privilege of hosting two post-doctoral fellows. We attribute great importance to the addition of these scholars to our academic environment as they provide inspiration for our students and enrich all of us with their research.



Dr. David Ashkenazi

Dr. Ashkenazi wrote his Ph.D on *From Salonika to Jerusalem and Back: The Leadership of R. Jacob Meir, Hakham Bashi in Jerusalem and Chief Rabbi in Salonika, 1856-1920* under the supervision of Prof. Yaron Harel.

The dissertation was a partial biography of R. Jacob Meir who was a central figure in both Jerusalem and northern Greece at the end of the nineteenth century. This year Dr. Ashkenazi has completed the biography, addressing the years when R. Meir was the chief Sephardi rabbi in the Land of Israel, alongside Rav Kook. Dr. Ashkenazi is also engaged in an additional research project under the direction of Prof. Harel in which he is preparing a volume of Ladino documents from the chief archive of the rabbinate in Istanbul. These documents contain important data concerning the Jews of the late Ottoman Empire.



Dr. Menashe Anzi

Dr. Anzi completed all his degrees at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. His dissertation studied the Jews of Sanaa as a minority in an Islamic city in modern times. He is interested in the history of the Jews of Yemen in

recent times, and the relationships between Jews and Muslims especially in urban surroundings. He is also pursuing research on the trading networks and the migration of Yemenite Jews along the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean. During his post-doctorate year at Bar-Ilan University, Dr. Anzi has examined the immigration of the Jews of Yemen in the fifties to Israel. Following the immigration of many Yemenite Jews to Israel as part of the "Magic Carpet" Operation in 1948-1950, during the fifties about 3,000 Jews, many of whom traveled in small groups, arrived in Israel. These Jews are the focus of his current work. The study is based on public and private archives and interviews with immigrants and Israeli hosts.

Dr. Anzi also serves as the Deputy Chair of the Ben-Zvi Institute in Jerusalem.

Activity of the Marcell and Maria Roth Chair for Research on the History and Culture of Polish Jews

During the 2012-2013 academic year, the Marcell and Maria Roth Chair, headed by Prof. Gershon Bacon, held two major events, in partnership with the Jewish Art Program, headed by Prof. Bracha Yaniv. On December 17, 2012, an international photographic exhibition entitled *Traces of Memory: A Contemporary Look at the Jewish Past in Poland* was opened. The exhibition consisted of photographs by the late Chris Schwartz accompanied by texts composed by Prof. Jonathan Webber (Univ. of Birmingham and the Jagiellonian University in Kraków).

For over more than a dozen years these two men worked together gathering material that made possible an entirely new viewpoint on the Jewish past that was destroyed in Poland. The exhibition creates a picture of the fragments of Jewish life and Jewish culture in Polish Galicia that can still be seen today, and interprets these fragments in an informative, accessible and thought-provoking manner.

The exhibition was opened in a formal ceremony, whose participants were Prof. Moshe Kaveh, President of the university, Mr. Jacek Chodorowicz, Ambassador of the Polish Republic in Israel, and Prof. Gershon Bacon, the incumbent of the Chair. The exhibition was set up in the entrance foyer of the Jewish Studies Building, remaining there for two weeks, and attracted a large number of visitors.

On the same day as the opening of the exhibition there was also an inter-university conference on the topic *Research on Polish Jews and their Culture – New Directions*. Senior and younger scholars from all the universities and from other academic institutions presented the fruits of their research on a wide variety of topics related to the history and culture of Polish Jews, from the architecture of synagogues and communal ordinances to the history of Hasidism in the 19th century and cinema attendance by Jews in interwar Poland.



In the photo, from left to right: Prof. Bracha Yaniv (Jewish Art, Bar-Ilan), Mr. Wieslaw Kucel (deputy head of Polish Embassy, Tel Aviv), Prof. Gershon Bacon (Roth Chair for the History of Polish Jews), Mr. Jacek Chodorowicz (Ambassador of the Polish Republic in Israel), Prof. Moshe Kaveh (President, Bar-Ilan University).

The Graduate Program in Contemporary Jewry merges with Jewish History

An interview with the program director, Prof. Judy Baumel-Schwartz

In October 2013 the Graduate Program in Contemporary Jewry will become a graduate study track within our Department, at first as an independent study track, pending decisions regarding the Program's future status within the department.

What is the Graduate Program in Contemporary Jewry? The students in the program study the various forms of Jewish society, culture and life as expressed in the major Jewish centers from the middle of the 20th century up to the present. The program focuses on five geographical centers: The State of Israel, the Western Hemisphere, Eastern Europe and the FSU, Western Europe and the Islamic world. The Program originally opened fifteen years ago under the supervision of Prof. Dov Schwartz. In 2003 the Program was reopened under my leadership.

What does the Program consist of?

The Program in Contemporary Jewry consists of core courses, electives, seminars and preparatory workshops for MA and PhD students.

The Program's academic staff includes Dr. Adam Ferziger (Jewish History) who has also served as the Program's deputy chair, Dr. Yossi Charvit (the Sefaradi Diaspora) who coordinated the Program's MA studies, Prof. Lilach Lev-Ari (Sociology; Demography, Prof. Lev-Ari also chairs the Sociology department at Oranim College), Dr. Hanoch Ben-Pazi (Jewish Thought), Dr. Joel Finkelman (Jewish Education), Dr. Miriam Reiner (Jewish Art), Prof. Zvi Zohar (Eastern Sages), Dr. Doron Danino (Jews of the East), Dr. Shelley Goldberg (Kabbala and Jewish Philosophy), Prof. Yehiam Weitz (Jewish Political Thought, State of Israel, Prof. Weitz also teaches in the Department of Land of Israel Studies at the University of Haifa), Dr. Yitzhak Recanati (Jewish Communications), and Dr. Nava Vasserman (Religious trends, Gender, Haredim). Drs. Recanati and Vasserman are Program graduates and are an example of how departments can successfully absorb their own graduates into their teaching staff.

Who studies in the Program? There are between 25 and 40 students in the Program; two thirds are MA students and one third are PhD students.

Why the merger? Despite the Program's success, it did not receive the budgetary allocations needed by a real department. The merge will allow the academic staff of the department to act as advisors and



allow the department to gain graduate students and staff members.

In Summary: It is difficult to summarize more than ten years as Chair of the Graduate Program in Contemporary Jewry. When I was first offered the position over ten years ago I had no idea of the challenges that would face me on all fronts. I only knew that my own research was gravitating towards issues of contemporary Jewish history and culture and I saw a direct connection between my personal research topics and chairing a program in Contemporary Jewry. Over the past few years I found myself dealing with inter- and multi-disciplinary issues which touch upon many of the topics taught in the Program: contemporary Jewish history, Jewish communications, gender, religious trends in the Jewish world etc. Some of the books and articles which I have published over the past few years have indeed dealt with these topics: the history and culture of Orthodox Jewish women's internet forums, examining the attitude of the State of Israel towards heroes and heroines during its first fifty years through the prism of the commemoration of the WWII parachutists, the Jewish refugee children in Great Britain from the beginning of the Second World War until the present, various groups of Holocaust survivors since the end of the war until the present, the commemoration of women soldiers who lost their lives within the framework of the IDF, and the place of orthodox Jewish women within the ideology and praxis of the religious Zionist movement. "I have learned from many, but most of all from my students", states a well known proverb. Throughout the researching and writing of these studies I was greatly assisted by the feedback and insights which I received from students from both the department and the Program, who were writing their dissertations on various aspects of contemporary Jewish life. I hope that my colleagues in the Department of Jewish History will now be able to enjoy the multi-faceted benefits that the students and academic staff of the Program for Contemporary Jewry will bring to our department and benefit from the merger, both personally and professionally.

At the beginning of the 2013-14 academic year, Prof. Baumel-Schwartz was appointed to serve as head of the School for Basic Jewish Studies. We wish her success in her new position.

Conferences

The Second Annual International Conference: Economic History of the Jews through the Ages: Sources, Methodologies, Narratives.

The Second Annual International Conference of the Koschitzky Department of Jewish History took place on Wednesday and Thursday, June 5-6, 2013, under the title *Economic History of the Jews through the Ages: Sources, Methodologies, Narratives*. During the course of the conference thirty-seven scholars from a range of disciplines – history, economics and sociology – presented the results of their research based on a variety of sources and processed through various methodologies and theoretical frameworks, including both older and newer narratives. The publication of the call for papers on the topic of Jewish economic history generated a tremendous response. More

than 50 original proposals from Israel and abroad were submitted to the organizing committee. The selection process was difficult, and compelled the members of the committee to leave many excellent papers out of the densely packed schedule of the conference.

The international cooperation on display at the conference crossed disciplinary borders between Jewish Studies, the humanities and social sciences, and brought to the conference scholars from six universities in Israel and a wide selection of universities in eight other countries (USA, Italy, France, UK, Austria, Switzerland, Spain and Greece), whose flags decorated the stage of the conference hall.



Employing both new and older research tools, the conference challenged established narratives of the economic history of the Jews throughout the generations, whether as a majority in a sovereign state or as a Diaspora minority community. Lectures at the conference dealt with Jewish communities over a wide geographical range, including both Western and Eastern communities. Various sources for studying Jewish economic history were presented, and theoretical issues that addressed the impact of Jewish cultural values on the development of Jewish economic activity were discussed. Three special panels were devoted to discussion of notable new books on the cutting edge of research on Jewish economic history (by Michael Toch, Zvi Eckstein and Orly Meron).

The members of the organizing committee were Prof. Gershon Bacon (chairman), Dr. Orly Meron, Prof. Adiel Schremer and Dr. Yigal Levin.

The Eleventh International Conference on Jewish Names

The Eleventh International Conference on Jewish Names was held in Jerusalem on August 29, 2013, as part of the 16th World Congress of Jewish Studies. The conference was organized by the Project for the Study of Jewish Names, headed by Prof. Aaron Demsky, which has been operating within the department for over 20 years. The conference, organized by Prof. Demsky and Dr. Yigal Levin, included 16 lectures by scholars from Israel, the United States, the Czech Republic, Germany and Poland, on topics ranging from biblical human and divine names, through rabbinic literature, modern Hebrew and computerized models based on Jewish names. The conference was supported by the department's Koschitzky fund.

The Department Seminar in memory of Prof. Yehoshua Kaniel Dr. Yitzhak Conforti, coordinator

The departmental seminar, dedicated to the memory of the late Prof. Yehoshua Kaniel, is a forum in which scholars from Israel and abroad can display the fruits of their research before an audience made up of graduate students and faculty members. In the 2012-13 academic year the seminar hosted to a large number of scholars from Bar-Ilan and other Israeli institutions. Among others, we heard lectures by Prof. Minna Rozen of the University of Haifa, Professors Yosef Gorny, Dina Porat and Simcha Goldin from Tel Aviv University, Prof. Zeev Gries from Ben-Gurion University, Prof. Zvi Zohar of Bar-Ilan University and Dr. Menashe Anzi from the Ben-Zvi Institute.

The seminar has a long tradition of cooperation with the various chairs and institutes that are connected to the Department of Jewish History. As part of this cooperation, we heard lectures by both Dr. Hava Eshkoli and Dr. Daniel Reiser, sponsored by the Institute for Holocaust Research headed by Prof. Dan Michman. Prof. Gershon Bacon, chair for the research of Polish Jewry, hosted a lecture by Prof. Shimon Redlich of Ben-Gurion University, and the chair for research of Prussian Jewry headed by Prof. Shmuel Feiner hosted Prof. Richard I. Cohen of the Hebrew University for its annual lecture.

Additionally, the seminar heard lectures from scholars who were recipients of prizes awarded for their research: the Churgin prize was awarded to Dr. Guy Bracha, the Uri Ilan prize was given to Dr. Adam Ferziger and the Shmuelevitz Prize was received by Dr. Alexander Avraham.

The opening lecture of the year was given by Prof. Elliott Horowitz, and Prof. Shmuel Feiner spoke in memory of the late Prof. Kaniel.

Additional department members who addressed the seminar were Dr. Idan Brayer, Prof. Shaul Regev, Prof. Judith Baumel-Schwartz, Dr. Natalie Naimark- Goldberg, Prof. Gershon Bacon and Dr. Yitzhak Conforti, who served as the coordinator of the seminar. The seminar is headed by Prof. Yaron Harel, head of the department.

Young Scholars

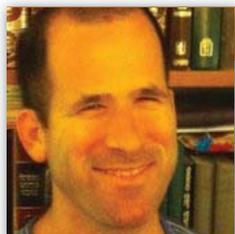
Over the past two years, our department has been part of an inter-university forum for Russian and Eastern European Studies [Inter University Academic Partnership]. This project is supported by the new competitive Humanities Fund and strives to support research and excellent teaching among students and young faculty, to encourage the study of languages and research cooperation. On June 12, 2013, our department hosted ten young scholars who presented their research. Almost all the scholars spoke about topics related to Jewish History. Prof. Moshe Rosman moderated and organized the entire day which was one that exposed the tremendous promise of these young scholars' research.



On December 9, 2012, during the Hanukkah break, the members of the department went on a joint field study in the Jezreel Valley. This excursion, along with similar visits to Old Jaffa and to Jerusalem, have become a department tradition, that combines study with collegiality.

New Faculty

We welcome four new faculty members to the department and are happy to have them join us.



Dr. Dotan Arad

Dr. Dotan Arad studies Karaite Judaism in Egypt in Middle Ages, the intellectual activity in the Orient during the Mamluk and the Ottoman periods as well as the waves of immigration to the East and their effects. The subject of his PhD Thesis was the Musta'ribs (the native Arabic speaking Jews) in Syria, the land of Israel and Egypt. He examined the Cairo Geniza collections, and discovered thousands of documents (in Hebrew and Arabic), from the 14th-17th centuries, which have yet to be identified and studied. Among his publications is a collaborative volume that focuses on responsa fragments from the Geniza. One volume of the project has been published and three other volumes, dedicated to the responsa fragments of the Ottoman Empire Jewish sages, are in print. Currently he is working on a book with Dr. Miriam Wagner from Cambridge University on the relationships amongst the Jewish elite of the eastern Mediterranean shore during the late Middle Ages: commerce relations, family, and intellectual links. Dr. Arad will teach courses on the Jews in the Islamic world in the Middle Ages in our department.



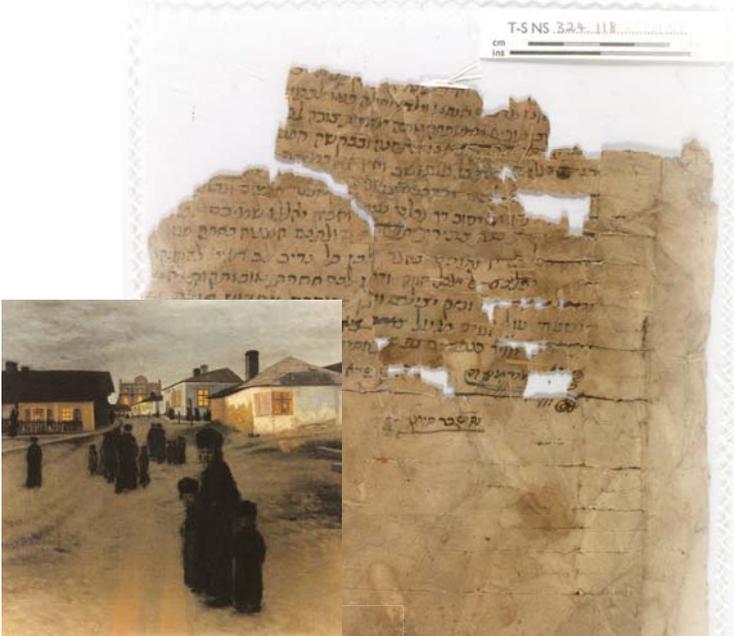
Dr. Guy Bracha

Dr. Bracha completed his PhD at Bar-Ilan University in the Department of Jewish History under the supervision of Prof. Yaron Harel. His dissertation dealt with the Jewish-Zionist journal *al-Alam al-Israili*, which was published in Beirut in Arabic from 1921 to 1948, and was widely read by the Jews in Syria and Lebanon. Analyzing the publications in this journal, Dr. Bracha discussed the Jewish intellectual group that was behind its publication as well as Zionist circles in Syria and Lebanon that have not yet been studied. Dr. Bracha was awarded the Eliashar Foundation fellowship by the Ben-Zvi Institute and has worked there on a post-doctoral project that focuses on the Jews of Lebanon. Dr. Bracha studies the Jewish communities in Syria and Lebanon in modern times as well as the intellectual, social and political history of the Jews in the Islamic lands, with an expertise in Jewish journalism in Arabic.



Dr. Idan Brayer

Dr. Brayer is a graduate of the Department of Jewish History at Bar Ilan and a specialist in the ancient Near East. Since completing his dissertation he taught at the Oranim College and Haifa University. His research focuses on international relations in antiquity in light of modern theories of international relations. Currently he is working on a third volume in a trilogy on *Buffer-Systems in the Ancient Near East in the Biblical Period*. In the department, Dr. Brayer will teach courses about the biblical period and the ancient Near East.



Dr. Uriel Gellman

Dr. Uriel Gellman studied at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem where he received his PhD. His dissertation focused on the history of Hasidism in Poland from the late eighteenth century to mid nineteenth century, and combined social, cultural and intellectual history of Hasidism. During 2012, Dr. Gellman was a postdoctoral fellow at Tel Aviv University. His fields of interest include religion, society and culture of the Jews in Eastern Europe in the early modern and modern period. He studies ideological trends and religious movements, history of the book, Jewish education, magic rituals and more. These varied topics will be among the issues he will focus on in his teaching. Dr. Gellman has published several articles in leading periodicals as well as his book *Sefer Hasidim: A Lost Anti Hasidic Polemic* (The Zalman Shazar Center and The Dinur Center).

Awards and Prizes

Koschitsky Scholarship for MA Students



I. Pass



S. Wineapple

Yuval Naor, Israeli Theater and Holocaust Memory: The Role of Israeli Theater in the Shaping of Holocaust Memory in Israeli Society – Three Case-Studies, supervised by Prof. Dan Michman

Izrik Pass, Israel Eldad – Bearer of the Greater Israel Vision (1949-1967), supervised by Prof. Judy Baumel-Schwartz

Shai Wineapple, What did the British Authorities, Media and Public Know about the Extermination of European Jewry by Nazi Germany?, supervised by Prof. Dan Michman

Koschitsky Scholarship for PhD Students



S. Abramovich



H. Applebaum



M. Assayag



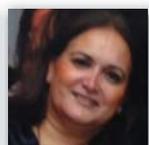
A. Avraham



S. Edri



Y. Halevy



M. Levy



R. Potchebutzky



R. Rozenberg



L. Torgeman



J. Weistuch

Shlomo Abramovich, "We shall establish Yeshivot everywhere": The Hesder and the Developments and Changes in Religious Zionism, 1953-1985, supervised by Prof. Shmuel Feiner

Hillel Applebaum, Slaves and Servants in the Medieval Ashkenazi Jewish Household, supervised by Prof. David Malkiel

Mordechai Assayag, Port Jews: Social and Economic Development of the Jewish Community of Tetuan, 1859-1912, supervised by Dr. Orly Meron

Dr. Alexander Avraham, Jewish Surnames in the Old Kingdom of Romania (16th Century to 1948), supervised by Prof. Aaron Demsky and Prof. Leonid Wolowitz

Shalom Edri, Education, Adolescents and Discipline Problems in the Land of Israel in the Shadow of the Great Rebellion and the Bar-Kokhba Revolt: Historical Aspects, supervised by Dr. Emanuel Friedheim

Yair Halevy, The "New Haredism" Revolution in Israel in the 1970's, supervised by Prof. Kimmy Caplan

Miriam Levy, Jewish Feminism among Muslim Societies during the Age of Colonization: Jewish Women in Urban Areas in Morocco, 1912-1956, supervised by Dr. Orly Meron

Chen-Tzion Nayot, Etzel's Legal Front During the "Rebellion", 1944-1948, supervised by Prof. Meir Hildesheimer

Michal Ohana, The Philosophy of R. Sha'ul Shemu'el Siriro – A Chapter of the History of Jewish Philosophy in Morocco, supervised by Prof. Shaul Regev

Rivka Potchebutzky, The Synagogue Community at Dura Europos and its Affinity and Co-relation with the City Dwellers and Other Communities Elsewhere, supervised by Prof. Ben-Zion Rozenfeld

Rami Rozenberg, Eretz Israel in the Writings of Sephardic Sages of Jerusalem in the 19th Century, supervised by Prof. Shaul Regev

Lilach Torgeman, Selected Issues in the Writings of Rabbi Nathan Amram and the Shifting Nineteenth-Century Reality: The Abolition of Shadarut and the Response of Orthodox Judaism to Reform, supervised by Prof. Aharon Gaimani

Joshua Weistuch, Aspects of the Social, Religious & Economic Administration, Management and Leadership of the Jewish Community during the Mishna and Talmud Era (70-400 A.D.), supervised by Prof. Ben-Zion Rozenfeld

Evyatar Zanbar, The Roman Empire in the View of the Land of Israel Sages in the Days of the Mishnah and Talmud – Historical, Geographical and Cultural Aspects, supervised by Dr. Emanuel Friedheim

President's Award Recipients



A. Mishaev



Y. Halevy

Anatoly Mishaev, Ideologically Motivated Theories about the Common Origins of Jews and Turkic Peoples – Analysis of the Historiography's Discourse about the Khazars and Other Cases of Jewish-Turkic Interaction, supervised by Prof. Yaron Harel and Prof. Dan Shapira

Yair Halevy, The "New Haredism" Revolution in Israel in the 1970's, supervised by Prof. Kimmy Caplan

Rector's Prize Recipient (BA Students)



S. Stav

Ms. Shahar Stav

Faculty Teaching Award



K. Caplan

Prof. Kimmy Caplan

Faculty Members' News

● **Professor Gershon Bacon** (together with Dr. Mirjam Rajner from the Jewish Art Program) received a grant from the Israel Science Foundation (ISF) for the purpose of organizing an international workshop on research on the Holocaust in Yugoslavia. Yad Vashem also supported this project. The workshop took place at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem on June 24-28, 2013, under the title **The Holocaust in Yugoslavia: History, Memory and Culture - a Reappraisal**. Numerous scholars from the states of the former Yugoslavia, as well as from other countries in Europe and North America, took part in the workshop. The ambassadors of Serbia, Croatia, Macedonia and Slovenia also honored the workshop by their presence. This workshop was a continuation of a three-year research project that also received a grant from the ISF.

● **Professor Meir Bar-Ilan** received a grant from the Israel Science Foundation in support of his publication of documents from the archives of Prof. Saul Lieberman, one of the greatest Talmud scholars of the 20th century.

● **Dr. Elisheva Baumgarten** was the Rose and Henry Zifkin teaching fellow at the Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania during the fall of 2012. She was also appointed as a member of Merkaz Zalman Shazar's publication committee. We bid Dr. Baumgarten farewell as she joins the Department of Jewish History at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem as an associate professor this coming fall and thank her for her many years of teaching and collegiality in our department.

● **Professor Kimmy Caplan** was elected to serve on the Board of Directors of the Association for Jewish Studies (AJS), and is the only representative from an Israeli academic institution on this board. The membership body of this association includes hundreds of scholars from many countries who engage in Jewish Studies. Additionally, the Israel Science Foundation awarded Professor Caplan a three-year research grant for his project **Amram Blau: A Biography**. This study focuses on the life and activities of one of the founders and first leader of Neturei Karta, an extreme anti-Zionist Haredi group, that for several decades was in many ways the ultimate "other" to the Jewish-Zionist majority in Israel. As such, the official authorities of the State and the public discourse, primarily the press, dealt with Blau and his followers, and in this sense his story presents us with a rather unique perspective of the "Israeli story".

● **Professor Shmuel Feiner**
This year Prof. Feiner completed his course **Secularization in Jewish Culture** prepared for the Open University with Dr. Avrieli Bar-Levav and Prof. Ron Margolin. Prof. Feiner was also appointed a member of the Vattat Doctoral Fellowship Committee in the Humanities.

● **Professor Yaron Harel** co-edited the second volume of **Eretz Umloah**, a collection of studies on the Jews of Aleppo, Syria, together with the late Prof. Yom-Tov Assis and Dr. Miriam Frankel. The volume was published by Yad Ben-Zvi.

● **Dr. Yigal Levin** was the co-editor of **War and Peace in Jewish Tradition from the Biblical World to the Present**, together with Prof. Amnon Shapira. The volume, published by Routledge, includes 18 studies ranging from the laws of warfare in the Bible and in rabbinic literature, to modern literary and media attitudes to war and peace in Israel and in the Diaspora.

● **Professor David Malkiel** received a grant from the Israel Science Foundation for his study on, **Ambassadors of Holiness: Shadars in the Social and Intellectual Life of Italian Jewry**

(1450-1850). The Shadar (an acronym for "emissaries of the rabbis") were familiar characters in Jewish society in the early modern period, having been sent by the yeshuv in Eretz Yisrael to various Diaspora communities in order to raise funds. We know of over one hundred Shadars in Italy during this period, many of whom left behind documentation of their activities and intellectual life, including response, sermons and letters.

● **Professor Dan Michman** served as a panelist (with Mr. Adama Dieng, UN Special Adviser for the Prevention of Genocide; Prof. Edward Kissi, Professor at the Dept. of African Studies of the University of South Florida; and Karen Pollock, Executive Director of the Holocaust Educational Trust, UK) and lectured on "From Holocaust Education to the Prevention of Genocide: What have we learnt from the Past?", at a conference organized by UNESCO Headquarters in partnership with the Office of the United Nations Special Advisor for the Prevention of Genocide and with the support of the Permanent Delegation of the Kingdom of Belgium to UNESCO, Paris on January 28, 2013. Prof. Michman was also Mandelbaum Scholar in Residence, Mandelbaum Trust, The University of Sydney, Australia, during the month of August 2013. Additionally, this year saw the publication of his co-edited book, David Bankier, Dan Michman and Iael Nidam-Orvieto (eds.), **Pius XII and the Holocaust. Current State of Research**, Jerusalem: Yad Vashem, 2012. Prof. Michman was also invited by the Bavarian parliament to be a member of an international team that will examine the public attitude towards Hitler's "Mein Kampf", in preparation for the publication of an annotated edition that will appear after the book becomes part of the public domain in 2015.

● **Professor Moshe Rosman** spent the past summer at the Simon Dubnow Institute in Leipzig as part of a team writing a history of Hasidism. Additionally, the second volume of the history of the Jews of Pinsk, edited and translated by Prof. Rosman, appeared in December, following the first volume from 2008, and completing a 27-year project. Prof. Rosman also served as coordinator of a course on conflicts in Jewish history at the Zalman Shazar Center, and continues to serve as an advisor to the Muzeum Historii Żydów Polskich in Warsaw.

Thanks

Just before the 2013-14 year began, the academic office bade farewell to Tom Aloni, a psychology student who has worked in the department office for the past year and a half. We all came to recognize Tom's constant smile and willingness to help, often working on projects that were beyond his usual duties. A small goodbye party was organized by Cochava and Nicole. Tom will soon enlist in the IDF and serve in the Northern Command. All the department members thank Tom for his work and wish him much success in the future.

