

# COLLECTANEA

## NEWS IN BRIEF:

### UPCOMING EVENT IN THE JUDAICA SUITE:

**Is America 'Different?'**  
**Antisemitism and the Belief**  
**in American Exceptionism**  
a talk by Tony Michels in the  
Judaica Suite on March 12,  
2020, 5.30 pm. Co-sponsored  
with the Alexander Grass  
Chair in Jewish Studies. Free  
and open to the public.

### CO-SPONSORED EVENT OFF CAMPUS:

**An Historic Evening with**  
**Anne Frank's sister, Eva**  
**Schloss,** Curtis M. Phillips  
Center for the Performing  
Arts, Tuesday, March 24,  
2020 at 7.30 pm. [This event is](#)  
[ticketed.](#)

### UPCOMING CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES EVENT:

**Holocaust Memory: France**  
**and its Former Colonies.**  
April 18-21, 2020. More  
details to be announced.

See the Center for Jewish-  
Studies' new [Facebook Page](#)  
for recordings of some of the  
events in the Judaica Suite.

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

## HEARTWARMING FAMILY DEDICATION

On January 12, 2020, Eunice and Barry Zisser of Jacksonville, Florida, boarded a bus bound for Gainesville for a tour of the Price Library of Judaica. Organized by the J Institute at the Jacksonville Community Alliance, the tour had initially come about thanks to Eunice's advocacy on behalf of the beautiful library named by her brother's Sam and Jack for her mother and father, Isser and Rae Price. Yet unknown to Eunice, her daughter Melinda was planning a special surprise.

Some months earlier, Melinda Zisser had devised a plan to honor her parents by naming a space for them in the Judaica Suite. The naming would also reflect Eunice and Barry's incredible dedication to upholding Jewish life in the city of Jacksonville, and thus the "Jews and the Americas



Melinda presenting the plaque to her parents, Eunice and Barry Zisser.

Book Collection" was deemed the most fitting alcove to dedicate to this amazing couple. Melinda contacted her brother, Howard and his family in California, and they made special arrangements to attend the event.

When the tour bus arrived in Gainesville, the unsuspecting couple, together with nine other guests, made their way to the Judaica Suite in Smathers Library. Little did they know that twenty of their relatives and friends were hiding inside the Suite waiting to surprise them. The surprise was quickly followed by great expressions of joy and excitement.

Melinda presented the plaque which reads: *"In honor of our Parents and Grandparents*



The dedication event and tour included a talk about the Library treasures.

*Eunice and Barry Zisser With Much Love, Melinda, Alexandra, Samantha & Ryan; Howard, Kathleen, Mackenzie & Noah."*

Following a talk about the Library's history and its treasures, the family gathered in the newly-dedicated alcove for a photograph. Jefferson explained that Kenneth Treister's sculpture, a pyramid built out of golden egg-shapes, symbolized the story of the Exodus, together with the promise of rebirth and renewal. Indeed, the artwork seems to echo something Eunice's mother, Rae Price, would often say: "in some small way, we are all here to repair the world."



The family gathered for photographs in the newly-dedicated alcove.



## COMMUNITY LIFE IN CUBA



Image of the gathering of a social and cultural group from the "Cuban Judaica" collection digitized in partnership with la Comunidad Hebrea de Cuba.

A recently acquired treasure trove awaits researchers, students, and the public interested in Jewish life in twentieth-century Cuba. The Price Library's collection on [Jewish Organizations in Cuba](#) is an assembly of diverse documents produced over four decades in various languages. It includes, for example, registration forms that the Centro Israelita de Cuba (Jewish Center of Cuba) had created throughout the 1920s and 1930s to record the basic biographical information of recently arrived, mostly Eastern European Jews. The arrival of these immigrants constituted the third and last large Jewish immigration wave to the island, following the late 19th and early 20th century migration of Sephardi Jews mostly from the Middle East and North Africa. The documentation attests that the Jewish Center of Cuba provided financial aid to community members in need. Other documents in the collection, institutional correspondence and several entry tickets to communal events, tell us about the vibrant communal life and the diversity of the Jewish community in Cuba. For example, two letters, one in Yiddish and one in Hungarian invite the addressees to participate in a meeting that was set up to discuss the menu and other details related to the "traditional" end of the year (December 31) ball. Not only do these letters tell us about a custom that was apparently shared by Jewish immigrants speaking different languages, but they also provide evidence of how the community overcame linguistic barriers. Unfortunately, neither the menu nor photographs of the ball are enclosed. The collection, however, compensates us by recording the visits of literary luminaries from abroad, enclosing tickets to events featuring Jacob Botoschansky, the journalist of the popular Argentinian periodical *Di Presse*, and the Yiddish writer, Aaron Zeitlin, who had arrived from New York. Although there are no documents pertaining to the Jewish experience during the revolution, there are abundant samples of the Jewish Center's correspondence with the Cuban authorities and with other Jewish organizations in Cuba, such as Ajdut Israel (The Orthodox Ashkenazi Jewish Community). Additionally, the collection offers a glimpse into the activities of the Union Sionista de Cuba (Zionist Union of Cuba) and WIZO (Women's International Zionist Organization) in the postwar period. These items complement other resources from Cuba held in the Price Library, including the above-mentioned digital collection, [Cuban Judaica](#), produced in collaboration with La Comunidad Hebrea de Cuba.

## CULTURAL LIFE IN ISRAEL



The Price Library has acquired a rare, autographed program of a performance in Israel by the famous French mime artist, Marcel Marceau. Marceau's silent but deeply expressive character Bip was performed onstage around the world for over 50 years, and it was taken to Israel numerous times. Marceau created Bip, partly inspired by Charlie Chaplin, after WWII at the Theatre de Poche in Paris. Born Marcel Mangel in 1923, he had survived the war as a member of the French Resistance. In 1943, he helped smuggle 70 children from France to Switzerland. His artistic work inspired many of his students, as well as other artists like Michael Jackson who created his "Moonwalk" from Marceau's "Walking Against the Wind" sketch. This autographed program is part of the Harvard Pamphlet Collection at the Price Library of Judaica currently being processed for patrons to use.

## 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 [rjefferson@ufl.edu](mailto:rjefferson@ufl.edu), or the Library's 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 collections, and those of our many partners, through more than 330,000 scanned pages in our Jewish Diaspora Collection: <http://ufdc.ufl.edu/judaica>.