



LSA

JEAN & SAMUEL FRANKEL
CENTER FOR JUDAIC STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



Frankel Center for Judaic Studies

THE POWER

Today the Jean and Samuel Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, with its impressive Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies, has secured an enviable position among the nation's premier institutions devoted to teaching and research in Judaica. The Frankel Center's rich interdisciplinary approach to the study of Jewish civilization and its superb offerings in classical Judaism and modern Jewish literatures, in Yiddish, Hebrew, English, and other languages, has brought it international renown. The new field of American Jewish studies also flourishes at the University of Michigan. To build upon these impressive achievements, the Frankel Center is endeavoring to enrich its vibrant programs, to chart new paths for the 21st century and enhance its prominence, and to demonstrate the enduring significance of Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan.

THE OPPORTUNITIES

Each semester, a distinguished faculty offers a broad array of classes, giving more than 1,000 students an opportunity to explore the culture, history, and traditions of the Jewish people and their impact on world civilization. The Center's Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies brings 14 of the world's leading scholars to Ann Arbor for a year to collaborate in advancing scholarship in the culture, literature, and religion of the Jews from antiquity to the present.



In addition, the Center hosts visiting professors and guest speakers as well as artists and musicians from universities in Israel, Europe, and the U.S. who present seminars, concerts, exhibits, and lectures that enrich the intellectual and cultural life of the entire U-M community. Many of the Center's undergraduates go on to careers in education, Jewish community service, and the rabbinate as well as law, medicine, business, and other fields.

THE IMPACT

Transformative gifts created Jewish studies at the University of Michigan in the 20th century and expanded it in the 21st century. In 1988, a major gift from Jean and Samuel Frankel, with support from the Jewish Welfare Federation of Detroit, led to the creation of an official Center for Judaic Studies. In 2005, another transformative gift from the Frankels funded the Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies, the largest such institute in the world. Now, as the Center embarks on a course of innovation and expansion for undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate studies, it depends upon endowed and annual support to build programs and enhance its remarkable record of accomplishment.

Professorship in Contemporary Judaic Studies

\$2.5M endowed

Contemporary Jewish life is an area of compelling interest to students. The holder of this professorship will significantly enrich current curriculum by offering courses on topics such as Israeli politics and cultures, women in contemporary Jewish life, the ethnography of American Jewry, the demography and sociology of world Jewish communities, and Jewish identities in the modern world. A named endowed professorship would enable the Center to seek out a world-acclaimed sociologist, anthropologist, political scientist, or psychologist to fill this position.

Professorship in Hebrew Bible & Its Interpretive Traditions

\$2.5M endowed

The study of the Hebrew Bible has been reinvigorated in recent years by scholars using innovative methods borrowed from anthropology, history, literary criticism, archaeology, and the study of folklore. By offering new perspectives on the Bible, these scholars have offered exciting ways of understanding the origin of ancient Israel and the history and vitality of Judaism up to the present day, as well as the foundations of Christianity and Islam. The holder of this position will offer classes that will allow students to delve deeper into biblical texts while also exploring how these texts have been interpreted and incorporated into Jewish practice and belief. A named endowed professorship will enable the Center to hire an expert in the field of biblical studies with a special emphasis on the role of the Bible in Jewish history and culture.



Professorship in Jewish Philosophy

\$2.5M endowed

Jewish philosophy covers diverse traditions within Jewish life extending from biblical times to the present day. It explores how Jews have posed fundamental human questions about truth, beauty, and the constitution of the good life. It examines the intellectual and cultural exchanges between Jews and their Muslim and Christian contemporaries. Also, it attends to tensions between philosophical questioning and doctrines of Judaism. The study of Jewish philosophy provides students with multiple perspectives they can utilize in their own reflections on the possibilities of contemporary Jewish life. By introducing students to responses to questions of fundamental human concern, academic study of philosophy advances the goals of liberal arts education through a distinctive Jewish lens. A named endowment provides the resources to bring the unique insights of a scholar of Jewish philosophy to the University of Michigan and open up key areas of the humanities to Jewish concerns.

Yiddish Language Instruction Endowment

\$1M endowed / \$50,000 annually

The University of Michigan has become a major center for the study of Yiddish in the United States, with faculty in four departments engaged in exploring Yiddish culture in Europe, Israel, and North and South America. Language instruction is central to a meaningful understanding of Jewish life and culture. Language training for undergraduate and graduate students is critical to their studies and enables the rise of a new generation of scholars. An endowed support fund will ensure that Yiddish instruction will be available at the University of Michigan in perpetuity.

Graduate Student Fellowships

\$1M endowed / \$50,000 annually

Graduate study for both M.A. and Ph.D. students in Judaica requires the mastery of several languages, travel to distant archives and libraries, and an average of six to seven years of intensive work. Fellowships are essential for the Center to attract the most promising graduate students, the men and women who will become the scholars, teachers, and leaders of the 21st century. Each fellowship will cover tuition, health care, and basic living expenses for one year. An endowed gift of \$1 million will establish one graduate fellowship.

Innovation Fund

\$1M to \$5M endowed

Endowed, discretionary gifts are extraordinarily important to the continuing success and growth of Judaic Studies. A named Innovation Fund in Judaic Studies will be a transformational gift, allowing the Frankel Center to support one or more significant projects each year. Innovation funds make it possible for the Center to meet emerging needs and capitalize on strategic opportunities for cutting-edge research, scholarship and teaching.



Innovation funds can provide grants for experimental and creative projects: collaborative research, special seminars, adding an experiential dimension to a course, recruiting top-notch students. The Innovation Fund can also support conferences, lectures and seminars with visiting scholars. These programs are key to the academic vitality of Judaic Studies because they expose students to the world's leading experts and promote intellectual exchange at the faculty level. The Innovation Fund in Judaic Studies will provide ongoing support that makes a lasting impact on students and faculty alike.

Israel Program for Students Fund

\$200,000 endowed / \$10,000 to \$50,000 annually

Frankel Center faculty members lead an academic program for students in Israel. During the spring/summer semester, students have the opportunity to engage in a deep exploration of Israeli history, society and culture through first-hand on-site experiences. In addition, trips to Israel will explore the history of ancient societies that flourished there. Gifts to this fund will enable the Center to assist students who strive to enhance their understanding of the rich and constantly changing face of Israel.

Student Summer Research and Language Study Fund

\$10,000 to \$50,000 annually

Research projects and language studies in the United States or abroad are essential to students working on a senior honors thesis or graduate dissertation. Gifts to this fund will allow the Center to give promising students the resources needed to pursue their research and will enrich their educational experience by making the summer a time of valuable study.

International Artist and Writer-in-Residence Program

\$10,000 to \$50,000 annually

In Europe, Asia, Latin America, and Africa, Jewish themes, images, and concerns have become increasingly popular among writers, artists, and filmmakers of diverse backgrounds yet much of this artistic production remains unknown to a wider American audience. The University of Michigan has a venerable tradition of supporting and promoting innovation and internationalism in the sphere of artistic creativity, and this fund would provide the resources to add a Jewish component to this tradition. Undergraduate and graduate students in Hebrew and modern Jewish studies would be able to work on campus with a distinguished Jewish novelist, poet, essayist, playwright, artist, musician, filmmaker, or photographer from Israel, the U.S., or other parts of the globe. Gifts will enable the Center to sponsor annual short-term campus residencies of internationally acclaimed writers and artists whose work is related to Jewish themes and relevant to Jewish concerns. In addition, the Center would promote their lectures, public readings, performances and workshops for students, as well as support translation and dissemination of their work in the U.S. These events will be of great interest to the U-M academic community, the Jewish community of the Detroit area, and the general public.



Exhibit Support Fund

\$10,000 to \$50,000 annually

Jewish culture includes a rich diversity of visual and material expressions. Today students and community members are attuned to forms of learning that extend beyond traditional texts and classrooms. Exhibits provide innovative ways to engage with Jewish studies. Gifts to the Exhibit Support Fund will allow the Center to present one or more exhibits on campus each year that would draw upon the expertise and interests of students and faculty.

Event Fund

\$10,000 to \$50,000 annually

The dynamism of the Frankel Center's courses depends in part upon the many diverse programs that it sponsors together with other units across the university. These events reach thousands of students, as well as faculty members at various schools, and members of the Ann Arbor and Detroit metro community. Gifts to the Event Fund would strengthen the Center's offerings by giving it flexibility to respond to new ideas for programs that keep pace with changing times and interests.

Judaic Studies Director's Discretionary Fund

\$10,000 to \$50,000 annually

Expendable, undesignated gifts play an important role in the growth of the Center. Contributions to the Director's Discretionary Fund make it possible to meet unexpected needs and opportunities, such as seed funding for faculty projects, sponsorship of conferences highlighting the Center's scholarship, collaboration with departments and schools across campus, and recruiting premier faculty. Your gift of any size will have a direct impact on the lives of students and faculty.

WAYS TO FUND YOUR GIFT

Your gifts of cash, pledges, or appreciated securities change lives. Wills, estate, and planned gifts allow you to create a lasting legacy that will enable the best and brightest minds to experience a liberal arts education, solve problems in a changing world, and yield ideas and innovations that will make a difference in Michigan and around the globe.

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