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CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

YIDDISHKAYT » Executive Director

Los Angeles, California • May 2011-Present

ARTS AND EDUCATION LEADERSHIP

Provide vision and leadership; administer day-to-day operations; craft and oversee new strategic plan, transforming the organization into a full-service arts advocacy and education organization with a global scope; develop partnerships and collaborate with international institutes of higher education; design and produce a year-long arts and culture festival in L.A.; facilitate collaborative opportunities for emerging and experienced artists (actors, filmmakers, writers, visual artists, dancers, choreographers, and musicians); conceive and launch the Helix Fellowship, a mobile arts residential opportunity for scholars and artists; create custom, unique travel experiences, both local (in and around L.A.) and international (Eastern and Central Europe), engaging the public with sites of cultural history both digitally and in person. Create Yiddishkayt Expeditions, a revenue-generating travel experience modelled on the Helix Project.

Work closely with chair of board to set priorities and motivate directors to fulfill Yiddishkayt's mission. Guide the development and expansion of the board. Prepare reports and budgets for directors and assure compliance with bylaws as well as standards for university partners.

Prepare and implement budget. Responsible for recruitment, employment, and release of all staff. Assure that programs are led by an effective team and maintain a climate to attract and motivate excellent personnel. Enhance relationships with donors while implementing a strategy to broaden and diversify the base of support; work with universities to underwrite programs; acquire governmental contracts; increase support from individual donors.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Conceived of and founded the Helix Fellowship. Crafted and designed its image, brand, and identity;
- Designed and developed educational and informational website and social media serving over 75,000 unique visitors per week;
- Pioneered, designed, directed, and produced musical, theatrical, and multimedia performances for thousands of people in the Greater Los Angeles area;
- Oversaw the creation of the unique travel programs in Eastern and Central Europe for a wide range of participants;
- Developed and oversaw the annual organizational budget, which increased over the course of my tenure by over 250%;
- Managed, hired, trained, mentored, and evaluated staff and faculty;
- Developed strategic vision and led strategic planning processes;
- Solicited and obtained grants for programming for over \$1 million.

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Comparative Literature, 2009
University of California at Berkeley

Primary field: Yiddish and Hebrew Literatures. Secondary fields: German Literature, Poetics, Intercultural Relations, Cultural History. Drs. Robert Alter and Chana Kronfeld (chairs).

Dissertation: *The Allure of Germanness in Ashkenazic Culture 1833-1933.*

B.A., summa cum laude, Near Eastern and Judaic Studies/Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies, 1996
Brandeis University

Honors Thesis: *Ambivalence and Alienation : Mother and Mother Tongue in the Poetry of Erez Biton and Prose of Jamaica Kincaid.*

Cunningham Award for Best Thesis in the Humanities. Phi Beta Kappa.

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO AT BOULDER» Assistant Professor

Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literature

June 2009–January 2012

Undergraduate Courses:

Introduction to Jewish Culture

Representing the Holocaust

Introduction to Jewish History

Venice: Cradle of European Jewish Culture

Women, Gender, and Sexuality in Jewish Texts and Traditions

Graduate Course:

Topics in 20th Century German Society: Vienna & the Jews

Graduate Committees:

MA Examination: Daniela Färber, German, Fall 2010

MA Examination: Heather Turo, German, Fall 2009

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT BERKELEY» Instructor

Department of German

Spring 2008; Spring 2007

Introduction to Yiddish Culture

Intermediate Yiddish

Department of Comparative Literature

2002-2003

The Lyric Mode in Film and Poetry

Reading and Composition: Self-Portraits: Constructing the Self through Narrative

Reading and Composition: The Storyteller's Story: Narrative and Beyond

Department of Near Eastern Studies

Summers 2003 and 2004

Accelerated Hebrew

GRADUATE THEOLOGICAL UNION» *Visiting Professor*

Richard Dinner Center for Jewish Studies

Spring 2008

Graduate Course:

Secular Jewish Culture

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AT AMHERST» *Visiting Professor*

Department of Judaic and Near Eastern Studies

Summers 2005 and 2006

Undergraduate Courses:

Intensive Yiddish

Yiddish Literature and Culture

ORGANIZATIONAL POSITIONS

YIDDISH BOOK CENTER» *Director of Education*

Amherst, Massachusetts • August 2004–November 2006

Founder, fundraiser, and director of Steiner Summer Program at the National Yiddish Book Center. Created and raised funds for the Summer Yiddish Culture Program at Hampshire College and developed undergraduate student initiatives in Ashkenazi Jewish Cultural Studies. Director of *LiteraTour*: conceived and led tour of Central and Eastern Europe; planned 12-day itinerary; traveled as resident Yiddish literature scholar on tour, giving lectures and leading discussions; hired staff, faculty, and tour operators.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT BERKELEY» *Digital Designer*

Departments of German, Jewish Studies, Yiddish Language

Berkeley, California • 2002–2004

Web design, information architecture, content creation and management.

EMMA GOLDMAN PAPERS PROJECT» *Researcher/Digital and Print Design Associate*

Berkeley, California • Summer 2001

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH» *Research Associate*

Washington, D.C. • December 1996–July 1998

INVITED TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS

POETRY NEVER DIES: COMMEMORATING THE JEWISH ANTIFASCIST COMMITTEE » Los Angeles Community Commemoration, August 2017.

MENASHE TALKBACK WITH DIRECTOR » Los Angeles Jewish Film Festival, April 2017.

WRITING BOYLE HEIGHTS » University of California Humanities Research Institute, January 2017.

YIDDISH LITERATURE IN THE AMERICAN WEST » UCLA Alan D. Leve Center for Jewish Studies, May 2016.

AMERICAN JEWISH WORLD SERVICE • LOS ANGELES GLOBAL JUSTICE FELLOW » Los Angeles and India, September 2014-August 2015.

EXPLORING EUROPEAN JEWISH LIFE » The Vilna Shul, Boston, December 2014.

SHARING THE STORY OF JEWISH LIFE IN EUROPE » The Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life, , November 2014.

TENT: COMEDY – EXPLORING LOS ANGELES » Yiddish Book Center’s Tent Program and East Side Jews, October 2014.

SERIES: INTRODUCING YIDDISH CINEMA » Sholem Community, November, December 2013, January 2014.

POST-SHOW TALKBACK SERIES *The Last Days of Lilke Kadison* » Falcon Theater, April 2014.

JEWISH CULTURE AND HISTORY IN LOS ANGELES » UCLA December 2013.

MAKING THE PAST PRESENT » San Francisco Jewish Community Library, October 2013.

JOURNEYING THROUGH EASTERN EUROPE » East Side Jews, March 2013.

YIDDISH WRITERS IN AMERICA » Santa Monica Synagogue, March 2013.

CULTURES OF JEWISH LITHUANIA » Centropa, February 2013.

YIDDISH CULTURE: IN AMERICA » Valley Beth Shalom, November 2012.

SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE » Centropa Summer Academy – Frankfurt/Berlin, July 2012.

YIDDISH ON STAGE AND SCREEN » Israel Film Festival/Laemmle Music Hall, March 2012.

YIDDISH CULTURE: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE » Valley Beth Shalom, March 2012.

BEYOND ROOFTOP FIDDLE: SOHEM ALEICHEM AS CHRONICLER » Sholem Community, January 2012.

PHOTOGRAPHY IN THE POLISH YIDDISH PERIODICAL PRESS » Berkeley Yiddish Studies, University of California at Berkeley, October 2010.

REMEMBERING AVROM SUTZKEVER » University of Colorado, Boulder, March 2010.

THE MEANING OF JEWISH SOCCER » Rose Community Foundation, November 2009.

OUT OF THE CLASSROOM AND ONTO THE FIELD: JEWS & SOCCER » MoVeRs: Jewish Mavericks, Visionaries & Rebels Lecture Series, October 2009.

THE LEGACY OF THE ‘SWEATSHOP POETS’ » Eldridge Street Project, New York, NY, May 2005.

I, TOO, SING AMERICA – AMERICAN YIDDISH POETS » Smith College Poetry Center, March 2005.

PUBLICATIONS

MOYSHE KULBAK: *THE CHILDE HAROLD OF WHITE RUSSIA*, fully annotated translation and introduction, Naydus Press (forthcoming in fall 2019).

PERETZ MARKISH: MODERN MARXIST AND POET, book chapter co-authored with David Shneer, in *Makers of Jewish Modernity: Thinkers, Artists, Leaders, and the World They Made*, ed. Jacques Picard et al. Princeton University Press, 2016.

TONGUE-TWISTED: ITZIK MANGER BETWEEN LANGUAGES, co-authored with Chana Kronfeld, *In geveb*, August 2015: <https://ingeveb.org/articles/tongue-twisted-itzik-manger-between-mame-loshn-and-loshn-koydesh>.

THE BERKELEY SCHOOL OF JEWISH LITERATURE: IN HONOR OF CHANA KRONFELD, A Special Edition of the *Journal of Jewish Identities*, vol. 7, no. 1 (January 2014), Introductory Essay written with David Shneer accompanying volume co-edited by David Shneer and Robert Adler-Peckerar.

JEWISH NEIGHBORHOODS: LOCAL & GLOBAL LIVING, *Sh'ma: A Journal of Jewish Ideas*, June 2014.

YIDDISH AS A VERNACULAR LANGUAGE: TEACHING A LANGUAGE IN OBSOLESCENCE, *Language Learning Journal*, Spring 2011.

REVIEW OF A RHETORICAL CONVERSATION: JEWISH DISCOURSE IN MODERN YIDDISH LITERATURE BY JORDAN FINKIN, *AJS Review*, Spring 2011.

REGARDING ALTER KACYZNE'S LAST PLAY [IN YIDDISH], *Forward Literary Supplement*, 26 October 2007.

POET MOYSHE KULBAK, in Joseph Sherman, ed., *Dictionary of Literary Biography: Writers in Yiddish*, Detroit: Thompson-Gale, 2007.

WHAT HAS BECOME OF MY DAY? ON THE LANDSCAPE OF MEMORY and TRANSLATIONS OF ITSIK MANGER, pp. 24-27; pp. 28-29, *PaknTreger 52*, Fall 2006.

PACKING UP A LIBRARY: ON YIDDISH BOOKS IN SOUTH AMERICA, pp. 24-31, *PaknTreger 51*, Summer 2006.

WEB AND MEDIA

Creator, host, and producer of the monthly *MonsaMonster* podcast of classic Yiddish stories.

Designed and launched the yiddishkayt.org and its related social media pages on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Since 2013, the site and its social media platforms have become the single most popular online content producer related to Jewish culture, accessed by over 750,000 users per year. The central website, yiddishkayt.org was a Webby Award honoree for the top 10 sites in its category in 2016.

Authored over 150 original encyclopedic entries on major figures in Central and Eastern European cultural life for yiddishkayt.org.

Wrote articles for yiddishkayt.org's popular magazine features:

"August 12 and After," July 2018

"Engaging Yiddish in the Israel-Palestinian Conflict," February 2014.

"The Ministry of Emergency Situations," October 2013.

"Burying Yiddish Culture, Again," June 2013.

"Remembering Soviet Yiddish," August 2011.

Contributed to Public Radio International's *The World in Words*, 2012.

CONFERENCES

Discussant, "Expanding Horizons: Teaching Jewish Studies Abroad," *Association for Jewish Studies 47th Annual Conference*, 15 December 2014.

"Between Ethics and Aesthetics: Modernism's Engagement with Vision and Revision," *Modernist Studies Association 12th Annual Conference*, 13 November 2010.

"Reforming Jewish Masculinity after the Great War," *Association for Jewish Studies 40th Annual Convention*, 22 December 2008.

"Language Confusion, Class, and Gender in the First Modern Yiddish Play," *Yiddish and the Symphony of Nations, Eli Katz Memorial Yiddish Conference*, UC Berkeley, 15 September 2008.

"The Turkow Brothers and the Internationalization of Yiddish," *Reflections of Czernowitz Conference*, Vanderbilt University, 31 March 2008.

"Visually Representing the Space of New Jewish Manhood," *MLA Annual Convention*, 29 December 2007.

"Transformations of Polish Yiddish Culture after the Genocide," *Place & Displacement of Yiddish Conference*, University of Michigan, 24 April 2007.

"Shvartsbard's *Gilgulim*: Translations and Transmigrations of Alter Kacyzne's Last Play," *Translation and Yiddish Culture, 3rd Annual Berkeley Yiddish Conference*, 24 May 2005.

"Trafficking in Modernity: Mass Culture and Yiddish Writing," *Association for Jewish Studies 35th Annual Conference*, 21 December 2003.

"Metaphors of Land, Time, and Culture in Natan Zach's Poetry," *MLA Annual Convention*, 29 December 2003.

"Tongue Twisted: Itsik Manger Between *Mame-loshn* and *Loshn-koydesh* (with Chana Kronfeld)," *Yiddish Culture Between the Two World Wars, 1st Annual Berkeley Yiddish Conference*, 30 May 2003.

Translator (with Eli Katz) and Reader, "Celebrating Sutzkever: Marking the 90th Birthday of Abraham Sutzkever," *Bancroft Library of the University of California at Berkeley*, 2 October 2003.

"On Translating Yiddish," Poetics and Politics of Translating Jewish Languages, *Academic Consortium for Jewish Studies in Northern California*, 3 November 2002.

"The Vampire Strikes Back: Filmic Icons of Eastern European Jews," *Nation & Representation: UC Berkeley German Film Conference*, 13 May 2002.

"Rethinking the Role of Territory in Diasporic Jewish Culture," *Association for Jewish Studies 32nd Annual Conference*, 17 December 2000.

LANGUAGES

Primary Languages:

English [native], Yiddish, Hebrew, German.

Working Languages:

Arabic, French, Spanish, Italian, Polish, Belarusian.

AWARDS

2016 National Jewish Book Award in Anthologies and Collections

2016 Webby Awards, Honoree WebArt – Top 10 Sites

2008 Outstanding Instructor Award, UC Berkeley

AFFILIATIONS

AMERICAN COMPARATIVE LITERATURE ASSOCIATION

ASSOCIATION FOR JEWISH STUDIES

MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION