“During the six weeks of the program the students took two courses, did a lot of touring, and ate a lot of falafel.”

— Shaye Cohen, Director
See Harvard Summer Program in Jerusalem, page 1
THIS YEAR, FOR THE FIRST TIME, JERUSALEM WAS AN OPTION FOR THE HARVARD SUMMER SCHOOL INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM.

Summer 2007 witnessed a “first”: the first ever Harvard Summer Program in Jerusalem. Each summer, the Harvard Office of International Programs and the Harvard Summer School jointly sponsor a variety of study abroad programs for undergraduates, and this year for the first time Jerusalem was one of the options. Eleven students participated: nine Harvard College undergraduates, one Harvard Extension School student, and a student from Toronto.

During the six weeks of the program the students took two courses, did a lot of touring, and ate a lot of falafel. The two courses, one ancient and one modern, were designed to take advantage of the setting. The ancient course, “Sects and Parties in Ancient Judaism” was taught by Prof. Shaye J.D. Cohen, the modern course, “Zionism and the Emergence of Modern Israel,” by Prof. Jay Harris. As a group, the students toured the Old City of Jerusalem, Qumran, Masada, Bet Shearim, Sepphoris, Zikhron Yaakov, Safed, and elsewhere. Most students also toured extensively on their own, some intrepid souls even reaching Jordan and Egypt.

The program was headquartered at the Mount Scopus campus of the Hebrew University. For about half of the students this was their first visit to Israel, and their excitement was shared by the others. Students and professors alike agree that the program was a success, in spite of one sprained ankle, one broken camera, and some very hot weather. Plans are underway to run a similar program in summer 2008.

Student participation in the program was facilitated by a generous grant from Roger Hertog, to whom we are extremely grateful.
TWO NEW FUNDS FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDY ABROAD

The Center for Jewish Studies is delighted to announce two new funds recently established to support undergraduate student travel abroad, either to spend time in Israel or to conduct academic work in the field of Jewish Studies.

BARRY SHRAGE TRAVEL AND RESEARCH FUND FOR JEWISH STUDIES. This endowment fund was established with a gift from an anonymous donor and named in honor of the president of Boston’s Combined Jewish Philanthropies (CJP) in Boston for two decades. Among the community programs developed by the CJP under Shrage’s leadership were youth initiatives, including an Israel programming for teenagers. This fund will provide awards for student research in Jewish studies that requires Harvard students to travel, or to undergraduates “who seek to gain an international experience by traveling, studying, living or working abroad.” The first award Barry Shrage Fellowship was offered to Milo “Mishy” Harman ’08 to travel to Israel to conduct research on the Falash Mura.

HERTOG STUDY ABROAD FUND. Thanks to a generous gift by Roger Hertog, the Hertog Study Abroad Fund “provide[s] financial assistance to deserving students in Harvard College participating in study abroad programs in Israel led by the Center for Jewish Studies and its affiliated faculty. Through his generosity the donor is providing Harvard students with unparalleled opportunities to learn to negotiate foreign cultures with the intelligence and compassion necessary for true understanding.” This summer, this fund supported nine undergraduate students who participated in the Harvard Summer School Program in Jerusalem.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS AT THE CENTER

The Center for Jewish Studies is pleased to announce the recent publication of two new books, available through Harvard University Press: Prayers that Cite Scripture, edited by James L. Kugel and Creativity and Tradition: Studies in Medieval Rabbinic Scholarship, Literature and Thought, by Israel M. Ta-Shma. Two more publications are in the works.

CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES
DIRECTOR: Shaye J.D. Cohen
ADMINISTRATOR: Rachel Rockenmacher
STAFF ASSISTANT: Brenna Wells
CHAIR, FRIENDS OF THE CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES: Peter J. Solomon
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Jay M. Harris, Miri Kobeov, Rachel Greenblatt, Jon Levenson, Peter Machinist, Avi Matalon, Jonathan Schofer, Bernard Septimus and Ruth Wisse

CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES
Harvard University
6 Divinity Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02138
PHONE: 617-495-4326
EMAIL: cjs@fas.harvard.edu
FAX: 617-496-8904
http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~cjs
DESIGN: Erin P. Dowling
When Yuri Vedenyapin assumed the position of Preceptor of Yiddish at Harvard in the fall of 2006, it was something of a homecoming. Yuri had arrived here as an undergraduate in 2001 from Moscow where he had studied, first acting, then philology, and begun to pursue his interest in Yiddish. He had come to Harvard on the personal recommendation of the late Mordecai Schaeffer, who had taught him in the summer program of Columbia University and described him as the most naturally gifted student of Yiddish he had ever met. Yuri more than fulfilled his teacher’s promise, and when he graduated from Harvard College in 2004 he began a doctoral program in Yiddish in Columbia’s Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures. He received his MA in 2006.

Yuri brings to his teaching of Yiddish both the enthusiasm of someone who discovered this culture and the experience of having since taught it in Warsaw, Moscow, and New York. His interests in Yiddish include the history of the Yiddish press, modern Yiddish poetry, comparative Yiddish, Polish, and Russian studies, and contemporary Yiddish-speaking communities, both religious and secular. One of his major research interests is Yiddish stand up comedy. In April 2007 he delivered the Jacob Pat Memorial Lecture of the Harvard College Library Judaica Division on “Joking their Way from Lodz to Tel Aviv: the Yiddish Odyssey of Shimen Dzigan and Yisroel Shumaker.” Dzigan and Shumaker were two of the best known comic performers of Poland and Israel.

Yuri is also in great demand as a singer-performer. Accompanying himself on guitar, he recorded with Professor James Russell of Harvard a CD of Russian songs “The Reflected Sky,” dedicated to Vladimir Nabokov. He has given a number of solo performances of Yiddish and Russian songs.

In 2007-08 Yuri will be teaching Yiddish language classes at the introductory and intermediate levels and an introductory course on the history of Yiddish language and culture.
Halfway through the fall semester, Amanda Deutsch and Alex Cohn did a skit based on the bestselling autobiography by Aaron Lansky, the founder of the National Yiddish Book Center. All of a sudden the Sever Hall classroom was transformed into an attic and then a driveway, with bags of books being carried back and forth, as the two students of elementary Yiddish brought to life Lansky’s striking tales of salvaging Yiddish books around the country.

On April 15, a group of about fifteen students (from the Yiddish language courses and Jewish Studies 104: Introduction to Yiddish Language and Culture) gathered on the steps of the Semitic Museum and boarded a small bus, sponsored by the Center for Jewish Studies, headed for Amherst.

Upon arrival, we were given an extensive tour by Debra Caplan, an intern at the Center and an incoming Ph.D. student at Harvard. She answered questions, including “How many books do you have?” (well over a million) and “What else besides Yiddish books do people donate to the Center?” (prayer shawls, skullcaps, tefillin, old postcards, as well as books in Hebrew, Polish, Russian, German, and Ukrainian).

Aaron Lansky told us about his childhood and college years, his discovery of Yiddish, and described his impressive plan to make the entire body of Yiddish literature accessible on the internet. I felt that his story resonated with many of the students, some of whom had only recently become interested in Yiddish and were seeking ways to make this language an integral part of their education, non-academic activities, and professional careers.

Browsing the stacks yielded some interesting finds: Laura Hirschberg, an accomplished playwright, bought a collection of Yiddish plays, Mark Stought, a student in the East Asian program, found Yiddish books dealing with Japanese culture, while Eitan Kensky, a first-year Ph.D. candidate in Jewish studies, came across works written by his grandfather, Berl Frimer.

We also had the opportunity to hear Brave Old World—Michael Alpert’s renowned klezmer band—perform street songs from the Lodz ghetto. The simple and poignant songs, carefully articulated in the Lodz Yiddish dialect, spoke of a world that had been lost but must not be forgotten.

A TRIP TO AMHERST
BY YURI VEDENYAPIN

First-year Ph.D. candidate in Jewish studies Eitan Kensky trying his Yiddish writing skills on the old Yiddish typewriter on display at the National Yiddish Book Center.
We recently concluded the thirteenth year of the Harry Starr Fellows in Judaica at Harvard. The 2006-2007 Starr Fellows gathered around a common academic topic within Jewish studies, “Rabbinic Judaism in Antiquity.”

A generous bequest from the estate of Harry Starr, ‘21, former president of the Lucius Littauer Foundation of New York established the Harry Starr Fellowship in Judaica Fund. This fellowship covers travel expenses and a living stipend for a group of scholars from around the world to gather at Harvard to engage in full-time research in Judaica.

We held ten weekly Starr seminars over the course of the spring semester, at which individual Fellows presented their current research to the Starr Fellows, other visiting scholars, faculty and students from Harvard and from other area universities. Starr Fellows speak of the importance of this undisturbed time to focus on academic research, surrounded by a cohort of scholars working on a similar topic and the many resources Harvard provides.
The Center is pleased to announce the visiting fellows, professors, and scholars who were in residence at Harvard University during the 2006-2007 academic year:

HARRY STARR FELLOWS IN JUDAICA
• Gary Anderson  • Moshe Bar-Asher
• Moshe Benovitz  • Elisha Qimron  • Aharon Shemesh  • Ohr Margolis  • Cana Werman

DANIEL JEREMY SILVER FELLOW
• Rabbi Leonard Levy

NACHSHON VISITING LECTURER
• Derek Penslar

WEINSTOCK VISITING PROFESSORS
• Lee Levine
• Raymond Scheindlin

ASSOCIATES
• Yaakov Elman

VISITING SCHOLAR
• Justin Cammy

Thanks to Visiting Professorships at the Center for Jewish Studies, we are able to supplement our regular program in Jewish studies by bringing in distinguished scholars from outside Harvard to teach our undergraduate and graduate students in areas not covered by our own faculty.

Our Gerard Weinstock Visiting Professor of Jewish Studies during the spring semester was RAYMOND SCHEINDLIN, Professor of Medieval Hebrew Literature at Jewish Theological Seminary. The Gerard Weinstock Visiting Professorship, established 1976 with a generous gift from Gerard Weinstock, supports a scholar to teach at Harvard for a semester each year, selected by the Executive Committee of the Center for Jewish Studies. Professor Scheindlin taught two courses during his stay, “Jewish Literature in the Islamic World, 650-1300” and “The Poetry of Judah Halevi.”

DANIEL JEREMY SILVER FELLOW

Rabbi Leonard Levy, of the Jewish Center of Forest Hills West, Middle Village, NY, spent the spring semester of 2007 at Harvard as our twelfth Daniel Jeremy Silver Fellow. Established in memory of Rabbi Daniel Silver (’48), the Daniel Jeremy Silver Fellowship is offered to an “active congregational rabbi who has demonstrated exceptional intellectual and academic interest, originality, and energy in the pursuit of Jewish scholarship.” The recipient spends at least one semester at Harvard engaged in full-time academic research.

Rabbi Levy, who holds a Ph.D. from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America (JTS), and in addition to his rabbinic duties, has taught a number of courses at JTS and has published a number of scholarly articles. During his stay at Harvard, Rabbi Levy worked on a study of the development in eleventh century North Africa of psaq halakha based on the Babylonian Talmud, independent from the Babylonian academies and their traditions.
LECTURES & EVENTS

February 14, 2007
“Institutionalizing Jewish Music: A Stronghold of Modern Jewish Identity?”
EDWIN SEROUSSI
Professor of Musicology and Director of the Jewish Music Research Center,
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Cosponsored by the Ethnomusicology Seminar and the CJS William Landau Lecture and Publication Fund

March 19, 2007
“The Life of Jews in Poland before the Holocaust” Readings from Rabbi Gold’s newly published memoir
RABBI BEN-ZION GOLD
Director Emeritus, Harvard Hillel
Cosponsored by the Study Group on the Jews in Modern Europe, Center for European Studies, Harvard Hillel and the CJS Leon I. Mirell Lecture Fund

April 12, 2007
“Judah Halevi’s Pilgrimage: A View from the Diwan”
RAYMOND P. SCHEINDLIN
Professor of Medieval Hebrew Literature, Director, Medieval Jewish Studies, The Jewish Theological Seminary and Gerard Weinstock Visiting Professor, Harvard University
William Landau Publication and Lecture Fund

April 19, 2007
A reading by
ETGAR KERET
Israeli writer
Cosponsored by CMES, the Modern Hebrew Program, NELC and the CJS Friends for the Center of Jewish Studies

April 24, 2007
“Science, Beauty, and God - Reflections on the Meanings of Scientific Discovery”
LENN E. GOODMAN
Professor of Philosophy and Andrew W. Mellon Professor in the Humanities, Vanderbilt University
Cosponsored by the Harvard Divinity School, Center for the Study of World Religions and the CJS Dreben Lecture & Publication Fund

April 26, 2007
“Joking Their Way from Lodz to Tel Aviv: The Yiddish Odyssey of Shimen Dzigan and Yisroel Shumakher”
YURI VEDENYAPIN
Preceptor in Yiddish Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Harvard University
Cosponsored by the Harvard College Library Judaica Division, Jacob Pat Memorial Lecture and the CJS Friends for the Center of Jewish Studies
**Graduate Summer Study and Research Awards 2007:**

The Center for Jewish Studies provided eleven fellowships to graduate students for research and study during the summer of 2007.

- **Thomas Connolly (Comparative Literature), Barney and Anne B. Malloy Fellowship**, to attend a Hebrew Language Course and conduct research on Paul Celan’s Translations from Hebrew into German
- **Jessica Fechor (NELC), Barney and Anne B. Malloy Fellowship**, to attend an intensive Hebrew language program at the University of Haifa International School
- **Ari Finkelstein (NELC), Anna Mamoy Feldberg Fellowship**, to continue studying for his doctoral exams
- **David Flato (NELC), Barney and Anne B. Malloy**, to travel to Israel and continue research on the topic of the monarchy in early rabbinic writings
- **Rachel Gordon (Religion), Edward H. Kavinoky Fellowship**, to continue work on her doctoral dissertation on post-war American Judaism: How Judaism Became an American Religion
- **Jennifer Heibronner (NELC), Barney and Anne B. Malloy Fellowship**, to travel to Israel and participate in the Tel Aviv University Summer Yiddish Language Program
- **Yaqub Hital (NELC), Barney and Anne B. Malloy Fellowship**, to attend an intensive Hebrew language program at the University of Haifa International School
- **Jonathan Kaplan (NELC), Edward Kavinoky Fellowship**, to engage in intensive research of the history of the interpretation of the Song of Songs between the second century B.C.E. and the sixth century C.E.
- **Eitan Kenson (NELC), Barney and Anne B. Malloy Fellowship**, to attend the summer Yiddish language program at Tel Aviv University and participate in the programming of Yiddish cultural groups, and to explore the various Yiddish centers and libraries in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem
- **Philip Loring (History of Science), Anna Mamoy Feldberg Fellowship**, to visit the archives of Graz College and the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania
- **Song-Mi Park (NELC), Barney and Anne B. Malloy Fellowship**, to travel to Israel, to study modern Hebrew and to conduct research on her dissertation
- **Elisha Russ-Fishbane (NELC), Edward H. Kavinoky Fellowship**, to travel to Jerusalem and research materials at the Institute of Microfilmed Hebrew Manuscripts for his dissertation
- **Alexandr (Sasha) Senderovich (Slavic), Anna Mamoy Feldberg Fellowship**, to continue archival work at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University’s Judaica division
- **Nir Shafir (CMES), Anna Mamoy Feldberg Fellowship**, to work with the Israeli government archives in Jerusalem regarding the establishment of the Israeli prison service from 1948-1967 and then to study at the Hebrew University Ulpan
- **Adam Strich (NELC), Friends of the Center for Jewish Studies Fellowship**, to further work on two research papers
- **Mary Windham (NELC), Edward H. Kavinoky Fellowship**, to attend the intensive Brandeis Hebrew Language Summer Institute

**Undergraduate Summer Study and Research Awards 2007:**

The Center for Jewish Studies provided fellowships to undergraduate students for research and study during the summer of 2007.

- **Milo (Mishy) Harman, Barry Shrage Travel and Research Fund for Jewish Studies**, to conduct research on the Falash Mura, their ties to Jewish heritage and debates about their immigration to Israel in Ethiopia and in Israel
- **Samuel Lissner, Friends of the Center for Jewish Studies Fund**, to conduct research on the organization and public reception of military parades in Israel

**For the Harvard Summer School Program in Jerusalem, 2007:**

- **Sean Padraig Bola, Hertog Fund for Undergraduate Study Abroad**
- **Rebecca Bormherzig, Martin and Josephine Gang Fund**
- **Brannon Billberry, Hertog Fund for Undergraduate Study Abroad**
- **Jay Cohen, Hertog Fund for Undergraduate Study Abroad**
- **Brian Gillis, Hertog Fund for Undergraduate Study Abroad**
- **Sheila Hoenh, Martin and Josephine Gang Fund**
- **Yekaterina Levinia, Hertog Fund for Undergraduate Study Abroad**
- **Samuel Lissner, Hertog Fund for Undergraduate Study Abroad**
- **Philip Panham, Hertog Fund for Undergraduate Study Abroad**
- **Rose Ruback, Hertog Fund for Undergraduate Study Abroad**
- **Joshua Sharp, Hertog Fund for Undergraduate Study Abroad**

**Harvard Graduate Fellowship for Study in Israel:**

A $12,000 fellowship jointly sponsored by Harvard University and The Hebrew University of Jerusalem to enable a Harvard graduate student or recent graduate student to study in the field of Jewish studies for a year at the Rothberg International School at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

- **Jessica Marglin, Harvard College M.A./B.A. class of 2006**
- **Ryan Thomas, Harvard Divinity School, M.T.S. program**
- **Jessica Owen, Harvard Divinity School, M.Div. program**
Coming to Harvard was a homecoming of sorts for Rachel Gordon, who had grown up and attended a Jewish day school in the Boston area. She developed her love for the study of American Jewish history as a college at Yale, where she wrote her senior thesis on the Hadassah organization in the 1950s. Later, in a master’s program at Yale, a seminar in American religious history inspired Rachel to continue her studies at the doctoral level.

Rachel just completed her third year in the Ph.D. program in the Committee on the Study of Religion at Harvard. Currently, she is preparing for her general exams and conducting research for a dissertation she plans to write on “how Judaism became an American religion” after World War II. In this study, Rachel hopes to explore how different Jewish leaders and organizations presented Judaism as part of mainstream American culture.

Rachel is grateful for many of the opportunities Harvard University has made available to her. With summer fellowships from the Center for Jewish Studies, Rachel Gordon has studied Hebrew at Jewish Theological Seminary and Yiddish at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research. Last year, Rachel particularly enjoyed working as a teaching fellow in a class on American religious history.

She has appreciated the “open door policy” of faculty members at Harvard, and their generosity with information and guidance as she prepares to write her dissertation. “They have been very kind,” remarks Rachel, “even those whose specialties are not directly related to her research. Rachel notes that Harvard faculty members in Jewish Studies such as Professors Ruth Wisse, Jay Harris and Shaye Cohen, who are not on her dissertation committee, have taken the time to listen carefully to her research interests and have provided important feedback and insight. Rachel applauds their “willingness to talk through ideas and offer suggestions, which has helped me craft a proposal/dissertation plan which combines intellectual and social history.”
ARI FINKELSTEIN grew up in Toronto, where he attended a Jewish day school “with a European socialist and Zionist philosophy.” There he studied Yiddish, Hebrew and French. In the second year of college at York University, while studying abroad at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, he took a class on Second Temple History with Prof. Isaiah Gafni and “became interested” in ancient Jewish history.

Ari went to law school after college and worked in the field of corporate commercial law for about five years. But he was drawn back to Jewish Studies, earned his MA at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem where he studied the Second Temple period, and applied to the Ph.D. program at Harvard. Ari is now in his fourth year of the Ph.D. program in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, studying for his general exams and conducting research for a dissertation. His interests have moved from the period of the Second Temple to the circumstances around the building of the Third Temple.

Ari explains that, the leader of this movement, Julian the Apostate, a former Christian who declared himself a pagan, never completed his mission of building a Third Temple. Julian’s aim seems to have been to weaken Christianity to the benefit of paganism. Notwithstanding the short period of his reign, the influence of his writings and actions “were very threatening” to Christianity, and “Christianity changed after this event” in profound ways over the following century. However, no Jewish sources talk about him, beyond some “very questionable” references in the Talmud. Ari is interested in examining the relationship between Julian and the Jews and, in particular, how Julian attempted to establish himself as a leader within the Empire and amongst Jews.

“Harvard has been great,” says Ari. Summer grants from the Center for Jewish Studies have enabled Ari to attend summer conferences in Jewish studies in Jerusalem, to study Greek at Columbia, and to participate in an archaeological dig in Israel. This knowledge of how people dig, Ari explains, has helped him understand how to better read archaeological reports. Last summer, he worked as the Teaching Fellow for Harvard’s first summer program in Jerusalem. Back in Cambridge, he and a colleague set up a workshop on “Judaism in Antiquity,” developing a community of students and faculty members interested in this field, and creating a forum for students to present their work. Ari cites some of the important resources which have been available to him at Harvard: discussions with Starr Fellows and Visiting Professors at the Center, the wide range of courses available, the library’s extensive Judaica collection, and his experiences as a teaching fellow, including the very practical training in teaching provided by the Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning.
MILO (MISHY) HARMAN ‘08, a junior in Pforzheimer House, won this year’s Norman Podhoretz Prize in Jewish Studies for his essay, “What Chutzpah! Yiddish in the New York Times.” This award “is given to the Harvard University student who submits the best essay, feature article, or short story on a Jewish theme.” A tribute to Norman Podhoretz, editor of Commentary magazine from 1960 to 1995, the prize is sponsored by the Ernest H. Weiner Fund at the American Jewish Committee.

ADAM STRICH ‘07, a senior in Currier House, won this year’s Selma and Lewis Weinstein Prize in Jewish Studies for his essay, “On the Prohibition of Benefit from Idols and their Paraphernalia.” The Weinstein Prize, which “is given to the Harvard University student who submits the best undergraduate essay in Jewish studies,” was established by Lewis H. Weinstein, A.B. 1927, LL.B. 1930.

Honorable mention was also given to JAY REIDLER “The Development of Jewish Science: How Christianity and Modernity Revived Jewish Healing” (‘08, a junior in Leverett House) and EMILY VASILIAUSKAS “‘Without/Language’: Ineffability in Paul Celan” (‘07, a senior in Lowell House).