



2026 Conference

UNIVERSITY of DENVER | MARCH 22-23, 2026

Lawrence Baron, *Founding President*

Amy Hill Shevitz and Seth Ward, *Co-Presidents*

Joshua Furman, *Conference Chair*

Program Committee: *Joshua Furman, Alan Levenson, Seth Ward*

Baron Award Jury: *Lawrence Baron, Joel Gereboff, Shira Klein*

The WJSA thanks the following sponsors for their financial support:



SUNDAY, MARCH 22

8:00-9:00 AM REGISTRATION & COFFEE/PASTRIES

Sturm Hall, University of Denver, 2nd Floor Lobby

9:00 AM-10:15 AM SESSION 1

Panel 1 **Sharing, Stealing, and Surviving—Stories from the Nazi Era and Beyond**
Sturm 254 **Chair: Amy Shevitz**, Loyola University Chicago

Elizabeth Campbell, University of Denver
Under Duress: The Sale and Long Recovery of the Dorville Art Collection

David Fasman, University of Denver
A Survey of the German Foreign Book Exchange, Their Activities, and the Relationships They Maintained

Nancy Segal, California State University, Fullerton
The Last Twins: An Overview and Excerpt of the Voices of Twin Survivors from Auschwitz-Birkenau

Panel 2 **Antisemitism and Philosemitism**
Sturm 286 **Chair: Alan Levenson**, University of Oklahoma

Eli Alberts, Colorado State University
The Stories We Tell Ourselves: From the Mongol Horde to Anti-Jewish Violence

Daniel Lapidus, University of Denver/Illiff School of Theology
The Long Shadow of Marcion and the Development of Christian Anti-Judaism

10:30 AM-12:00 PM SESSION 2

Panel 3 **Jewish Musical Performance and Interpretation**
Sturm 254 **Chair: Brian Wilson**, Sonoma State University

Mitchell Ohriner, University of Denver
Listening to Acculturation in Chazzan David Kusevitsky's Cantorial Recitative "L'eil Boruch"

Yonatan Malin, University of Colorado, Boulder
Gurevich's Greeting and the Analysis of Klezmer Music



Michelle Green Willner, Independent Scholar

La Señora: Sephardic Musical Memory and the Reimagining of Doña Gracia Nasi

Panel 4

Sturm 286

American Jewish Biographies

Chair: Sarah Imhoff, Indiana University

Mara Cohen Ioannides, Missouri State University

Nathan Baron Dannenberg: Jew, Soldier, Confederate, Husband of a Cherokee

Esther Carmel-Hakim, University of Haifa

Judge Julian Mack – First President of the American Jewish Congress: Mediator and Facilitator

Ava F. Kahn, Independent Scholar

Seymour Fromer: Producer of Los Angeles's Festival of Faith and Freedom

Panel 5

Sturm 253

Assessing the Spanish Inquisition

Chair: Seth Ward, University of Wyoming

Rebecca Wartell, Earlham College

Who was *Doña Majora*?: Portuguese *conversas* in the sixteenth-century Papal State

Roger Martinez-Davila, University of Colorado–Colorado Springs

Conversos in the Making of Spanish Florida: Ancestry and Networks Revealed in the Musters of St. Augustine, 1569–1587

Isaac Amon, Washington University School of Law in St. Louis

1826–2026: The Inquisition's Last Victim, the Founders' Final Hour, and the Unfinished Work of Conscience

12:15-1:15 PM

LUNCH

Community Commons Grand Forum, Rm 1700

Welcoming remarks:

Adam Rovner, Director of the Center for Judaic Studies

Josh Furman, Conference Chair and Rocky Mountain Jewish Historical Society Director



**Presentation of the Baron Prize for Best Graduate Student Paper
and Remarks:**

Lawrence Baron, Founding President

1:30-3:00 PM

SESSION 3

Panel 6

Sturm 254

Jewish Philosophy and Ethics

Chair: Sarah Pessin, University of Denver

Amy Shevitz, Loyola University Chicago

The Afterlife of Franz Rosenzweig's Lehrhaus

David Gottlieb, Spertus Institute

Embodied Remembering: Paul Mendes-Flohr and the Poetics of Listening

Hadar Aviram, UC Law San Francisco

Tov Aruḥat Yarak: Theological and Ideological Jewish Support for
Vegetarianism at the Turn of the 20th Century

Panel 7

Sturm 286

Jewish Integration/Politics in Istanbul and Canada

Chair: Jonathan Sciarcon, University of Denver

Center Sarikaya, Koç University, Turkey

Linguistic Boundaries and the Integration of the Jewish Community in Early
Republican Istanbul

Marcin Janzcek, University of Toronto

Inventing Aaron Hart – The Literary and Historical Faces of the Founder of
Canadian Jewry

Hailey Kobrin, York University

Beyond Decline: Reframing the Canadian Jewish Left through Avrom
Yanovsky's Graphic Satire

Panel 8

Sturm 253

Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the Bible

Chair: Elias Sacks, University of Colorado, Boulder

Alan Levenson, University of Oklahoma

Rembrandt on Genesis

Elyse Pierce, University of Denver & Iliff School of Theology

Elijah as a Minimally Counterintuitive Figure in Judaism



Tal Granovsky Amit, Florida Atlantic University
Acoustic Territories and Sacred Bodies

3:15-4:45 PM

SESSION 4

Panel 9

Sturm 286

Zionism, Anti-Zionism, and Alternative Zions

Chair: Dov Waxman, UCLA

Amie Thurber, Portland State University

Rabbi Irving Reichert Makes the Case for the American Council for Judaism

Gilad Cohen, Brandeis University

Reuben Brainin and the Jewish Polity Roots of Zionism

Adam Rovner, University of Denver

An Alternative Zion Down Under

Panel 10

Sturm 253

Exploring Contemporary Jewish Identity

Chair: Jennifer Thompson, California State University, Northridge

Carolyn Aronis, Colorado State University

Israel-Colorado: A Jewish split heart poetry

Evelyn Stovin, Duke University

Race Making in the Jewish Community

Roberta Waldbaum, University of Denver

Visions of Italian Jewish Culture and Identity: The Student View

Panel 11

Sturm 254

Analyzing and Using Archives

Chair: David Fasman, University of Denver

Eleanor Kaufman, UCLA

What Slips between the Archive Cracks: Traces of Antisemitism in the Oral History Archive

Ellen Kowitt, JewishGen

Linking Synagogue Record Collections to Genealogists and Scholars

Melissa Cohen-Nickels, Rice University

Opening the Box: Using Archival Sources to Bring Jewish History to the K-12 Audience



4:45-5:00 PM

BREAK, MOVE TO COMMUNITY COMMONS

5:00-5:45 PM

RECEPTION

Community Commons 4th Floor

Conference attendees and invited guests

6:00-7:30 PM

KEYNOTE

Sturm Hall, Davis Auditorium, 2nd Floor

**Livingston-Abrams Lecture in American Jewish History:
THE STATE OF AMERICAN JEWRY**

Introductory Remarks:

Elizabeth Lobo, University of Denver Provost

Joshua Furman, RMJHS Director

Moderator:

Frederick Greenspahn, Florida Atlantic University

Panelists:

Sarah Imhoff, Indiana University

Jennifer Thompson, California State University, Northridge

Dov Waxman, UCLA

7:30 PM

DINNER ON YOUR OWN

Options near University of Denver or near Hilton Garden Inn

Cherry Creek



MONDAY, MAR 23

8:00-9:00 AM

COFFEE AND PASTRIES

Sturm Hall, 2nd Floor Lobby

WJSA BOARD MEETING

Sturm 286

9:00-10:45 AM

SESSION 5

Panel 12

Sturm 254

European Jewish History–Britain, France, and the USSR

Chair: Hillel Kieval, Washington University in St. Louis

Gregory Brown, UNLV

The Right of a Jew to Bear Arms in Late Old Regime France

Nadia Ertz, Washington State University

Marxism and the National Question

Haim Sperber, Western Galilee College

Philanthropy and Social Control in Mid-Nineteenth Century Britain

Konstantin Mogarichev, Purdue University

In Search of a Jewish Territory in the USSR: a Polemic between Yuri Larin and Abram Merezhin in the Late 1920s

Panel 13

Sturm 286

Exploring Jewish Texts: Biblical, Rabbinic, and Mystical

Chair: Seth Ward, University of Wyoming

Aaron Adler, Herzog Academic College (Zoom)

Ashkenazic Prayers and Blessings in Maimonides' Codes

Yosef Rivlin, Bar-Ilan University (Zoom)

The Encryption of Names in Responsa Literature

Avishar Har-Shefi, Bar-Ilan University (Zoom)

From Myth to Narrative: The Reincarnations of the Enoch–Metatron Tradition in Hasidic and Modern Literature

Roberta Sabbath, University of Nevada-Las Vegas

Rebecca the Prophet



Panel 14
Sturm 253

Refugees and Survivors – The Holocaust Era and its Aftermath

***This panel will end at 10:30 AM**

Chair: Laurie Baron, San Diego State University

Fred Lazin, Ben Gurion University
Shanghai as a Refuge for Jews Fleeing Hitler

Selena Naumoff, University of Denver
Superhero Survivors and Other Comic Tales

Or Rogovin, Bucknell University
Salamandra at 80: Emerging Trends in the Study of Ka-Tzetnik 135633

10:50 AM-12:20 PM SESSION 6

Panel 15
Sturm 253

Jewish History in the American West

Chair: Ellen Eisenberg, Willamette University

Becky Black, Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design
Design Thinking for Care: Architectural History of the Jewish Consumptives' Relief Society

Jordan Bennett, University of Denver
Beatrice Sanders and the Survival of Jewish Life in Trinidad, Colorado

Linda Goff, New Mexico Jewish Historical Society
Early Jewish Pioneers in Northern New Mexico

Panel 16
Sturm 286

Exploring Jewishness on Screens Big and Small

Chair: Adam Rovner, University of Denver

Lawrence Baron, San Diego State University
Beyond the Beard: The Depiction of Women Rabbis in American Feature Films

Victoria Khiterer, Millersville University
Laughing To Tears: Jewish Humor in Mel Brooks' Film "The Twelve Chairs"

Yvonne K. Golan, University of Haifa (Zoom)
The Birth of a Nation: On the Revival of the Hebrew Language in Israeli Media Culture



12:30-1:20 PM

LUNCH

Community Commons Grand Forum, Rm 1700

Remarks:

Seth Ward and Amy Shevitz, WJSA Co-Presidents

Samira Mehta, Director of Jewish Studies at the University of Colorado,
Boulder

Memorial Tribute to David Weinberg: Laurie Baron

Remembering Jacob Hellman: Mara Cohen Ioannides

1:30-3:00 PM

SESSION 7

Panel 17

Sturm 286

Yiddish Culture from East to West

Chair: Joshua Furman, University of Denver

Samuel Page, Stanford University

The Centrality of the *Dinstmeydl* in Warsaw Yiddish Folkloristics

Serra Bardin, University of Oklahoma

A Yiddish Oasis: The Los Angeles Yiddish Cultural Club, the American West,
and Postwar Yiddish Culture

Chloe Resler, Independent Scholar

"Yiddish is a flame which flickers but refuses to die." Meaning Making and
Yiddish Theatrical Music in Denver

Panel 18

Sturm 253

Approaches to Queer Jewish Identity and Queer Theory in Jewish Studies

Chair: Hadar Aviram, UC Law San Francisco

Sarah Schwartzman Ramsey, University of Colorado, Boulder

Queer Jewish Time and Contemporary Fiction

Shlomo Gleibman, York University

How Do We Study Jewish Homoeroticism?

Laurie Fisher, University of Denver/Iliff School of Theology

Critical Fabulation and Feminist Historiography

