

# COLLECTANEA

## IN BRIEF:

SHANA TOVA! BEST WISHES  
TO OUR READERS FOR A  
HAPPY NEW YEAR IN 5778!

We look forward to an exciting year ahead in the Judaica Library with seven scholars coming to conduct research in our collections as part of the "Jews in the Americas" short-term fellowships, sponsored by the Alexander Grass Chair in Jewish History and the Price Library of Judaica. See the next issue of *Collectanea* for the schedule of public talks by our visiting fellows in the spring semester 2018.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
INCREDIBLE SUPPORT

Thanks to your kind donations, matched by federal funds, the Library's NEH Challenge Grant Endowment Fund has now reached over one million dollars!

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

"America's and Europe's *New Jews*," a talk by Cynthia Baker on Thursday, November 2, 2017 at 4:00 pm in the Smathers Library Judaica Suite. For more details, see: [http://web.jst.ufl.edu/images/Baker\\_Postcard.jpg](http://web.jst.ufl.edu/images/Baker_Postcard.jpg)

**UF** UNIVERSITY of  
**FLORIDA**

## DuBow Family Foundation Names Yiddish Alcoves in Judaica Suite



The Price Library of Judaica is honored that the DuBow Family Foundation has named the Judaica Suite's two Yiddish Alcoves in memory of Morris and Anna DuBow and Sarah and Isaac Cohen, Mr. Lawrence DuBow's much-beloved grandparents. Mr. DuBow (pictured left; founder of HMS Sales and Marketing Inc. and the DuBow Family Foundation) together with his wife, Linda and their children, Michael and Susan, visited the Judaica Suite in August to see the collection and to record an oral history interview. The interview, conducted by Rebecca Jefferson and filmed by Deborah Hendrix of UF's Samuel Proctor Oral History Program, covered aspects of Mr. DuBow's family history, life and career. It also recorded his memories of growing up in Chicago (from whence hails the core of our Library collection), as well as his experiences of Jewish life in Jacksonville and his views on philanthropy. During the interview, Mr. DuBow talked about his Russian Jewish grandparents who immigrated to the US, and he brought

with him an incredible written family history, compiled by his father's cousin, dating back to the 1500s. He also showed examples of historic family photographs (like the one pictured on the right); personal documents, such as his father's papers from the Great War, and a beautifully executed family tree. DuBow recalled how his grandparents spoke mostly Yiddish, a shared language for the early Jewish communities in Chicago. He talked about his education; how his mother helped shape his father's career and then his own in the pharmaceutical industry; he described his experiences in a MASH unit in the Korean War, and how he met his wife, Linda and built a family in Jacksonville. DuBow continued to outline the incredible path of his career and the ways in which his Jewish education and upbringing shaped his entrepreneurial skills and eventual philanthropic giving. Ending with a message to his grandchildren, and one that is salient for us all, DuBow advised: "keep looking forward, but every once in a while look around, and even maybe look back to see what's back there, that maybe you missed or could have done something about but didn't." Mr. DuBow's interview will be transcribed and added to the Judaica Library's Oral History Collections; the video will soon be available online.

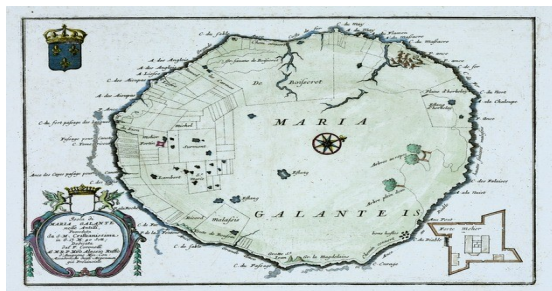


## Libraries Battle Intolerance

Dr. Sharonah Fredrick, SUNY Buffalo, Department of Romance Languages and Literature, first recipient of the "Jews in the Americas" Fellowship, writes about her research experience in the UF Libraries. Future issues of *Collectanea* will showcase the innovative work of the other fellows being brought to Florida by the Alexander Grass Chair in Jewish History and the Price Library of Judaica.

The use of the word "battle" in articles on library collections might raise eyebrows; but less so when one realizes that the object of this scholar's study is piracy. Through the generous fellowship provided by the Alexander Grass Chair in Jewish History and the Price Library of Judaica, along with the enthusiastic collaboration of the Libraries' Latin American and Caribbean Collections (LACC) Department, I have been researching the trajectory of Sephardic Jews in pirate societies of the New World.

Early modern piracy evolved in the framework of resistance to Europe's empires in the New World. From the late 15<sup>th</sup>

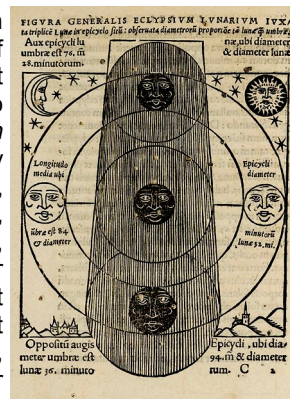


through late 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, maritime outlaw solidarity in the Caribbean and on the Peruvian/Chilean coast, spontaneously transcended boundaries of class, color and religion.

This is a ticklish subject; popular historians attempt to portray these refugees as architects of Jewish "liberation movements" in the Americas. While deterministic visions of history are questionable, it is undeniable that many pirate brotherhoods provided acceptance to those, like Spanish-speaking Jews, shunned by officialdom. Their companions included impoverished Irish Catholics; French Huguenots and other "heretical" Protestant sects; English indentured servants, condemned to Jamaican sugar plantations; Africans of many nations and faiths; Native American rebels, reduced to servitude on their own soil; the disabled; and women, always marginalized in "polite society." Among buccaneers, women and the disabled commanded ships; re: Ireland's Anne Bonney and England's Mary Reade, who formed one of the Caribbean's most notorious fighting duos of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Similarly, one legged or one eyed pirate captains were not ridiculed; they were respected, and feared. My research is benefitting greatly from the wide-ranging primary and secondary documents in LACC, which provide outstanding background for chronicling Jewish New World history throughout the early modern period (1492-1800) and beyond. The NEH grant collaboration between the Judaica Library and LACC is building resources of extraordinary interest to all scholars of Jewish and/or Latin American history. They should be viewed by any serious analyst of the early modern period, as well as students interested in social history (a history beyond the dictates of kings, queens, and monopolistic mercantile interests).

## First Printed Jewish Calendar

Among its fine collection of Jewish calendars, the Price Library of Judaica owns a copy of the first stand-alone Jewish calendar to appear in print: the *Kalendarium Hebraicum* (1527 CE) written by the Christian Hebraist, cosmographer and polymath, Sebastian Münster. Today, calendars are used to help plan or to provide reminders of important dates, but in the past it was not always the case. Paradoxically, the first printed Jewish calendar was a tool of polemics. The Jewish calendar is based on a Lunar-Solar cycle, and the year (currently 5777) was fixed in the Middle Ages according to a complex mathematical formula. The calculation allows for major Jewish holidays, like Rosh Hashanah (New Year), to fall on particular days of the week thereby resolving any conflicts between Jewish law and practice. Münster's detailed work on the Jewish calendar includes supporting texts and calendrical tables in Hebrew and Latin, with beautiful woodcut illustrations (see above); some by Hans Holbein the Younger. Münster's calendar, while demonstrating an incredible knowledge of Hebrew sources, reveals that his application of these sources was flawed. When dealing with the New Year postponement calculation (which ultimately impacts the dating of Passover and Jesus' Last Supper), Münster intertwined excerpts from the Talmud, works of Maimonides, and an obscure 11<sup>th</sup>-century Hebrew poem without any regard for their historical context in support of his polemic against the "Jewish distortion of divinely-given law." Nevertheless, Münster was one of the first Christian scholars to give serious consideration to Rabbinic sources; an anomaly in a period which witnessed much censorship and destruction of such Jewish texts.



## NEH Challenge Grant



In this fourth year of the Judaica Library's [NEH Challenge Grant](#), the federal government will give us **\$1 in matching funds for every \$1 you donate, up to a total of \$90,000.** Thanks to your generous support, we are providing the resources and knowledge for vital and groundbreaking scholarship into the global Jewish experience.

## Further Information

To inquire about the Judaica Library and how you can assist with the preservation and study of its materials, please contact Dr. Rebecca Jefferson, Head of the Isser and Rae Price Library of Judaica at [jefferson@ufl.edu](mailto:jefferson@ufl.edu) or Dr. Katalin Rac, Jewish Heritage Coordinator at [katalin.rac@ufl.edu](mailto:katalin.rac@ufl.edu).

To visit the Judaica Suite, please see our website at: <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/judaica> for opening hours and visitor information. We look forward to giving you a tour!

Wherever you live in the world, you can explore our Library collections and those of our many partners through more than 180,000 pages of digital content in our [Jewish Diaspora Collection](#).