Dr. Aomar Boum was born and raised in southern Morocco. He has published academic articles on the Jews of Southern Morocco, including the representation of Jews in Moroccan museums, the migration of Saharan Jewry to Israel in 1962, and the history and historiography of rural Moroccan Jewry. Dr. Boum also studies ethnic folkdances and nationalism, traditional Islamic and modern education, as well as Hip-hop and youth dissent in Morocco. He is currently working on a manuscript “Memories of Absence: How Muslims Remember Jews in Morocco.”

Bryan Davis teaches Jewish Responses to the Holocaust and is Director of Holocaust Education and Youth Education Coordinator at the Jewish Federation of Southern Arizona. He is a UofA doctoral student in Language, Reading and Culture. Bryan also teaches for the Honors College and the Language, Reading and Culture program.

Prof. David Graizbord is a historian of early modern Jews (ca. 1350-1800 CE). His published research has focused primarily on the Western Sephardi Diaspora of the sixteenth to the eighteenth centuries. He teaches Jewish Civilization, Medieval and Early Modern Jewish History, Modern Jewish History, Jewish Mysticism and The Spanish Inquisition. Dr. Graizbord is the author of Souls in Dispute: Converso Identities in Iberia and the Jewish Diaspora, 1580-1700 and is currently working on a manuscript tentatively entitled Renegades: Renouncing and Denouncing the Jewish People from the Middle Ages to Modern Times. In recognition of his research excellence, Graizbord was awarded The College of Social and Behavioral Sciences’ Earl H. Carroll Magellan Circle Fellowship for 2012.

Dr. Deborah Kaye is a historian of modern Jewish and European history. Her work on Jewish corporate politics in the Italian region of Piedmont won her several prestigious grants including a Fulbright Fellowship. Kaye teaches courses in the history of Zionism, Modern Israel, and the Holocaust.

Prof. Thomas Kovach’s research has long focused on the Austrian literature of the fin-de-siècle, with two books and several articles on Hugo von Hofmannsthal, and several articles on the poet Rainer Maria Rilke. Since coming to the University of Arizona in 1994 his focus has shifted to the Jewish participation in Austrian and German literature. He has developed and taught two classes reflecting this new direction: one on German-Jewish Writers and another on the representation of Jews in German literature.

Solomon Littman, Visiting Scholar and Coordinator of Judaic Studies Sekhel veLev (Mind and Heart) program recently donated twenty-five Soviet-era Ukrainian booklets on the Holocaust to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. Sol is currently revising the text of his latest book, In Reluctant Pursuit: The Tepid Post-War Search for Nazi War Criminals. He is also contributing a chapter on anti-Semitic hate groups in America to a forthcoming book on Hate as a Political Weapon.

Prof. Sharon B. Megdal is Director of The University of Arizona Water Resources Research Center and C.W. and Modene Neely Endowed Professor in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics and the Department of Soil, Water, and Environmental Science. She also directs The University of Arizona Water Sustainability Program. She gave a presentation on “Options for Meeting Arizona’s Future Water Needs in the Context of Colorado River Water Management” at the Third International Conference on Water Technologies, Renewable Energy, and Environmental Control in Tel Aviv, Israel. Her work focuses on state, regional and transboundary water resources management and policy, and she is now involved in water management projects in Israel. She has served on numerous state boards and commissions and is an elected member of the Central Arizona Water Conservation District Board of Directors.
Dr. Sonja Mekel taught at the Arizona Center for Judaic Studies for the past two years. Her research interests include German-Jewish history, Jewish immigration to America, and Gentile-Jewish relations. Her newest article, “Antisemitism and the Attitude toward Blacks in Milwaukee’s German Press, 1850-1900” will be published in the volume *Five Hundred Years of Jew-Hatred and Anti-Semitism in the German Press* (forthcoming 2012). She recently moved to Germany where she will continue her research.

Prof. Beth Alpert Nakhai teaches courses on archaeology, Hebrew Bible, women in ancient Israel, and Near Eastern history. She is an affiliated member of the faculty in the School of Middle Eastern and North African Studies. Dr. Nakhai served as Acting Director of the Arizona Center for Judaic Studies in 2010-2011. She also headed the Steering Committee for the symposium on the U.S.-Israel Relationship: On the Verge of a Paradigmatic Shift? (see page 11). Her article “Israelite and Judaean Worship in the Domestic Setting” was recently published in *Household Archaeology in Ancient Israel and Beyond*. She gave a paper entitled “Worship at Home: The Archaeology of Israelite Family Religion” at the International Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, in London. She is currently completing a book on the *Tel el-Wawiyat* (Israel) Excavation Project.

Thomas Price continues to teach two courses for Judaic Studies: “Israel, Islam & The West” and “The History of Anti-Semitism.” He contributes regularly to the local radio show “Too Jewish.” In addition, he has become a frequent “Faculty Host” on many UA Alumni Association trips to India, Central Europe, Istanbul, the Black Sea region, and the Ukraine.

Dr. Gil Ribak was the Schusterman Postdoctoral Fellow at the Arizona Center for Judaic Studies for 2010-2012. He earned his Ph.D. in History from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is a former Fulbright fellow and the former Lewin Postdoctoral Fellow in American Jewish History at Washington University in St. Louis (2007-2008). Dr. Ribak is the author of *Gentile New York: The Images of Non-Jews among Jewish Immigrants*. For the past two years he has coordinated a very successful Yiddish Festival (see page 7).

Dr. Howard Schwartz is a Visiting Scholar in Judaic Studies and an Emeritus Clinical Professor of Medicine at Case Western Reserve University. He has taught three sessions on Jewish medical ethics for *Sekhel veLev*, and will be coordinating the 2013 season with Sol Littman. Recently he taught a session called “What Would Maimonides Say” for the Northwest Men’s Group of the Jewish Federation of Southern Arizona. He also serves on the review panel for papers submitted to the Annals of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology. This year Dr. Schwartz received his rabbinical ordination.

Prof. J. Edward Wright returned as Director of the Center after spending the 2010-11 academic year on leave from the UofA. He spent that fall as a Visiting Professor of Religion at Dartmouth College, and in the spring he was a Visiting Research Professor in Religion at Duke University. Wright continues his work on two projects: a co-edited textbook entitled *The Bible in Archaeology and History: The Hebrew Bible and Ancient Israel* that will be published by Baylor University Press, and a critical commentary on the apocryphal “Book of Baruch,” to be published by Eerdmans Publishers. In June Wright stepped down after six years as President of the W. F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research in Jerusalem. He notes that “it has been a great honor and joy to serve this century-old, distinguished research institute.”

For up-to-date information on the Arizona Center for Judaic Studies, visit our website: [www.judaic.arizona.edu/news](http://www.judaic.arizona.edu/news)