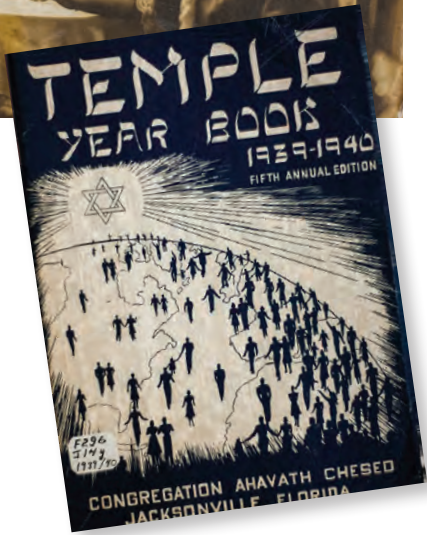




The ability to preserve and study these materials enables us to understand the past and do better in today’s multicultural, global society.

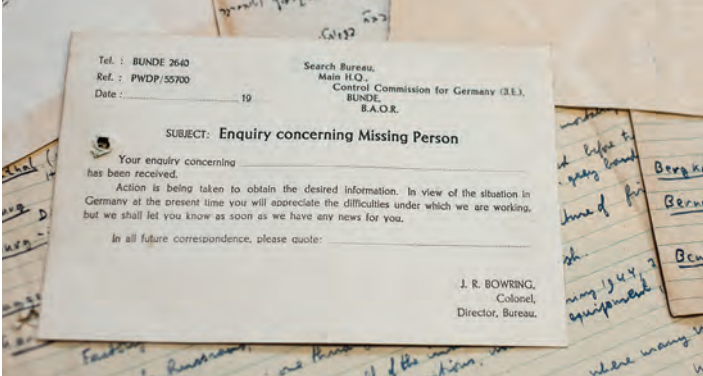


Florida’s First Jewish Settlement

Since the founding of Jacksonville, Florida in 1822, Jews have played a prominent role in the development of this large Southern city. They arrived there before the Civil War from Prussia and Germany as merchants and served their city by defending it, holding public offices, building the economy and contributing to the cultural arts, education and philanthropies. These activities continue today.

These “Israelites of Jacksonville” formed the first Jewish community and the second oldest synagogue in Florida, with the 1882 charter of the Congregation Ahavath Chesed. The rare temple yearbook seen here is among the materials at the Price Library that provide a snapshot of Jewish life from the late 19th century to the end of the 20th century.

Other early records of the Congregation, including their yearbooks, were destroyed in a 1940s fire. Today, the rebuilt house of worship on the same site, dedicated in 1950, is the spiritual home to more than 700 families and 500 students.



Search for the Missing

In 1944, when German-native Herman Neudorf was 15 years old, he and his mother were taken by SS officers to live first in a Latvia internment ghetto and then several concentration camps. He remembers well the July day in 1944 when his mother was one of 3,000 women taken out and shot. He stayed alive only because he was strong enough to perform hard labor tasks and survive inhumane conditions.


After the war, Jewish agencies helped Neudorf to find an uncle in Colombia, one of many locations in Latin America that hosted Jewish refugees. Here we see a letter he wrote from Colombia to Richard M. Feist, a member of the 55 Search Bureau of the British Army of the Rhine (BAOR). Feist collected Holocaust personal and professional papers, correspondence with members of the Jewish Brigade of the British Army, as well as letters to the BAOR from people searching for their missing relatives. Feist’s archive resides in the Price Library.

Neudorf eventually immigrated to the United States where he was extremely active in nurturing the memory of the Holocaust. He now resides in Florida.

Forced To Take A New Name

Sometime after 1782, a ruling came down from the Holy Roman Emperor requiring every Jew to adopt a German surname that would further integrate them into the empire’s economic life. In the back of the first edition 1778 book (shown on the front cover at left), Abraham son of David practiced writing his new name – Abraham David Rosenberger – over and over.

Interestingly enough, the book eventually ended up in Jacksonville, Florida. At some point the book, which is comprised of essays on the Torah and Talmud, came into the possession of Rev. Hermann Deutsch. In 1939, the Deutsch family was given four weeks by the Nazis to leave their Hamburg home, so they fled to the safety of Colombia. After two years, they resettled in Jacksonville, where Rev. Deutsch accepted a position inspecting and slaughtering cattle and fowl for kosher consumption. He also was instrumental in the founding of the Etz Chaim Synagogue. The book was donated, along with the rest of Deutsch’s rare Hebrew books, by his daughter and



ISSER AND RAE PRICE LIBRARY OF JUDAICA
and the National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant





The collection has extraordinary depth and breadth, from the very rare and unconventional to extensive holdings in important subject areas.

Preserving and Understanding What Once Was

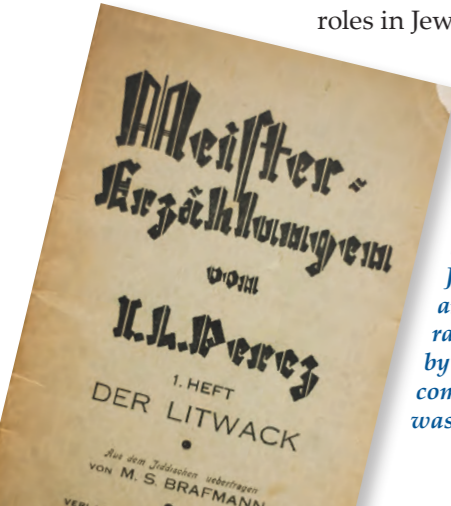
The many rare and priceless treasures in the Isser and Rae Price Library of Judaica tell the story – thousands and thousands of stories, actually – of the Jewish people. It is a story of cultures, societies and influences that span more than 3,000 years of recorded history.

It is a story that permeates all aspects of our life, from our language and customs to our literature and science. The ability to preserve and study these materials enables us to understand the past...and, perhaps, understand ourselves better and do better in today’s multicultural, global society.

Only at the University of Florida

The Price Library of Judaica is one of America’s great Judaica research libraries and the foremost in the Southeast. It is appropriate this collection of nearly 105,000 volumes resides at the University of Florida:

- One of the most comprehensive and academically diverse universities in the nation
- Home to the Center for Jewish Studies, which relies on the library as it fosters a rich undergraduate and graduate program through coursework, research and community outreach
- Believed to have the largest Jewish student population at a public institution
- Dozens of graduates have gone on to become leaders in the Jewish community and assume important roles in Jewish institutions or to pursue careers in law, medicine, business or other professions.



During the late 1930s, approximately 75,000 German Jews fled to Latin America and the Caribbean. This very rare booklet was produced by and for the Jewish refugee community whose main language was German.



A Noah’s Ark Collection

Researchers, students and others from all over the world visit the Price Library of Judaica either in person or virtually. Akin to a Noah’s Ark, the collection has extraordinary depth and breadth, from the very rare and unconventional to extensive holdings in important subject areas.

The Price Library of Judaica is distinctive because:

- It is the fourth largest Judaica library in the leading public universities.
- It ranks among the top 20 Jewish studies research collections in the United States.
- Many of the late 19th to early 20th century materials are held by just 30 or 40 institutions.
- Many thousands of its titles in Hebrew and Yiddish are held by less than 10 libraries in the United States.
- UF is one of only a handful of academic libraries that separates the Jewish collection from the main holdings and with a dedicated librarian.



The heart of the Price Library is the Judaica Suite, with its handmade furniture, artwork and sculptures designed by celebrated Florida architect and artist, Kenneth Treister.

Leveraging Federal Funding

The Price Library of Judaica has a tremendous opportunity at hand. A prestigious National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Challenge Grant of \$500,000 has been awarded to the libraries to build an endowment fund. **The matching award provides a \$1 match for every \$3 raised. Thus, \$1.5 million in private funds must be secured to leverage the full NEH amount.**

The grant will broaden access to the Jewish experience in three important and understudied areas: Florida, Latin America and the Caribbean. The NEH recognizes the University of Florida is singularly well-suited to lead a new national and international effort to map, study and promote the diversity of histories and cultures in this hemisphere.

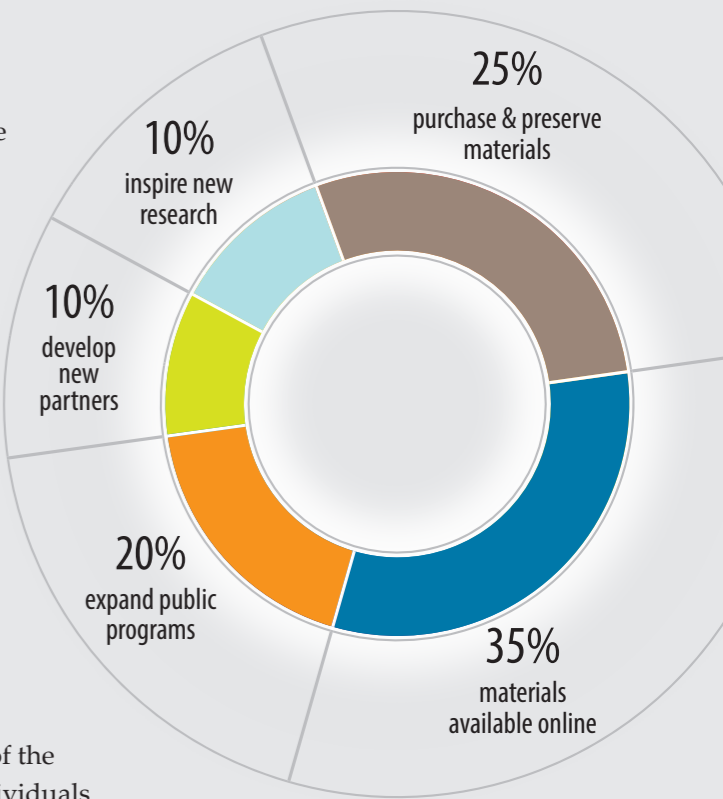
Once the \$2 million endowment is created, the annual interest generated by the endowment will be used in perpetuity to fund strategic activities that achieve two goals related to Florida, Latin America and the Caribbean:

- 1) Lead a national and international effort to inspire greater study of the Jewish diaspora and the ways in which minority groups and individuals contribute to the wider society
- 2) Provide broader access to under-researched and hidden historical materials to revolutionize current scholarship and promote greater knowledge and understanding.

The scholarship, preservation and access to these exceptional resources will be accomplished by undertaking the activities at the right:

We Need Your Help

Philanthropy is an investment in what can be. Please help us ensure evidence of the Jewish experience lives on in perpetuity in what can become one of the great Jewish libraries. It is relevant now and it certainly will be relevant for future generations.



For every \$3 you give, the NEH federal grant will give us \$1.

Name _____

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The University of Florida Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization. Gifts to UFF are eligible for a charitable contribution deduction.

Method of Payment:

- ☐ I have enclosed a check payable to the UFF/Jewish Heritage Fund #019835

Employees of the University of Florida may wish to take advantage of the payroll deduction process to provide their level of support.

- ☐ Check here for payroll deduction.

Please mail form to the Office of Development, George A. Smathers Libraries, University of Florida, PO Box 117000, Gainesville, FL 32611-7000.

To make a gift with a credit card, please call the UF Foundation’s Gift Processing toll-free number: **1-877-351-2377** (and mention Fund #019835) OR fill in the information below and mail directly to UF Foundation, Gift Processing Department, P.O. Box 14425, Gainesville, FL 32604-2425.

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For additional information, please call Katie Boudreau in the Office of Development at (352) 273-2505.

- ☐ I am interested in contributing materials