S M H N S S S S





NEWS from the
CENTER for JEWISH
STUDIES at HARVARD
UNIVERSITY

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PHOTOGRAPHY Marcus Halevi

LOGO Kate Riegle-van West

CENTER JEWISH STUDIES THE STUDIES

New Endowment Funds

THE JUDITH AND DAVID LOBEL FUND FOR THE CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES

We are thrilled to announce the establishment of the Judith and David Lobel Fund for the Center for Jewish Studies, the gift of Judith Stern Lobel, AB 1985, JD 1989, and David S. Lobel. Through this generous gift, the donors will ensure the continued study of Judaica at Harvard and promote the study of the language, literature, history, philosophy, and religion of the Jewish people. This current use fund can be used to support faculty and student research, conferences, speaker series, and other programming in Jewish studies. We are very grateful to Judith and David Lobel for their generosity!



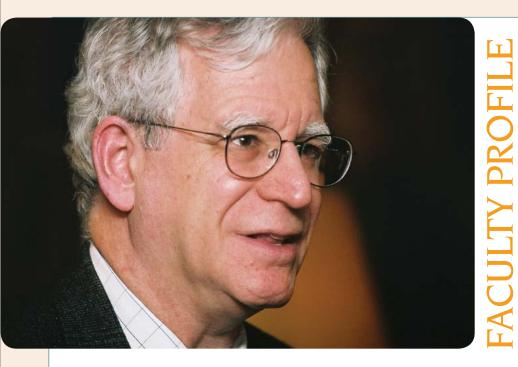
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COVER PHOTO



PETER MACHINIST HANCOCK PROFESSOR OF HEBREW AND OTHER ORIENTAL LANGUAGES

AS FAR BACK AS HE CAN REMEMBER, Professor Machinist knew that he wanted to teach. "I remember always being excited about knowledge and knew that I wanted to communicate it to others." His interests began in the field of science. "Growing up in the 1950s, a time of tremendous and exciting scientific advances, science seemed to be where everything was happening and where all the brilliant minds were working. But in high school I discovered I had no talent for math. Thus, there would be no science career."

Instead, Professor Machinist found ancient history. He discovered that he enjoyed answering questions about Judaism, particularly ancient Judaism, from his non-Jewish high school friends, and the concomitant study

"I remember always being excited about knowledge and knew that I wanted to communicate it to others."

—Peter Machinist

of Latin "opened up the world of antiquity." His passion for the ancient world was also piqued on a family visit to Pompeii, "where I saw a city literally resurrected from the dead." Later, as a freshman at Harvard, a lecture at Harvard Hillel by Professor Frank Moore Cross about ancient biblical poetry drew these fields, of Classical and Jewish history, together for Professor Machinist. "When he spoke about his own research on the earliest poetry of the Hebrew Bible, I was amazed by the sophisticated

and rigorous method he used to analyze early poems. From him I was inspired by the idea of studying religious texts as university scholarship. I knew that I wanted to concentrate in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, joining my interests in Judaism and antiquity." Machinist felt very lucky to be one of the few undergrads in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations and to enjoy the special attention this small group received from the faculty.

"Frank Moore Cross, Thomas Lambdin, and G. Ernest Wright were all great scholars and great teachers. Professor Cross made you feel that you were at the frontier of the field. ... As the deadline for my undergraduate senior thesis approached, I went to Professor Cross to let him know that the arguments in my thesis were not holding together. I felt that my only choice was to abandon it, and I knew that by doing so I would foreclose on an academic career. I was, needless to say, quite agitated about all of this. Professor Cross made me calm down,

Continued on next page

PETER MACHINIST, continued

and then asked me leading questions about my work without telling me what to say. He gave me orientation and the confidence I needed to finish, which I did."

When it was time to apply to graduate school, Professor Machinist decided to go outside Harvard to gain the benefit of a variety of voices in his field—he chose Yale. "There I focused on ancient Mesopotamia without forgetting my work in Bible. ...At Yale we had an outstanding group of students, and we learned much from one another. The experience made me realize that no matter how great a school's faculty and resources, without good students a program won't amount to anything." This model he has tried to replicate elsewhere, including at Harvard.

Currently, Professor Machinist is working on a variety of research projects, both big and small. One is a commentary on Nahum, a biblical book of prophecy that brings together his interests in Bible and Mesopotamia. A second volume is a study of an Assyrian epic poem on which he worked for his Ph.D. dissertation. "What survives shows that this was an unusually sophisticated piece of writing...from the late 1200s BCE," he

explains. The third research project is on the Hebrew Bible as a Near Eastern book. "What are the traditions of other ancient Near Eastern cultures and what, or is there, anything distinctive about the Hebrew Bible in this arena?" In this work he lays out the overall issue of com-

parative studies and uses case studies to inquire how biblical texts compare with texts from other cultures. Machinist is also working on other, smaller articles on Biblical and Mesopotamian prophecy, wisdom literature, and the history of modern scholarship on the ancient Near East.

One of the publications of which he is proudest is an essay on the great German biblical and Semitics scholar, Julius Wellhausen (1844-1918), and his relationship to the then new field of Assyriology. "The common opinion is that he knew nothing of Mesopotamia and thought this area of study worthless, but this is not true." Professor Machinist believes that in not investing more time on Mesopotamian studies, Wellhausen made a decision about what he considered scholarly priorities and the importance of biblical studies. These decisions had implications for scholarship to come.

He has also written an essay on Psalm 82, in which God is depicted in a council of divine associates, who, together with him, supervised the world. "But God felt the associates were not performing properly" and so decided to demote them to mortals. Machinist views this psalm as an effort to account for the emergence of monotheism. If monotheism can be defined mathematically as: "in the set called deity there is only one member," then this psalm talks of more than one member and how this set of multiple deities became only one.

Next year, Professor Machinist will be a Visiting Professor at the University of Munich, Germany. He will teach two seminars, one on Nahum and the other on the history of Biblical scholarship, and will give four lectures on an integrated theme.

Professor Machinist has taught a wide variety of classes at Harvard. In his general courses he enjoys the challenge of showing students that his is a field worth studying. For example, in his class on Job and the Joban tradition, offered to undergraduates, the texts bring up some key life questions: What is life about? Why do people suffer? Is there justice in the world? How do people fit into the universe? If there is a God, how do people relate to God? "These introductory classes are good for

> me. They force me to ask myself why my work has value and what are the broader implications for others?"

He also enjoys teaching the more specialized courses that require a greater technical background, which allow him to get more deeply into sources than he can in the more

general classes. "But I don't teach these two kinds of classes in entirely separate ways; I try to import something of the one into the other." For example, in the Job class he shows students the importance of reading a text closely. "We live increasingly in a society with too much information. We can either shut it out or catch some information as it whizzes by. It is important to learn to read not only rapidly, but in slow motion: to take a chapter, look at how it is structured and what it is telling us, and thus, to realize that sometimes in a single chapter, you can find a whole universe of thought and experience. I want to get students to take time to think. So in the specialized classes I want also to ask general questions, even as in the general classes I seek to make a place for specific questions as well."

Appointed both in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations and in the Divinity School, he works with and is advisor to students from both schools. For several years he also served as the Director of Undergraduate Studies

In his work, he lays out

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compare with texts from

other cultures.

in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. "I enjoy working with undergrads as much as with grad students," Machinist explains. "The undergraduates offer a fresh perspective. ... They are not yet fully socialized in the field, and most are searching for what they want to do with their lives. They feel free to ask questions and often some of the most basic questions, which are the most important and the most difficult, ones to answer. ...I enjoy the challenge of getting them to see what the study of the Near or Middle East involves, and why it is worthwhile spending time on its history, cultures, and languages."

Professor Machinist really enjoys teaching. Among the aspects he enjoys most are: (1) making sense of something that makes people question themselves and others; (2) communicating with others, getting and giving feedback and clarification; (3) learning about other cultures. He finds it a wonderful challenge to solve puzzles of cultures long disappeared. "It is my job to make familiar that which is strange and to make strange that which is familiar."

He explains, "I enjoy the world of ideas, and thinking about questions like: What is knowledge? How do you obtain, discover, order, and communicate it? Some students live for ideas; they revel in discussion and the search for knowledge. Others are more oriented toward practical enterprises and solutions. Harvard creates a

very rare climate of intellectual "It is my job to make familiar that ty of people who care about the importance of ideas. The students here are top-notch. They come with a solid base in the knowledge and skills they

need, and they can then use these skills to move to the next level." Professor Machinist is inspired by the varied pursuits of students and academic and support staff here at Harvard who are also musicians, poets, athletes, and more.

When asked how it feels to hold the faculty chair held by his mentor, Professor Cross, Machinist replied, "I have, I know, achieved a few things, but I'm not in his class. I am not being falsely modest; this is a statement of fact. As he would have wanted, I have tried to stake out my own area, not directly following him, but always mindful of his great work. The purpose of education, after all, is to learn to find your own voice amidst the skills and knowledge you need to function. That voice I am still trying to develop, but, given what Professor Cross accomplished, it has been a humbling process."

Hancock Professorship of Hebrew and other Oriental Languages

Languages is the third oldest faculty chair at Harvard. It was established by the will of Thomas Hancock, the uncle and guardian of the famous John Hancock, that besides the Harvard chair, money be set aside to bring religion, i.e., Christianity, to Native Americans and set a very challenging standard, none more than Cross, who passed away in October, 2012.

Peter Machinist is eager to explain the relationship of the study of the Hebrew Bible and the ancient Near East to Jewish Studies. "The Bible is an interesting field with respect to Jewish studies. It is often held at arm's length by Jewish studies scholars. But critical to the process by which Judaism comes into existence is the emergence of the Hebrew Bible as an organized, sacred, and authoritative text for the Jewish community." On the other hand, Professor Machinist explains, the Hebrew Bible

> is not just a Jewish book; it becomes important also to other religions, even as it is a kind of repository of the experiences and wisdom of the ancient Near Eastern world which lies behind it and from which it comes. "My approach to the

study of the Hebrew Bible, I would say, is along two axes: (1) the Bible as an historical artifact of the ancient Near East, inan important part of my personal and professional identity in the study of the Bible and the Judaism that follows it."

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strange that which is familiar."

—Peter Machinist (and C. Wright Mills)



KAY SHELEMAY with JUDAH COHEN at CJS reception

HARRY STARR FELLOWS IN JUDAICA

TOPIC: "Music in Jewish Life" FACULTY HOST: Kay K. Shelemay, G. Gordon Watts Professor of Music and Professor of African and African American Studies

JUDAH COHEN

Indiana University–Bloomington, Indiana (spring semester)

MAUREEN JACKSON

Carleton College, Minnesota (spring semester)

EVAN RAPPORT

Eugene Lang College, The New School for Liberal Arts, New York (academic year)

EDWIN SEROUSSI

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem (spring semester)

STACY WOLF

Princeton University, New Jersey (spring semester)

AMY WLODARSKI

Dickinson College, Pennsylvania (academic year)

DANIEL JUETTE

Honorary Starr Fellow, Society of Fellows, Harvard University (spring semester)

DANIEL JEREMY SILVER FELLOW

GAVRIEL GOLDMAN

Chief Rabbi of Kfar Adumim, Israel

FELLOWS, POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWS, AND VISITING SCHOLARS

URIEL BARAK

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

YISHAI KIEL

Yale University, Connecticut

PAUL-ANDRE BEMPECHAT

Independent scholar

LISA ANTEBY-YEMINI

IDEMEC, University of Aix-Marseille, France

ASHER SCHECHTER

The Maimonides School, Massachusetts

ASSOCIATES

YAAKOV ELMAN

Yeshiva University, New York

GERARD WEINSTOCK VISITING PROFESSOR IN JEWISH STUDIES

LEE I. LEVINE

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem (spring semester)

Ancient Near East 228: The History and Archaeology of Jerusalem

Jewish Studies 138: The Synagogue and Jewish Community

VISITING PROFESSORS IN JEWISH STUDIES

BENNY MORRIS

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (spring semester) Rohr Visiting Professor of Modern Israeli Studies

The Modern Middle East 115: The Arab-Zionist Conflict 1882-1948

The Modern Middle East 215: The Arab-Israeli War of 1948

ILANA PARDES

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (fall semester)

Literature 197: Secularism and its Discontents: From Agnon to Amichai

Jewish Studies 201: Bible, Literature, Culture: The Song of Songs: Seminar

AVRAHAM FAUST

Bar-Ilan University

Ancient Near East 157: Material Culture, Society and Ideology: The Archaeology of Society in the Monarchic Period of Ancient Israel (fall semester)

Ancient Near East 230: Ethnicity and Boundary Maintenance in Ancient Israel of the Iron I Period: Israelites, Philistines and Canaanites (spring semester)









The Center for Jewish Studies was pleased to welcome four Visiting Professors in 2012-13. With the support of these Professorships, the Center is able to host leading scholars in Jewish studies to supplement the courses offered by our full-time faculty.

VISITING PROFESSORS

LEE I. LEVINE

Lee I. Levine, Professor Emeritus at the Institute of Archaeology at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, was our Gerard Weinstock Visiting Professor during the spring semester of 2013. He taught two classes in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at Harvard: "The History and Archaeology of Jerusalem" and "The Synagogue and Jewish Community."

The Gerard Weinstock Visiting Professorship in Judaica was established in 1978 as an endowment fund by Gerard Weinstock to support visiting professors in Jewish studies to teach at Harvard for a semester or a full academic year.

ILANA PARDES

Ilana Pardes, Professor of Comparative Literature at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, was Visiting Professor in the Departments of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations and Comparative Literature. While she was at Harvard, Professor Pardes offered two courses: "Bible, Literature, Culture: The Song of Songs: Seminar" and "Secularism and its Discontents: From Agnon to Amichai."

BENNY MORRIS

Benny Morris, Professor of History at Ben-Gurion University, Israel, and a former journalist at *The Jerusalem Post*, spent the spring semester at Harvard as the Rohr Visiting Professor of Modern Israel Studies in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. Professor Morris also taught two courses: "The Arab-Zionist Conflict, 1882-1948" and "The Arab-Israeli War of 1948."

AVRAHAM FAUST

Avraham Faust, Associate Professor, Land of Israel Studies and Archaeology, Bar Ilan University, Israel, was Visiting Professor in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. He taught two courses: "Material Culture, Society and Ideology: The Archaeology of Society in the Monarchic Period of Ancient Israel" and "Ethnicity and Boundary Maintenance in Ancient Israel of the Iron I Period: Israelites, Philistines and Canaanites."



The Daniel Jeremy Silver Fellowship was established in memory of Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver ('48) to enable an "active congregational rabbi who has demonstrated exceptional intellectual and academic interest, originality, and energy" to engage in full-time academic research at Harvard. Rabbi Gavriel Goldman, Chief Rabbi of Kfar Adumim (Israel) was our Daniel Jeremy Silver Fellow for the 2012-13 academic year.

GAVRIEL GOLDMAN DANIEL JEREMY SILVER FELLOW

AFTER TRAINING IN A YESHIVA FOR 12 YEARS, RAB-BI GOLDMAN attended seminary for an additional seven years to become a rabbi. He viewed working his way through school as an asset and opportunity to exercise the different types of learning in these different environments simultaneously. He loves connecting with people and enjoys the opportunity his current job provides to work both in a community and in a yeshiva.

Kfar Adumim, Rabbi Goldman's town in Israel, was established after the Yom Kippur War as a community in which secular and religious Jews would live together. At that time many doubted that such an arrangement could be successful. Kfar Adumim

seems to be flourishing. Its membership has grown from about 30-35 families to more than 450 families. Goldman also serves

as rabbi to nearby communities totaling over 800 families. "It is possible to live together; we are good neighbors."

Central to the community's success is its single school, serving both secular and religious students. Both Rabbi Goldman and his wife Anna have taught there, and one of their grandchildren is a current student. Goldman explains that some classes are for all students, and they can choose wheth-

er to study halakha and gemara (religious texts) or take an alternate class. The religious-secular coexistence works, Goldman explains, because of the high value the community places on being nonjudgmental. "We think it is a success; we see a lot of our children return to Kfar

Adumim." Now some families are fourth-generation residents.

Kfar Adumim, Rabbi Goldman's

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could be successful.

During his stay at Harvard, Rabbi Goldman worked on developing a guidebook on fertility and halakha. This is one of several guidebooks on aspects of Jewish life that Rabbi Goldman has written. "Part of my duty [as a rabbi] is to teach." He explains that people often ask why we do certain things as Jews, or how to do certain things. People want to know on a

personal level "Why should I do this?" He tries to create "user-friendly guides" that will help people with questions about mourning, fertility, and other matters of daily life. For the guidebook on fertility, he has consulted several rabbis and doctors, and he tries to understand and explain the rationales for decisions from

He creates user-friendly guides that will help people with questions about mourning, fertility, and other matters of daily life.

both the religious and medical perspectives. He also participates in an organization, *Tzohar*, (meaning "window") of 500 rabbis that conducts Jewish weddings for secular couples. "It is like a window between [the secular and religious] worlds," he explains. "Many people don't know their community rabbi, and some couples feel uncomfortable about speaking with a rabbi." The *Tzohar* rabbis explain the religious ceremony and "why we do what we do."

During his stay at Harvard, Rabbi Goldman has enjoyed the University's many resources. "The library is amazing!" He also enjoyed coffee at the local Starbucks, where he could utilize their wireless to work on his laptop. "I've met so many interesting new people," Goldman noted. He especially enjoyed this opportunity to spend extra time with his wife, Anna--"It was like a honeymoon." With this break from his rabbinic duties and with Harvard's resources at his fingertips, Goldman explains,

"My eyes were opened to insights I wasn't able to see when I was at home."

Rabbi Goldman describes himself as more of a country person than a city person, and liked the calm atmosphere of the suburb of Sharon, where he lived. "The Young Israel congregation in Sharon was very welcoming," Goldman

explains. He especially thanks Professor Shaye J.D. Cohen and his wife, Miriam May, for their hospitality.

"I am very thankful to God and to Harvard University for giving me this chance to rest and gather strength to return and do my job [as a rabbi] even better." He plans to travel a bit in the US before returning home to Israel. He looks forward to seeing his six children and his grandchildren before long. And Rabbi Goldman is particularly proud that three of his children, and their four children, have made Kfar Adumim their home.

ETGAR KERET signed autographs for students and faculty alike at his November 12th appearance.





THIS YEAR'S STARR FELLOWS (L-R) Maureen Jackson, Daniel Juette, Evan Rapport, Judah Cohen, Amy Wlodarski, Stacy Wolf, and Edwin Seroussi

HARRY STARR FELLOWS IN JUDAICA

The Harry Starr Fellowship in Judaica supports a group of scholars from around the world to gather at Harvard to engage in full-time research in Jewish Studies. This research fellowship was founded with a generous bequest from the estate of Harry Starr '21, former president of the Lucius Littauer Foundation.

HARRY STARR FELLOWSHIP SEMINARS 2013

FEBRUARY 12

EDWIN SEROUSSI

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

"Musical Intersections between Judaism "The Hills are Alive with the Sound and Islam'

FEBRUARY 19

MAUREEN JACKSON

Carleton College

"Music in Historical Space: Jewish Music-Making in an Eastern Mediterranean Port"

FEBRUARY 26

EVAN RAPPORT

Eugene Lang College, The New School for Liberal Arts

"Musical Practices of Persian-Speaking Jewry in Cross-Cultural Perspective"

MARCH 5

JUDAH COHEN

Indiana University-Bloomington

"I am Anne Frank: Musicalizing a Young Girl's Diary"

MARCH 12 STACY WOLF

Princeton University

of Music: Musical Theatre at Jewish Summer Camps"

APRIL 9

AMY WLODARSKI

Dickinson College

"Musical Witness: Memory, Trauma, and Postwar Holocaust Representation"

APRIL 16

DANIEL JUETTE

Society of Fellows, Harvard University

"Jewish Wagnerites: New Perspectives on Music, Culture and Identity (1850-2013)"

THE STARR FELLOWSHIP IS OPEN TO SCHOLARS AT DIFFERENT STAGES OF THEIR ACADEMIC CAREERS. In 2012-13 the Harry Starr Fellowship was organized around the theme of "Music in Jewish Life." We tried a new arrangement for the spring 2013 Starr Seminar series. This year's Starr Fellows gave presentations on their work as part of a seminar class for graduate and undergraduate students in the Music Department, managed by Kay Shelemay, G. Gordon Watts Professor of Music and Professor of African and African American Studies. Affiliates of the Music Department and of the Center for Jewish Studies were welcome to join the Starr seminars as well.

Students were thrilled at the opportunity to work with this eminent group of scholars on the topic of Jewish music. Starr Fellows enjoyed the opportunity to spend time with peers in their field on a regular basis and to exchange important feedback on their work. Amy Wlodarski, Associate Professor of Music at Dickinson College and Harry Starr Fellow in Judaica 2012-13 noted:

"The Starr Fellowship was transformative for my scholarship. The greatest benefit was the ability to place my work specifically in the context of Jewish music and to discuss my ideas within a supportive and rigorous academic community. I am greatly indebted to the Center and to the other Starr Fellows."

COURSES IN JEWISH AND RELATED STUDIES 2012–2013

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

CORE CURRICULUM

CULTURE AND BELIEF 23. From the Hebrew Bible to Judaism, From the Old Testament to Christianity

CULTURE AND BELIEF 27. Among the Nations: Jewish History in Pagan, Christian and Muslim Context

CULTURE AND BELIEF 43. The World of Yiddish

ETHICAL REASONING 15. "If There is No God, All is Permitted:" Theism and Moral Reasoning

UNITED STATES IN THE WORLD 32. The World's Religions in Multicultural America: Case Studies in Religious Pluralism

FRESHMAN SEMINARS

FRESHMAN SEMINAR 37Q. Great Jewish Books

FRESHMAN SEMINAR 42K. Comparative Law and Religion

BIBLICAL LITERATURE AND HISTORY

ANCIENT NEAR EAST 107. History and Historiography in the Ancient Near East

ANCIENT NEAR EAST 111. Law in the World of the Bible

ANCIENT NEAR EAST 120A. Introduction to the Hebrew Bible/ Old Testament 1. Pentateuch and Former Prophets

ANCIENT NEAR EAST 120B. Introduction to the Hebrew Bible/ Old Testament 2. Latter Prophets and Writings

ANCIENT NEAR EAST 132. Ancient Jewish Wisdom Literature

ANCIENT NEAR EAST 134. Genesis: Narrative Artistry and Theological Meanings

ANCIENT NEAR EAST 157. Material Culture, Society and Ideology:
The Archaeology of Society in the Monarchic Period of Ancient
Israel

ANCIENT NEAR EAST 210. Textual Criticism of the Hebrew Bible: Seminar

ANCIENT NEAR EAST 222. History of the Study of the Hebrew Bible: From the Renaissance to the Present: Seminar

JEWISH STUDIES 170. Job and the Problem of Suffering **HEBREW 130.** Scriptural Interpretation in Ancient Israel: Inner

Biblical Exegisis **HEBREW 218.** Joseph and Esther: Seminar

HEBREW 235. The Binding of Isaac (Agedah): Seminar

ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY OF ISRAEL

ANCIENT NEAR EAST 228. The History and Archaeology of Jerusalem

ANCIENT NEAR EAST 230. Ethnicity and Boundary Maintenance in Ancient Israel of the Iron I Period: Israelites, Philistines and Canaanites

SEMITIC PHILOLOGY 140. Introduction to the Comparative Study of Semitic Languages

SEMITIC PHILOLOGY 152. Introduction to Ugaritic

SEMITIC PHILOLOGY 200R. Comparative Semitic Grammar: Seminar **SEMITIC PHILOLOGY 220R.** Northwest Semitic Epigraphy: Seminar

101

ANCIENT JUDAISM

JEWISH STUDIES 138. The Synagogue and Jewish Community HEBREW 200R. Problems in Literature, History, and Religion of Ancient Israel: Seminar

MEDIEVAL AND MODERN JEWISH HISTORY

HISTORY 70K. Jewish History and the Question of Diaspora **HISTORY 81F.** Women's Voices in Medieval and Early Modern Europe

MODERN JEWISH LITERATURE AND CULTURE

JEWISH STUDIES 80. American Jews and the Television Age
JEWISH STUDIES 201. Bible, Literature, Culture: The Song of Songs:
Seminar

THE MODERN MIDDLE EAST 115. The Arab-Zionist Conflict, 1882-1948

THE MODERN MIDDLE EAST 215. The Arab-Israeli War of 1948

LITERATURE 153. Saul Bellow and the New York Intellectuals

LITERATURE 163. Jewish Languages and Literature

LITERATURE 193. "What's Love Got to Do With It:" Lost Poetry of the Middle Ages and Early Modernity

LITERATURE 197. Secularism and its Discontents: From Agnon to Amichai

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE 252. The Literatures of Medieval Iberia: Approaches and Debates in their Comparative Study

GOVERNMENT 940F. Law and Politics in Multicultural Democracies HISTORY 72B. On Display: Commemoration, Collection, and Public Spaces (c. 1600-2000)

RELIGION 11. World Religions Today

MUSIC

MUSIC 194R. Special Topics – (New Course)

CLASSICAL AND MODERN HEBREW LANGUAGE COURSES

CLASSICAL HEBREW A. Elementary Classical Hebrew

CLASSICAL HEBREW 120A. Intermediate Classical Hebrew I

CLASSICAL HEBREW 120B. Intermediate Classical Hebrew II

CLASSICAL HEBREW 130AR. Rapid Reading Classical Hebrew I

CLASSICAL HEBREW 130BR. Rapid Reading Classical Hebrew II

CLASSICAL HEBREW 138. Historical Grammar of Biblical Hebrew

MODERN HEBREW B. Elementary Modern Hebrew

MODERN HEBREW 120A. Intermediate Modern Hebrew I

MODERN HEBREW 120B. Intermediate Modern Hebrew II

MODERN HEBREW 130A. Advanced Modern Hebrew I

MODERN HEBREW 130B. Advanced Modern Hebrew II

MODERN HEBREW 241BR. Advanced Seminar in Modern Hebrew: Israeli Culture

HEBREW 135. Introduction to Rabbinic Hebrew

YIDDISH COURSES

YIDDISH A. Elementary Yiddish

YIDDISH BA. Intermediate Yiddish I

YIDDISH BB. Intermediate Yiddish II

YIDDISH 200R. Modern Yiddish Literature: Seminar **YIDDISH 300.** Yiddish Language and Literature

HARVARD LAW SCHOOL

JEWISH LAW IN THE MAKING: Formalism and Realism in Jewish Legal Tradition

ISRAEL/PALESTINE LEGAL ISSUES



A FRIEND

ASSOCIATE: \$50

PATRON: \$100

PILLAR: \$500

BENEFACTOR: \$1,000



FRIENDS OF THE CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES

In December 1984, Peter Solomon (AB '60, MBA '63), then a member of the Harvard Board of Overseers, announced the establishment of the Friends of the Center for Jewish Studies. This organization seeks to provide an ongoing base of support for the Center and to enable it to expand its present areas of activity.

SOME OF THE PROJECTS SPONSORED BY THE FRIENDS INCLUDE:

- student research projects (both undergraduate and graduate, school year and summer);
- graduate student fellowships;
- research-related expenses for visiting scholars;
- public lectures and class presentations by distinguished scholars;
- doctoral dissertation advising by specialized scholars from outside Harvard;
- group discussions of research in progress for Harvard faculty and students in Jewish studies at the Center for Jewish Studies Lunchtime Colloquium.

YOU ARE INVITED

Show your interest in Jewish Studies at Harvard by joining the Friends of the Center for Jewish Studies in one of four categories listed in the box. Friends receive invitations to lectures, symposia and colloquia, copies of the newsletter, and selected publications published by the Center.

This year, we hope to substantially increase the number of Friends of the Center, thereby creating a broader base of support for the Center's projects and activities. If you know anyone who might be interested in joining the Friends, would you please notify the Center (617-495-4326) or *cjs@fas.harvard.edu* so that we may contact them to acquaint them with the Center's mission.

HOW TO GIVE

ONLINE

The Center for Jewish Studies is pleased to support online giving. To make a gift by credit card to the Friends of the Center for Jewish Studies at Harvard University, please go to the link on our website and follow the instructions:

http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~cis

BY MAIL

Gifts by check may be mailed to:

Center for Jewish Studies, Harvard University, 6 Divinity Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02138

Please make checks payable to "The President and Fellows of Harvard College" and include a note in the memo line of the check that this is for the "Friends of the Center for Jewish Studies" (or the name of the fund of your choice), Center for Jewish Studies.



FALL 2012

SEPTEMBER 28, 2012

GALIT HASAN-ROKEM

Max and Margarethe Grunwald Professor of Folklore, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

"Singing with Sirens: Probing the Boundaries of Interpretation"

Martin D. and Helen B. Schwartz Lecture Fund with the Department of Folklore and Mythology, and the Mahindra Humanities Center, Harvard

OCTOBER 12, 2012

AMNON WOLMAN

Visiting Professor of Music, Harvard University

"Music Experimentation as an Artistic Activity and as a Form of Questioning Hierarchical Structures"

Harry Elson Lecture and Publication Fund with the Department of Music, Harvard

OCTOBER 17, 2012 LEAH GARRETT

Loti Smorgon Research Professor of Contemporary Jewish Life and Culture, Monash University, Australia

"Jewish American War Novels of the 1940s"

Joseph Engel Fund

with the Jewish Cultures and Societies Seminar at the Mahindra Humanities Center; the Department of History of American Civilization; and the Department of English, Harvard

NOVEMBER 12, 2012 ILANA PARDES

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Visiting Professor at Harvard Comparative Literature and NELC

"Agnon's Ethnographies of Love: the Songs of Songs in Israeli Culture"

Yanoff-Taylor Lecture and Publication Fund with the Seminar on Politics, Literature and the Arts at the Mahindra Humanities Center; and the Department of Comparative Literature, Harvard

NOVEMBER 13, 2012

Talk and reading with internationally acclaimed Israeli writer

ETGAR KERET

"Is Reality Overrated?"

Alan and Elizabeth Doft Lecture and Publication Fund with the Consul General of Israel to New England

NOVEMBER 14, 2012

OLGA LITVAK

Professor of History, Clark University

"Law and the Inner Man: M.L. Lilienblum's Romantic Revolution"

Leon I. Mirell Lecture Fund

with the Jewish Cultures and Societies Seminar and the Modern Jewish Worlds Seminar at the Mahindra Humanities Center, Harvard





SPRING 2013

FEBRUARY 11, 2013

A talk with Joseph Cedar about his 2011 Oscarnominated film, Footnote

JOSEPH CEDAR

Writer and Director of Footnote

SHAYE J.D. COHEN

Nathan Littauer Professor of Hebrew Language and Philosophy, Harvard

AVI LOEB

Frank B. Baird, Jr. Professor of Science; Chair, Astronomy Department, Harvard

"Close Encounters Between Three Fields: Talmud, Astrophysics, and Film"

Alan and Elizabeth Doft Lecture and Publication Fund with the Consul General of Israel to New England and Harvard Hillel

FEBRUARY 13, 2013

ANNUAL CJS SPRING RECEPTION



FEBRUARY 27, 2013

ADMIEL KOSMAN

Israeli Poet and Professor of Talmud

"Approaching You in English: Hebrew between Love and Alienation"

Martin D. and Helen B. Schwartz Lecture Fund

FEBRUARY 28, 2013

ABRAHAM SOCHER

Associate Professor of Jewish Studies and Religion at Oberlin College; Editor, *The Jewish Review of Books*

"Culture, Criticism and the Common Reader: A Case Study"

Joseph Engel Fund

A lecture in the series on American Jewish Letters sponsored by the Center for Jewish Studies and the Jewish Cultures and Societies Seminar at the Mahindra Humanities Center, Harvard

MARCH 4, 2013

BENJAMIN MOSER

Writer, Editor, Critic, Translator

"What's Jewish about Clarice Lispector"

Harry Edison Fund

with the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures and the Committee on Women, Gender, and Sexuality, Harvard

MARCH 13, 2013

RACHEL ROJANSKI

Visiting Associate Professor, Brown University

"Center and Margins: Yiddish, Cultural Hegemony and Collective Memory in Israel 1948-1967"

Abraham and Rachel Bornstein Fund with the Modern Jewish Worlds Workshop at the Mahindra Humanities Center, Harvard

APRIL 3. 2013

Screening and Discussion with the Director

EVE ANNENBERG

"Romeo and Juliet in Yiddish"

Abraham and Rachel Bornstein Fund with the Yiddish Club at Harvard, Harvard Hillel, and with support from the Jack and Ruth B. Cowl Center for Jewish Cultures at the National Yiddish Book Center, Amherst, MA

APRIL 10. 2013

LOUISE HECHT

Senior Lecturer in Jewish History at Palacky University, Czech Republic, Fulbright Research Scholar at University of Pennsylvania

"Transfer of Goods – Transfer of Knowledge: The Tobacco Monopoly and the Rise of the Modern Jewish Intellectual in the Habsburg Monarchy"

Yanoff Taylor Lecture and Publication Fund with the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies and the Jews in Modern Europe Workshop at the Center for European Studies, Harvard

APRIL 17, 2013

DAVID STERN

Moritz and Josephine Berg Professor of Classical Hebrew Literature, University of Pennsylvania

"The First Jewish Books and the History of Jewish Reading"

Martin D. and Helen B. Schwartz Lecture Fund with the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations; and Comparative Literature, Harvard





APRIL 19, 2013

EDWIN SEROUSSI

Department of Musicology, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

"Israeli Musical Complexities: The Case of Jo Amar"

Friends of the Center for Jewish Studies Fund

APRIL 25, 2013

BRIAN COPENHAVER

Professor of Philosophy and History, UCLA

"Piety and Pornorthography in Papal Rome: Egidio da Viterbo's Book on Hebrew Letters"

Harry Edison Fund

with the Early Modern History Workshop and the Modern Jewish Worlds Seminar at the Mahindra Humanities Center, Harvard

MAY 8, 2013

PNINA SHOR

Head of the Dead Sea Scrolls Projects, Israel Antiquities Authority

GREGORY BEARMAN

Israel Antiquities Authority Consultant for Imaging Technologies of the Dead Sea Scrolls

MICHAEL MCCORMICK

Francis Goelet Professor of Medieval History; Chair, Steering Committee for the Science of the Human Past, Harvard

"Preserving and Digitizing the Dead Sea Scrolls: Multi-Spectral Imaging one of Humanity's Greatest Treasures"

William Landau Lecture and Publication Fund with the Harvard Initiative for the Science of the Human Past



ABOVE Center for Jewish Studies undergraduate student and faculty lunch

DEBRA CAPLAN, PH.D., Department of Near

Dissertation title: Staging Jewish Modernism:

Art Theater Movement Advisor: Ruth Wisse

KELLY JOHNSON, PH.D., Department of Near

Eastern Languages and Civilizations
Dissertation title: Sholem Schwartzbard: Biography of a

Advisor: Ruth Wisse

JAMES JUMPER, PH.D., Department of Near

Eastern Languages and Civilizations

Covenant and the Deuteronomistic Presentation of the Davidic Covenant

HILARY KAPFER, PH.D., Department of Near

Eastern Languages and Civilizations
Dissertation title: *Collective Accountability among the*

Sages of Ancient Israel

Advisor: Peter Machinist

EITAN KENSKY, PH.D., Department of Near Eastern

Languages and Civilizations

Dissertation title: *Facing the Limits of Fiction:* Self-Consciousness in Jewish American Literature

Advisor: Ruth Wisse

CONCENTRATORS IN JEWISH STUDIES

BEN SAMUELS, B.A., Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Jewish Studies

SECONDARY CONCENTRATORS IN JEWISH STUDIES

HANNAH GOMMERSTADT, B.A., Computer Science; secondary concentration in Jewish Studies, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations

YAKOV PECHERSKY, B.A., Chemical and Physical Biology; secondary concentration in Jewish Studies,

ELLIOT STEIN, B.A., Molecular & Cellular Biology; secondary concentration in Jewish Studies, Department of



STUDENT PROFILES

Stephanie Spence

STEPHANIE SPENCE'S INTEREST IN JEWISH STUD-IES BEGAN IN HIGH SCHOOL, when a Jewish boyfriend played her a CD by an Israeli rap group, Hadag Nahash: "I fell in love with the CD, loved the language, and I wanted to learn to speak and read Hebrew." Stephanie has studied beginning and intermediate Hebrew classes and hopes to continue her study of the language. "Irit Aharony [Senior Preceptor in Hebrew] is the best! She has such enthusiasm and passion, which she passes on to her students. She is always available to help and cares that every student understands the material. It has been great to work closely with her."

A concentrator in Jewish studies in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Stephanie is particularly focused on contemporary Jewish culture. "I am most interested in Hebrew language, art, music, and Jewish history. I am interested in looking at patterns in the diaspora, particularly the dynamics between Jews and the larger society, and

how this manifests in popular culture." In addition to Hebrew language study, Stephanie particularly enjoyed a class on the Song of Songs by Visiting Professor Ilana Pardes, and the Yiddish language classes taught by former Yiddish Preceptor Yuri Vedenvapin.

Stephanie's path to Jewish studies was an unexpected one. She was born in Florida and grew up mostly in Richmond, VA, an "army brat." She attended a public governor's school, like a magnet school, focusing on the arts and technology, where she studied music and piano performance, as well as art projects,

photography, and singing. But she didn't like performing and now plays piano only for fun.

After two years of college, Stephanie took two years off to work in the retail clothing business world. "I had a brokerage business," she explained, and sold items to Israelis with retail businesses. Working with and living with Israelis during this time, Stephanie practiced her Hebrew and honed her pronunciation skills. It was Irit Aharony's Hebrew class at Harvard that drew her back to school.

Stephanie is thrilled at the opportunity to spend this summer in the Harvard Summer School Program in Jerusalem

> and further immerse herself in Israeli culture. "My family is not Jewish. People ask me why, as a Puerto Rican, I'm not studying my own culture, but I do speak Spanish and take Spanish classes here." She is proud of her Puerto Rican heritage. But, she explains, plenty of people who are not Puerto Rican study

erature, and you don't have to be Jewish to love Jewish studies.

Next year will be Stephanie's senior year at Harvard. After she graduates, she hopes to open a wholesale clothing brokerage business. "I have a concept for a business with a nonprofit element and a focus on a particular geographic area." She is confident that her different interests will converge in unexpected ways. With her tremendous energy and enthusiasm, it will be interesting to see how her background in music, business, and Jewish studies will come together.

Jewish to love Jewish studies." Puerto Rican culture and lit-

Stephanie will spend this

summer in the Harvard Summer

School Program in Jerusalem.

"People ask me why, as a Puerto

Rican, I'm not studying my own

culture. But you don't have to be

Ofer Dynes

OFER DYNES GREW UP IN TEL AVIV, "but I had the most Eastern European childhood one could imagine!" His mother is from Poland and his father is from Romania. He was very close to his grandparents, who lived nearby and visited every day. These grandparents were staunch communists in Eastern Europe; Ofer's grandfather had been a member of the Polish Secret Services after the War. Despite this grandfather's anti-religious opinions, he remained loving and supportive. He attended Ofer's Bar Mitzvah and, though first appalled at his choice of concentrating on Bible in high school, came to respect Ofer's academic path.

Ofer's interest in Jewish studies developed early, particularly in the areas of linguistics, Jewish history, and literature. His dissertation topic, a study of Jewish culture and the logic of the state, reflects these early interests. For this study, Ofer is "looking at the first encounters of Jews with bureaucracy and the centralized state." In particular, he is examining interactions in the partitions of mid-19th century Poland, where Jews had to deal with Russian, Prussian, and Austro-Hungarian bureaucracies.

The study is "half literature, half history," explains Ofer. He is studying a variety of early documents involving the Jews in Galicia. "For example, Emperor Joseph II kept a diary and sent letters to his mother about his impressions of Jews he'd stop to interview on his journey. . . . [The Emperor] did not think highly of the Jews, but I believe he had good intentions."

Many of these Jews' first contact with the state involved paying taxes, being forced to learn German, and to take surnames, Ofer explains. "Many common views on the assigning of names are not supported by the documents. . . . For example, Jews were not harassed for having certain names."

When asked what has been helpful to him at Harvard, Ofer replied, "Do you have an hour?! The [Ph.D] program [in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations] is fantastic! It is so flexible. I can study languages, comparative literature, historical anthropology, linguistic anthropology, legal history, and other areas. This combination is only possible at Harvard!"

Ofer also "did a minor in Slavic Languages at Harvard," focused on Polish Literature. "Harvard is so strong in Central European history! Without the funding from the CJS I couldn't have studied the languages to research the various archival texts needed for my dissertation," including Russian, Polish, German, and Yiddish. "I am very grateful to Professor Ruth Wisse, who helped me gain the special



proficiency in Yiddish needed to read many of the documents," particularly through reading 19th century Yiddish literature. He thanks Professor Jay Harris for his generosity in studying Eastern European Jewish history, Professor Alison Frank Johnson for her contribution to the study of the Imperial Habsburg context, Professors Nicholas Harkness and Ajantha Subramanian for helping to reframe his dissertation project through an anthropological lens, and Joana Nizynska for her help with studying Polish literature. Ofer would especially like to thank the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies for providing him a work space and also the Center for Jewish Studies for its financial support. "Without these combined resources my research would not have been possible."

Ofer's prospectus was approved in December, and now he is starting to write his dissertation. In addition to Harvard's resources, he will be able to take advantage of a fellowship from the University

of Vienna that provides him with academic supervision. Next year, Ofer will be a graduate fellow at the Center of Jewish History in New York, where he plans to take advantage of the institution's extensive archival collections.

This summer, Ofer is studying German in Berlin to help him read some of the archives he is

using for his research. He will also spend time in Israel and Vienna reading some of these archives. "There are not many sources that have survived," Ofer explains. "I am interested in micro-histories ... and people's experiences. I am forced to focus on specific communities" in which archival material has survived. In addition to studying German and conducting research, he plans to participate in a workshop on Eastern European history in Odessa. He is eager to look through archives in the Ukraine and to have the time to review these sources multiple times. Ofer's delight in this research is evident; it is not surprising that he aspires to an academic career.

literature.

UNDERGRADUATE PRIZES IN JEWISH STUDIES

The Center for Jewish Studies at Harvard University awards two writing prizes to undergraduates. The Norman Podhoretz Prize in Jewish Studies "is given to the Harvard University student who submits the best essay, feature article, or short story on a Jewish theme. A tribute to Norman Podhoretz, editor of Commentary magazine from 1960 to 1995, the prize is sponsored by the Ernest H. Weiner Fund at the American Jewish Committee." The Weinstein Prize, which is given to the Harvard University student who submits the best undergraduate essay in Jewish studies, was established by Lewis H. Weinstein, A.B. 1927, LL.B. 1930.





Norman Podhoretz Prize in Jewish Studies:

JOSHUA LIPSON '14, WINTHROP HOUSE

"Origins, Myth, and Religious Sociology of the Igbo Jews"

Selma and Lewis Weinstein Prize in Jewish Studies:

DANIEL JOSEPH FRIM '14, ADAMS HOUSE

"And it was in the Dwelling of Rabbi Joshua bar Perahiah: Notes on the Anti-Demonic Get, a Mythological Motif in the Jewish Babylonian Incantation Bowls"

LEAH REIS-DENNIS '13, ELIOT HOUSE

"New York's 'Bad Girl Problem:' Fear and Reform on the Iewish East Side"



GRADUATE STUDENT FUNDING 2012–2013

Graduate Student Fellowships

DEBRA CAPLAN (Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations (NELC)), Raphael and Deborah Melamed Fellowship

OFER DYNES (NELC), Lewis and Alice Schimberg Graduate Student Fellowship

JESSICA FECHTOR (NELC), Mandell L. Berman Fellowship

ERIC FREDRICKSON (NELC), Aaron Rabinowitz Fellowship

CHRISTINE THOMAS FREEDBERG (NELC), Alan M. Stroock Fellowship for Advanced Research in Judaica

SARAH HANKINS, Aaron Rabinowitz Fellowship

GABRIEL HORNUNG (NELC), Lewis and Alice Schimberg Graduate Student Fellowship

MIHALY KALMAN (NELC), Sosland Family Fellowship, Sidney L. Solomon Endowed Fellowship

HILARY KAPFER (NELC), Alan M. Stroock Fellowship for Advanced Research in Judaica

JOANNA GREENLEE KLINE (Study of Religion), Aaron Rabinowitz Fellowship

ARIEL MAYSE (NELC), Sosland Family Fellowship

YONATAN MILLER (NELC), Sosland Family Fellowship

JENNIFER HEILBRONNER MUNOZ (NELC), Center for Jewish Studies Fellowship

DAVID OWEN (NELC), Aaron Rabinowitz Fellowship

MATTHEW RASHUR (NELC), Lewis and Alice Schimberg Graduate Student Fellowship

ADAM STERN (Study of Religion), Leo Flax Fellowship in Jewish Studies

ADAM STRICH (NELC), Isadore Twersky Fellowship

JOSHUA WALTON (NELC), Sidney L. Solomon Endowed Fellowship

SARA "SUNNY" YUDKOFF (NELC), Lewis and Alice Schimberg Graduate Student Fellowship

SUMMER RESEARCH AND STUDY FELLOWSHIPS 2013

Graduate Summer Supplemental Research and Study Funding

 $\label{eq:ofer dynes} \textbf{OFER DYNES} \ (\textbf{NELC}), \textbf{Barney and Anne B. Malloy Fellowship}$

ARI HOFFMAN (English), Barney and Anne B. Malloy Fellowship

PHILIPPA HEATHERINGTON (History), Barney and Anne B. Malloy Fellowship

GABRIEL HORNUNG (NELC), Barney and Anne B. Malloy Fellowship

MIHALY KALMAN (NELC), Barney and Anne B. Malloy Fellowship

JONATHAN KLINE (NELC), Barney and Anne B. Malloy Fellowship

 $\textbf{CHARLES LESCH} \ (\textbf{Government}), \textbf{Barney and Anne B. Malloy Fellowship}$

MARIA METZLER LINDQUIST (NELC), Barney and Anne B. Malloy Fellowship

DAVID OWEN (NELC), Barney and Anne B. Malloy Fellowship

MIHAELA PACURAR (Slavic Languages and Literatures), Edward H. Kavinoky Fellowship

ADAM STERN (NELC), Edward H. Kavinoky Fellowship

IAROSLAVA STRIKHA (Slavic Languages and Literature), Barney and Anne B. Malloy Fellowship

SARA "SUNNY" YUDKOFF (NELC), Anna Marnoy Feldberg Fellowship

Undergraduate Supplemental Research and Study Funding

ELENA HOFFENBERG, Barry Shrage Travel and Research Fund for Jewish Studies **ROSSI WALTER**, Friends of the Center for Jewish Studies Fund

DANIEL SILBERWASSER, Friends of the Center for Jewish Studies Fund, Goldhirsch-Yellin Foundation Fund for Undergraduate and Graduate Travel to Israel, Barry Shrage Travel and Research Fund for Jewish Studies

RAQUEL SCHREIBER, Goldhirsch-Yellin Foundation Fund for Undergraduate and Graduate Travel to Israel*

* Special thanks to the Goldhirsch-Yellin Foundation Fund for Undergraduate and Graduate Travel to Israel for their support of activities for the Summer School Program in Jerusalem. These funds will support student visits to sites of historical and archaeological significance.

STUDENT FUNDING 2013

A lecture at the Center for Jewish Studies







CJS RECEPTION FEBRUARY 2013

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: MIRIAM MAY, SHAYE J.D. COHEN and JAY HARRIS; ERIC NELSON and JON LEVENSON; YISHAI KIEL







CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: EITAN KENSKY; EVAN RAPPORT; RUTH WISSE and JAY HARRIS; AMY WLODARSKI AND MAUREEN JACKSON; DANIEL JUETTE; STACY WOLF











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