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Thank you, 2013 donors.
Edward S. Brown, Susan O.W. Jaffe, Samuel Z. Klausner, Edward H. and Evelyn Rosen, Jonathan D. Sarna

Director’s Reflections
Rome and Roam
Lila Corwin Berman

ome: Last year, my family and I made our home in Rome. We arrived in the heat of August, when Romans know to flee the city, and tourists flock to it. Streetcreeper begrudgingly returned at the end of the month, and we watched our slice of the city awaken from its summer torpor. My task for the year was to complete a book about American Jews before the end of World War II. Thus my head remained in the United States, yet the city around me did find its way into my head, my heart and, yes, my stomach.

Roam: When I was not writing, I was often walking. Roaming demands a level of attentiveness that separates it from being lost or aimless. When roaming with children, one must remember the art of the child: to notice, to notice everything, to notice the world as it is a metaphysical one—as our feet tread upon new pathways, so does our mind.

I have often thought about the work the Feinstein Center does through the prism of roaming. Since I arrived at Temple in 2009, the Feinstein Center has embraced a thematic approach to its work, crafting programs about cities or the arts or food that bridge the world of scholarship to broader public concerns.

As you will read in this issue of our newsletter, our focus over this last year has started to broaden in new and exciting ways, reflecting the pathways of conversation and collaboration. Over this year, we continued our important work on What Is Your Food Worth? with partners from across the city, and we also considered other modes of Jewish political and cultural engagement, in the Soviet Jewry movement, in radical Jewish circles with historical roots in Philadelphia, and in the world of theater and music. In the coming year, we will explore the past, present and future of American-Jewish music in a series of programs called Sounds Jewish; as we also extend and deepen our ongoing conversations about food, politics, cities and Jewish culture.

The Feinstein Center has the good fortune to participate in public: intellectual inquiry into Jewish and American life. We invite you to join us. As we roam together, we aim to inspire inquiry and to prove that the act of inquiry itself is a wellspring of inspiration.

On Research
Stories of the American Jewish Past
The Feinstein Center has undertaken two oral history research projects. The interviews from both projects are housed at Temple’s Special Collections Research Center at Paley Library, where they will be available to scholars and the public.

I love and Leftist Politics in Philadelphia records the voices of 27 individuals involved in a variety of radical Jewish political movements. On April 23 and 26, 2014, the Feinstein Center will host an arts forum and symposium in collaboration with Temple University’s Libraries and Tyler School of Art. Called Radical Jewish Philadelphia, the program will highlight student art projects produced as a response to the oral history collection. Tony Michaels (associate professor of history, University of Wisconsin-Madison) will offer keynote remarks about radicalism in American Jewish history.

On the Ground: Activism: A Pilot Study of the Soviet Jewry Movement in American-Jewish Life is a collection of 10 interviews with Jewish activists, many of whom were in their teens and twenties at the height of the movement. The pilot program received funding from the American Jewish Committee–Philadelphia/SJN. The spring Murray Friedman Memorial Lecture, held at the National Museum of American Jewish History, presented the findings of the pilot program and included a provocative and informative discussion about the Soviet Jewry movement and Jewish civic engagement led by Shaul Kelner (associate professor of sociology and Jewish studies, Yedebith University) and Benjamin Nathan (associate professor of history, University of Pennsylvania).

Online guides to both collections will be available at www.temple.edu/feinsteinctr.

What Is Your Food Worth? A Year of Collaboration and Conversation
From where we stand, this has been the year of food. Since launching What Is Your Food Worth? in the fall of 2012 with a cycle of stimulating (and tasty) programs, the Feinstein Center has emerged as a central node in conversations about food ethics, politics, sustainability and what it means to eat Jewishly. The Center continues to embrace this role by establishing and nourishing meaningful collaborations with institutions across the city. What Is Your Food Worth? has now truly shaped a citywide conversation about the food movement and its historical, traditional and sociological ties to Jewishness.

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Laura Levitt: Professor of religion, Jewish studies, and gender; author of American Jewish identity formation among those who were born into the Chabad-Lubavitch Hasidic community and subse-

Zalman Newfield’s dissertation explores processes of identity formation among those who were born into the Chabad-Lubavitch Hasidic community and subsequently distanced themselves from that community. This project is based on extensive interviews with research subjects and participant observation. It serves as a window into the American Jewish experience at large in that it sheds light on the process of balancing religious commitments against the desire to connect with broader American culture and society.

How are Jewish musicians changing the score of American Jewish life? What traditions inspire the music they make, and what new traditions are they creating? These questions animated Jewish Music Unplugged, an evening of conversation and jamming with four talented musicians: Zach Freeman and Yoel Goldman of the Epichorus; Chana Rothman, an award-winning singer/song-writer and educator; and Joey Weinstein, creative director of Hidar Center for Communal Jewish Music and author of Singing Community: Aaron Rabin, the founder and former CEO of D’Shabbos, joined the conver-

This fall, the Feinstein Center welcomed Arudila Wedden-Greenfield as a graduate student fellow. Wedden-Greenfield joins the Feinstein Center from the Center for Afro-Jewish Studies, where she worked as coordinator for two years. Prior to her time at Temple University, Wedden-Greenfield’s scholarship centers on Judaism in the Americas and African diasporic religion. She is writing a dissertation about the role of the Hebrew Bible in the lives of Jews who have lived in the Americas and Africa. Her project focuses on the ways in which Jewish communities have used the Bible to shape their identities, both in terms of religious practice and cultural identity. She is particularly interested in how these communities have adapted the Hebrew Bible to fit their unique circumstances and traditions.

FACULTY BIOS
Rebecca Alper: Professor of religion; author of Like Bread on the Seder Plate: Jewish Lesbians and the Communal Continuity and Change in Contemporary Lubavitch Society.”

Zalman Newfield, “Between the Sacred and the Secular: Center for American Jewish History, 2013 Kevy Kaiserman Memorial Summer Fellowship (PhD candidate, New York University)

FEINSTEIN CENTER 2013 SUMMER FELLOW

Zalman Newfield, “Between the Sacred and the Secular: Communal Continuity and Change in Contemporary Lubavitch Society.” 2013 Kevy Kaiserman Memorial Summer Fellowship (PhD candidate, New York University)

FEINSTEIN CENTER FELLOWS

Zev Eleff, “Declarations of Independence: The Formation of Religious Discourse and Movements within American Judaism” (PhD candidate, Brandeis University); Zev Eleff’s doctoral research centers on religious discourse in 19th-century American Judaism. He is particularly interested in the ways that this dialogue shaped the contours and models of religious authority in the Jewish community at that time. Ultimately, these conversations and polemics played pivotal roles in the formation of separate denominations and movements in American Jewish life. These developments offer parallels and contrast with contemporaneous changes in modern European Jewish history and American Christianity.

Joshua J. Furman, “Jew and American in the Making: Approaches to Education and Childrearing in the American Jewish Community 1945–1967” (PhD candidate, University of Maryland) (co-editing

Joshua J. Furman’s dissertation project examines American Jewish ideas about proper educational and parenting practices as a means of exploring communal sensibilities and aspirations following World War II. During the baby boom era, American Jews invested more energy and resources than ever before into determining how best to raise happy, well-adjusted, Jewishly committed children. This study of American Jewish children’s magazines, parenting advice literature, and pedagogical approaches in religious schools and summer camps illuminates the ways in which American Jews blended insights from Jewish tradition as well as psychology and social science in creating their visions of Jewish childhood.

Brett P. Tevis, “May It Displease the Court: Jewish Lawyers and the Democratization of American Law” (PhD candidate, University of Wisconsin–Madison) (co-editing

Brett Tevis’ dissertation examines the role of Jewish lawyers in the development of 20th-century American law. Her work follows intersectional shifting priorities between the end of the 19th century and the onset of World War II to show how Jewish lawyers pounced on labor, immigration, family and juvenile delinquency law, expanded Americans’ civil rights and liberties, and reshaped how courts operated. Over the summer, she completed research on labor lawyer Maurice Sugar at the Walter P. Reuther Library of Labor and Urban Affairs at Wayne State University, in Detroit, Mich.

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Sounds Jewish

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