



NEWS IN BRIEF:

UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE JUDAICA SUITE

Prince of the Press: How One Collector Built History's Most Enduring and Remarkable Jewish Library. [A talk by Joshua Teplitsky](#) on October 28, 2019, 5.30 pm.

The Holocaust, the POLIN Museum, and the Politics of the Past in Poland. [A talk by Dariusz Stola](#) on October 29, 2019 at 5.30 pm.

Evolve or Die: Redefining Jewish Literature for the 21st Century. [A talk by Myla Goldberg](#) on November 13 at 12.30 pm.

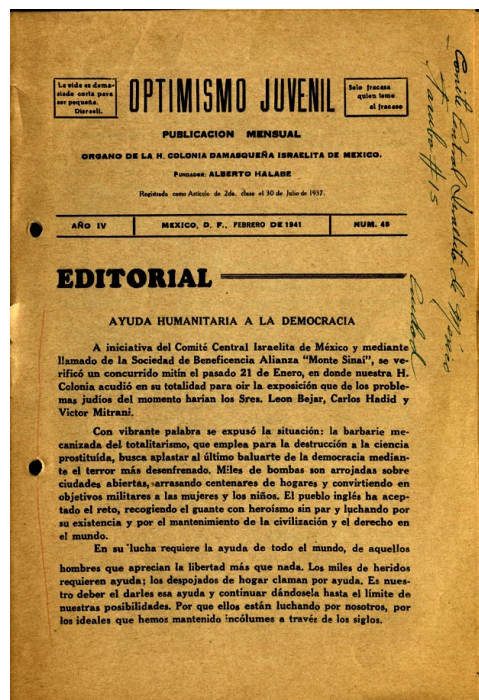
The Wandering Chess Player: Chess, Traveling, and the Jewish Condition
[A talk by Francesc Morales](#) on November 19 at 5.00 pm.

THANK YOU!

Your kind support of our [NEH Challenge Grant](#) is helping us preserve and provide access to precious Jewish heritage materials. We are now in the final year of the grant with **\$160,000** left to raise before July 2020 in order to claim the full benefit of the federal matching funds. Please visit our [Giving Page](#) and help us reach this goal.



AVOWING OPTIMISM IN 1940s MEXICO



Thanks to the NEH Challenge Grant and a successful partnership through our Caribbean Curator with [El Centro de Documentación e Investigación Judío de México \(CDIJUM\)](#), we are proud to announce that over 7,500 issues of Jewish newspapers from Mexico are now freely available online. These papers include such long-running titles as the weekly Yiddish-language newspapers, [Der Veg](#) (1932-1977) and [Di Shtime](#) (1939-1981); the weekly Spanish paper [Prensa Israelita](#) (1945-1981), and two major monthlies: [Tribuna Israelita](#) (1945-1987) and [Keshet](#) (1987-2016). The collection also comprises issues of scarce titles such as the monthly [Optimismo Juvenil](#), first published in 1937 and retitled [Revista Israelita de México](#) in the 1950s. Founded by Albert Halabe, a member of the Damascene Jewish community, *Optimismo Juvenil* served the entire Sephardi Jewish community (formerly of the Ottoman Empire), which constituted about 29% of the 6460 Jewish families living in Mexico at the time. Much of the newspaper's content is concerned with sharing joyful community announcements:

births, bar mitzvahs, [quinceañera](#) (the Latin American tradition of celebrating a girl's 15th birthday), and weddings (one issue even shows [an elaborate wedding cake](#) adorned with a model of the Sephardi synagogue, El Templo Rabí Yehuda Halevi). The original title banner contained a Disraeli quote "Life is too short to be little" and a maxim "Only those who fear failure fail." In the February 1941 issue, half of its 16 pages are devoted to sharing an eyewitness account by Abraham Weisz that was originally printed in *Mundo Israelita* (Argentina). Weisz was residing in Warsaw when it was captured by Germany. The front-page editorial (pictured above), entitled "Humanitarian Help for Democracy," describes a recent meeting and call for funds to help the British in their "unparalleled" heroic fight. The editor expected that 150,000 pesos would be raised for medical aid, and he urged his readers to exceed this amount: the more we contribute towards medical aid, he wrote, the more we will do to crush the beast of Hitlerism. Inside the pages, the German-speaking community also issued a call to help the German Jews. If the German Jews perish, they warned, the culture that brought glory to Germany will disappear. Please visit our [Jewish Diaspora Collection](#) to read the entire issue, as well as other content from all thirteen historic [Mexican Jewish newspapers](#).

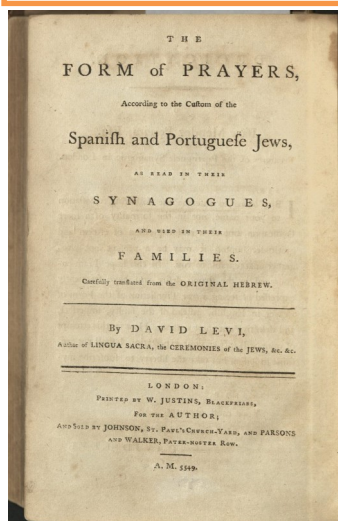
THE FRUITS OF COOPERATION



El Colono Cooperador (Yiddish Title Page) June 1962.

As we write this during Sukkot, the ancient Jewish festival of celebrating the harvest, it is fitting to note that the Price Library is likewise celebrating the crop of resources made available through our cooperative partnerships. Page one of this newsletter pays tribute to a partnership that has enabled the “harvesting” of 7,500 pages of Jewish newspapers from Mexico. And in this column we likewise give thanks to our partner in Buenos Aires, Tzavta, and by extension their partners, the Fundacion IWO and the Museo de la Colonizacion, for enabling patrons around the world to have free and open access to a long-standing Jewish periodical, *El Colono Cooperador* (pictured above). This rare periodical was previously only available to read in Argentina. *El Colono* is the continuation of an earlier publication, *Der Yudisher Kolonist* (1909-1912), which aimed to connect the various Jewish agricultural settlements in Argentina. Established in the 1880s, by 1909 they had grown into 18 villages separated by hundreds of miles. The magazine informed its readers about agricultural issues (e.g., crop marketing and cattle ranching), the theory of cooperativism and news from the colonies and cooperative farms. Economic difficulties in 1912 led to a five-year publishing hiatus. The magazine was launched again in 1917, this time under the title *El Colono Cooperador* and with both Spanish and Yiddish sections. As before, the main focus was on agricultural topics and concerns; however, the Yiddish section sometimes contained additional items of specific Jewish interest, such as [news from Israel](#). *El Colono* ran to over 800 issues; it ceased to be published in Yiddish in 1975; switched to a newspaper format in 1976 and was discontinued altogether in 1986.

BOOK PRESERVES FAMILY LIFE



The Price Library's copy of a rare Sephardi prayer-book printed in London in 1788 was first owned by a family living in Barbados. The Jewish community in Barbados was founded by

My Dear Beloved Jael Hart was safe delivered of a boy on the Eight September 1796 between the hour of one & two in the Morning his Name was J. D. Hart. He was born in the Island of Barbados, and gave him Name Naphtali, and after my father his god father was his father Nathan Hart

exiles from Recife, Brazil after it had been recaptured by the Portuguese in 1654. By the 18th century, Jews living in the British West Indies had established close trading and family ties with Sephardi Jews in London. Inside our prayer-book we find evidence of these transatlantic connections that were so typical of the Jewish New World experience. In the end leaves of the book, the owner, Nathan Hart, has inscribed in English significant events in his life, including his wedding in 1795 to his “dear beloved” wife, Jael (David Nunes) Costela. Hart also documented the birth of his daughter in May 1803 and her death four months later in September. He recorded the births of each of his three sons (Naphtali, Ralph and Isaac): one born each year between 1796-1799. And, finally, he noted the death of his mother on St Thomas Island in 1808. The Hart wedding is verified in the Barbados Synagogue archives, but no record is found of Nathan Hart's death suggesting that he had later moved off the Island. To learn more about Barbados' Jewish history, visit our online [Caribbean Judaica](#) collection.

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 rejefferson@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 280,000 pages of digital content in our [Jewish Diaspora Collection](#). (JDoC): <http://ufdc.ufl.edu/judaica>