



Gratz Insider, Summer 2017 - Story Continuation

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## **Faculty Updates**

### **Dr. Joseph Davis, Associate Professor of Jewish Studies**

In September, Prof. Davis will be presenting at a two-day conference in Warsaw at the [POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews](#), a museum that Gratz professor Michael Steinlauf played an important role in designing. At the conference, Prof. Davis will be discussing “Megillat Eivah,” a memoir written by Rabbi Yom-Tov Lipmann Heller, who served as chief rabbi of Cracow from 1644 to 1654. Prof. Davis published a biography on this famous rabbi in 2004.

### **Matthew Duvall, Adjunct Instructor in the Master of Arts in Education Program**

Congratulations are in order for Matthew Duvall. Duvall, who already has three master’s degrees, recently defended his doctoral dissertation and earned his Ph.D. in Educational Leadership Development and Learning Technologies from Drexel University.

### **Dr. Reena Sigman Friedman, Adjunct Associate Professor of Jewish History**

A mazel tov is also called for for Prof. Friedman, who was awarded the prestigious Yaacov Gladstone Award for Fine Teaching by her students at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, where she is associate professor of Jewish history.

### **Dr. Michael Steinlauf, Director of Holocaust and Genocide Studies and Associate Professor of History**

At the end of June, Prof. Steinlauf spoke at the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous Summer Institute for Teachers at Columbia University. He covered prewar Jewish life and life under Nazi rule. Prof. Steinlauf was interviewed and quoted in an [article](#) about the program published by JTA (the Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

### **Dr. Saul Wachs, Rosalyn B. Feinstein Professor Emeritus of Education and Liturgy**

During his extensive career, Prof. Wachs recorded cassettes that taught scores of people how to chant and lead services. His instructional cassettes for weekday and Shabbat prayers, geared to lay leaders, have recently been digitized and are now [available for purchase online](#).

Despite his retirement, Dr. Wachs will be maintaining a presence at Gratz. In fact, in September, he will be teaching a [three-hour workshop](#) on the High Holy Days, once on a Sunday afternoon and once on a Tuesday evening.

**Nancy Nitzberg, Director of Library Services**

In addition to faculty updates, Nancy Nitzberg also has some professional news to share. She recently gave two presentations. The first one, at the Philadelphia Club, was on the life of Hyman Gratz, the founder of Gratz College and a founding member and president of the Philadelphia Club. The second presentation was at the Conference on Digital Scholarship and the Academic Library, held at Bucknell University, where she spoke about an in-house pamphlet scanning project that she has been working on at Gratz.

Nitzberg also had a welcome surprise when she recently discovered that a book review she had written was [published](#) earlier this year in SHARP News, the newsletter of The Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing.