



THE VISION

Although courses in Hebrew and biblical studies have been offered by the University of Michigan for well over a century, it was in 1976 that Judaic Studies became an independent program. 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. Today, the Jean and Samuel Frankel Center for Judaic Studies is one of the nation's premier institutions devoted to teaching and research in Judaica, offering a rich interdisciplinary approach to the study of Jewish civilization and thought. With the generous support of donors, the Center continues to expand its programs and events.

THE VALUE

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

THE DIFFERENCE

With the goal of building its programs and enhancing its record of accomplishment, the Center for Judaic Studies seeks endowment support for the following positions and projects:

Professorship in Contemporary Judaic Studies **\$2 million endowed**

Contemporary Jewish life is an area of compelling interest to students. The holder of this professorship will significantly enrich the current course offerings by offering classes on topics such as women in contemporary Jewish life, the ethnography of World Jewry, the demography and sociology of world Jewish communities, and Jewish identities in the modern world. An endowed professorship, established with a gift of \$2 million, would enable the Center to seek out a world-acclaimed sociologist, anthropologist, political scientist, or psychologist to fill this position.

Professorship in Sephardic Studies **\$2 million endowed**

Although rarely articulated, much of modern Jewish Studies in the United States focuses on the history and culture of Ashkenazi Jews, usually understood as European, American, and Israeli. Sephardi Jews, most visible in Mediterranean and Arab lands where they were often a majority, also lived as a minority among Ashkenazi Jews in Europe, the United States, and Israel. Studying Sephardi Jewish history and culture introduces questions of difference among Jews, another Jewish language (Ladino), and perspectives regarding minority and majority contact and conflict. An endowment of \$2 million would bring a professor knowledgeable in an aspect of Sephardic Studies to initiate the types of conversations that enrich and expand Jewish studies beyond established narratives.

LSA | FRANKEL CENTER FOR JUDAIC STUDIES

CONTACT INFO

LSA Development,
Marketing & Communications
College of LSA
500 South State Street, Ste 5000
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-1382
P.734.615.6333
F.734.647.3061
www.lsa.umich.edu

Yiddish Lecturership

\$1 million endowment

The University of Michigan has become a 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 training for undergraduate and graduate students is critical to their studies and will enable the rise of a new generation of scholars. A \$1 million endowment would secure a position of Yiddish lecturer in perpetuity.

Doctoral Fellowships

\$800,000 each

Graduate study in Judaica requires the mastery of several languages, travel to distant archives and libraries, and an average of six to seven years of intense work. Fellowships are essential if the Center is to attract the most promising graduate students - men and women who will one day become the scholars, teachers, and leaders of the 21st century. Each fellowship will cover tuition, health care, and basic living expenses for a period of one year. An endowed gift of \$800,000 will establish one graduate fellowship in perpetuity.

Exhibit Endowment

\$300,000

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. An endowment of \$300,000 would allow the Center to present one exhibit each year that would draw upon the expertise and interests of students and faculty, as did the 2006 acclaimed exhibit of photographs by Piotr Piluk, "Traces of a Jewish Presence in Poland."

Artist-in-Residence Program

\$250,000

This program would enhance the educational experience by enabling undergraduate and graduate students in Hebrew and modern Jewish studies to work on campus with a distinguished Jewish novelist, poet, essayist, playwright, artist, musician, or photographer from Israel, the United States, or other parts of the globe. An endowed gift of \$250,000 would establish a permanent Artist-in-Residence Program, enabling the Center to sponsor a short-term campus residency each year.

Summer Funding for Students

\$100,000

Research projects and language studies in the United States or abroad are essential to students working on a senior honor thesis or graduate dissertation. This endowment will enrich the student's educational experience by making the summer a time of valuable study. A \$100,000 gift will allow the Center to give promising students the funds to assist in their research.

Library Acquisitions Fund

\$100,000

To promote excellence in scholarship, it is vital to strengthen the Judaica collection in the University Library. The income from a Library Acquisitions Fund would allow the UM to purchase books (especially rare and out-of-print volumes) as well as journals, microfiches and microfilms, and electronic resources not covered by regularly budgeted funds. An endowed gift of \$100,000 will provide permanent support for yearly library acquisitions.

Undergraduate Tuition Support

\$50,000

Currently, students who are pursuing a Judaic Studies concentration and a teaching certificate in order to teach Judaica subjects in elementary and secondary schools must spend a fifth year at UM in order to complete both the Education and Judaic Studies requirements. For many, this poses a severe financial hardship. A gift of \$50,000 will endow a permanent Undergraduate Tuition Assistance Fund, providing tuition assistance for one student each year.