

The Alexander Grass Chair in Jewish Studies and the
Isser and Rae Price Library of Judaica
at the University of Florida

present

Jews in the Americas

Speaker Series

January 9 – August 28, 2018

featuring the recipients of the
“Jews in the Americas” fellowship



ALEXANDER GRASS
CHAIR IN JEWISH STUDIES



George A. Smathers Libraries
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

Isser and Rae Price Library of Judaica



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE
Humanities

Sharonah Fredrick

Jewish piracy and anticolonial rebellion

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

Judaica Suite, 5:00 p.m.

Fredrick's research explores different expressions of resistance against early modern colonialism in the Americas. She maps how different ethnic, religious, and social groups, subjugated or marginalized by Spanish, Portuguese, and English expansion in the New World, cooperated, shared experience, and defined their own space within the colonial system. Her graduate studies took her to Mexico and Israel, and she earned her doctoral degree in Stony Brook, New York. Currently she is Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures at University at Buffalo, SUNY. During her tenure as winner of the "Jews in the Americas" fellowship, Fredrick studies Sephardic Jews' participation in piracy in the Caribbean and the Pacific and the broader social history of renegades in early modern Spanish America.

Diego Gutiérrez, *Americae Sive Quartae Orbis Partis Nova et Exactissima Descriptio*, [Antwerp]: H. Cock, 1562. From the engraved map in the collections of the Geography and Map Division, Library of Congress, Washington.

Eleanor Stanford

Jewish experience in post-World War II Brazil

Tuesday, January 16, 2018

Judaica Suite, 5:00 p.m.

A poet and essayist, Stanford earned her MFA in creative writing at the University of Virginia, where she also held a Henry Hoyns fellowship. Her highly praised work scrutinizes anthropological, historical, and literary questions with scholarly and literary creativity. She is currently working on a novel on the Jewish experience in post-World War II Brazil and during her tenure at UF, she explores the library holdings, especially newspapers and biographical sources, to gain further inspiration and deeper understanding of what it meant to be raised as a Jew and live a Jewish life in Brazil of the 1950s and 1960s.

Atlas des Colonies et Domaines de la Jewish Colonization Association en République Argentine et au Brésil, Paris, 1914.

Avigail Oren

Jewish Community Center movement in Florida

Tuesday, February 13, 2018
Judaica Suite, 5:00 p.m.

The twentieth-century history of the American Jewish community center movement is the focus of Oren's research. She is a graduate of the Carnegie Mellon University where she earned her doctorate in 2017. Her research took her to various community and academic libraries in the United States and during February 2018, as recipient of the "Jews in the Americas" fellowship, she studies the Price Library's archival records and newspapers pertaining to the North-Central Floridian Jewish communal experience. Her research at UF contributes to her current work on her first manuscript, the revision of her dissertation to a book tentatively titled *Centering the Jewish Community: Religious Pluralism and Racial Diversity in the American Jewish Community Center Movement*.

Aerial photographs of Duval County – Flight 1C (1943), U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Hilit Surowitz-Israel

Portuguese Jews in the Atlantic of the early modern period

Tuesday, March 13, 2018

Judaica Suite, 12:00 p.m.

A graduate of the University of Florida and currently professor at Rutgers University in New Jersey, Surowitz-Israel returns to her alma mater to study records in the holdings of the Latin American and Caribbean, Florida, and Judaica collections. Her research focuses on the early modern Atlantic and scrutinizes the institutions and regulatory practices of Portuguese Jewish communities in the Caribbean and beyond. It also examines the formation of diaspora consciousness among Portuguese Jews, and the entanglement of race and religion in colonial America. Her research as a fellow in the program “Jews in the Americas” contributes to her forthcoming monograph *“May God Enlarge Japheth”: Portuguese Jews in the Early Modern Atlantic World*.

Curaçao, General atlas containing distinct maps of all the known countries in the world. Lucas, Fielding, 1781-1854, B.T. Welch & Co, 1823.

Mariusz Kałczewiak

Yiddish travel writing

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Judaica Suite, 12:00 p.m.

Kałczewiak takes his audience to South America of the early twentieth century. Focusing on the work of the Yiddish author Peretz Hirshbein, Kałczewiak explores how Yiddish literature, especially travel literature, contributed to the construction of cultural ties between Europe and the Americas. A Polish scholar, Kałczewiak earned his doctorate at Tel Aviv University and continues his research as a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Potsdam in Germany. The Price collection's rich offerings in South American Yiddish records, including the writings by Hirschbein, support Kałczewiak's inquiry about modern Yiddish literary tropes bridging continents and probing the modern Jewish immigrant experience in the Americas.

Argentina, (50th years of Jewish life in Argentina, 20th anniversary) Di Presse, 1938.

Stephanie Pridgeon

Jewish involvement in revolutionary movements of the 1960s and 1970s in film

Tuesday, April 17, 2018

Judaica Suite, 5:00 p.m.

Pridgeon, a graduate of Emory University, currently teaches at Bates College in Maine. Her broader research addresses literary and cinematographic examinations of memory, commemoration, representation, and identity construction in conjunction with the study of Jewish–non-Jewish relations in South America. In Gainesville, during her tenure as a fellow, she expands her dissertation research on cinematographic representations of Jewish engagements with South American revolutionary movements. She examines the dynamics of political participation and cultural belonging as crucial coordinates of the South American Jewish experience in the second half of the twentieth century. Her fellowship supports the completion of her manuscript *Jews on Screen and in Revolt*.

Atlas des Colonies et Domaines de la Jewish Colonization Association en République Argentine et au Brésil, Paris, 1914.

Steven Baumann

Finca Paso Seco, a Jewish refugee camp in Cuba

Tuesday, August 28, 2018

Judaica Suite, 5:00 p.m.

Baumann is a doctoral student at Temple University. His interest in the history of the American Friends Service Committee, originating in the Society of Friends (Quakers) movement, led him to the study of Finca Paso Seco, a refugee camp outside of Havana, Cuba. It was established by the American Friends Service Committee and supported by the Jewish organization JOINT Distribution Committee. Baumann's examination of the local and transnational, political and cultural aspects of the refugee camp's everyday operation highlights the rarely told history of Jewish refugees in Cuba prior to World War II. During his tenure as a fellow, Baumann studies the Price Library's rich offerings on the Jewish experience in Cuba, primarily focusing on newspapers.

Cuba map, First Edition – Ames 1, 1943.

Additional events on related topics during spring 2018:

“Merchants, Mystics, and Secret Jews: Sephardic Identities in the Age of Discovery”

Annual Alexander Grass Endowed Lecture by Jonathan Ray,
Samuel E. Professor of Jewish Studies, Georgetown University

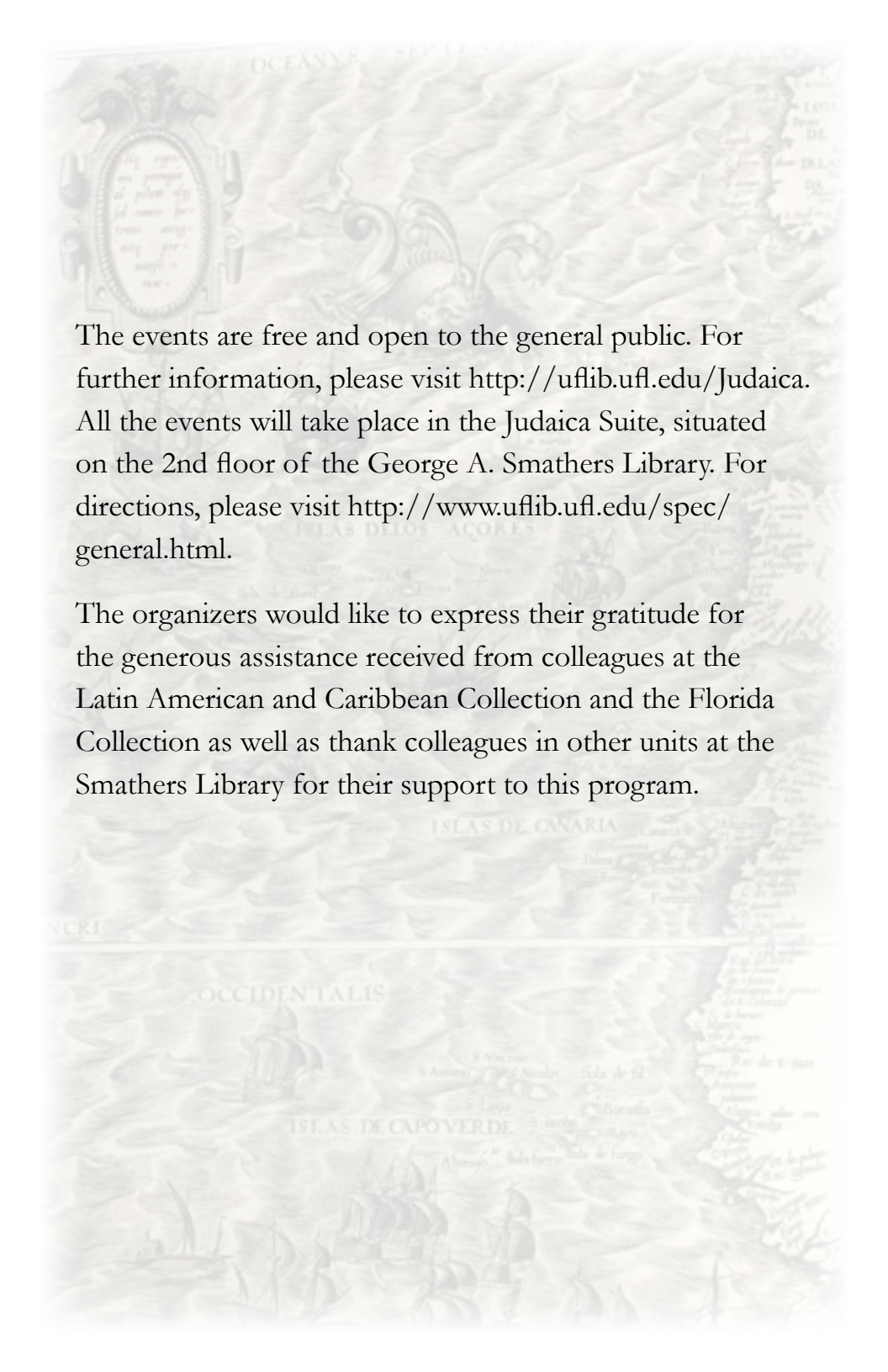
Monday, 5 February 2018, 5:00 p.m. in the Judaica Suite

“Not Like My Grandparents?”: Comparing New York’s Jewish Immigrants of 1918 to Today’s American Immigrants

a talk by Tyler Anbinder, Professor of History, The George Washington University; author of *City of Dreams: The 400-Year Epic History of Immigrant New York*

Thursday, April 5, 2018, 5:00 p.m. in the Judaica Suite

Diego Gutiérrez, *Americae Sive Quartae Orbis Partis Nova et Exactissima Descriptio*, [Antwerp]: H. Cock, 1562. From the engraved map in the collections of the Geography and Map Division, Library of Congress, Washington.



The events are free and open to the general public. For further information, please visit <http://uflib.ufl.edu/Judaica>. All the events will take place in the Judaica Suite, situated on the 2nd floor of the George A. Smathers Library. For directions, please visit <http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/spec/general.html>.

The organizers would like to express their gratitude for the generous assistance received from colleagues at the Latin American and Caribbean Collection and the Florida Collection as well as thank colleagues in other units at the Smathers Library for their support to this program.