

COLLECTANEA

NEWS IN BRIEF:

SAVE THE DATE!

FEBRUARY 23, 2019, 4PM: *Why Uruguay? The Story of Jewish Immigration to Uruguay in the Early 20th Century*, a talk by Teresa Porzecanski, Oak Room, Oak Hammock.

Porzecanski is a Uruguayan anthropologist, author and poet of Ashkenazi and Syrian descent. Her work has received numerous awards, including a Fulbright Scholarship and a Guggenheim Fellowship.

FEBRUARY 24-26, 2019: The Center for Latin American Studies 68th Annual Conference "Jews in the Americas" is now open for registration: <http://www.latam.ufl.edu/annual-conference/>. The Conference Program is available [online](#).

NEW ONLINE:

See the oral history interview with Dr. Edwin Safer of Jacksonville, FL, on the [Judaica Suite's YouTube](#) site. Dr. Safer discusses Jewish history in Jacksonville, as well as his own personal story as a native Floridian, UF alumnus, doctor of veterinary medicine, university lecturer, tour guide, amateur historian and genealogist.

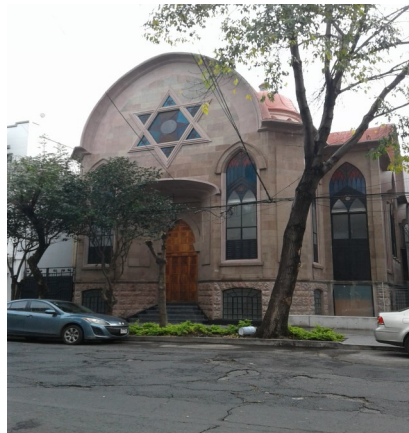
UF UNIVERSITY of
FLORIDA

THE PRICE LIBRARY GOES TO MEXICO

Price Library collections were showcased this October during a performance at an International Jewish Book Fair in Mexico City. The book fair was organized by the Center for Documentation and Jewish Research in Mexico (CDIJUM), which featured several hundred Jewish authors and over a thousand Judaica publications. The Price Library's curator, Rebecca Jefferson, was invited together with Latin American and Caribbean Special Collections Librarian, Margarita Vargas-Betancourt, and the George A. Smathers Libraries' Grants Manager, Bess de Farber, to perform a special multi-lingual version of *Composing A Heart and Other Jewish Immigrant Stories*. This performance evolved from a work co-created by Craig Ames (an award-winning composer and pianist) and Bess de Farber (a professional clarinetist) about the lives of de Farber's parents, including their emigration to Miami Beach from Poland and Argentina. Stories about Jewish immigration from the Price Library of Judaica were added in recent years and presented to various communities across Florida. For the Mexico City performance, Vargas-Betancourt



From left: Rubén Goldberg, Margarita Vargas-Betancourt, Bess de Farber, Rebecca Jefferson and Enrique Chmelnik, Photo credit: Glen Boecher.



Rodfe Sedek Synagogue, Mexico City.

globally accessible. The presentation of the box of completed digital scans was an important moment for all present.

On the following day, the Florida visitors were given a tour of the impressive new CDIJUM facility which adjoins to the old synagogue of the Syrian Jewish community of Mexico. The synagogue building itself, built in 1931 and modelled on the Aleppo synagogue, now holds the community's library and archives and seating for researchers; the adjoining glass-walled CDIJUM facility provides a space in which to process and conserve the archives, event space, and a small cafe. The group discussed collaborative digitization plans, as well as possible future presentations in Mexico City to generate awareness of the importance of building and preserving Judaica collections in Florida and Mexico.

translated these stories into Spanish, and Jefferson read from them and presented other excerpts in the original Yiddish and Hebrew. After the performance, CDIJUM's President, Rubén Goldberg, presented the performers with a surprise: a gift-wrapped box containing digital copies of CDIJUM's extensive Jewish newspaper archives. Goldberg thanked the Libraries for the important partnership with CDIJUM that had been initiated by Vargas-Betancourt and Enrique Chmelnik, CDIJUM's Director General. With de Farber's help, the project team had won two grants enabling otherwise hidden materials to be scanned and made



The foundational document of the Jewish Central Committee of Mexico, signed on the first day of Kristallnacht, on November 9, 1938. One of the many hundreds of historic documents preserved at the new CDIJUM facility.

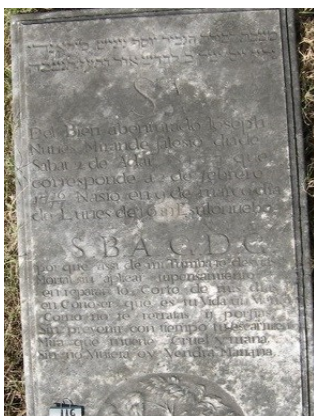
CELEBRATING MODERN JEWISH STUDIES

In *Collectanea* (1:4) we ended the year with a short discussion of significant anniversaries in 2017. In this year's final issue, we likewise dedicate space to commemorate one of 2018's many anniversaries, which included the 65th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, the 70th anniversary of the foundation of the modern Jewish State, Israel, and the 100th year since the end of WWI. The Price Library certainly offers its patrons a great variety of resources on these events and the ways in which they have been remembered in past decades. In this issue, however, we have chosen to highlight an important anniversary that until now mostly concerned scholars.

The year 2018 marks the bicentennial anniversary of the emergence of *Wissenschaft des Judentums*, the modern movement for the scholarly study of Jewish texts, history, and culture. Current scholarship ties this milestone event in Jewish history to the publication of a relatively short, less than fifty-page-long, treatise written by a twenty-three-year-old German scholar named Leopold Zunz. Zunz's pamphlet, entitled *Etwas über die rabbinische Literatur* (Regarding Rabbinical Literature), made the case for transforming the study of Jewish texts and texts about Jews into a modern academic field. Zunz likewise recommended ways to collect and study the relevant data, which included a close examination of the sources and their provenance, as well as ascertaining the reliability of the evidence. He highlighted the potential of under-exploited sources of information such as tombstone inscriptions, and he emphasized the importance of rabbinic responsa as a historical source for studying the economic life of Jews. In addition, he brought attention to community registers as untapped sources for building community histories.

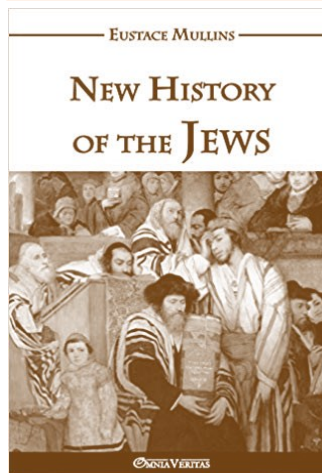
Zunz's work inspired a movement that enabled the Talmud and rabbinic literature to be studied scientifically as a source for Jewish history. Moreover, it encouraged greater study of the content and development of Hebrew literature in all its forms, from poetry and folklore to the natural sciences. Thanks to scholars, thinkers, journalists, and literary authors, most famously the poet Heinrich Heine, modern Jewish studies renewed the content and techniques of Jewish learning and reached audiences beyond the traditional centers of Jewish scholarship. For the first time during the course of Jewish history, this movement aspired to bring Jewish learning to non-Jewish, national academic institutions.

Today, every Jewish studies program and every Jewish academic library in the United States and beyond can look back at this pamphlet from 1818 as a foundational document even if the circumstances of Jewish participation in modern academia and the ways in which Jewish studies interacts with modern academic disciplines have significantly changed, especially in the post-WWII era. The development of the Price Library illustrates how the early nineteenth-century legacy of Jewish scholarship lives on while continuously undergoing renewal. In the third century of modern Jewish studies, as we expand the Price Library beyond its collection of classic 19th- and 20th-century scholarly works, we would like to pause and note the important role of the non-academic community in shaping the library's work. Donations of books, ephemera, archives and manuscripts, research data and born digital collections; growing interest in our resources for public scholarship, and increased engagement in our public events, all demonstrate that the Price Library enjoys an important relationship with the broader community here in Florida and around the world. Thus, the bicentenary of the birth of modern Jewish scholarship should be celebrated equally outside the walls of academia, for the non-academic community forms an essential and equal part of its history.



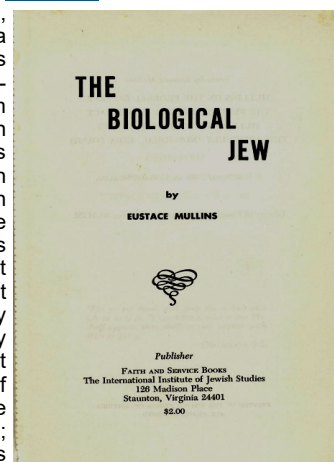
The tombstone of Joseph Nunes Mirande, who died in 1681, Hunts Bay Cemetery, Jamaica. One of hundreds of images donated to our [Jewish Diaspora Collection](#) by Ainsley Henriques and members of the Caribbean Volunteer Expeditions. Such materials help advance the study of Caribbean Jewish history, for which there is a paucity of extant written sources.

ENABLING THE STUDY OF ANTI-SEMITISM



Fifty years ago, Eustace Mullins, a self-styled WWII veteran, writer, businessman and artist, published the tract, *Mullins' New History of the Jews*, through "The International Institute of Jewish Studies" publishing house. This innocuous-seeming title with its strategically named but fake publisher probably allowed Mullins to spread his anti-Jewish animus much further afield than if it had been titled more provocatively. The book was reissued in 2016 by Omnia Veritas Ltd. Mullins, a white supremacist, Holocaust denier, and disciple of the poet Ezra Pound, penned six anti-Semitic works during his lifetime, copies of which are all held in the [Price Library of Judaica Antisemitica Collection](#).

In addition to Mullins' writings, the Price Library of Judaica Antisemitica Collection holds numerous other American anti-Semitic publications, largely from the 1940s to the 1990s. In addition, there are some works from Latin America in Spanish and a few from Europe in German. Furthermore, the collection of over 300 pamphlets and books includes works that spread hateful messages against Jews together with other minority groups. It is not an easy collection to build or curate, but only through the retention of such materials can we assist the ongoing study of anti-Semitism; an enduring and sometimes hidden phenomenon.



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, or our Jewish Heritage Coordinator, Dr. Katalin Rac at 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>