Jews and the Jam

Jewish spaces can and should be sites of political resistance.

Surviving Remnant after the Holocaust. ‘I Long for a Home’: Zionism and the scene and consider how the genre serves as a site of spiritual connection for many Jews to classify the exhibit as a method of political dissent.

The exhibit speaks to the centrality of immigration to the vitality of the city and our country. Today, in our own political moment, it seems fair to classify the exhibit as a method of political dissent.

Feinstein Center, Polland previewed a new exhibit entitled “Under One Roof” Philadelphia this past spring. In a keynote address cosponsored by the Feinstein Center, Polland previewed a new exhibit entitled “Under One Roof” about immigrants who came to New York City after World War II. Through oral testimony, material objects, and layered stories all set in the same apartment, the exhibit speaks to the centrality of immigration to the vitality of the city and our country. Today, in our own political moment, it seems fair to classify the exhibit as a method of political dissent.

As we move into the new academic year, political dissent and fracture remain foremost on my mind and Feinstein’s agenda. Check our calendar and website for details and costs and benefits of dissent for a single person or a community.

Directors’ reflections

Fracture

Lila Corwin Berman

Last summer, when I started working with my colleagues at Penn’s Katz Center to plan a program called Cracked Voices: Stories of Jewish Political Dissent and Fracture, I had no idea just how cracked our country’s political life would feel the following spring. One turbulent election and protest-filled inauguration later, we brought together an imaginative group of scholars and activists to tell stories about political rupture. Some spoke from their scholarship, others from their life, art, or activism. Together the group were a talk about the disruptive and potentially generative power of dissent.

Over the last year, Feinstein has doubled down on its mission to bridge scholarship to public conversation about Jewish experience and our world today. For example, Dr. Annie Polland, senior vice president of education and programs at the Tenement Museum in New York City, elegantly made the case for engaged scholarship at the Public History Community Forum in Philadelphia this past spring. In a keynote address cosponsored by the Feinstein Center, Polland previewed a new exhibit entitled “Under One Roof” about immigrants who came to New York City after World War II. Through oral testimony, material objects, and layered stories all set in the same apartment, the exhibit speaks to the centrality of immigration to the vitality of the city and our country. Today, in our own political moment, it seems fair to classify the exhibit as a method of political dissent.

As we move into the new academic year, political dissent and fracture remain foremost on my mind and Feinstein’s agenda. Check our calendar and website for details and costs and benefits of dissent for a single person or a community.

Fracture is coming to Philly!

In partnership with the University of Pennsylvania and the National Museum of American Jewish History, we’ll be exploring the theme of Fractured Paradigms with some of the brightest and most exciting scholars of American Jewish life in the country and world.

I cannot promise any answers to our country’s deep political fracture. But I can promise those ideals that matter most in our shared quest for a just society and world. I look forward to being part of many of those conversations with you.

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DIRECTOR’S REFLECTIONS

Fracture

Lila Corwin Berman

Lila Corwin Berman is the director of the Feinstein Center for American Jewish History at Temple University. She is also a professor in Temple’s Department of History in the College of Liberal Arts.

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Visit us at www.cla.temple.edu/feinsteincenter/ or use the enclosed envelope. You can also follow us on Facebook and Twitter.
Laura Levitt, Professor of Religion, Jewish Studies and Gender at Temple, recently completed the manuscript for her book Tainted Objects: Holocaust Evidence and Criminal Archives. Laura Levitt’s Forthcoming Book Tainted Objects: Holocaust Evidence and Criminal Archives, that explores how material artifacts make trauma and loss manifest. The forthcoming volume examines how the keeping and preserving of material traces of violent pasts are sacred matters, like religious relics that enable ritualized practices to keep memories alive. In her manuscript, she considers three manifestations of these relics in the particular places where such objects are kept and the containers that hold them, the people who attend to them, and the stories those objects enable us to tell. Levitt’s project is part of a multi-year interdisciplinary fellowship, the second project cycle of the Material and Visual Cultures of Religion program (MAVCR) at Yale University.

Laura Levitt’s dissertation examines the transnational conversations among American, Canadian, and Australian Jewish organizations concerning the emigration of 15,000 Central European Jewish refugees from Shanghai between 1945 and 1951. It graphs issues of Jewish ethnicity and “co-enemy” citizenship within frameworks of United Nations’ policies and various immigration laws following World War II.

Aaron Welt, (PhD Candidate, The Ohio State University) “Another Nation: Israel, American Jews, and Palestinian Rights, 1949–1977” Levitt’s dissertation traces the emergence of Palestinian rights as an issue in American Jewish politics. Starting with the little-known tale of an American Jewish volunteer who asked Palestinian veterans and refugees and ending with the public controversy over the pro-peace group B’shvat, the project connects the changing ways in which American Jews reacted to Palestinian rights with broader shifts in American society, Israeli policy, and global politics. By interspersing the stories of activists and officials with macrohistorical trends, Levitt explains how and why Palestinian rights arose as a prominent and abrasive question in Jewish political discourse.

Mathias Fuelling (PhD Candidate, Temple University) Fuelling is researching the ways in which the Holocaust has been memorialized in the former Soviet bloc and Soviet Union nations since the end of the Cold War, focusing on the usage of ‘Stolpersteine’ or ‘tripping stones’ in Central and Eastern Europe, particularly in the city of Prague. Stolpersteine are bronze plaques set into the street or sidewalk in front of houses and buildings where Holocaust victims lived before their arrest and deportation to the camps.

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: The deadline for 2018 summer fellowship applications is March 16, 2018. See the Feinstein Center website, www.cla.temple.edu/feinsteincenter/ fellowships/, for details.

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Sally Blumenfeld, Harry Brinon, Jonathan Brinon, Ed Brown, Randall M. Miller, Joyce Rabkoff, Robert Segal

FROM OUR ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Profile of Carley Zimmerman
This summer, Feinstein sat down with Carley Zimmerman, CEO of Challah for Hunger, to discuss her professional life and her hopes for the global Jewish community.

FC: What is Challah for Hunger’s mission?
CZ: Challah for Hunger builds inspired communities equipped to take action against hunger. Through our core campus program, we bring college students on eighty campuses together to bake and sell challah. While the challah bakes, students learn with each other and develop the skills to make significant social change through advocacy and philanthropy.

FC: Give us a snapshot of a day in the life of running Challah for Hunger.
CZ: Every day is different. My favorite days include collaborating with our staff and volunteers and spending time with our student leaders on campus. Because we’re a national organization, I also spend a lot of time developing relationships over the phone and through email. It’s amazing how much you can accomplish with a laptop and a cell phone.

FC: What are your goals for Challah for Hunger for the next five years?
CZ: I hope to raise awareness about food insecurity on college campuses through the Campus Hunger Project and contribute to solutions to help feed food insecure students. I also want to scale our newest program, The Social Change Bakery Network, to new cities, and further establish our organization as the top leadership development program for Jewish college students who want to affect change through social justice work.

FC: How did you get involved with the Feinstein Center? What drew you to get involved with FFC?
CZ: I learned about the Feinstein Center’s work when I was paired with Areta Wender-Koenen through the Tribe 12 Fellowship. Through our conversations, I quickly understood the unique and important role Feinstein plays in the discourse about the American Jewish community. I admire Feinstein’s creativity in exploring American Jewish through food, music, politics, and philanthropy. They’ve found a way to keep these topics engaging and entertaining and are providing substance, something that’s sometimes lacking in Jewish programming.

FC: Ten years from now, what would you like to see happening in the global Jewish community?
CZ: My work affords me the opportunity to work with the next generation of Jewish leaders as I think that I have a present of what’s to come. Ten years from now, I hope to see these leaders continuing to shape their own Jewish communities—here in Philadelphia—and around the world. Contrary to what many people hear about this generation, I’ve found them to be incredibly smart, caring, creative and most importantly welcoming. I hope they use these values to make our Jewish communities more vibrant and break down some of the barriers that currently divide us.

FROM THE PHILADELPHIA JEWISH ARCHIVES, HOUSED AT THE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS RESOURCE CENTER AT TEMPLE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES:

Stu Goldman’s editorial cartoon collection, produced for the Philadelphia newspaper The Jewish Exponent, from 1981 until his retirement in 2009. At the height of syndication, Goldman’s editorial cartoons were featured in over 70 publications. His drawings, often political in nature and tied to current events, employed humor to illustrate a point or issue a criticism.

During the 1988 presidential campaign season, Goldman drew a number of cartoons depicting the struggle between Massachusetts Governor Michael S. Dukakis and then Vice President George Herbert Walker Bush to attract the Jewish vote, including the images seen here. To learn more about this collection, contact Temple University Libraries’ Special Collections Research Center at schusterman@temple.edu or visit https://library.temple.edu/ scl/philadelphia-jewish-archives.

"Presidential candidate’s boutique" February 19, 1988
"Marry me" July 29, 1988

Images courtesy of Special Collections Research Center, Temple University Libraries

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3 Feinstein Center for American Jewish History

"Marry me" July 29, 1988