

# COLLECTANEA

## NEWS IN BRIEF:

### COMING SOON!

"Divided Dreams: Moroccan Jews and the Post-Independence Moroccan State", a talk by Alma Heckman on Thursday, October 25, 2018 at 5pm in the Smathers Library Judaica Suite.

Escaping Nuremberg: How Nazi Perpetrators Fled Justice", a talk by Gerald Steinacher on Tuesday, November 6, 2018 at 5pm in the Smathers Library Judaica Suite.

Talking about *Eternal Life* with Dara Horn", a discussion with author Dara Horn on Tuesday, November 13, 2018 at 5pm in the Smathers Library Judaica Suite.

For more information on these talks see: <http://web.jst.ufl.edu/events.shtml>

## NEH CHALLENGE GRANT UPDATE AND THANK YOU:

We are proud to announce that we have exceeded this year's NEH Challenge Grant fundraising goal! Together with matching funds from the federal government, our endowment in support of collecting and preserving Jewish heritage materials from Florida, Latin America and the Caribbean now stands at \$1,612,652 (including pledges). We are so grateful to all of our very kind supporters, and we would especially like to give a shout out to the many UF Libraries' faculty and staff who also lent their support this year through personal pledges —

**THANK YOU!**

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**FLORIDA**

## New Repository of Cuban Jewish Materials



We are excited to announce the launch of a new digital sub-collection: [Cuban Judaica](#). This collection will include digital copies of the materials held in the library of the Gran Sinagoga Beth Shalom in Havana, Cuba. The synagogue library comprises over 10,000 books, which were first gathered and arranged by Abraham Marcus Matterin, who also founded the cultural group, La Agrupación Cultural Hebreo Cubana. In addition to Matterin's own works, this library also holds many rare Yiddish publications from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, as well as little-known works produced in Cuba from the 1930s to the 1950s. The library as a whole provides a complete snapshot of Cuban Jewish intellectual, cultural, religious and political life as it evolved and progressed during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The synagogue library digitization project, a partnership between the George A. Smathers Libraries, La Comunidad Hebrea de Cuba and La Biblioteca Nacional de Cuba José Martí, will provide access to works previously unavailable online, opening a new "digital window" to this collection. UF graduate student, Lauren Krebs, spent two months at the synagogue this summer photographing materials onsite; another graduate, Katie Coldiron will continue the project this semester.

## A Journey from Montevideo to Gainesville

As we write, wending their way to our library are 247 boxes of books from the Jewish community of Montevideo, Uruguay. This important collection of books comprises many rare items that once belonged to various organizations and individuals in the community from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. In addition to works published by Montevideo's own Yiddish press, there are works that were produced by and belonged to its Hungarian Yiddish Society. The collection also contains the community's Yiddish radio broadcasts on 78 RPM records, sections of its Yiddish and German language press, and a complete set of its long-running newspaper, *Semanario Hebreo*. Other Jewish publications in Yiddish, Spanish and English, gathered by individuals over time, are likewise included. We were able to acquire this wonderful collection thanks to UF professor, Martha Kohen, who advocated tirelessly along with family and friends in Uruguay for the books to be transferred to the Price Library of Judaica where they will be properly stored, scanned and made fully accessible to patrons on the library shelves and through the internet.



## RUTH GRUBER PAMPHLET COLLECTION

In November 2016, the notice of Dr. Ruth Gruber's passing away at the age of 105 reverberated through the American and international media. The sad news generated as much attention as her reports garnered throughout the long decades of her stellar career. Born to Russian Jewish immigrants in Brooklyn on September 30, 1911, already as a young girl, she hoped to become a writer one day. She acted on this wish by graduating from high school at the age of 15.



Light on Soviet Jewry: report on a conference of Jews in the USSR, London, 1969: one of the publications in the Ruth Gruber Pamphlet Collection.

Five years later, in 1931, she completed her studies, earning a doctorate at the University of Cologne, Germany. As all her biographies and obituaries note, she was the youngest doctor of philosophy in Germany. Yet, instead of academia, she chose journalism and later she described her experience in Germany as a witness of the Nazi regime's rise.

Her first major success as a journalist came in 1935, not long after her return to the United States. As a Guggenheim fellowship awardee and with journalist credentials from the *New*

*York Herald Tribune*, like no other Western journalist before, she was given permission to fly to the Gulag to gather material for her reportage on women living under communism, fascism, and democracy. Over seven decades later, she was still actively writing, as testified by her book *Witness: One of the Great Correspondents of the Twentieth Century Tells her Story* (2007).

The 128 volumes, mostly pamphlets, in the Ruth Gruber Collection mirror her close involvement with and continuing interest in the issues she covered; for example, the plight of the European Jewish refugees she helped bring to Oswego, NY in 1944, the work of the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry on Palestine, the Nuremberg Trials, the tragic journey of *SS Exodus 1947*, and the Yemenite, Ethiopian, and Iraqi Jewish refugees' flight to Israel.

Accordingly, patrons will find in her collection pamphlets on Nazism and antisemitism she collected from all over the world, as well as pamphlets on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the relations between the Soviet Union and Arabic states, Jewish life in Arabic countries, Israel and Zionism, Israel's relations with its Arabic neighbors, the Holocaust, Jewish refugees and immigration to Israel, Judaism and culture in Israel, and more. The collection, was donated to the Price Library by Dr. Gruber's son, David Michaels, and it now housed in the Judaica Suite, which is open for readers on Mondays 9:00am–3:00pm and by appointment on Tuesdays to Fridays.

## LUNAR CYCLES AND LUNAR LANDINGS



As the new Jewish year 5779 was ushered in on the first of the lunar-based month Tishrei, our thoughts turned to all things new and lunar here in the Library. Thanks to a generous grant from the [Fanny Landwirth Foundation](#), we have been able to acquire and begin processing the Henri Landwirth Collection, which is both a physical archive and a growing [digital collection](#). In addition, the Landwirth family entrusted us with some materials on loan for digitizing. These materials included the above photograph of the first moon landing in 1969 together with a small flag that was taken to the moon by the astronauts. Below the flag is an inscription: "This flag has been to the moon, which is good—and it has returned to earth, which is even better." A dedication to Henri Landwirth: "on our first reunion, with our love and appreciation" was added to the gift along with the signatures of his friends, including the famous astronaut John Glenn.

## NEH Challenge Grant



Please support our [NEH Challenge Grant](#). The federal government will give us \$1 in matching funds for every \$1 you donate. [No gift is too small!](#)

Thanks to your generous support, we can provide the resources and knowledge for vital and groundbreaking scholarship into the global Jewish experience and help preserve endangered materials.

## Further Information

To inquire about the Judaica Library and how you can assist with the preservation and study of its materials, please contact the curator, Dr. Rebecca Jefferson, at [jefferson@ufl.edu](mailto:jefferson@ufl.edu), or our Jewish Heritage Coordinator, Dr. Katalin Rac 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 198,000 pages of digital content in our [Jewish Diaspora Collection](#). (JDoC): <http://ufdc.ufl.edu/judaica>