

# 2020 HIGHLIGHTS

## Supporting the AJS Community



Amidst all of 2020's unexpected moments, the AJS has worked to support our members as we face ongoing challenges together. Here are just some of the ways your donations help fellow members.

### Professional Development

Supporting the AJS community with new and expanded professional development opportunities has been a major initiative of our new strategic plan, with an emphasis on support for early-career scholars, contingent faculty, and individuals from underrepresented communities. In addition to issues of *AJS News* on "Career Diversity in Jewish Studies" and "The Contingent Faculty Issue," we've offered:

**JOB SEARCH SUPPORT** through free career consulting services via a partnership with **The Professor Is In**, as well as making the online **AJS Jobs Board** free to everyone, including non-members.

**MENTORSHIP & EARLY CAREER DEVELOPMENT OFFERINGS** through the expansion of the **AJS Conference Mentorship Program** into a year-long program for early-career scholars and contingent faculty, the **AJS Dissertation Completion Fellowship Program**, and the return this year of the **Paula Hyman Mentorship Program**.

**SKILLS DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES** through a partnership with **The OpEd Project** and the **Summer Writing Group for Womxn, Transmen, and Non-Binary Scholars** led by AJS VP for Publications **Laura Leibman**.



The financial stability offered allowed me to spend the year focused on writing and revising my dissertation, and there is no question in my mind that this was essential in the successful and timely completion of my program, especially during this time of crisis. Beyond that, the camaraderie of my cohort of recipients and our faculty mentors also meant so much to me, helping me find my place in the field of Jewish Studies, and supporting me in concrete goals and areas of growth for my scholarship and professional work.

**NOAM SIENNA**, AJS Dissertation Completion Fellow



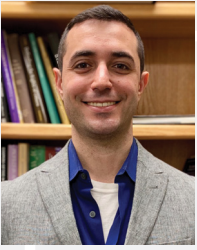
The sense of shared community and support the program fosters continue to be invaluable assets in my career development and trajectory."

**LAURA LIMONIC**, Paula Hyman Mentorship Program Participant



The summer writing program has had 2 component parts—the large group conversations and small breakout groups. The large group conversations have been very helpful for keeping on track with projects, but in this most difficult summer, the small group has provided really sustaining community.

**SAMIRA K. MEHTA**, Summer Writing Group for Womxn, Transmen & Non-Binary Scholars participant



The **OpEd Project** is just what scholars need to join national dialogues on Jewishness and anti-Semitism. This program helps scholars translate their deep expertise into clear, usable insights that will cut through today's noisy media environment.

**JONATHAN BRANFMAN,**  
The OpEd Project Participant



The **AJS Arts & Culture Grant** enabled me to organize a special event: Passover Around the World, a Multimedia Concert. This event brought together musicians and academics to demonstrate diverse linguistic, culinary, and musical traditions surrounding Passover, and it ended up serving as the launch for my new initiative, the HUC-JIR Jewish Language Project."

**SARAH BUNIN BENOR,**  
Arts & Culture Grant Recipient

## Engaging the Public

The **Adventures in Jewish Studies** podcast series has been heard by thousands of listeners worldwide and will launch Season 3 this fall. We are also increasing accessibility of the podcast by offering episode transcripts. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are also offering the option of hosting **Distinguished Lectureship Program events** virtually, allowing us to reach a larger and more global audience. In addition, we've awarded three **Arts & Culture Community Grants** for events around the US between Jewish Studies Departments and community organizations.

## Facing Challenges Together

As we collectively pivoted this year to dealing with the pandemic, we are providing support to our members to ensure that the quality of the member experience remains paramount. We've moved the 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference online, and are offering thousands of dollars in registration subventions to enable the participation of as many members as possible, in addition to offering childcare grants. The AJS Executive Committee has also worked to support Jewish Studies Scholars in the broader community, lending our support to higher education faculty, protesting student visa changes, and promoting racial justice and equality.

# Support the Work of the AJS



We're **50%** of our way to our annual fund goal of **\$40,000.**

We need your help as well to continue our work in supporting Jewish Studies scholars and scholarship in these challenging times. Donations of any amount are greatly appreciated and tax-deductible.

**Give today at [associationforjewishstudies.org/donate](https://associationforjewishstudies.org/donate)**