ASSOCIATION FOR JEWISH STUDIES

40 Years
of Support
for Jewish
Studies
Teaching
and
Scholarship

Curated by Kristen Loveland

THE FOUNDING COLLOQUIUM

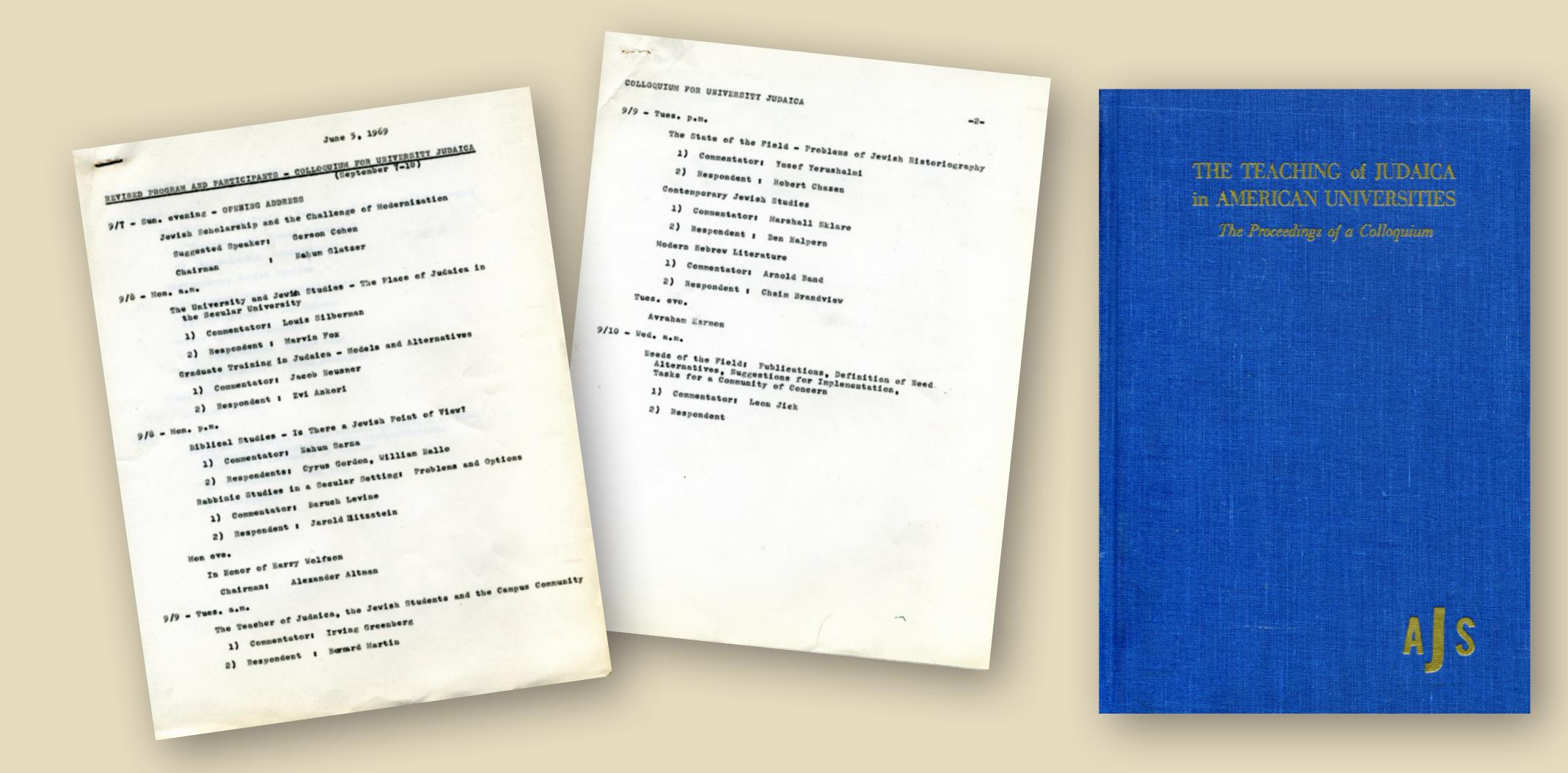


Above: "Location of Colleges and Universities with Judaic Studies, Before and After 1945" from Arnold Band, "Jewish Studies in American Liberal-Arts Colleges and Universities," *American Jewish Yearbook* 67, 1966. **Right:** Participants in the Colloquium for University Judaica, organized by Leon Jick and held at Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts, September 7 – 10, 1969.

Would Zunz, Steinschneider, or even Graetz have believed that in 1969 some fifty professors of Judaica, to a considerable degree American-born and trained, would gather at a major American university established by Jews to consider the status of their profession? Our presence at the conference is one among many, but by no means the most trivial of testimonials belying Zunz's pessimistic prognosis of 1818."

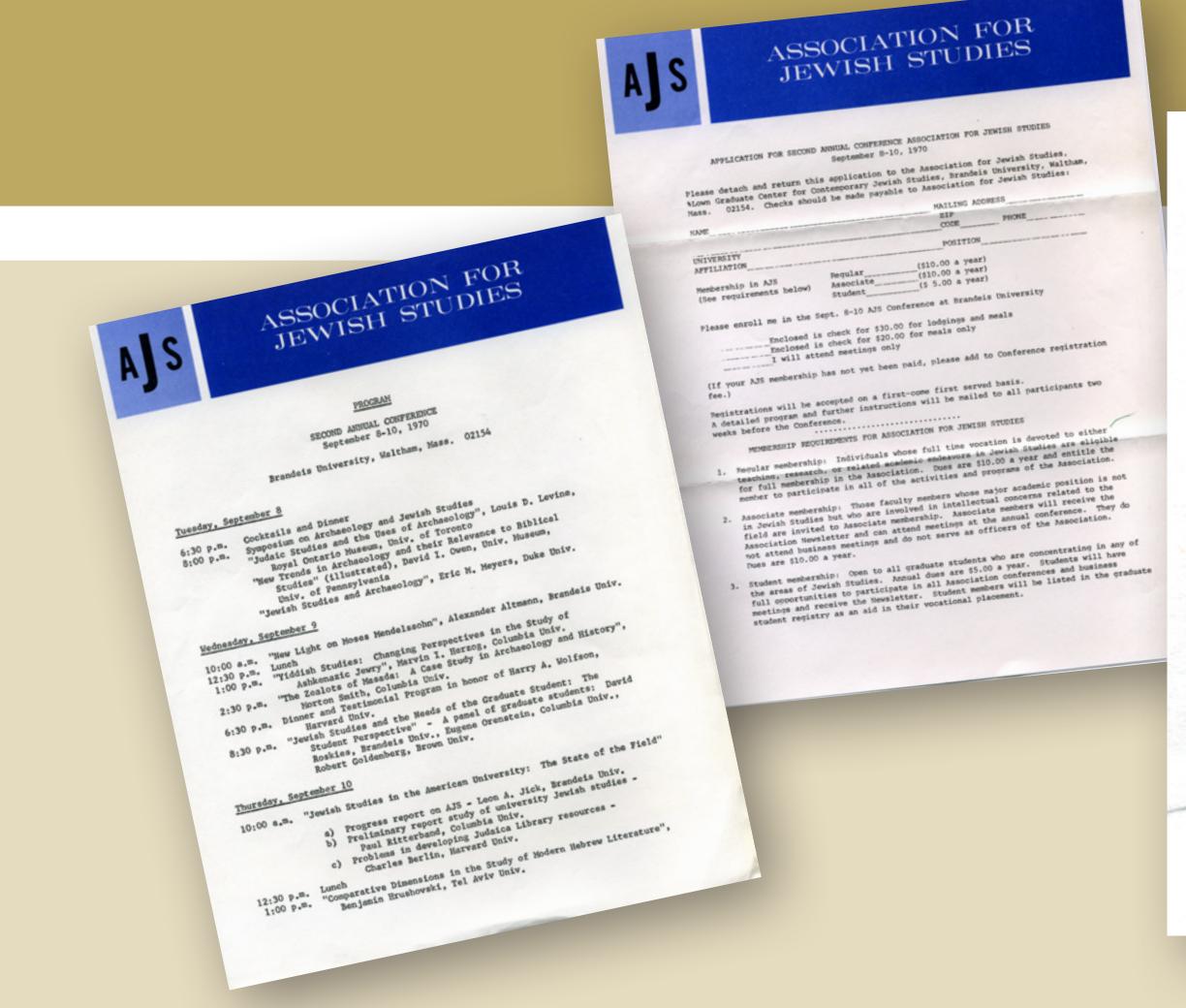
— Leon Jick

"Introduction," AJS Newsletter, 1989

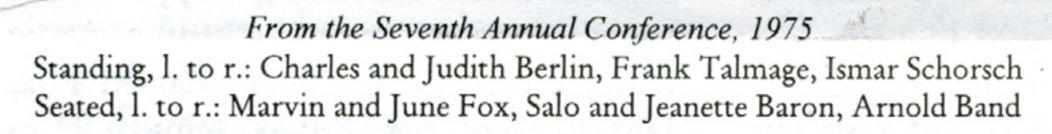


Above Left and Center: A draft of the program for the Colloquium for University Judaica held at Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts, September 7 – 10, 1969. At this meeting, "the need for ongoing communication was deeply felt by all of the participants who decided to proceed with the establishment of the Association for Jewish Studies" (Leon Jick, "Introduction," *The Teaching of Judaica in American Universities*, p.4). **Above Right:** *The Teaching of Judaica in American Universities: The Proceedings of a Colloquium*, ed. Leon Jick (New York: Ktav Publishing House, Inc., 1970).

THE EARLY YEARS:
EXPANSION
AND THE
ESTABLISHMENT
OF STANDARDS







From Left to Right: (1) Program from the Second Annual Conference, Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts, September 8 — 10, 1970. (2) Application for Second Annual Conference Association for Jewish Studies, September 8 — 10, 1970. (3) Photo from the Seventh Annual Conference, Copley Plaza Hotel, Boston,

Massachusetts, December 21 – 23, 1975, at which Salo Baron was honored. (4) Letter dated June 14, 1971 asking Isadore Twersky to present a paper at the Fourth Annual Conference. (5) Memorandum on the Conference Program from Lou H. Silberman with suggestions for the Third Annual Conference, 1971.

The night before the annual conference we would meet in Charlie's house, sometimes I would sleep on the couch there, and there was Nahum Sarna and Michael Meyer and Marvin Fox and one or two others, and it was a small group. It was like a club that was trying to break out of being a club to be a national organization, but it takes time."

— Arnold Band Interview, 2008



Photos of banquet attendees at the Eighth Annual Conference, Copley Plaza Hotel, Boston, Massachusetts, December 19 – 21, 1976. **Bottom Photo:** June Fox (left), Marvin Fox (center), Alexander Altmann (guest of bonor, right)



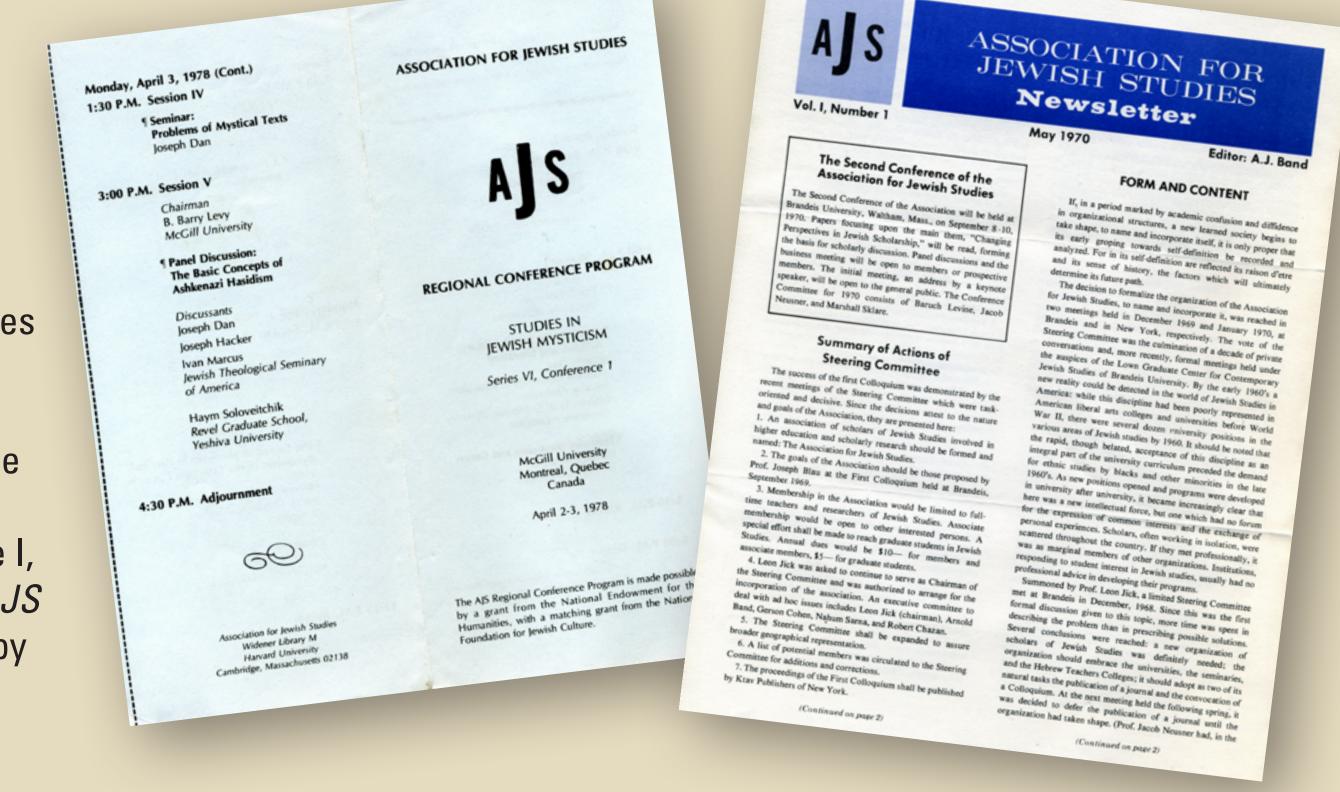
List of attendees at the Third Annual Conference, Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts, September 7 – 9, 1971



Scenes from the Sixth Annual Conference, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, October 27 – 28, 1974.

Right: AJS Regional
Conference Program,
McGill University, Montreal,
Quebec, April 2 – 3, 1978. The
conference was part of a series
of regional conferences held
across North America in the
1970s through funding from the
National Endowment for the
Humanities. Far Right: Volume I,
Number 1 (May 1970) of the AJS
Newsletter, edited until 1984 by

Arnold Band.

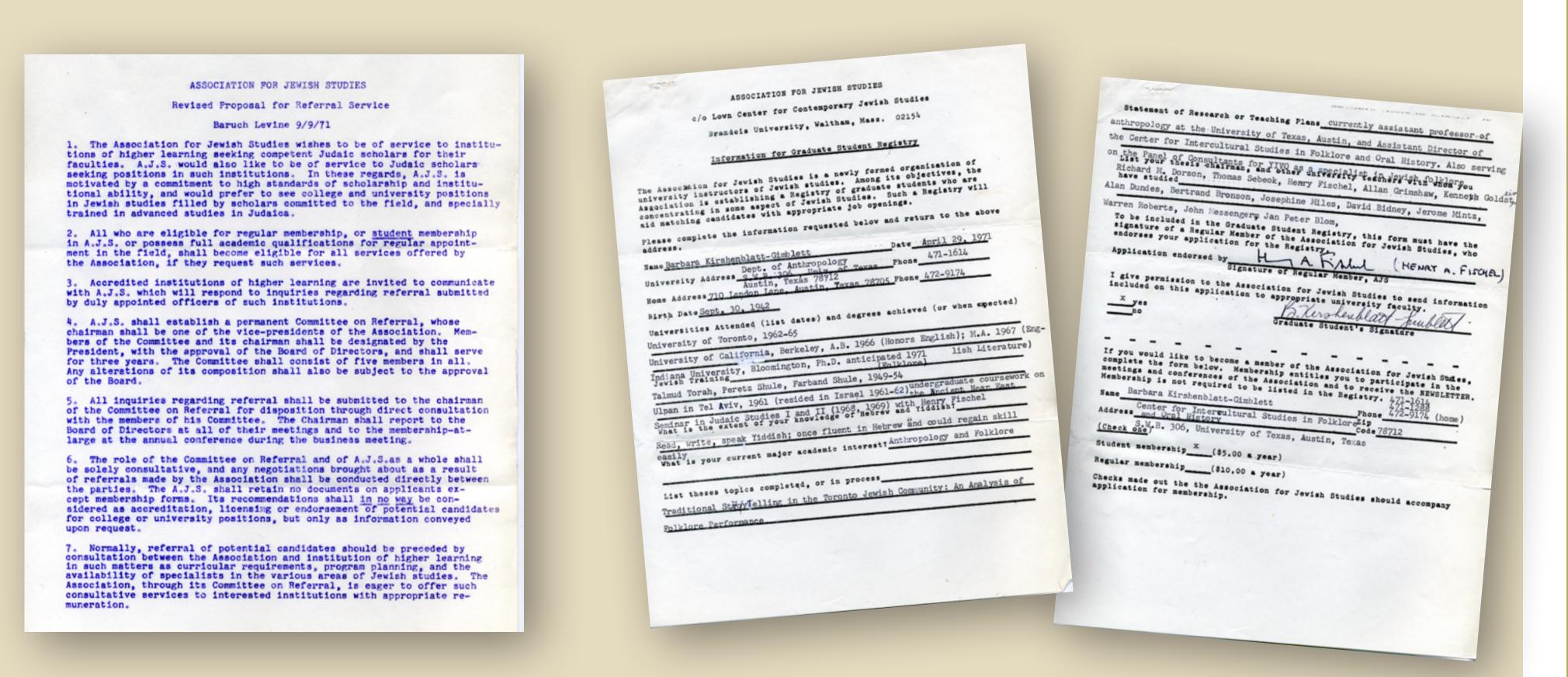




A *bencher* printed for the Fifteenth Annual Conference, Copley Plaza Hotel, Boston, Massachusetts, December 18 – 20, 1983.

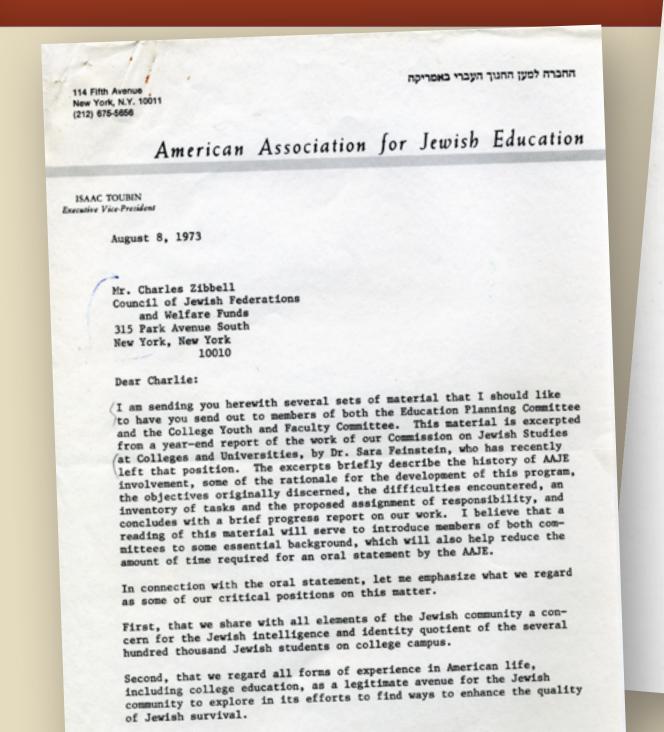


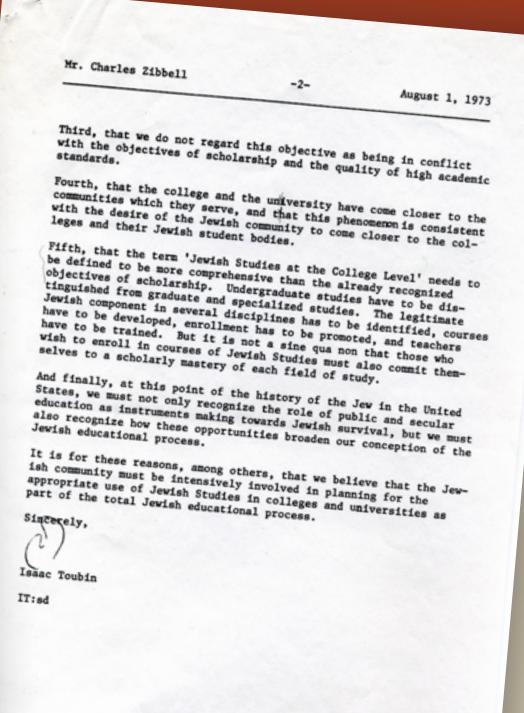
Participants at the Fourth Annual Conference, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, November 12 – 14, 1972. **Above Right Photo:** The speaker is Daniel Elazar.



Above Left: Baruch Levine, "Revised Proposal for Referral Service," outlining the purpose and format of what would become the AJS Placement Service. **Above Center and Right:** Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett's Graduate Student Registry form, submitted while she was a doctoral student at the University of Texas at Austin, April 29, 1971. Graduate students used these forms to register with the AJS Placement Service, which aimed to "aid [in] matching candidates with appropriate job openings." The service operated until 1980 when it was replaced by a published positions bulletin.

THE AJS AND THE JEWISH COMMUNITY





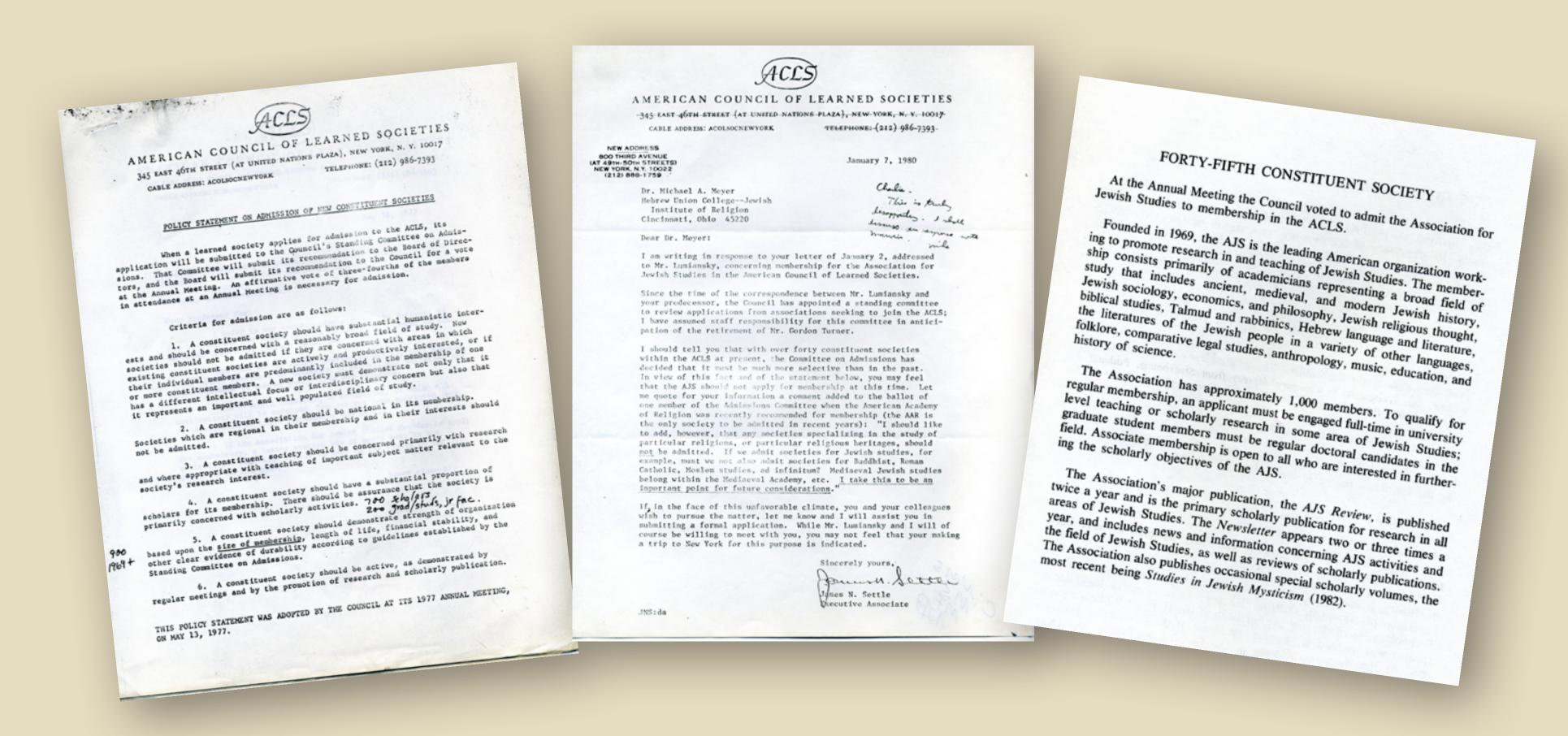
American Association for Jewish Education (AAJE), to Charles Zibbell, Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, August 8, 1973. The letter argues for Jewish community involvement in academic Jewish studies. Above: Letter from Marvin Fox to Arnold Band, President of the AJS, laying out a rationale for how the AJS should respond to the AAJE's efforts to influence Jewish studies on the campus, March 21, 1973.

As a Jew who is devoted to his tradition and people, I allow myself to hope that Jewish students studying with my colleagues and myself will be helped by their Jewish studies to a deeper and more effective personal Jewish life and commitment. As a professor,

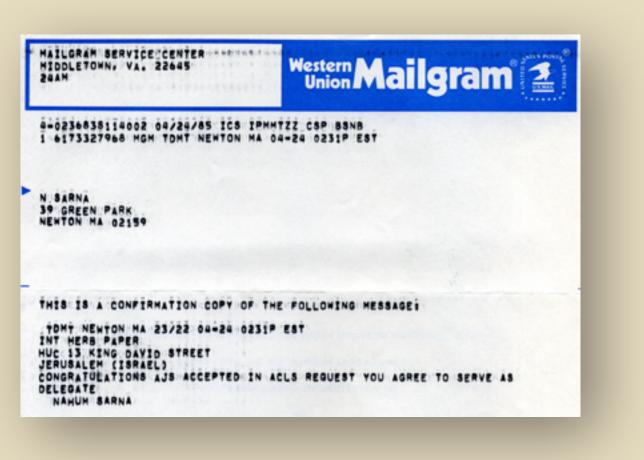
I can give no consideration to that objective, since my task is to provide students with the tools, methods, and tentative conclusions of learning in my field, but not to save their souls." – Marvin Fox

Letter to Phillip Klutznick, October 22, 1971

THE LEGITIMATION OF JEWISH STUDIES IN AMERICA



Above Left: 1977 Policy Statement of the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) on criteria for new members. Above Center: Letter from Jason Settle, Executive Associate of the ACLS, to Michael Meyer, President of the AJS, advising the AJS against applying for membership to the ACLS that year, January 7, 1980. Above Right: ACLS notice on the admittance of the Association for Jewish Studies as its 45th Constituent Society, ACLS Newsletter, 26 (1985).



Above: Telegram from Nahum Sarna, President of the AJS, to Herbert Paper asking Paper to act as ACLS delegate, April 24, 1985. Right: Letter from Herbert Paper to Charles Berlin, expressing his congratulations upon ACLS acceptance,

April 30, 1985.

היברו יוניון קולג'-מכון למדעי היהדות, ירושלים April 30, 1985 Just yesterday I downed off a short note to Nahum Sarua expressing my heartrist 216 PGN to him on the ACLS vote. Even before I read the toxt of his cable to me, I know what it said. It really made my day. Now I cannot let more time passe without congratulating you and all of ris - in carrying through this fine effort. It is really a noble moment for the AUS and I will be proved to be its delegate to the annual Acis meetings. Up until this you I performed that furthing the American Oriental Society for some eight yours.

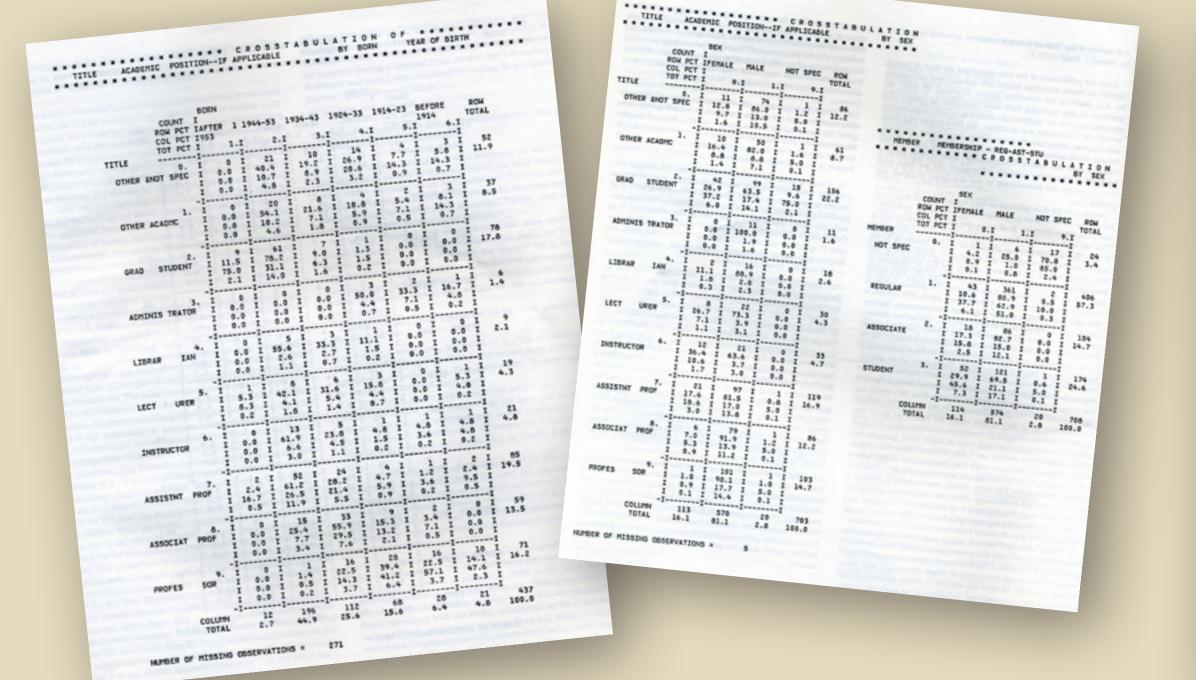
THE GROWTH OF THE FIELD AND THE AJS



Remarkably for its size and scope, AJS at forty maintains a strong sense of community. Although membership has grown from a few hundred to more than seventeen hundred, we have managed to retain the feel of a small organization—familiarity, hominess, friendliness, ease of meeting.

- Sara Horowitz, 2008 "From the President," AJS Perspectives, Fall 2008

Above Left: Editorial in the September 1979 issue of *AJS Newsletter* commenting on Israel-Diaspora relations and the field of Jewish studies. Above Right: Sixth Annual Conference Program, Copley Plaza Hotel, Boston, Massachusetts, October 27 - 28, 1974, with a total of nine sessions.



Voic	e from the Margin	is:
Wome	en and Jewish Stud	lies
	Susan E. Shapiro Syracuse University	
The Association for Jewish Studies Women's Caucus came into being in 1886 as as result of a conversation imong a number of women, during shich we remarked on the different tatus and treatment of women in the ledd, as well as at the meetings, of the American Academy of Religion as opposed to that of the Association for ewish Soudies. Ellen Umansky and I esolved to inaugurate a Women's Caucus for the AJS such as the one in the AAR (and virtually every other teademic professional organization). We arranged for a space and made igns announcing the formation of the Caucus at the Annual Meeting in leotton that year, and the wast majority of women present enthusiastically appeared at the appropriate time with a ense of arrival. The time was clearly ippe-indeed, some would say overripe-or the formation of an organization hat would: 1) foster the professional attast of women (even as it provided a support group for women scholars) in ewish Studies; as well as 2] encourage and publicly make a place for the study of women and issues of gender in udaism. Over the next few years, the Caucus prew in both size and effectiveness, in arge measure because it was (and still as significant support by some on the ledicated work of its members as well as significant support by some on the US Board. Ellen Umansky and I served as co-chairs from 1980-1989 when udith Baskin joined me as co-chair. Ne have a steering committee of eight numbers that meets periodically to liscuss issues and problems and make eccessary decisions. Most of the major lecision-making of the Caucus, owever, is done at the annual meeting	itself by all those present. The annual meeting of the Caucus is a breakfast meeting at which reports of the last year and plans for the next are discussed. It is also, importantly, a time for women at various stages in their professional development and at very different kinds of institutions to meet and get to know one another, both personally and professionally. There is time as well reserved for a presentation /discussion on some profession aspect of the field with respect to women. One year, for example, three women of different generations and stages in their careers (Marsha Rozenblit, Paula Hyman, and Judith Romney Wegner) spoke about their experiences and how they thought the field has and has not changed in regard to the training of women (e.g., the issues of mentoring, inclusive subject matters, new methodologies) as well as the progress of their teaching and research careers. Last year, the Caucus discussed the issues of gender-inclusive teaching and curricula and how we had struggled with these matters. Minutes of the annual Caucus meeting, membership lists, and announcements of relevant upcoming events, conferences and forthcoming journals, periodiculas, and books are sent to Caucus members. The Caucus is building an archive of gender-inclusive syllabi and curricula to which all AJS members are invited to submit material. Plans for a registry of women in the field are also underway. 1. Women who wish to join the Caucus—15.00 for guidaunt students, 510.00 for professors—and those whiching to submit syllabi and curricula, may centact. Professor Judith Baskin, Chair, Department of Judith Baskin, Chair, Departme	In the last several years, there have been a significant number of sessions and papers on women and gender in Judaism at the Annual Meeting, in part because so many were proposed, but also because, under the chairmanship of Robert Seltzer, the program committee accepted them. (I can't help but note here that the success of the last few years should not be taken for granted; people should continue to propose sessions, panels and papers about women and/or gender.) The intellectual and professional marginalization of women in and from the field—a marginalization that had been palpable for women, both in their scholarly training and at the AJS meetings before the formation of the Caucus—has begun to diminish as the number of sessions and papers devoted to matters of women and gender in Judaism have grown. When the seed of the third west-petions, this emergence into the field has been very positively received, a fact that does credit to the AJS membership generally and to the women and men who have been instrumental in this development. The Caucus has, thus, been successful in augmenting the professional status of women in Jewish Studies, but still has a long way to go. The Caucus was also formed to foster scholarship about women and gender in the field mostly, but certainly not all, as a result of women writing on the subject. As a recent article in Lalich? attests, there is exciting new work on women and

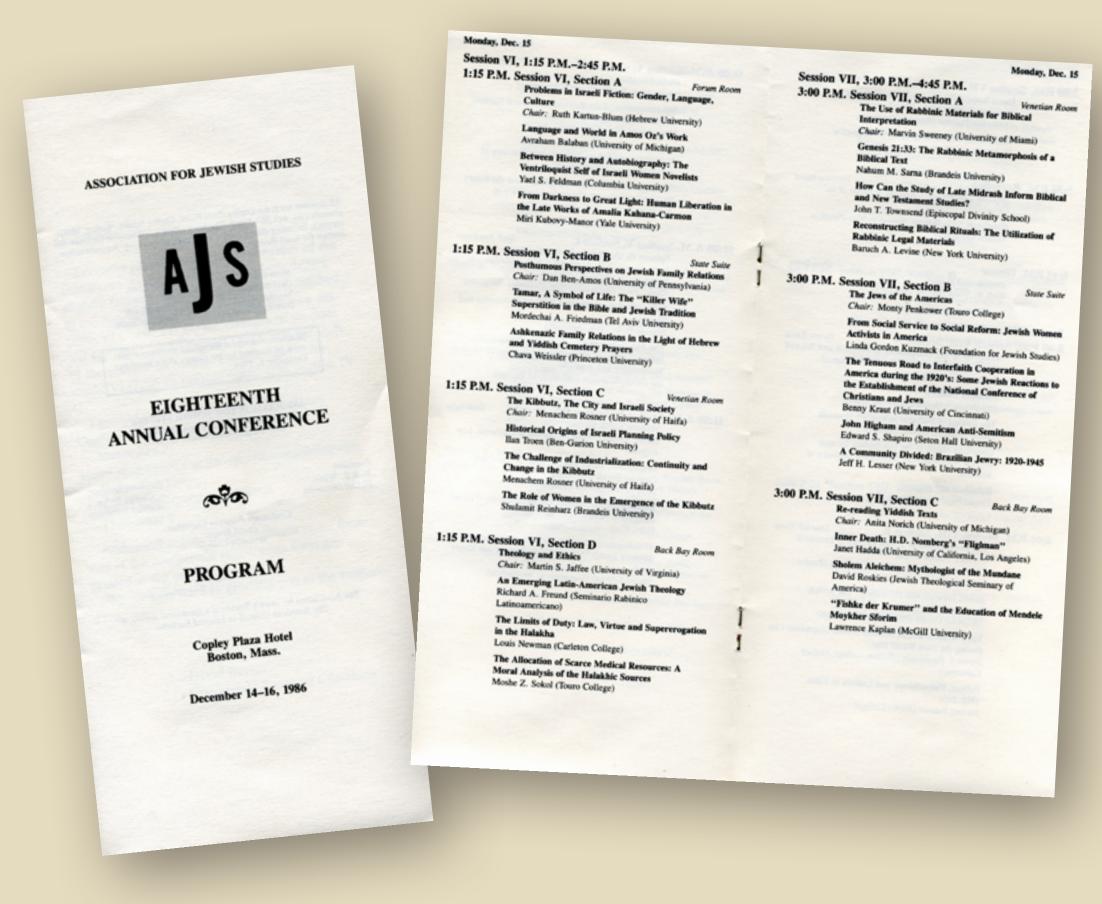
ASSOCIATION FOR JEWISH STUDIN

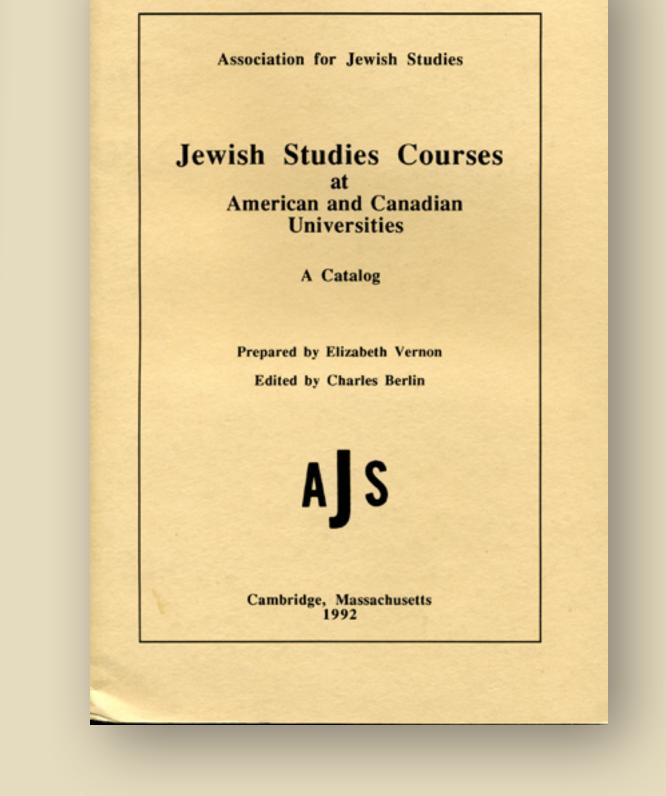
AS NEWSLETTER

Above Left and Center: AJS member data broken down by date of birth and gender. From Arnold Band, "AJS Survey of the Field of Jewish Studies," AJS Newsletter, 24 (1979). Above Right: Article on the AJS Women's Caucus, Susan E. Shapiro, "Voice from the Margins: Women and Jewish Studies," AJS Newsletter 4 (1990).



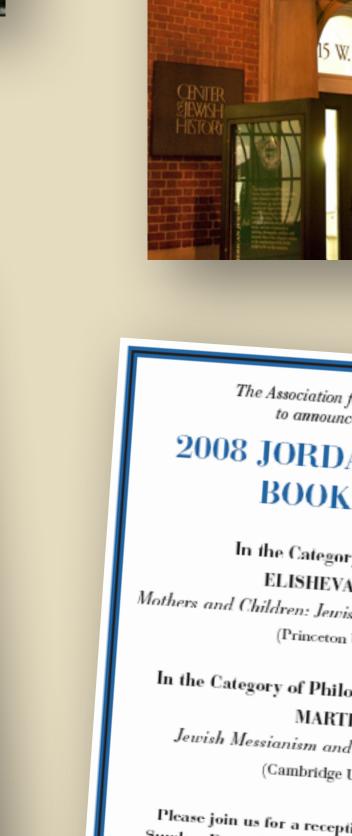
Photos from the Eleventh Annual Conference, Copley Plaza Hotel, Boston, Massachusetts, December 16 – 18, 1979. Center Photo: Stanley Chyet (left), Jacob Rader Marcus (guest of honor, center), Michael A. Meyer (right).





Above Left and Center: Eighteenth Annual Conference Program, Copley Plaza Hotel, Boston, Massachusetts, December 14 – 16, 1986, with a total of 38 sessions. Above Right: Catalogue listing over 4,000 Jewish studies courses at Canadian and American universities, published by the AJS in 1992.





In the Category of Gender Studies: In the Category of Philosophy and Jewish Thought

Clockwise from Top Left: (1) Photo of Aaron Katchen, Executive Director 1995 – 2003, and Rona Sheramy, Executive Director 2003 – present, from AJS Perspectives (Fall/Winter 2003). (2) The Center for Jewish History, to which the AJS moved its offices in 2003. (3) Announcement of the winners of the First Annual Jordan Schnitzer Book Awards, 2008. (4) Announcements of the winners of the 2008 Cahnman Publication Subvention Grants, a program initiated in 2007.

As scholars in the field of Jewish Studies, we continue to encourage actively the study of Jewish history, societies, and intellectual and cultural achievements within the general liberal arts curriculum. We must also further recognition of the diversity of the Jewish experience... Acknowledgement and appreciation of our wealth of differences—geographic, ethnic, religious and social, including the ramifications of class and gender—must become the accepted starting points of our scholarship and training. The Women's Caucus of the [AJS] is excited by these new directions in our academic fields of research and endeavor.

> — Judith Baskin "Report from the AJS Women's Caucus," AJS Newsletter, Spring 1992

NEWSLETTER/ PERSPECTIVES OVER THE YEARS





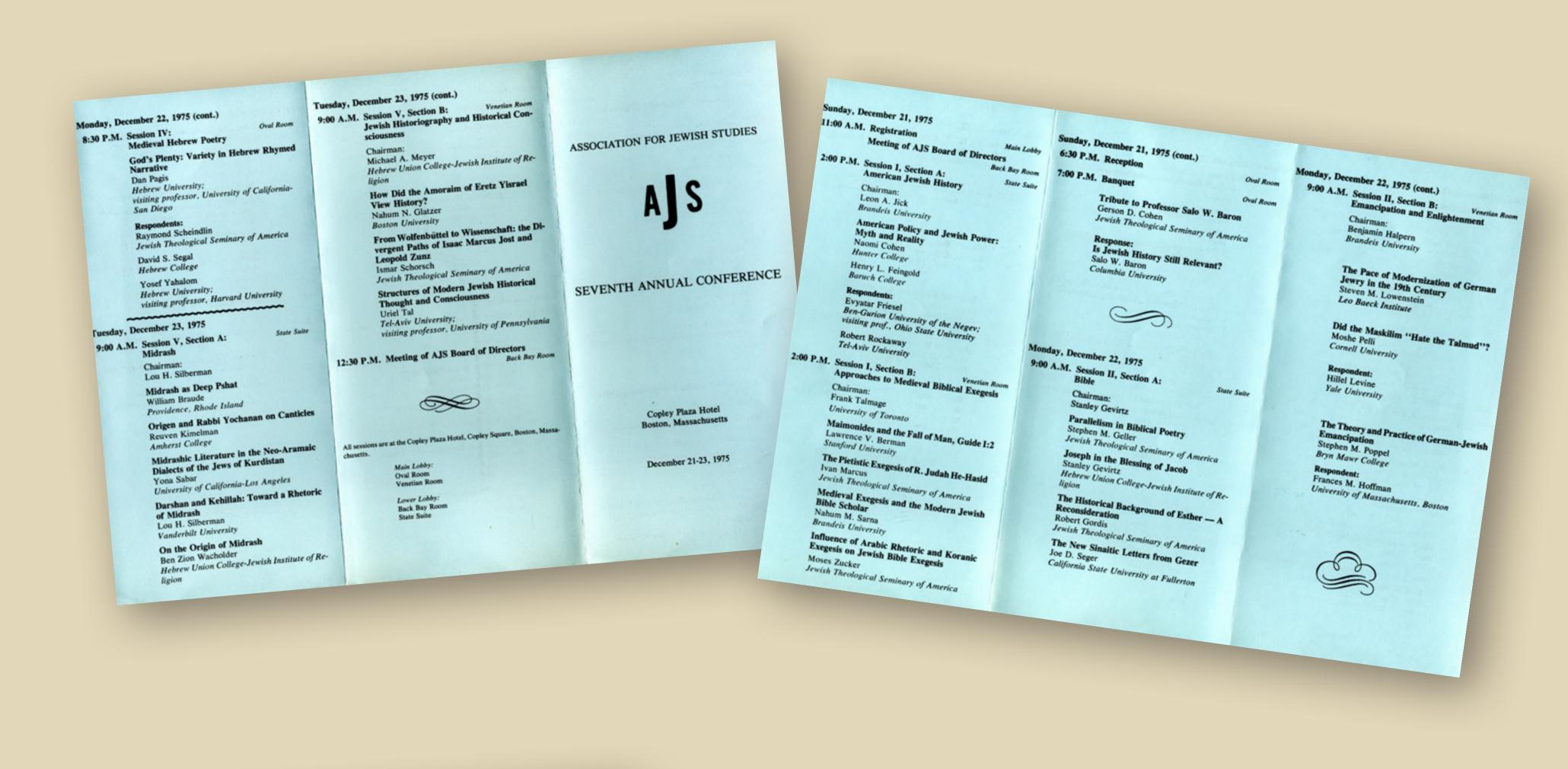
How to chart the middle ground between a mechanical professionalism and a warm, but inevitably exclusionary landsmanschaft-like existence will figure presumably among the tasks of [the AJS's] future leadership, and to the extent to which there will be public voice given to these struggles—and, if confronted directly, struggles they almost certainly must be—one would like to believe that they will be found, in ample supply, in the pages of it periodicals.

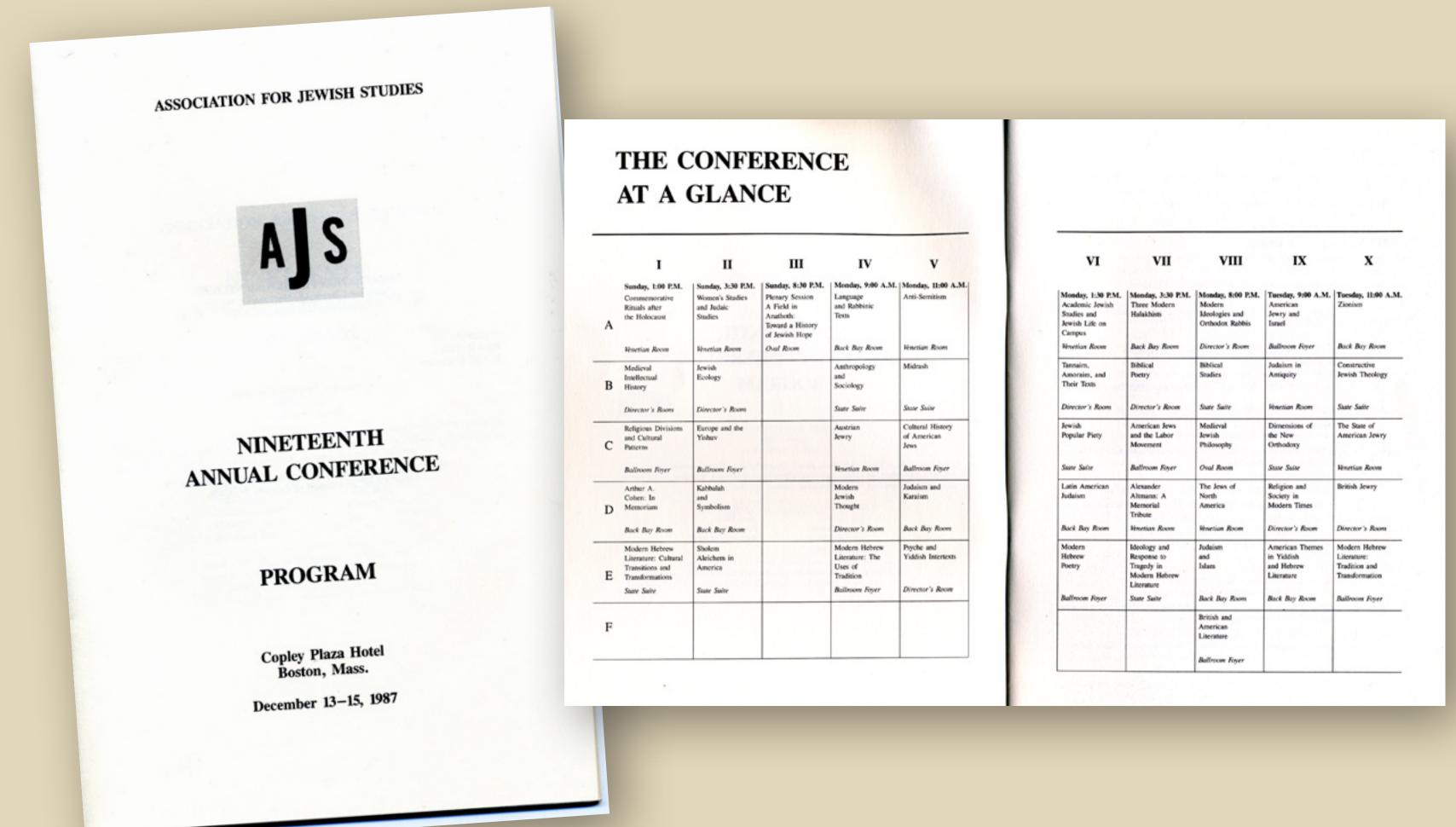
> - Steven Zipperstein "AJS and Its Publications," AJS Perspectives, Spring 2006

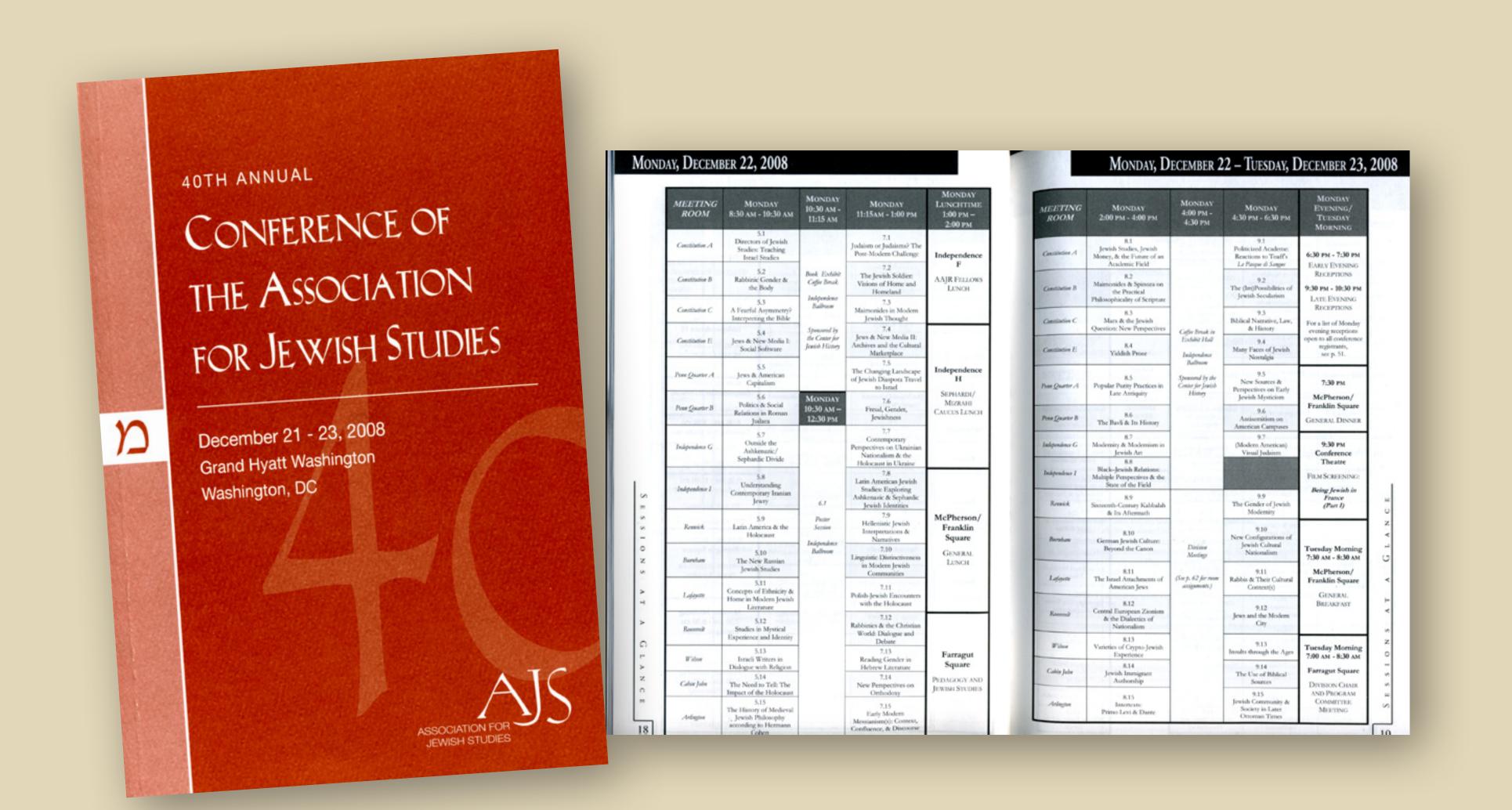
AJS REVIEW OVER THE YEARS



AJS CONFERENCE PROGRAMOVER THE YEARS









ASSOCIATION FOR JEWISH STUDIES

AJS Presidents:

Leon Jick, 1969 - 1971 Baruch Levine, 1972 Arnold Band, 1973 - 1975 Marvin Fox, 1976 - 1978 Michael Meyer, 1979 - 1980 Jane Gerber, 1981 - 1983 Nahum Sarna, 1984 - 1985 Ruth Wisse, 1986 - 1988 Robert Chazan, 1989 - 1991 Herbert Paper, 1992 - 1994 Robert Seltzer, 1995 - 1997 David Berger, 1998 - 2000 Lawrence Schiffman, 2000 - 2003 **Judith Baskin, 2003 - 2006** Sara Horowitz, 2006 -

AJS Review Editors:

Frank Talmage, 1976 - 1983 Robert Chazan, 1984 - 1989 Norman Stillman, 1990 - 1999 Jay Harris, 2000 - 2004 Hillel Kieval and Martin Jaffee, 2004 - 2008 Elisheva Carlebach and Robert Goldenberg, 2008 -

AJS Newsletter/Perspectives Editors:

Arnold Band, 1970 - 1984 Collaborative Effort, 1986 Marsha Rozenblit, 1988 - 1990 Howard Adelman and Lawrence Fine, 1992 Collaborative Effort, 1994 Bernard Cooperman, 1995 Steven Fine, 1999 - 2002 Riv-Ellen Prell, 2003 - 2006 Allan Arkush, 2006 -

Conference Program Chairs:

Collaborative Effort, 1969 - 1975 Jane Gerber, 1976 - 1978 David Blumenthal, 1979 - 1980 Steven Katz, 1981 - 1983 Ruth Wisse, 1984 - 1985 David Berger, 1986-1987 Robert Seltzer, 1988-1989 Rela Geffen, 1990-1992 Bernard Dov Cooperman, 1993-1994 Lawrence Schiffman, 1995-1997 Jay Harris 1998-1999 Judith Baskin 2000-2003 Sara Horowitz, 2004-2006 Marsha Rozenblit, 2007-present

AJS Executive Secretaries/Directors:

Bernard Reisman, 1970 - 1971 Michael Fishbane, 1972 **Charles Berlin, 1973 - 1995** Aaron Katchen, 1995 - 2003 Rona Sheramy, 2003 -