

COLLECTANEA

NEWS IN BRIEF:

NEH CHALLENGE GRANT:

We are pleased to announce that the National Endowment for the Humanities has granted a one-year extension to our Challenge Grant. To date, we've raised \$1,792,226 and we're excited for this opportunity to continue building support towards our \$2 million goal.

LOOKING FORWARD:

However, it saddens us that circumstances have led to the temporary closure of the Judaica Suite. Inspired by the title of Naftali Herz Imber's poem, *Tikvatenu* (Our Hope) we embrace positive thinking and look forward to the time when we can welcome visitors once again to our beautiful and inspiring space. This year alone we hosted over 1,000 visitors, including individual visits, 6 large group tours, 15 speaker events and 64 classes. And thus like the Psalmist we say: *mekhayil el khayil* (from strength to strength)!

SUMMER SABBATICAL:

The Judaica Library's Curator, Dr. Rebecca Jefferson, will be away on sabbatical during the summer semester. Please address all library queries during this period to Dr. Katalin Rac, Price Library Coordinator. Dr. Rac's email address is: katalin.rac@ufl.edu.

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ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO SHARE!

Thanks to the more than 150 people who have supported our Library's National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant, we can now boast one of the largest online collections of Jewish newspapers outside of the National Library in Israel. In addition to scanning portions of our [existing print collection](#), encompassing over 300 titles of Jewish periodicals from almost 30 countries around the world, the NEH grant has enabled us to partner with many other institutions here in Florida and in Latin America to acquire digital copies of publications hitherto inaccessible to most readers. The titles in our online collection represent a broad cross-section of the international Jewish press, a vibrant entity which not only captured and commented upon key moments in Jewish history, it also served as an important tool of social change.

The total number of issues we now freely share online is 15,130. Of the 75 titles from which they derive, over half were published in Latin America and Florida. The Latin American titles include such long-running Mexican Yiddish periodicals as *Der Veg* (1930s to 1970s) and *Di Shtime* (1930s to 1980s), and historic Argentinian newspapers like the Spanish language *Nueva Sion* (which continues to present day). The Floridian titles comprise historic items such as the *Jewish Unity*, *The Jacobean*, and *The Jewish Floridian*, and numerous 21st century papers like the *Heritage Florida Jewish News*. Our complete [online collection](#) incorporates a wide range of papers from the 1930s and 1940s, capturing news in and about events in Europe. Around 25% of the newspaper titles are written in Yiddish, another 25% are in English, 15% are in Spanish, and the remaining titles are in Hebrew, German and Dutch. Going forward, the library is excited to continue building partnerships with institutions in Florida and Latin America. Closer to home, a separate but connected enterprise, the Libraries' [US Caribbean and Ethnic Florida Digital Newspaper Project](#), will soon include the *Southern Jewish Weekly* in its next round of digitization. This Florida-based Jewish newspaper ran for over seven decades and, like its longstanding companion *The Jewish Floridian*, it will likely prove an important source for researchers of Florida history in general and Florida Jewish history in particular.



"Never forget never forgive!" The front page of *Nueva Presencia*, a Jewish newspaper born at the time of the Argentine military dictatorship in 1977 and published weekly until 1993. The newspaper was highly critical of the dictatorship, and it was one of the few publications to publicly denounce the massive disappearance of people occurring in Argentina at that time. This issue from April 27, 1984, was published after the Argentinian Truth Commission issued its report ("Never Again") on human rights violations during the dictatorship.

LESSONS FROM THE SHOAH

In honor of this year's Yom Ha-Shoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day), Aileen Josephs, donor of the Library's Hyman Walborsky Memorial Collection, released on YouTube



A still image from the *Prosecuting Crimes of the State* documentary. Click on the image to watch online.

the documentary [Prosecuting Crimes of the State](#). The documentary was written some years ago with the late Owen Kupferschmid and two friends, Danielle Klainberg and Joya Ganguly. As Josephs explained in an email, this documentary features a panel of prosecutors, lawyers, academics, and human rights advocates from the Fifth International Conference of the student-run Holocaust/Human Rights Research Project (HHRP), that took place in 1990. HHRP was founded at Boston College Law School in 1984 by Owen Kupferschmid and now the Project is named after him. As a former fellow student, Josephs participated in three of the HHRP conferences, which aimed to explore how Holocaust-related law could be employed in other cases of human rights abuse, such as human rights violations perpetrated by states against civilians. Thanks to her realization that the impressive line-up of conference speakers and their important discussions should be recorded, the resulting documentary includes not only the conference proceedings but also one-on-one interviews with the panelists. It took many years to complete the documentary created pro bono by two talented artists, Adolfo and Alejandro Doring. Eventually, Josephs received additional help from her son Jonathan to make the documentary available online. A description of Joseph's work in the field of Human Rights, together with a link to the documentary, is available through the [Hyman Walborsky Memorial Collection](#) Finding Aid.

Día y Niebla: Day and Fog

The Price Library has recently acquired a copy of [Día y Niebla](#) (Day and Fog) by Argentinian Jewish artist and poet, Mado Reznik. A handmade box contains a book of her poems together with cavities for four windows covered by roll-up shades on dowels. Beneath the shades are etchings of Theresienstadt reflecting the artist's own visit to the site. The title also recalls the Nazi decree *Nacht und Nebel* (Night and Fog) which led to the secret arrest and special court trials of political activists and members of the resistance. Our copy of Reznik's work is one out of an edition of ten.

REMEMBERING THE SHOAH

In this exclusive [interview with Rabbi Robyn Fisher](#) for Yom ha-Shoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day), architect and artist Kenneth Treister tells the story behind his creation of the Holocaust Memorial in Miami Beach, Florida. He explains how the concept of the memorial was born, how the idea for his *Sculpture of Love and Anguish* emerged and was executed, as well as the highs and lows of bringing such an ambitious and important project to fruition. In addition, Treister divulges some of the less well-known stories relating to his work, including the pivotal story of the musician who stood up to defend the memorial when other Miami residents reacted against it. The musician, a violinist, and her



A still image from Kenneth Treister's interview. Click on the image to watch the video online.

husband, a pianist, had their arms amputated by the Nazis. Treister's memorial, she declared before a local hearing, would give her back her arm.

The memorial, whose complex creation also entailed three years of dedicated work in a Mexican foundry, is according to Treister solely about the persecution and extermination of the Jewish people. We are very proud that the creator of such an important work commemorating the Holocaust is also the designer of our beautiful Judaica Suite.

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 learn about the Judaica Library and how you can assist with the preservation and study of its materials, please contact the curator, Dr. Rebecca Jefferson (rjefferson@ufl.edu) or the Library's Jewish Heritage Coordinator, Dr. Katalin Rac (katalin.rac@ufl.edu).

To visit the Judaica Suite, please contact us by email for up-to-date visitor information.

Wherever you live in the world, you can learn about our library on our website at: <https://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/judaica/>, and 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>.