

MOSSE/WEINSTEIN

**CENTER FOR
JEWISH STUDIES**

20 YEARS 1991-2011

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER
VOLUME 11 / SUMMER-FALL 2010

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

**A Time for
Celebration**

MAJOR GIFT FOR YIDDISH
CULTURE

Mayrent Institute

FORUM

**What's a Coastie?
What's a Sconnie?**

GREENFIELD SUMMER
INSTITUTE

10th Anniversary

FACULTY AND ALUMNI NEWS



MOSSE/WEINSTEIN

Center for Jewish Studies

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

A Time for Celebration



Those of you who have received our newsletter before might have noticed that it is coming later than usual, but we hope that the new format and new look made it worth the wait! This has been a very exciting year at the Mosse-Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies, giving us much cause for celebration as well as reflection as we prepare to mark our 20th anniversary in 2011.

“...looking back on our last 20 years and ahead to our future.”

First and foremost, we are very excited to report the establishment of the Mayrent Institute for Yiddish Culture. The \$1 million endowment from Sherry Mayrent and Carol Master to establish the institute will be accompanied by the donation of the largest digitized collection of Yiddish recordings in the world, making the University of Wisconsin-Madison home to a one-of-a-kind site for the study and cultivation of Yiddish arts and culture. In January, we will welcome Henry Sapoznik as full-time director of the Institute, and in the summer of 2011 we will launch the first annual summer KlezKamp in Madison under his direction. This event also comes at the culmination of the chancellor's Year of the Arts, a yearlong celebration of the visual and performing arts inaugurated in September by Rocco Landesman, chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, Broadway producer, and UW-Madison alumnus.

This has also been a year of major transitions in our faculty and staff. We had to say farewell to our administrator of 17 years, Anita Lightfoot, and to Professor Cynthia Miller, who took a faculty position in South Africa. We were fortunate to add to our team Juliet Page, who joined as an external relations consultant for the year (thanks to a generous gift by alumnus Allen Lenard); Jean Hennessey and Allison Bloom, who came on board to work with Kesha Weber to keep our administrative operations running smoothly; and four new faculty members: Samer Alatout (Community and Environmental Sociology), Jill Casid (Art History), Patricia Rosenmeyer (Classics), and Jeremi Suri (History). We are especially excited about our collaboration with Ronald Luskin, our new development director at the UW Foundation. Ron has an impressive background in Jewish philanthropy and, along with his predecessor Stephen Wald, has been working hard with us to concentrate our efforts on realizing the Center's goals as we work together to prepare a strategic plan, looking back on our last 20 years and ahead to our future.

Since our last communication, we celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Greenfield Summer Institute in 2009 with a star-studded program on Jews and politics and a poignant tribute to Larry Greenfield's legacy by former directors of the Center and Larry's closest friends and family. With the bar rising ever higher, in 2010 we tackled the issue of the “wandering Jew” from several vantage points, and next summer's institute (July 10-14, 2011) promises to be the most ambitious by far: a program on “Yiddish in the 21st Century” will coincide with the first

Madison KlezKamp and offer its participants a huge variety of stimulating lectures, workshops, and performances.

Our lecture series continues to bring to campus leading scholars in Jewish Studies and related fields. Highlights of the past year include Kay Shelemay from Harvard University (Weinstein-Minkoff Lecture), Jeffrey Herf from University of Maryland (Harry and Marjorie Tobias Lecture), Jeffrey Gurock from Yeshiva University (Stanley and Sandra Kutler Lectures), Till van Rahden from the University of Montreal (Paul J. Schrag Lectures), Alan Rosen, and most recently Dan Miron of Columbia University (Tobias Lecture) and Jonathan Schneer from Georgia Institute of Technology, whose book on the Balfour Declaration received attention in such venues as *Newsweek* and who came to us with the help of the Weinstein-Minkoff Lecture funds.

The CJS faculty's achievements in research, teaching and publishing are too vast to enumerate here, punctuated throughout the year with honorary degrees, book awards, teaching awards, research awards, and invitations to lecture around the world. Our students and alumni also continue to inspire us as they gain recognition on and off campus and keep us apprised of their latest achievements.

We welcomed Irene Resenly as our new Weinstein Distinguished Graduate Fellow, and students and faculty came together outside the classroom with exciting new projects sponsored by the Coleman Fund: highlights include the trip to the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit; exclusive performances of “Life in a Jar” (recounting the story of a Polish woman who saved 2500 children from the Warsaw

ghetto) and “Yours, Anne” (a musical based on Anne Frank's diary); and numerous other small gatherings where professors and students could interact in informal settings.

We were thrilled to meet alumni and friends at gatherings in Florida at the Palm Beach home of Nancy and Peter Brown and the Miami home of Rick and Barbara Boxer, and we look forward to building on this momentum with plans for 20th-anniversary galas around the country, welcoming the opportunity to celebrate with you to honor the legacies of our much beloved and revered founders, Laurence Weinstein and George Mosse.

And last but not least, we have moved to a spacious new office suite on the first floor of Ingraham Hall, and we look forward to welcoming you to our new home any time you are in the neighborhood. Please make note of our new contact information, and do be in touch!

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Pamela Potter, director

Clockwise below: Sherry Mayrent and Henry Sapoznik, Sherry Mayrent and Carol Master, and Sherry Mayrent with the collection.



MAJOR GIFT FOR YIDDISH CULTURE

Mayrent Institute for Yiddish Culture



In April 2010, the Mosse/Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies received a \$1 million endowment from Sherry Mayrent and Carol Master to establish the Mayrent Institute for Yiddish Culture. The Institute will be the only one of its kind, devoted to fostering an understanding of the world of Yiddish through the arts.

recording series including, but not limited to, editions and reissues from the collection.

The Mayrent Institute will also further the aims of the Center for Jewish Studies toward adding new faculty positions in Yiddish studies and laying the foundation for a Yiddish concentration within the Center's undergraduate degree programs in Jewish Studies. Frances L. Weinstein, a lifetime member of the

The institute will be one-of-a-kind, devoted to understanding the world of of Yiddish through the arts.

The Institute will be under the direction of Henry Sapoznik, an expert on klezmer music and Yiddish and American popular culture, and founder of "KlezKamp: The Yiddish Folk Arts Program." "Ever since he started KlezKamp over a quarter of a century ago, Henry Sapoznik's name has been synonymous with Yiddish culture. Having him here to direct the Mayrent Institute is sure to put Madison on the map as a center for bringing an appreciation of Yiddish arts and letters to all generations," says Pamela Potter, director of the Mosse/Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies and renowned musicologist.

Sapoznik will bring the headquarters of KlezKamp to Madison, continuing the annual winter KlezKamp in the Catskills and adding a summer version in Madison in July 2011. Plans also are afoot to hold regular conferences on Yiddish studies, including all aspects of Yiddish language, literature, history, music, and folk arts; and sponsor visiting artists and scholars in the fields of Yiddish music, theater, dance, language, and literature to augment the offerings in Yiddish culture provided by the UW-Madison faculty.

The endowment also will support the centerpiece of the Institute, Mayrent's entire collection of more than 6,000 78-rpm discs of Jewish music, which she plans to donate to UW-Madison's Mills Music Library. The library will provide online access to digitized recordings from the collection and an information-rich database. The Institute will produce publications and

Center's Board of Visitors, noted, "since the founding of the Center by my late husband in 1991, we have sought to provide a wide spectrum of Jewish studies courses. This fantastic gift will now enable us to include Yiddish culture—meeting ever increasing student interest."

Mayrent and Master, both of Massachusetts and Hawaii, singled out UW-Madison for their gift after years of participation in and philanthropic support of KlezKamp—and in response to the resounding success of the UW-Madison's Arts Institute's 2009 Interdisciplinary Arts Residency of Henry Sapoznik and the concurrent symposium of the Center for Jewish Studies's Conney Project on Jewish Arts. "We are proud and delighted to be making this gift to the University of Wisconsin. Making this important cultural material universally accessible and ensuring the longevity of KlezKamp are two long-term dreams of mine," said Sherry Mayrent.

Yiddish in Madison



1890: Jewish immigrants who begin to arrive in Madison are almost entirely Yiddish speakers.

1915: A Madison chapter of the Workmen's Circle, a Jewish socialist-Yiddishist society, was established alongside an Orthodox synagogue, several fraternal societies and charitable organizations, and one of the oldest chapters of Haddassah.

1916: The first Yiddish class on any U. S. college campus was taught at UW-Madison.

1924-1930: UW-Madison becomes the site of the country's second Hillel Foundation chapter, and during an

era of quotas on Jewish attendance at public and private schools in the East, the UW-Madison welcomed Jewish students from far and wide and became known as a popular destination for Jewish undergraduates by 1930.

1930s-present: Courses on Yiddish language, literature, and culture attract growing numbers of students; UW-Madison Chancellor Carolyn "Biddy" Martin even recalls her days as a teaching assistant for one of these courses while she was a graduate student in the German department in the 1980s.

Beyond the Classroom



Over the past year, the Coleman Fund continued to offer a wide variety of activities to University of Wisconsin-Madison students. The Coleman Fund supports activities that bring students together with Center for Jewish Studies faculty to partake in learning opportunities outside the classroom.

Coleman events are made possible by gifts from Bill and Marjorie Coleman.

NOVEMBER 2009

Professor Steven Nadler took students from one of his Jewish Studies courses to see the film "A Serious Man" (by Joel and Ethan Cohen), about a Jewish physics professor and his quest for answers about the problems in his life, at the Sundance Theater.

APRIL 2010

Professors Rachel Brenner and Philip Hollander arranged for their students to see the play "Life in a Jar," which tells the story of Irena Sendler, a non-Jewish social worker who rescued 2,500 Jewish children by forewarning their parents in the Warsaw Ghetto. She placed the children in the homes of Polish families, convents, and orphanages. She made lists of the children's real names and put the lists in jars, then buried the jars in a garden, so that someday she could tell the children their real identities.

Professors Ron Troxel and Jordan Rosenblum traveled with 75 students to the Milwaukee Public Museum to see the *Dead Sea Scrolls and the Bible: Ancient Artifacts, Timeless Treasures*. The exhibit and its accompanying film



explored the archaeological history of the Holy Land from the third century BCE through the first century CE and described the discovery of the scrolls and their significance for scholars. Students could view actual Dead Sea Scrolls, along with stone "scrolls," reproductions of several significant scrolls, Greek papyri, and numerous versions of Biblical texts.

On Yom Ha'Atzma'ut, Lecturer Haya Yuchtman took her Hebrew classes to Cafe Osher at Hillel for a traditional Israeli meal.

OCTOBER 2010

Professor Rachel Brenner arranged for students to see a special performance of "Yours, Anne," a musical written and performed by Music Theatre of Madison. The work portrays Anne Frank in a realistic and multidimensional way, enhancing the frustration, sadness, and terror as well as the love and joy Anne experienced toward the end of her life. This event also featured post-performance discussions with Professor Brenner and the cast.



Visits to the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Bible: Ancient Artifacts, Timeless Treasures exhibit at the Milwaukee Public Museum and a performance of "Yours, Anne" were just two of the activities made possible by the Coleman Fund.

What's a Coastie? What's a Sconnie? And why does it matter?



For some time now, University of Wisconsin-Madison students have casually used the term “Coasties” ostensibly to refer to students from the East Coast and “Sconnies” for native Wisconsinites.

But during the 2009-2010 academic year, when two UW-Madison undergraduates made a splash with “The Coastie Song,” a hip-hop video popularized on the Internet, *The New York Times* and other outlets took note of the song’s potentially anti-Semitic lyrics and its implications for a perceived “Coastie/Sconnie” rift on campus. University administrators were forced to address the controversy in print, but the use of the stereotyping terms continued unabated.

The Center for Jewish Studies worked with a number of other campus units to address the problem head on. Although the undertones of anti-Semitism are disturbing on their own, they also raise broader questions about inclusivity, tolerance, and diversity and their impact on campus climate. On October 5, 2010, as part of Ethnic Studies Week (a nationally coordinated action to celebrate and promote Ethnic Studies curricula in the wake of a ban in Arizona), the Center convened a panel discussion and forum to address the “Coastie/Sconnie” issue:

- Belzer Assistant Professor Jordan Rosenblum discussed how the stereotypes show up in his classes
- Associate Dean of Students Argyle Wade talked about the impact of such stereotypes on student life
- Folklore professor Jim Leary traced the history of Wisconsin/East Coast

stereotypes back to the 19th century through folk tales and jokes

- MATC History professor and UW-Madison alumnus Jonathan Pollack explained the history of Madison’s Jewish community and how university housing policy led to the segregation of Jewish and non-Jewish students in the early 20th century
- English professor Eric Raimy explored the fairly recent linguistic origins of the terms “Coastie” and “Sconnie”
- Ethnomusicology graduate student Colin Fitzpatrick reported on his field research examining reactions to the controversy both on campus and on the Internet

The event attracted approximately 100 people, most students, including the founder of the Sconnie Nation store on State Street. He and others pointed out that housing segregation has much to do with the creation and perpetuation of social and economic stereotypes. He said, “To the extent that there is a derogatory usage of the word [‘coastie’], I think that a lot of it lies in the first year student experience geographically; where they live, and I really think that it’s worth looking into.”

The question-and-answer period gave rise to a lively discussion, and the event prompted the UW administration to ascertain that current housing policies are not discriminatory toward out-of-state students. They also reaffirmed the University’s long-standing commitment to providing a welcoming environment for all students.

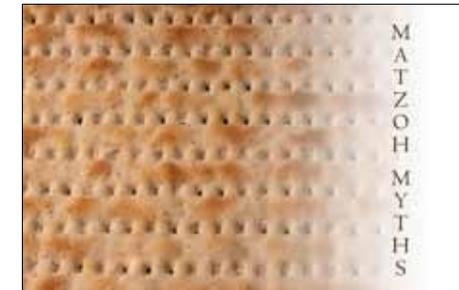
Food for Thought



Jordan Rosenblum, Belzer Assistant Professor of Classical Rabbinic Literature and author of *Food and Identity in Early Rabbinic Judaism*, presented the timely “Matzah Myths” at the home of Nancy and Peter Brown and Barbara and Rick Boxer.

This past March, more than 50 of the Mosse/Weinstein Center’s alumni and other supporters gathered at the Palm Beach home of Nancy and Peter Brown for a faculty showcase featuring Jordan Rosenblum, Belzer Assistant Professor of Classical Rabbinic Literature.

Rosenblum’s informal presentation on “Matzah Myths” came right before the Passover holiday. An expert on food and Judaism (see FIRST BOOKS section for information on his *Food and Identity in Early Rabbinic Judaism*, released in May by Cambridge University Press), Rosenblum gave the group an overview of the Jewish perspective on the ethics of eating and the origins of modern Jewish dietary law in the Rabbinical Period (70 CE-640 CE). He also noted links between past and present. “Today people talk about slow food, fast food and food miles. We are asking on an international scale what it means to eat. When you look at

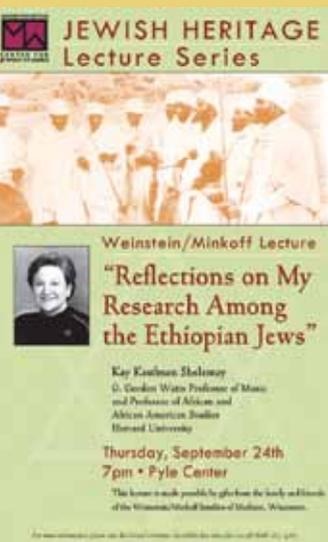


the ancient data, they’re asking the same questions,” he said.

An encore gathering and discussion was held on the same day for Miami-area alumni at the Coconut Grove home of alumni Barbara and Rick Boxer.

Both events were terrific opportunities for alumni and friends to gather and celebrate their alma mater—all while enjoying an exclusive opportunity to hear from the Center’s talented young faculty.

Lectures and Events



FALL 2009

Weinstein/Minkoff Lecture

"Reflections on My Research Among the Ethiopian Jews"

Kay Kaufman Shelemay, G. Gordon Watts Professor of Music and Professor of African and African American Studies, Harvard University

Tobias Lecture

"The Jews Kindled this War in the Interest of Zionism': Nazi Germany's Propaganda to Arabs and Muslims during World War II and the Holocaust"

Jeffrey Herf, professor of Modern European History, University of Maryland in College Park

Sanford J. Ettinger Lecture

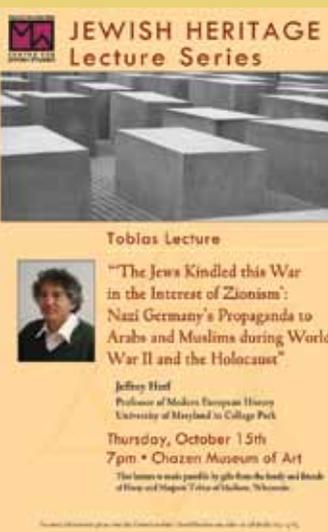
"Reintroduction of Endangered and Extinct Animal and Bird Species to Israel"

Avi Lourie, biologist and director of the wild animal protection division of Israel National Parks

University Lectures Committee

"The Mantic Sage in Israel and the Ancient Near East"

Leo G. Perdue, professor of Hebrew Bible, Brite Divinity School, Fort Worth, Texas



SPRING 2010

"Ancient Biblical Interpretation and the Modern Critic"

James Kugel, director, Institute for the History of the Jewish Bible, Bar Ilan University, Israel
Co-sponsored by the Wisconsin Society for Jewish Learning and the Department of Hebrew and Semitic Studies

George L. Mosse Lecture

"Secularization of Eastern European Jewry in the 20th Century"

Theodore Hamerow, Emeritus professor of History, UW-Madison

"Gender and Generation: German-Jewish Family Novels after 2000"

Silke Horstkotte, Leipzig University, Germany / Memorial University, Newfoundland

Co-sponsored by the Department of German

"A New Index of Time: Calendars and the Holocaust"

Alan Rosen, lecturer in Holocaust Literature at the International School for Holocaust Studies, Yad Vashem, Israel

Kutler Lectures

"America's Unorthodox Orthodox Jews" and

"The Depth of Jewish Ethnic Identity in Inter-War New York"

Jeffrey S. Gurock, Libby M. Klaperman Professor of Jewish History, Yeshiva University

Coleman Event

Screening of *"Life in a Jar"*

Co-sponsored by Jewish Federation of Madison

Schrag Lectures

"Nationalism and Its Discontents: Languages of Belonging among German Jews, 1850-1930"

Till van Rahden, professor of Literature and Modern Language, Université de Montréal,

Co-sponsored by the Mosse Program

"All the Merchants are Silenced': Economy at the End of the Kingdom of Judah"

Daniel Masters, professor of Biblical Archaeology, Wheaton College

Co-sponsored by the Department of Hebrew and Semitic Studies

FALL 2010

Tobias Lecture

"What was 'Classical' about Classical Yiddish Writing?"

Dan Miron, Leonard Kaye Professor of Hebrew Literature, Columbia University and Professor Emeritus, Hebrew University

Weinstein/Minkoff Lecture

"The Balfour Declaration: An Unexplored Dimension"

Jonathan Schneer, professor, School of History, Technology and Society, Georgia Institute of Technology

George L. Mosse Lectures

"Public Spaces, Private Selves: Jewish Flâneurs in Fin-de-Siècle Budapest,"

"Jewish Humor: Self-Parody or Therapy?" and

"Parvenues and Pariahs: The Scandal of the Budapest Orpheum"

Mary Gluck, professor of History and Comparative Literature, Brown University

"Beyond Anne Frank: Hidden Children and Families in Postwar Holland"

and

"Mourning: The Holocaust and Vietnam War Compared"

Diane Wolf, professor of Sociology at University of California, Davis

Co-sponsored by the Center for German and European Studies

Ethnic Studies Week

"What's a Coastie? What's a Scennie? And Why Does it Matter?"

Panel and discussion with UW faculty, students, administrators, and community members

"Swimming Between Languages: Learning English by Osmosis and Other Adventures"

Andrei Codrescu, MacCurdy

Distinguished Professor Emeritus of English and Comparative Literature, Louisiana State University

Co-sponsored by the Center for Russia, East Europe and Central Asia

Coleman Event

Performances of *"Yours, Anne,"* Music Theatre of Madison

10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



Lawrence Greenfield, a member of the University of Wisconsin Foundation's board and of the Center for Jewish Studies Board of Visitors, proposed the idea of a summer institute for adults to then-director David Sorkin in the mid-1990s. The first Greenfield Summer Institute in 2000 brought together people from the Madison community and beyond to participate in a unique blend of continuing education,

years, many of the same "students" returned time and again, but the Institute also grew and expanded. While the Greenfield Institute has continued to showcase the scholarship of UW-Madison faculty, we have also invited luminaries in the field of Jewish Studies to give lectures, and the "special events" have ranged from film screenings to cantorial concerts to tours of Madison's Jewish historical sites.

For the 10th anniversary, the theme of "Jews and Politics" featured UW-Madison faculty and guest scholars exploring a wide range of topics: the impact of Jewish philosophers on Jewish law, Jewish politics in Europe and the impact of anti-Semitism on European policies, how emigration and Zionism affected Jews' political affiliations, Israeli politics, Jews and American politics, and the relationship of Hebrew literature to European and Israeli political movements.

The highlight of the week's events was a celebration of the legacy of Mr. Greenfield, who passed away in 2003. A dinner in the Greenfields' honor was hosted by former CJS director, Bob Skloot and included recollections from other past Center directors as well as a film by Ave Butensky, a longtime friend of Larry and his wife, Ros, documenting memories and highlights of past Greenfield Summer Institutes. Ros Greenfield says, "Larry would be so proud of what the Institute has grown into today... and mainly by word of mouth! Each year the institute seems to surpass the year prior."

entertainment, and fellowship. The theme that first year was "Jewish Identity in the 20th Century: Literature, History, and the Arts." Center for Jewish Studies faculty gave lectures on topics as diverse as Israeli identity, Russian Jews and the Russian Orthodox Church, opera in the Theresienstadt concentration camp, and Yiddish comedy. The Institute also featured a concert by local klezmer band Yid Vicious (now a beloved Greenfield tradition) as well as tours of southern Wisconsin attractions. Over the next 10



Bob Skloot and Ros Greenfield at the 2009 Greenfield Summer Institute 10th anniversary celebration

11th annual Greenfield Summer Institute "best ever"

In July, 2010 more than 150 alumni and friends participated in an unforgettable, sold-out week of learning, socializing, and fun at the 11th annual Greenfield Summer Institute. For the 2010 theme of "The Wandering Jew," lectures spanned more than 1,500 years of Jewish history and culture to explore the meaning and endurance of this emblematic metaphor of Jewish existence.

conversion to or from Judaism may be understood as a journey: "Wherever you go, I will go," proclaimed Ruth, the prototype of the righteous convert.

Led by a dozen CJS faculty and the Center's newest member, Henry Sapoznik, participants examined the significance of Jewish wanderings from ancient times to the present. Underwriting donor Ros Greenfield reported that several partici-

The first Greenfield Summer Institute in 2000 offered a unique blend of continuing education, entertainment, and fellowship.

Since Abraham's journey to Canaan, travel, movement, and migration have been important and recurring features of the Jewish experience. From the Exodus to the expulsion from Spain; from Minsk to Ellis Island, Buenos Aires and Tel Aviv; from home to homelessness, the Jews seem constantly to be on the move. Their fate as wanderers has been viewed many ways—as a curse (the Christian legend of the Wandering Jew), as a threat (Josef Stalin's condemnation of the "rootless cosmopolitans"), or as a positive source of cultural vitality and creativity. Jewish journeys always have been as much figurative as literal; as much cultural, culinary and linguistic as geographical; and as much spiritual as material. Even

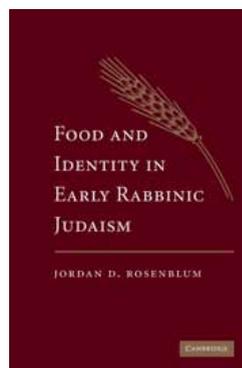
pants agreed this was the best event in all of the institute's 11 years.

At the 12th annual Greenfield Summer Institute on "Yiddish in the 21st Century," to be held July 10-14, 2011, those in attendance will witness the first annual summer KlezKamp. Registration will begin in early spring of next year, so please mark your calendars and plan to join us for this exciting summer event.



Lawrence Greenfield and family at the 2002 Greenfield Summer Institute

First Books



Jordan D. Rosenblum (Belzer Assistant Professor of Classical Rabbinic Literature) and **Nadav Shelef** (Harvey M. Meyerhoff Assistant Professor of Israel Studies), who both hold endowed professorships in the Mosse/Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies, published their first books this year with prestigious university presses.

Rosenblum, who received his PhD in Religious Studies from Brown University in 2008 and joined the Department of Hebrew and Semitic Studies in the same year, is the author of *Food and Identity in Early Rabbinic Judaism*, published by Cambridge University Press. Rosenblum explores how food regulations and practices helped to construct the identity of early rabbinic Judaism. Bringing together the scholarship of rabbinics with that of food studies, this volume first examines the historical reality of food production and consumption in Roman-era Palestine. It then explores how early rabbinic food regulations created a distinct Jewish, male, and rabbinic identity. Rosenblum's work demonstrates how rabbinic food practices constructed an "edible identity," i.e. how food often defines societies and even civilizations by distinguishing between those with whom we eat (= "us") and those with whom we cannot eat (= "them"). This identity is enacted daily, turning the biological need to eat into a culturally significant activity.

Shelef received his PhD in 2005 from the University of California, Berkeley and joined the UW-Madison Political Science department in 2006. His new book, *Evolving Nationalism: Homeland, Religion, and Identity in Israel* (Cornell University Press), examines how the idea

of Israel as a nation-state has developed within Zionist and Israeli discourse over the past eight decades, focusing on the changing answers to the questions: Where is the "Land of Israel"? Who ought to be Israeli? What should the Zionist national mission be? His inquiry moves beyond common assumptions to find that nationalist movements, including radical and religious fundamentalist ones, can and do change their ideological beliefs in both moderating and radicalizing directions. Engaging with some of the most contentious debates about the nature of Israeli nationalism and the geographic, religious, and ethnic definition of the state of Israel, Shelef's book makes important contributions to our understanding of Middle East politics and of the ideological underpinnings of nationalism itself.

In addition to the Belzer and Meyerhoff professorships, the Mosse/Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies supports three other endowed professorships in Jewish Studies: Simone Schweber (Department of Curriculum and Instruction) is the Goodman Associate Professor of Education and Jewish Studies, Anthony Michels (Department of History) is the George L. Mosse Associate Professor of American Jewish History, and David Sorkin (Department of History) is the Frances and Laurence Weinstein Professor of Jewish Studies.

New Faculty

Samer Alatout

(PhD, Cornell University) is an assistant professor in the Department of Community and Environmental Sociology, the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, the Graduate Program in Sociology, and the Holtz Center for Science and Technology Studies. His research interests are in the sociology of science and technology, environmental sociology, and social theories of power. He has focused his research on water politics in Palestine and Israel since the mid-1930s and more recently on social theories of power and a comparative project examining the mutual construction of political and ecological orders in border zones—the Mexico/U.S. border, the Palestine/Israel border, and the Menominee Nation of Wisconsin.

Jill Casid

(PhD, Harvard University) is associate professor of Visual Culture Studies in the Department of Art History and director of the new Visual Culture Center. As a historian, a theorist of visual culture, and a practicing artist in photo-based media, her interest in Jewish Studies involves the entwined issues of post-Holocaust memory, the ethics of silence, and representation. Her publications include *Sowing Empire: Landscape and Colonization* (2005) and her forthcoming book, *Shadows of Enlightenment* (both University of Minnesota Press). A new book project, "The Volatile Image: Other Histories of Photography," reconsiders photography as a complex and unstable medium.

Patricia Rosenmeyer

(PhD, Princeton University), professor of Classics, Comparative Literature and

Integrated Liberal Studies, taught at Michigan and Yale before coming to UW-Madison in 1997. Her research interests include Greek poetry (Archaic and Hellenistic), epistolary narrative, and literary reception forms of lyric (Greek, Latin, German, French, and Hebrew). Her publications include *The Poetics of Imitation: Anacreon and the Anacreontic Tradition* (1992), *Ancient Epistolary Fictions: The Letter in Greek Literature* (2001), *Ancient Greek Literary Letters: Selections in Translation* (2006), and articles on Greek archaic and Hellenistic poetry, Ovid, the epistolary novel, Greek inscriptions, the reception of Greek lyric in French early modern writers, and the 20th-century Alexandrian poet Cavafy. She is working on two book-length projects: "Julia Balbilla and Women Writers in the Time of Hadrian" and "Reflections of Sappho."

Jeremi Suri

(PhD, Yale University) is the E. Gordon Fox Professor of History and director of the European Union Center of Excellence. His research examines the interactions between states, peoples, and cultures, especially in the 20th century, with a focus on the decisions of leaders and institutions and the influence of ideas and social movements. Through his teaching and research, he aims to "globalize" our understanding of relations among societies and America's often contested place in the world. He is the author of *Henry Kissinger and the American Century* (Harvard University Press, 2007) and *The Global Revolutions of 1968* (W.W. Norton, 2006).



Samer Alatout



Jill Casid



Patricia Rosenmeyer



Jeremi Suri

Faculty News

Samer Alatout (Community and Environmental Sociology; see NEW FACULTY) published articles in *Radical History Review* and *Political Geography*, gave an invited lecture at Butler University on Jerusalem's futures, organized a session and gave a talk at the biennial meeting of the International Water History Association in Delft, Netherlands, and conducted archival research on the history of the Jordan River as border (in London) and on environmental governmentality along the U.S.-Mexico border region. He was a speaker for University of California, Berkeley's lecture series on Environmental Politics in November, will take part in the Water History Group meeting in Jerusalem, and will lecture for the Van Leer Institute at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and for the Environmental Law and Policy Workshop at Tel-Aviv University.

Michael Bernard-Donals (English) returned to teaching following a sabbatical and four years as chair of the English Department. He received the Kellett Mid-Career Award, provided by the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation in recognition of excellence in research for mid-career faculty members. In the spring of 2010, SUNY Press came out with a paperback edition of his book, *Forgetful Memory: Representation and Remembrance After Auschwitz*. He taught

"Writing (and) the Holocaust" for sophomores and juniors, and continues to work on a book, provisionally entitled "Conflations of Memory," on the shaping of public and individual memory at the United States Holocaust Memorial.

Rachel Feldhay Brenner (Hebrew and Semitic Studies) published *The Artist and the World: The Fiction of Ruth Almog* (in Hebrew), and her book *Inextricably Bonded—Israeli Jewish and Arab Writers Re-Visioning Culture* appeared in paperback. Her essay "Etty Hillesum: A Portrait of a Holocaust Artist" was published in a collection of essays on Hillesum; "The Pangs of an Impossible Birth: Zionism and the Holocaust in the Writings of Shulamit Hareven" (in Hebrew) appeared in *Israel: Studies in Zionism and the State of Israel History, Society, Culture*; and "'Ideologically Incorrect' Responses to the Holocaust: Three Israeli Women Writers" appeared in *Comparative Literature and Culture*. She presented papers at the EAJIS conference in Ravenna, Italy; the AIS meeting in Toronto; and the Globalization and the Humanities International Conference, Institute for Research in the Humanities (UW-Madison). Brenner continues her tenure as Senior Fellow at the Institute for Research in the Humanities

Chad Goldberg (Sociology) was the winner of several prizes this year. His translation of Émile Durkheim's "Anti-sémitisme et crise sociale," published in the journal *Sociological Theory*, was the co-winner of the 2009 Distinguished Scholarly Publication Award from the History of Sociology Section of the

American Sociological Association; and his book *Citizens and Paupers: Relief, Rights, and Race, from the Freedmen's Bureau to Welfare* (2008) won the 2010 Outstanding Book Award from the Theory Division of the Society for the Study of Social Problems and Honorable Mention for the 2010 Barrington Moore Book Award from the Comparative and Historical Sociology Section of the American Sociological Association.

Philip Hollander (Hebrew and Semitic Studies) published "The Role of Homosexuality in Palestinian Hebrew Literature: A Case Study of Levi Aryeh Arieli's 'Wasteland'" in *Prooftexts* and "Reclaiming Czernowitz in Aharon Appelfeld's *Flowers of Darkness*" in the conference report *Czernowitz at 100: The First Yiddish Language Conference in Historical Perspective*. He also delivered papers at the National Association of Professors of Hebrew Conference in New York and at the Association for Israel Studies Conference in Toronto.

Judith Kornblatt (Slavic Languages and Literature) is taking a much appreciated sabbatical this year after 12 years in administration. She intends to recharge her batteries, catch up on the latest scholarship, and prepare to teach a Jewish Studies course made famous in the past by Professor Emeritus Gary Rosenshield: "The Jew in Russian Literature."

Bilha Mirkin (Hebrew and Semitic Studies) taught three courses on language and literature that also exposed students to Israeli culture and ways of life. On her visits to Israel in December and May, she immersed herself in the language, politics, and literature and attended a Hebrew language symposium at Tel Aviv University.

Steven Nadler (Philosophy) has a new book, *Forged in Hell: Spinoza's Scandalous Treatise*, to be published by Princeton University Press. He continues to teach "Jewish Philosophy from Antiquity through the Seventeenth Century."

Pamela Potter (Music) managed to take some time away from her duties as CJS director to deliver papers at the German Studies Association (2009 and 2010) and the American Musicological Society (2009 and 2010), and she was invited to give lectures at Syracuse University, Peabody Conservatory/Johns Hopkins University, and the Institute for Advanced Study in Berlin, Germany. Publications of the past year include "Jewish Music and German Science" for the essay collection *Jewish Musical Modernism, Old and New*; "Defining 'Degenerate Music' in Nazi Germany" for the Orel Foundation website; and "Wagner and the Third Reich: Myths and Realities" for the *Cambridge Companion to Wagner*.

Faculty News

Douglas Rosenberg (Art; Director, CJS Conney Project on Jewish Arts) is a founding editor of the newly published *International Journal of Screendance*. His essay “The Practice of Curating/Curating the Practice” appeared in the *Journal of Performance Art and Digital Technologies*. He was invited to join the AHRC (UK) funded Screendance Network, a two-year research project on hybrids of dance and screen, and is working on a book on the theory and practice of dance for the camera for Oxford Press. Retrospectives of his video work were screened at the Festival de VideoDanza, Buenos Aires, and the Agite y Sirve Festival of Video Dance in Mexico, and he received the Wisconsin Arts Board Fellowship in Media award and the Emily Meade Baldwin/Art Institute award.

Jordan Rosenblum (Hebrew and Semitic Studies; Belzer Assistant Professor of Classical Rabbinic Literature in Jewish Studies) has a new book, *Food and Identity in Early Rabbinic Judaism*, published by Cambridge University Press. He gave talks at the Society of Biblical Literature in New Orleans and the European Association of Jewish Studies in Ravenna, Italy. This year he will teach “Introduction to Judaism,” “Early Biblical Interpretation,” “Food and Rabbinic Judaism,” and “Classical Rabbinic Texts in Hebrew.”

Patricia A. Rosenmeyer (Classics; see NEW FACULTY) spent the spring semester on a Loeb Library Fellowship from Harvard University for research on a book under contract for Oxford University Press: “Julia Balbilla and Women Writers in the Time of Hadrian.” She is

now fully back to departmental duties and is developing articles on the reception of Greek poetry by French (de Louÿs) and Hebrew (Tchernikovsky) authors in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

David Sorkin (History; Frances and Laurence Weinstein Professor of Jewish Studies) spent May and June as a Visiting Fellow at the Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study, Uppsala, and lectured on Moses Mendelssohn at a Mendelssohn festival held at the Stockholm Concert House. A full-page interview about his book *The Religious Enlightenment* appeared in the Italian newspaper *Il Foglio*, and he published the essays “‘The Kiss of Lamourette,’ ‘Possibilism’ or ‘Christian Democracy’” in *The Modernist Imagination: Intellectual History and Critical Theory* and “The Jewish Question in Eighteenth-Century Germany” in *Discourses of Tolerance and Intolerance in the European Enlightenment*.

Jeremi Suri (History; see NEW FACULTY) recently published “Where are the Kissingers for the 21st Century?” in *Global Brief*, “Disarmament Attempts Past: Successes and Failures” in the *U.S. Department of State Journal*, and “A Leader Against the Bomb,” in *Aargauer Zeitung* (German) and at globalbrief.ca (English).

Ronald Troxel (Hebrew and Semitic Studies) is finishing a book entitled “From Prophetic Oracles to Prophetic Books,” to be published by Willey-Blackwell.

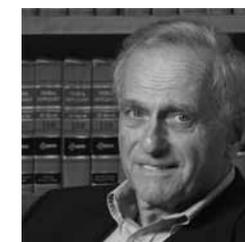
EMERITUS FACULTY

Herbert Lewis (Anthropology) rediscovered and republished a forgotten classic, the autobiography of the actor Alexander Granach. In *From the Shtetl to the Stage: the Odyssey of a Wandering Actor*, Granach, a master storyteller, recounts his adventurous path from a simple Jewish family in a poor farming village in Galitsia to the center of German theater in the Weimar era—a course that was interrupted by trench warfare, captivity, and escape during World War I.

Robert Skloot (Theater and Drama) served as a volunteer for the American Jewish World Service in several rural villages in south India, where he also wrote and directed a Purim play called “The Magic Bottu” with underclass children, performed in English and Telugu. In June, he attended the Spanish-language premiere of his play “If the Whole Body Dies: Raphael Lemkin and the Treaty Against Genocide,” performed by Grupo Teatral Teatro in Camaguey, Cuba, as part of an intercultural exchange with Madison’s Cuban sister city.

Frank Tuerkheimer (Law) received an Honorary Doctor of Law degree from the Giessen Law School in Germany. He continues to teach at UW-Madison with courses on “Litigation in Criminal Cases” and a Jewish Studies course on “Nuremberg and Trials of the Holocaust,” as well as teaching at the New York Law School and in Giessen. He continues, for the 13th year, to represent a defendant on Alabama’s death row and is completing the book manuscript “Forgotten Trials of the Holocaust” for the University of Wisconsin Press.

Alan Jay Weisbard (Law) attended the HaMifgash Jewish Study Group in Los Angeles, presenting on a series of Israeli Supreme Court decisions affecting Jewish identity; participated in an intensive weeklong “Executive Seminar” encompassing Talmud study, halacha, and contemporary Jewish thought at Machon Hadar in New York City; and attended the National Havurah Summer Institute in New Hampshire, presenting a workshop on Michael Walzer’s *The Jewish Political Tradition*. He also made presentations on Jewish medical ethics to a students’ group at the UW School of Medicine and Public Health.



Frank Tuerkheimer, Emeritus Professor of Law, received an honorary doctorate from the Giessen Law School in Germany.

ALUMNI Please send your current contact information to jewishstudies@cjs.wisc.edu so that we can keep in touch!

Lee'at Bachar '09 (Jewish Studies Major) is working in St. Louis at the Jewish Federation as the development associate for the Young Professionals Division. She lives in the Moishe House, which provides meaningful experiences for Jews in their 20s with Shabbat dinners, holiday get-togethers, and other programs.

Ruthie Edelstein '10 (Jewish Studies Certificate) made aliyah about two months ago and is getting settled in. She will be starting ulpan in January and until then is working in some preschools and babysitting. She hopes to start a training course to become a tour guide in Israel in the next year.

Solomon Kane '10 (Jewish Studies Certificate) is an Eisendrath legislative assistant at the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism in Washington, D.C. His position is a one-year post-graduate fellowship that gives young Jewish professionals the responsibility to carry out the policies of the Reform movement through political advocacy, direct communication with congregations and rabbis, and social action seminars for high school students. He is directly responsible for issues that include Israel, arms control, interreligious affairs, and civil liberties.

Benjamin Mark Moss '05 (Jewish Studies Certificate) worked at the Executive Office of the President in 2010 while completing his law degree at American University. After graduating, he passed the Illinois Bar Exam and began a judicial clerkship for Administrative Law Judge Timothy D. Wing at the Drug Enforcement Administration. Ben recently got engaged to his high school sweetheart, Rachael Jackson.

Eric Salitsky '09 (Jewish Studies Certificate) recently made aliyah and is living in Jerusalem in an absorption center. He is taking ulpan classes five hours a day and working as an office manager for Elijah Interfaith Institute.

Ari Silver '06 (Jewish Studies Major) works with his synagogue Anshe Emet in Chicago as an advisor for SHMUSY (a United Synagogue Youth group whose members range from grades 9 through 12). He advises board members on incorporating Jewish learning and engages them in their Jewish heritage and culture. He is planning to apply for graduate school in elementary education. Ari also writes a monthly blog for an online Jewish community called Oy! Chicago, co-founded and co-edited by another Jewish Studies alumna, **Stefanie Pervos '06**. He also works as a Bar and Bat Mitzvah tutor.

Sami Stein '08 (Jewish Studies Major) is enrolled at Brandeis University in the Hornstein Jewish Professional Leadership Program. She plans to earn an MA and an MBA in Non-Profit Management from the Heller School of Social Policy and Management. She also has been involved with Kellogg Management Education for Jewish leaders at Northwestern University.

Abbie Steiner '08 (Jewish Studies Major) spent a year in India volunteering through American Jewish World Service and six months in Madison working with Troy Community Ground Works. She now works on Community Development with The Campus Kitchens Project in Washington, D.C.

Katja Vehlow '06-'08 (Post-Doctoral Fellow) is an assistant professor at the University of South Carolina-Columbia, currently on leave and doing research at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

A Year Can Change Your Life

Rebekah Sherman '99
(Jewish Studies Certificate)

I am from Appleton, Wisconsin, and although I'm not Jewish, I happened to make close friends with the small but vibrant Jewish community in the Fox Valley as a young adult and continued to have many Israeli friends over the years. Though my original chosen course of study at UW-Fox Valley was English literature and French language, happenstance brought me to the Hebrew University for a junior year abroad through UW-Madison, where I studied the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, as well as regional languages, religions, and cultures under an International Relations degree, Area Studies of the Middle East, and a certificate in Jewish Studies!

From that point on, I have lived and worked in Israel, taught Hebrew at Temple Beth-El in Madison, and cultivated lifelong friends from these experiences, which have broadened my life in so many ways.

While in Jerusalem, I was the personal and project assistant to Valentine Vester of the American Colony Hotel Jerusalem. We worked together on the historical memoirs of the colony, and I assisted her in creating the original colony's family history and photo album. Ms. Vester was the last surviving member of the original colony; the history of the American Colony is part of Jerusalem's rich history, and

"...happenstance brought me to the Hebrew University for a junior year abroad (in Israel) through UW-Madison."



Rebekah Sherman and Valentine Vester in the courtyard of the American Colony Hotel Jerusalem

the hotel continues to be a location where many peoples converge, and many notable meetings take place (including the first unofficial meetings over the Oslo Accords).

Currently, I am seeking to return to working with culturally broadening venues after being a mother at home for the past eight years.

I cannot overstate how thoroughly my life has been affected by these chance happenings in earlier years. From culinary arts to parenting philosophies; religious, political and cultural sensitivity and understanding people and history to fluency in Hebrew and beginning proficiency in Arabic, I have been involved with many creative projects both in Israel and here in Madison, and I must link all the fascinating experiences I've encountered to my junior year abroad in Jerusalem!

Board and Development News



Ros Greenfield



Sherry Mayrent



John Tortorice

BOARD OF VISITORS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

The Mosse/Weinstein Center Board of Visitors welcomes its newest members, Ros Greenfield and Sherry Mayrent, and welcomes back long-time friend, John Tortorice. Board of Visitors members represent the Mosse/Weinstein Center to students, alumni, donors, and friends as informed ambassadors and supporters. In three-year terms, they each work to advance the Center's mission by promoting fundraising, public outreach, and intellectual enrichment.

Ros Greenfield became involved with the Center when her late husband, Larry Greenfield, served on the Board of Visitors. In 2000 she and Larry endowed the CJS Summer Adult Institute (renamed the Greenfield Summer Institute in 2002), and she has been an active patron and participant ever since. Ros had a career as a physical and occupational therapist for over thirty years and currently devotes much of her time to traveling, painting, and serving as a docent at the Museum of Jewish Heritage: A Living Memorial to the Holocaust.

Sherry Mayrent is an established teacher and performer of traditional Yiddish music—and now a major donor to the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is also a preeminent collector of rare Yiddish and Hebrew music; her collection of 78-rpm recordings is the largest and most comprehensive private collection of such period recordings in the world. At over 6,000 discs and growing, it represents over 7,000 unique performances, and spans the gamut of genres commercially recorded from 1895 to 1955, a period considered the Golden Age of Yiddish Culture: cantorial, Yiddish theater, klezmer, and spoken word.

John Tortorice is director of the Mosse Program in Cultural and Intellectual History at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is co-author (with Stanley Payne and David Sorkin) of *What History Tells: George L. Mosse and the Culture of Western Europe* and of *The Sacred In Politics* (with Roger Griffin and Robert Mallet). He also co-edited the catalog for "Italian Life Under Fascism: Selections from the Fry Collection," an exhibit at the University Of Wisconsin-Madison Libraries.

2010 Scholarship and Fellowship Recipients

The Laurence A. Weinstein Distinguished Graduate Fellowship in Education and Jewish Studies is designed to support the work of exceptional graduate students working in the area of "Education and Jewish Studies," broadly conceived. The fellowship is aimed at students whose work is concerned with the role that education has played in Jewish civilization and/or with questions pertaining to education in Jewish Studies.

This year's recipient of the Weinstein Distinguished Graduate Fellowship is **Irene Resenly**, a PhD student in Curriculum and Instruction-Social Studies Education working with Goodman Professor Simone Schweber. She writes: "I have both a bachelor's degree in German Language and Literature and a teaching certificate in Modern Foreign Language Education from Boston University and a master's degree in Holocaust Education from New York University. I have had the honor to work as the staff coordinator for a Holocaust survivor and professor, as a museum educator with high school and college students, and as a culture and communication teacher in a small city in Poland. Each academic and professional experience has enriched me as an educator, and each of the students and scholars I have been privileged to meet along the way have inspired me in my pursuits.

"Thanks to this generous fellowship, I am able to continue my journey as an educator and academic researcher here at the university. My work is centered in international Holocaust curricula. I plan to examine and compare how the Holocaust is taught in America, Germany

and Poland, with the ultimate goal of working in conjunction with teachers in Poland to create innovative, meaningful Holocaust curricula."

The Robert and Lynn Berman Scholarship, which supports research for undergraduate or graduate students in the area of Jewish Studies, was awarded to **Steve Modugno**.

The Charles and Gayle Mazursky Scholarships, which support research for undergraduate or graduate students, were awarded to:

Mary Krish
Steve Modugno
Emmylou Grosser
Eric Tully
Wendy Widder
Evgeny Finkel

The Natelson Family Scholarship, for an outstanding undergraduate or graduate student working in the area of Jewish Studies, was awarded to **Chris Jones**.

The Lipton Essay Award, for a substantial course-related paper on a Jewish studies topic, was awarded to **Brittney Tevis**.

The Lipton Certificate/Major Awards, given to two outstanding undergraduate students working toward the Jewish Studies Major or Certificate, were awarded to **Jessica Usem** and **Rachel Rocoosin**.



Irene Resenly

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Excellence Fund bolsters Center efforts

The Mosse/Weinstein Center is one of the best centers for Jewish studies in the country, and the Excellence Fund allows us to keep this reputation by giving us the means to maintain the highest quality of teaching, scholarship, and programming.

Gifts to the Excellence Fund allow us to be strategic in addressing our increasing needs to support staffing, outreach, instruction, research, and the overall growth of the Center. We at the Mosse/Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies deeply appreciate the financial support of our alumni and friends.

For more on how you can make a difference, contact Director of Development **Ronald Luskin** at ron.luskin@supportuw.org or (608) 265-3526.



Ronald Luskin

NEW DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR REPRESENTS CENTER

Ronald Luskin recently joined the University of Wisconsin Foundation as director of development for the College of Letters & Science. He will be taking the place of Stephen Wald, who has worked with the Mosse/Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies for the past several years.

While living and working in the Milwaukee area, he was very involved in Jewish philanthropy efforts with the Milwaukee Jewish Federation and served on various boards of directors of Federation constituent agencies, including the Milwaukee Jewish Council for Community Relations, Wisconsin Jewish Conference, and Hillel at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Professionally, Luskin's career has focused on work in strategic marketing, planning and communications, as well as business development, specializing in healthcare and higher education.

Luskin is a native of Wisconsin and earned his BA in History and MA in Public Policy from the UW-Madison. He previously served on the Board of Advisors for the La Follette School of Public Affairs. He serves on the board of directors for Downtown Madison, Inc., the Madison Committee on Foreign Relations, and the Badger Basketball Boosters.