



NEWS IN BRIEF:

UPCOMING EVENTS:

APRIL 4, 2019, 5PM: Bringing America Together, Taking the Nazis Apart: Hollywood Jews, Moviemaking During World War II, and Implicating Film in the Third Reich, a talk by Michael Berkowitz (University College London), in the Judaica Suite.

APRIL 7, 2019, 4PM: Outwitting History, a talk by Aaron Lansky, founder-president of the Yiddish Book Center, in the Oak Room, Oak Hammock at the University of Florida.

APRIL 8, 2019, 12.30PM: The New Frontier in Yiddish Translation, a talk by Aaron Lansky, founder-president of the Yiddish Book Center, in the Judaica Suite.

APRIL 12, 2019, 2PM: Messianism in Minnesota Circa 1967: the Coen Brothers' Serious Man, a talk by Samuel Weber, in the Judaica Suite.

NEW ONLINE:

Thanks to our partnership with the Gran Sinagoga Bet Shalom in Havana, Cuba, we have been able to scan hundreds of their rare Cuban Jewish publications and add them to our new website, [Cuban Judaica](#). The website presently contains over 11,000 pages of open-access content, including the community's own periodical, [Havaner Lebn Almanakh](#), previously only available for consultation in a handful of world libraries.

UF UNIVERSITY of
FLORIDA

JEWS AND THE AMERICAS CONFERENCE



Tamar Herzog, Monroe Gutman Professor of Latin American Affairs, Harvard University, delivering the Bacardi Scholar Opening Address of the "Jews and the Americas" conference

Leading scholars from Latin and North America, Germany, and Israel toured the Price Library's Judaica Suite during the evening of Sunday, February 24, 2019. The visit followed the Bacardi keynote lecture, the opening event of the international conference titled "Jews and the Americas." During the next two days, twenty-two presentations arranged into seven thematic panels and the Alexander Grass Chair keynote address were featured in the conference's scholarly program. From chocolate manufacturing to self-defense classes, scholars unearthed fascinating histories of Jewish individuals and communities in the Americas. In doing so, the invited scholars also helped us see the landscapes and nations of the

Americas through the very eyes of the historical Jewish figures whose lives they subjected to their study. The non-academic program, the Bacardi concert *Encuentro*, performed by Silviu Ciueli with his Maharajah Trio, joined by UF professor Dr. Welson Tremura, deserves mention: it demonstrated beyond doubt that the invited scholars are *dance aficionados* as well!

This conference, organized jointly by UF's Center for Latin American Studies, the Alexander Grass Chair in Jewish Studies, and the Price Library of Judaica, constitutes a milestone in the Price Library's history of promoting the preservation and study of Jewish historical materials from Latin America, the Caribbean, and Florida. Through their research and analysis, scholars bring these materials and related items to life and interpret them for the coming generations. Through their writing, they reinforce the Price Library's standing as an important and rich depository of records that supports innovative research in Jewish studies in general and in Latin American Jewish studies specifically. Our strength also lies in our partner collections, primarily the Latin American and Caribbean Collection and the Florida History Collection, and the wonderful colleagues across the libraries who help us assist patrons from the academic and the general public daily and at special events like the "Jews and the Americas" conference. As the conference was open to the public, it was nice to greet members of the community in the audience as well. Their attention equally encourages us to continue our work.

RECORDING JEWISH ORAL HISTORIES

The first visitor to the Uruguayan book collection of which we reported in the previous issue was our Library's partner in Montevideo, Professor Teresa Porzecanski. She was followed



Teresa Porzecanski interviewed in the Judaica Suite Seminar Room; in the background are books from Uruguay

by Dr. Perla Sneh from Buenos Aires. Both scholars granted us [oral history interviews](#), sitting in the Judaica Suite seminar room, behind their backs the shelves filled with books once owned by members of the Montevideo Jewish community. Prof. Porzecanski, the renowned anthropologist and author, in addition to talking about her life, her formation as an anthropologist, and her interests as a researcher of Uruguay's Jewish community, also revealed her relationship with the books, now sitting in the background; books she had consulted for her research for many years. She said that the books from Montevideo, many of which had been carried across the ocean as precious mementos of previous lives in Europe, provided a "picture of the interests of the Jewish immigrants to Uruguay." Speaking in general about the role of books, she emphasized that books have the "unique capacity" of making first the author of the book and then its reader "introspect and ponder on intimate



Perla Sneh interviewed in the Judaica Suite Seminar Room

issues" that no other art form is as well-suited or even capable to do. We are inspired by her thoughts on books in general and on those from Montevideo now entrusted to the Price Library's custody and care. These books capture over a century-long history of a community that was shaped as Uruguay became a nation. Dr. Perla Sneh had already been connected to the Price Library through different ties. Through her father, Yiddishist, Jewish community leader, and celebrated literary figure, Simcha Sneh, she knew José Moskovits personally and offered much insight into the history that produced the unique antisemitism survey included in the [Price Library's José Moskovits Antisemitism Collection](#). She donated a large collection of photographs for a future digital collection and several books authored and translated by her father and herself: she is a prolific scholar of the Holocaust and antisemitism. We used the opportunity of her visit to the Jews and the Americas conference to sit down with her so we can learn more about Jewish experiences in Buenos Aires before and after World War II. Her vivid storytelling, passion for the Yiddish- and Spanish-language Argentinian Jewish literary scene, and commitment to Argentinian scholarship made her an exceptional interviewee and source of knowledge that complements the archival documents and the books from Latin America held at the Price Library.

FIRST BOOK FROM URUGUAY ARRIVES

One of the first books in our Uruguay collection to find its way to the shelves of the Judaica Suite seminar room is the English-language book *Hebrew Life and Times* written for school pupils by Harold B. Hunting. This copy of Hunting's book has a intriguing enigmatic history to be unlocked. It is



An image of an infirmary as depicted by a young girl living in 1920's Uruguay inside the cover of her book *Hebrew Life and Times*

adorned with penciled drawings, mostly black and white, depicting women's hats, necklaces, hairdos, infinite number of types of flowers and plants, as well as possible biblical figures – more fitting the subject of the book. Also available are the graphical artist's infinite notes in Spanish and English, including "this is what one practices in Hebrew and history lessons" on page 157 connected with an arrow to a quote from Proverbs "Heaviness in the heart of a man maketh it stoop." Given that her name appears several times across the pages of the book, it is likely that a young lady, Luisa Landauer owned and decorated it. She also recorded the progress of her reading: in June 1923, at the beginning of the trimester the class began reading "The Wars of Kings and the People's Sorrows." Luisa's notes provide intimate insights into the relationship between the book and its reader. This is just one example of how, as we process them, these books will reveal a broader social history about Jewish education and reading culture in Uruguay.

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>