The Year

in Social Research

on Jews & Jewish Life:

2012
**Introduction**

In cooperation with the Jewish Journal of Sociology, our good friends in the UK, we are pleased to present this review of the year of Jewish social research: 2012. Included are the 68 pieces of empirical research (both quantitative and qualitative) that appeared in the 2012 calendar year and that also are included in the Berman Jewish Policy Archive @ NYU Wagner.

While most of these pieces of research derive from the United States, we also include research conducted in the UK, Israel, the Former Soviet Union, Sweden, and elsewhere. The wide breadth of research embraces public opinion research, evaluation research, basic research, policy analyses, institutional reports, Ph.D. dissertations, Master’s theses, and Jewish population studies (including the New York study that I do commend to your attention).

In reviewing the full sweep of these studies, I was struck not only by the prodigious thought and creativity that went into producing this impressive literature, but also the diversity of topics, approaches, and researchers. Using terminology drawn from the Michelin travel guides, the list is definitely worth a stop, many of the abstracts are worth a detour, and I’m sure you’ll find some of the full studies worth a trip.

And, of course, your comments and additional contributions are invited. Should we have missed any research published in 2012, please do send it along.

Happy reading, happy thinking,

**Prof. Steven M. Cohen**
Director, Berman Jewish Policy Archive @ NYU Wagner
Research Professor, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion

*Please note: all publications listed here, and their full bibliographic information, are available via bjpa.org, by following the links provided with each listing.*
The Jewish Journal of Sociology was sponsored by the Cultural Department of the World Jewish Congress from its inception in 1959 until the end of 1980. Thereafter, from the first issue of 1981 (volume 23, no. 1), the Journal has been sponsored by Maurice Freedman Research Trust Limited, which is registered as an educational charity by the Charity Commission of England and Wales (no. 326077). It has as its main purpose the encouragement of research in the sociology of the Jews and the publication of The Jewish Journal of Sociology. The objects of the Journal remain as stated in the Editorial of the first issue in 1959:

‘This Journal has been brought into being in order to provide an international vehicle for serious writing on Jewish social affairs. Academically we address ourselves not only to sociologists, but to social scientists in general, to historians, to philosophers, and to students of comparative religion.

We should like to stress both that the Journal is editorially independent and that the opinions expressed by authors are their own responsibility.’

The founding Editor of the JJ Soc was Morris Ginsberg, and the founding Managing Editor was Maurice Freedman. Morris Ginsberg, who had been Professor of Sociology at the London School of Economics, died in 1970. Maurice Freedman, who had been Professor of Social Anthropology at The London School of Economics and later at the University of Oxford, succeeded to the title of Editor in 1971, when Dr. Judith Freedman (who had been Assistant Editor since 1963) became Managing Editor. Maurice Freedman died in 1975; from then until her death in December 2009 the Journal was edited by Dr. Judith Freedman. The 2010 and 2011 volumes were edited by Marlena Schmool and Geoffrey Alderman and the 2012 volume by Stanley Waterman. Keith Kahn-Harris is the current editor.
About the Berman Jewish Policy Archive

The Berman Jewish Policy Archive (BJPA) at NYU’s Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service is the central electronic address for Jewish communal policy. BJPA offers a vast collection of policy-relevant research and analysis on Jewish life to the public, free of charge, with holdings spanning from 1900 until today, atbjpa.org.

BJPA’s powerful search functionality allows students, researchers, educators, professionals, and others to access the most relevant content with ease. Prominent within the archive is the entire collection of two journals: The Journal of Jewish Communal Service and Sh’ma: a Journal of Jewish Ideas. Many documents from the American Jewish Committee (AJC) are also archived, including materials from the American Jewish Year Book. BJPA hosts large collections of material by Charles Liebman (z”l), Daniel Elazar (z”l), and Leonard Fein (shlita).

BJPA produces monthly Reader’s Guides on topics such as Environmental Issues, Synagogues & Kehillot, Jewish Politics, the major Jewish denominations, and much more. Sign up for our mailing list atbjpa.org, and register for a free user account. Registration is not required to use the archive, but registered users can create a “Bookshelf” of BJPA materials to be saved and shared, or to gather bibliographical information easily. Registered users can also save customized search preferences, and upload documents for submission to the archive.

We further invite you to submit materials for inclusion on BJPA tobjpa.wagner@nyu.edu. Follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/bjparchive and on Facebook at facebook.com/bjparchive.
**American Jewish Committee (AJC)**

**2012 AJC Survey of American Jewish Opinion**

AJC's annual survey shows that President Obama would win a majority of the Jewish vote in a contest against Gov. Mitt Romney. Probed for the first time is the link between religious activity (based on frequency of synagogue attendance) and voting behavior. Among the 14 percent of American Jews who attend religious services one or more times per week, 52 percent would vote for Obama and 34 percent for Romney; 67 percent of those who never attend religious services – 31 percent of respondents – would vote for Obama, while 21 percent would vote for Romney.

**American Jewish Committee (AJC)**

**Colloquium Report: Are Young Committed American Jews Distancing From Israel?**

A report of the proceedings of an American Jewish Committee (AJC) colloquium on December 15, 2011, entitled "Are Young Committed American Jews Distancing From Israel?" This marked the second in a series of colloquia addressing the question of distancing from Israel among younger American Jews. Also included is a front page article on the colloquium that appeared in the New York Jewish Week as well as a background paper prepared for advance reading by colloquium participants.

**Bikkurim, Wellspring Consulting**

**From First Fruits to Abundant Harvest: Maximizing the Potential of Innovative Jewish Start-Ups**

Currently, the Jewish community offers very little support specifically geared toward post-start-up needs, nor are those needs broadly understood by funders, capacity builders, and even by the organizations themselves. This study focuses on those start-up and post-startup organizations, few in number but strong in transformative potential, that are poised to make a significant contribution to the Jewish community. It calls attention to the severe drop-off in communal support that occurs as start-ups grow into the post-start-up stage, when both budgets and potential for impact are greater.

**Board of Deputies of British Jews**

**Inspiring Women Leaders: Advancing Gender Equality in Jewish Communal Life - The Report of the Jewish Leadership Council's Commission on Women in Jewish Leadership**

The following report has taken the community forward in recognizing the need for and the benefits of gender equality. Jewish charitable organizations have very few women in leadership roles despite exceptionally high levels of achievement and education among women in the Jewish community. The report focuses on lay and professional leadership roles in Jewish communal organizations and recommends ways of advancing more women to senior paid and voluntary roles in the community.
**Dahaf Institute, Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs (JCPA)**

**Views of the Israeli Public on Israeli Security and Resolution of the Arab-Israeli Conflict**

This survey scrutinizes trends in the Israeli public’s positions on foreign policy and defense and the effects of these positions on intentions about voting for the 19th Knesset, based on representative-sample responses of the adult population of Israel (N=500). 76% of Israelis (83% of Jews) believe that a withdrawal to the 1967 lines and a division of Jerusalem would not bring about an end of the conflict. 61% of the Jewish population believes that defensible borders are more important than peace for assuring Israel's security (up from 49% in 2005). 78% of Jews indicated they would change their vote if the party they intended to support indicated that it was prepared to relinquish sovereignty in east Jerusalem. 59% of Jews said the same about the Jordan Valley.

**Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs (JCPA)**

**Israeli Settlements, American Pressure, and Peace**

President Obama apparently believed that pressuring Israel to halt construction of homes in Jewish neighborhoods in parts of Jerusalem formerly controlled by Jordan would advance peace. In reality, the opposite ensued. No major party in Israel, and no significant part of the Jewish public, is willing to count the Jewish neighborhoods that fall within the juridical boundaries of Jerusalem as "settlements" to be "frozen." From the Israeli point of view, Obama violated an Executive Agreement that Sharon had negotiated with President Bush. Stalled peace negotiations in the Obama years cannot be blamed on Netanyahu’s policies of accelerating settlement construction.

**Reut Institute**

**The Israeli Diaspora as a Catalyst for Jewish Peoplehood: An Emerging Opportunity Within the Changing Relationship Between Israel and the Jewish World**

This report offers a conceptual framework for understanding the place and potential role of the Israeli Diaspora within the changing paradigm between Israel and the Jewish world. While the 'old relationship' between Israel and world Jewry was based upon an unwritten covenant grounded in classical Zionism, the emerging paradigm is shaped by partnership and mutuality, with the notion of Jewish Peoplehood taking center stage. This changing dynamic presents an opportunity for the Jewish people.

**Synagogue 3000**

**Reform and Conservative Congregations: Different Strengths, Different Challenges**

U.S. Jewish congregational life is showing signs of stagnation, with few young adults, many older members and more than adequate sanctuary space, according to a new survey of Jewish congregational life. The survey, which included responses from leaders in 1,215 synagogues, offers the most comprehensive view of Reform and Conservative movement congregations to date. Conducted by sociologist Steven M. Cohen for the Synagogue Studies Institute of Synagogue 3000, the survey is part of the larger Faith Communities Today (FACT), a national data set of American religious congregations.

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**BJPA**

**JEWISH JOURNAL OF SOCIOLOGY**
Jewish voters prefer President Obama to Mitt Romney two to one. The issues driving the Jewish vote according to this survey are economic justice, including regulating financial institutions, support for progressive taxation, and the argument that government should do more to help the needy. American Jews today are pointedly more liberal than the overall population, especially on economic issues traditionally considered social justice concerns. Significantly, neither attachment to Israel nor confidence in Israelis vs. Palestinians as peace seeking strongly factor into Jews’ presidential vote decision.

There has not to date been an attempt to conceptualize the campus specific situation for Israel in the United States or craft an overarching strategy for how to deal with it. Based on significant research (including surveys of students, campus professionals, and faculty), this document intends to fill this gap in order to assist the leadership and staff of the pro-Israel campus network and the wider Jewish community in developing a set of generally agreed upon principles. The heart of campus strategy should be identification and engagement with key influencers on a given campus, with the goal of moving them a realistic distance toward Israel.

Topics covered in this volume include Israel's experience in counterinsurgency warfare, the effectiveness of security barriers, predicting the rise of Hamas, lessons of the Second Lebanon War of 2006, and the possibility of security arrangements for Israel in the Golan Heights.

The Guttman Center for Surveys of the Israel Democracy Institute was commissioned by AVI CHAI–Israel to conduct a survey of the Jewish profile of Israeli society, with regard to religiosity, belief, values, and tradition and practices. The survey also related to Jewish Israelis’ attitudes toward religion, the state, and public life, relations between different sectors of Israeli Jewish society, and relations between Israeli Jews and Diaspora Jewry. This survey, along with two others, present a unique continuum of Jewish religiosity and tradition in Israel.
Avineri, Netta Rose.

**Heritage Language Socialization Practices in Secular Yiddish Educational Contexts: The Creation of a Metalinguistic Community**

This UCLA dissertation develops a theoretical and empirical framework for the model of metalinguistic community, a community of positioned social actors engaged primarily in discourse about language and cultural symbols tied to language. **Metalinguistic community** provides a novel practice-based framework for diverse participants who experience a strong connection to a language and its speakers but may lack familiarity with them due to historical, personal, and/or communal circumstances. As a case study of metalinguistic community, this dissertation provides an in-depth ethnographic analysis of contemporary secular engagement with Yiddish language and culture in the United States.


**Israel's Legal Case: A Guidebook**

This volume by recognized experts from Israel and abroad outlines Israel's legal case on key issues of international law. As questions are raised over the legitimacy and morality of Israel's actions, the authors in this volume see Israel's actions as firmly rooted in international law. These scholars present well-reasoned responses to the charges of "occupation," "apartheid," and "colonialism." They also discuss the legal status of Israeli settlements, the West Bank security fence, and Israel's borders.

Bard, Mitchell. Dawson, Jeff. | American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise

**Israel and the Campus: The Real Story**

Some have argued that there is a well-funded and organized network promoting the delegitimization of Israel on college campuses. This report presents evidence to the contrary. Two groups are responsible for most of the anti-Israel activity: the Muslim Students Association (MSA) and Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP). Unlike pro-Israel groups, most anti-Israel groups are student-led with little or no professional assistance. Rather than weaken the relationship between U.S. colleges and Israel, the boycott, divestment, sanctions (BDS) movement, has largely backfired. The most serious problem on campus is not from student activities, but from faculty.


**Israel's Right to Self-Defense: International Law and Gaza**

A review of Israel's consideration of questions of international law when forced to go to war, with a particular focus on the Gaza war of 2008-2009. It concludes that existing international law permits a nation to act in self-defense, and that Israel gives more thought to upholding the laws of war during its military operations than any other nation in history.
Daycare Centers for the Elderly - Patterns of Utilization, Contributions and Programmatic Directions

Daycare centers are one of the central services for elderly with disabilities in the community. There are now 172 centers in Israel serving 15,500 elders living in the community. The centers provide socio-cultural activities, personal care and rehabilitation services, all under one roof. This study included three components: 1) a census of the centers and their clients; 2) interviews with long-term care beneficiaries attending the centers and their family caregivers; 3) interviews with beneficiaries not attending the centers and their family caregivers.

Teaching to the Moment: A Study of Immersive Jewish Service-Learning Educators

The purpose of this study is to identify the capacities and practices that enable JSL (Jewish service-learning) educators to be effective. To that end, the study is intended to explore the ways in which IJSL (immersive Jewish service-learning) educators from all walks of Jewish life and various associations think about their practice, the approaches and tools they use to implement programs, the factors they believe are associated with effective IJSL pedagogy, how they were trained and the professional development that they believe would strengthen their effectiveness as IJSL educators. This report provides an analysis of the results of cognitive interviews conducted with 11 representatives of the field and an online survey completed by 110 respondents.

Simon Marks Jewish Primary School Inspection Report
King David Primary School Inspection Report
Menorah Primary School Inspection Report
Pardes House Primary School Inspection Report

These inspections looked in detail at the following: (1) the quality of leadership and management, (2) the quality of the curriculum, (3) the quality of learning, teaching and assessment, (4) the quality of provision and outcomes for all groups of pupils, and (5) the impact of the schools’ actions to bring about improvement.
Hardship And Needs Of Elderly Hesed Clients: An Analysis Of Clients Served By Hesed Service Centers In Russia & Ukraine

The Former Soviet Union is home today for many Jews in poor communities. Throughout the FSU, the JDC has supported the development of Hesed welfare and Jewish community centers to provide services to Jews in need and to support the renewal of Jewish life. This report reviews the current economic, health, and social conditions of these elderly Jews in need in the FSU and to compares their circumstances to their counterparts in western countries such as the United States.

2011 Census Results (England and Wales): Initial Insights About the UK Jewish Population

An initial examination of 2011 UK Census data from England in Wales reveals a Jewish population of 2284,000 in England and Wales. London and its immediately adjacent areas account for 65.3% of the total Jewish population. This population has remained static over the ten year period. However this belies a far more complex picture due to high birth rates among the Orthodox (especially the haredim), but also low birth rates and ageing in the rest of the population, as well as a degree of assimilation.

Next Generation Advocacy: A Study of Young Israel Advocates

This study--the first of its kind--gathered the views of almost 4,000 young Israel advocates in an effort to gain a better understanding of what compels young people to become involved in Israel advocacy, to become leaders in this area and to maintain their involvement during high school, college and beyond. The research explored: 1) the factors that lead teens and young adults to engage in Israel advocacy, 2) the role that organizations play in their involvement, and 3) the influence of mentors in supporting advocates’ commitment over time.

Jewishly Engaged & Congregationally Unaffiliated: The Holy Grail of Jewish Engagement Efforts

Jews who are engaged as Jews but unaffiliated with Jewish congregational life constitute about a third of congregationally unaffiliated non-Orthodox American Jews, and a sixth of all Jews, and comprise about one million Jewish individuals. Compared with other non-Orthodox Jews, they are more frequently: younger adults, living in the West, non-married, non-parents, intermarried, and lower income. Many see religion as important in their lives, even as many are cultural Jews, and most define themselves as spiritual. They are far more Israel-engaged than the unaffiliated. Politically, most are liberals, with strong commitments to economic justice.
Conservative & Reform Congregations in the United States: The FACT-Synagogue 3000 Survey, 2010

This report includes the full survey data from the Faith Communities Today (FACT) Synagogue Survey, 2010. This survey informed the previous report, Reform and Conservative Congregations: Different Strengths, Different Challenges. Contrary to the impression that denomination no longer matters, this research underscores the many ways in which Conservative and Reform congregations differ. The report confirms that U.S. Jewish congregational life is showing signs of stagnation, with few young adults, many older members and more than adequate sanctuary space. The survey, which included responses from leaders in 1,215 synagogues, offers the most comprehensive view of Reform and Conservative movement congregations to date.

Jewish Community Study of New York: 2011 - Comprehensive Report

Key findings include: **Growth**: There are more Jews in the New York area today: 1.54 million in 2011, up from 1.41 million in 2002. In New York City, the Jewish population is back to more than 1 million. **Poverty**: There are more than half a million Jews living in poor or near-poor households, a significant increase in the last 10 years. **Diversity**: There are large numbers of Orthodox Jews and Russian-speaking Jews, as well as other significant segments that include Israelis, Syrians, and, counted for the first time, biracial, Hispanic, and nonwhite Jewish households, and LGBT Jewish households. **Engagement**: Jews in the New York area continue to be engaged in Jewish life in a wide variety of ways, but fewer Jews in the New York area are engaged on some important measures — and the two ends of the engagement continuum are expanding; there are more Orthodox Jews, and more nondenominational Jews and Jews with no religion. **Interrmarriage**: Half of the non-Orthodox couples wed between 2006 and 2011 are intermarried. On Jewish engagement, intermarried respondents significantly trail the in-married. **Philanthropy**: Since 2002, Jewish philanthropy has eroded modestly, while community needs have expanded.

Chosen for What? Jewish Values in 2012: Findings from the 2012 Jewish Values Survey

This survey of 1,004 American Jews is the most comprehensive, representative national study of its kind conducted by a non-Jewish research organization. The survey takes a broad look at how Jewish values, experiences and identity are shaping political beliefs and behavior and influencing social action in the Jewish community and beyond. The survey finds that more than eight-in-ten American Jews say that pursuing justice and caring for the widow and the orphan are somewhat or very important values that inform their political beliefs and activities. More than seven-in-ten say that tikkun olam and welcoming the stranger are important values. A majority say that seeing every person as made in the image of God is an important influence on their political beliefs and activities. Strong majorities of American Jews also cite the experience of the Holocaust, having opportunities for economic success in America, and the immigrant experience as important in shaping their political beliefs and activities. The survey also finds President Barack Obama with the same level of support (62%) among American Jewish voters as during a comparable point in the 2008 race.
Dayan, Uzi | Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs (JCPA)

Israel's National Security Considerations in Its Approach to the Peace Process

The architects of Israel's national security doctrine from Yigal Allon to Moshe Dayan to Yitzhak Rabin found compelling reasons to insist that it must not return to the vulnerable 1967 lines, which only appeared to invite aggression and imperil Israel's future rather than set the stage for peace. These Israeli leaders sought new boundaries that would allow Israel to defend itself, by itself. Israel must never allow the West Bank to become a launchpad for rocket attacks on Israeli cities, which is what happened in the Gaza Strip after the 2005 pullout. Israeli security requirements in the West Bank are based in part on preventing that kind of outcome. The Israeli experience with an international presence has been poor. UNIFIL in Lebanon has not lived up to Israeli expectations in preventing the rearmament of Hizbullah since the 2006 Second Lebanon War. Likewise, EU monitors abandoned their positions at the Rafah crossing in 2006 when challenged by local insurgents from Gaza.

Deeter, Anne | AVI CHAI Foundation

Online Learning State of the Field Survey: Summary Findings Report

The AVI CHAI Foundation, in October 2010, began work on a new initiative: online/blended learning. To that end, the Foundation established a two-fold motivation and goal: 1) to improve the quality of education by increasing individualized instruction and enabling students to develop skills and ways of thinking needed in the 21st century; and 2) to bring down the cost of education. Furthermore, AVI CHAI's work to promote the adoption of online learning by day schools is three-pronged: 1) supporting the adoption of online courses at established Jewish day schools; 2) supporting entrepreneurs who are willing to experiment with the model of a day school in service of both educational and cost-saving goals via the incorporation of online learning (and other 21st century learning ideals); and 3) to stimulate the development of Judaic studies offerings online at both the middle and high school levels. In order to gain a better understanding of the status of the field in regard to online learning, the Foundation launched an initiative in the fall of 2011 to gather information about the depth and breadth of online course offerings throughout Jewish day schools in North America. This summary findings report describes the methodology and summary findings discovered through this initial state of the field survey research effort.

Deitcher, Howard. Held, Daniel. Mattenson, Pearl. Pomson, Alex | AVI CHAI Foundation

Engineering Enduring Change: Learning What it Will Take to Transform Day School Israel Education from a Study of BASIS--The Bay Area Schools Israel Synergy Initiative

BASIS--the Bay Area Schools Israel Synergy initiative--has been an ambitious initiative to intensify Israel education in eleven Jewish day schools with a combined enrollment of more than 2,000 students. This report studies the BASIS initiative so as to learn what might lead to enduring change elsewhere in the field of day school Israel education and in any Jewish communal effort to produce systemic and sustained change across multiple educational institutions.

**The Impact of Taglit-Birthright Israel: 2012 Update**

This study is based on data from a survey of a sample of individuals who applied to Taglit-Birthright Israel between 2001 and 2006. Interviews, both telephone and web, were conducted with nearly 2,000 respondents. The sample of applicants includes both participants and nonparticipants. The present study represents the third wave of data collection in a broad longitudinal study aimed at understanding young adults' Jewish trajectories and assessing the long-term impact of Taglit. The first two waves of the study (conducted in 2009 and 2010) showed strong effects of Taglit participation, and the current analysis, with a sample that is more Jewishly diverse and includes older individuals who are more likely to be married, increases confidence in the previous findings. The findings focus on respondents who were not raised Orthodox, and the analysis compares responses of Taglit participants to a comparison group of individuals who applied to the program but did not participate. At the time of application/trip, there were few systematic differences between participants and nonparticipants. Overall, the results indicate that, despite the increasing time lag since the Taglit experience, there is substantial evidence of the program's positive impact on a broad range of measures having to do with an individual's Jewish identity, relationship to Israel, and connection to the Jewish people.


**The New Philanthropy: American Jewish Giving to Israeli Organizations**

In recent years, scholars of the American Jewish community have noted declining contributions to the federations and declining transfers by federations to overseas causes including Israel. Some observers have expressed concern that this pattern indicates distancing from Israel. Over the past two decades, as donations through the federation framework have declined, there has been a concomitant increase in the number of Israeli organizations directly reaching out to American Jewish donors. Some scholars have estimated that the increase in donations to these independent entities has offset the decline in federation giving. However, to date, no systematic research has tested this hypothesis. This is the first research of its kind to provide a comprehensive account (within the limits of the available data) of American Jewish giving in Israel. Our study draws on U.S. Internal Revenue Service documents to describe the sum and distribution of American Jewish donations to causes in Israel and to provide a partial account of historical trends.

Gaynor, Adam. | The Curriculum Initiative (TCI)


This report was written at a critical point in TCI’s trajectory as it recently dismantled its national infrastructure, and its local programs were absorbed by existing institutions. The report chronicles the history and growth trajectory of the organization through the years. TCI's educational methods of reaching students, as well as the organizational infrastructure, shifted as the program grew. Building on over a decade of work with the highly unaffiliated Jewish teen population in non-Jewish spaces, TCI pioneered an educational methodology that has broad implications for many other organizations.
Some Strategies Beginning to Pay Off ... And Promising Hints of Others, Like Early Glimpses of the Dawn: Year Four Report on the Concluding Years of the AVI CHAI Foundation

This is the fourth in a series of reports on how The AVI CHAI Foundation goes about putting its full endowment to use and completing its grantmaking by the end of this decade. The AVI CHAI Foundation pursues its mission in slightly different ways in the three regions of the world where it operates. In Israel, the Foundation concentrates on fostering Jewish learning, culture, debate, community, and leadership, in part by helping to fuel a movement widely known as Jewish Renewal. In North America, it focuses on Jewish day school education and overnight summer camping. In the former Soviet Union, its emphasis is on engaging unaffiliated Jews and revitalizing Jewish life, education, and culture after decades of Soviet-era suppression. In each of the three regions, AVI CHAI’s approach to these challenges has been shaped partly by the different prospects for recruiting long-term funders to carry on after it closes. In North America, the effort to recruit new donors will call for opening channels of conversation with people who may as yet be only marginally involved in the field. In Israel, AVI CHAI’s hope of securing a future for its projects and grantees calls for cultivating not only the fundraising capacity of the individual organizations and the commitment of their direct contributors, but more broadly, the culture of philanthropy for Jewish Renewal in Israel. In the former Soviet Union, yet another strategy is required, a hybrid of those in North America and Israel. A strategy for strengthening and sustaining the Foundation’s grantees therefore has to be custom-tailored to each field and area of interest.

U.S. Policy toward Israel in the Peace Process: Negating the 1967 Lines and Supporting Defensible Borders

The high-profile dispute in May 2011 between President Barack Obama and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over the question of whether the 1967 lines should serve as the basis for future Israeli-Palestinian negotiations caused many observers to ask what exactly had been traditional U.S. policy in this regard. What emerges in the following analysis is that since 1967, U.S. administrations have not called on Israel to pull back to the 1967 lines, and have even asserted that Israel has a right to "defensible borders" instead.

Teaching Israel in Reform Congregational Schools

It is no surprise that the subject of Israel has been on the agenda of Reform Jewish Educators. While Israel trips have been successful in strengthening Jewish identity as well as connecting Jews to Israel, the majority of North American Jews in these Reform synagogues are not going to Israel. Thus it is essential that Israel be brought into the lives of those Jews through other avenues. This Capstone explores the following two questions: (1) what is being taught about Israel and (2) how is it being taught in Reform Congregations across North America, to pinpoint areas in which Israel Education can, and should, be improved. This small study makes it difficult to draw any decisive conclusions. But what can be gathered from this study is that the field of Israel education is growing. Israel remains an important priority for both scholars and educators in the field of Jewish education.
We Have an Announcement: Communicating Organizational Change in the Nonprofit Sector

Change in any organization requires a great deal of planning and strategy in order to be successful. Unfortunately many nonprofit organizations are struggling to effectively communicate these changes to their employees. This poor communication has led to ineffective, and sometimes damaging, change. This paper addresses what nonprofit organizations are currently doing to communicate change with their employees, how effective their current efforts are, and how these nonprofits can be more successful at communicating change effectively and efficiently. Data was collected from three Jewish nonprofits in the United States that have recently gone through large, organization-wide changes. Two methods were used; interviews and surveys. Through interviews with top management in each organization, data about commencement planning and message creation was collected. Through surveys of each organization’s employee base, data about reception of the messages and perception of the change was collected. The end result of this study is a set of best practices for communicating change with nonprofit employees.

The Challenge of Peoplehood: Strengthening the Attachment of Young American Jews to Israel in the Time of the Distancing Discourse

The claim that young American Jews are distancing themselves from Israel is rapidly becoming a major preoccupation of those in charge of cultivating the Jewish People. This paper shows that the claim of distancing is not supported by the data currently available and argues that the conversation about distancing, as such, defeats the very purpose of those who engage in it: to enhance the attachment of the American Jewish community to Israel. The relationship between the two largest Jewish communities, Israel and North America, is complex. Both communities are undergoing a process of change, carrying both risks of genuine distancing in the future as well as opportunities for building new models of partnership between the two communities. But parsing the relationship between the two communities along a binary model of distance versus closeness fails to capture its complexity. Moreover, the distancing discourse tends to exacerbate negative trends and thus risks becoming a self-fulfilling prophecy. Instead, there is a need to promote the long-term programs that would bring the world’s two largest Jewish communities even closer together. This paper analyzes the conflicting hypotheses concerning distancing, identifies the weak links in the research to date, and surveys the different aims served by the distancing discourse. It then reviews the salient features of the changing relationship between the Jewish communities of Israel and North America and proposes guidelines in response to the new relationship pattern between them.

Defining Israel Education

In recent years there has been an upsurge in organizational activity on the American Jewish scene regarding Israel. The present inquiry, commissioned by the iCenter to support its own planning efforts, was designed to sharpen and clarify the special role of a Jewish educational enterprise directed at learners in the years between kindergarten and the end of high school. The findings draw on interviews with 21 experts about American Jewish and Israel education and ethnographic observations of the field and of the iCenter in 2010 and 2011, plus additional historical research about the development of the field.
Kay, Avi. | *Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs* (JCPA)

**From Altneuland to the New Promised Land: A Study of the Evolution and Americanization of the Israeli Economy**

Israel is often seen as an economic miracle. An examination of the evolution of the Israeli economy from the prestate period until today allows a glimpse into both the initial underlying values of the Israeli economy as well as the dramatic crises, developments, and events that have shaped contemporary Israeli society. From a primarily agricultural-based, semisocialistic economy, Israel has emerged as one of the fastest-growing economies in the world and a leader both in high-tech and in income inequality. This work surveys the history of the Israeli economy and suggests possible future directions it may take.

Katz, Elad. Lachman-Messer, Didi. | *Yad Hanadiv*


This report examines the field of social investment that has emerged in a number of countries, particularly in the UK and the US in recent years, and offers recommendations and ways to develop this field in Israel. Among the recommendations: establishing social investment funds; investing public funds in projects with social significance that yield economic returns; creating incentives for investment in social fields; and adopting an approach that encourages social-business corporations.


**The Paideia European-Jewish Leadership Program: Graduate Views of Program Contributions and Impacts**

Paideia was created with the mandate of working for the rebuilding of Jewish life and culture in Europe, and educating for active minority citizenship. After several years of activity, Paideia decided to conduct an evaluation study to provide a systematic overview of the program's contributions and achievements, and identify unmet needs. The evaluation comprised a follow-up study of all graduates from 2002-2009. This report presents the findings of that study. The study findings showed that graduates view the Paideia program as very successful and feel that it contributed to them to a great extent. It was found that all graduates continue to be involved in Jewish activities in their countries of residence.

King, Elenna. | *HUC-JIR Thesis*

**Empowerment and Internal Struggle: An Exploration of the Women's Tefillah Group Movement in Los Angeles**

On the heels of religious feminism of the 1970’s, women’s tefillah groups have been creating safe and empowering spaces for Orthodox women to take on more participatory roles within Jewish ritual practice for the last few decades. This movement has grown within several Modern Orthodox communities, the majority of which are on the east coast and only one group in California, located in Los Angeles. Using ethnographic observations and in-depth interviews, this thesis explores a new area of research within this topic, focusing on the presence of women’s tefillah groups on the west coast.
Kosmin, Barry A. | JDC International Centre for Community Development

**Second Survey of European Jewish Leaders and Opinion Formers, 2011**

The Second Survey of European Jewish Leaders and Opinion Formers presents the results of an online survey administered to 328 respondents in 32 countries. Conducted every three years using the same format, the survey seeks to identify trends and their evolution in time. The survey asked Jewish leaders and opinion formers a range of questions, seeking their views on the major challenges and issues concerning European Jewish communities in 2011 and their expectations for how their community’s situation would evolve over the next 5-10 years.

Khokhlov, Igor. | HUC-JIR Thesis

**Startups that Stop: Lessons for the Jewish Nonprofit World**

The American Jewish nonprofit world has enjoyed significant growth in the field of Jewish Social Entrepreneurship. While many Jewish Startups have been successful; there are a few that had to stop their operations after relatively short periods of time. This thesis is a close examination of initially successful Jewish startups that had to cease operations after a 3-5 year period. Information for this thesis was solicited from the principals of four major Jewish incubators and four startups, as well as several other lay and professional leaders in the Jewish community. Mixed methods of analysis were used: professional and lay leaders were interviewed using a unified protocol; cyber ethnography helped to collect and analyze scattered data on the web.

Lebovits, Jessica. | HUC-JIR Thesis

**JTeens of the iGeneration**

This research project investigates how teenagers and young adults access the news and, more specifically news regarding the Middle East and Israel. The project supposes that social and news media play a role in how they interact with the news. The research also examines how social and news media portray the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and thus, the information the teenagers and young adults receive. The research findings will be used to inform a tenth grade Jewish Religious School confirmation curriculum, which will teach the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through the use of online media sources.

Levin, Rachel. | HUC-JIR Thesis

**The Experience of Absorption Among Jewish Immigrant Populations in Israel: Ethiopian, Former Soviet Union, and North American Communities**

This thesis explores the absorption and integration processes of three Jewish immigrant populations in Israel: Ethiopian, Former Soviet Union (FSU), and North American. Through an analysis of scholarly literature and a new collection of immigrant narratives, it attempts to capture both the communal and individual experience of immigration and integration. The research surveys the similarities and differences of each community in relation to history, traditions, culture, and customs, and explores the ways in which all of these factors have impacted the immigration process. It also examines the impacts of Israel’s policy on immigration—a policy that transitioned in the 1990s from an assimilationist stance to one of cultural pluralism.
Lipton-Schwartz, Matthew. | HUC-JIR Thesis

**Five Alternatives to the Federation Philanthropic Model**

The Federation's central coordination and planning model is over a century old. This research examines five agencies, which have developed alternatives to the Federation umbrella model: Jewish Family Service, the result of Federations pushing agencies to be self-supporting, independent entities; Jewish Home for the Aging, which has reserved the philanthropic model for endowments and major capital expenditures; Zimmer Children’s Museum, was founded independently and moved into the Federation building; Beit T'Shuvah, where the clients and their families become the funders; and National Council of Jewish Women, which has abandoned the philanthropic model and turned to retail.

Ludwig, Erik. Weinberg, Aryeh K. | Institute for Jewish and Community Research

**Following the Money: A Look at Jewish Foundation Giving**

This report presents selected findings from a forthcoming study of Jewish foundations and their impact on Jewish and non-Jewish charitable organizations. It focuses on Jewish foundation giving to Jewish causes in America and abroad. The report finds that Jewish foundations are making their mark on the Jewish philanthropic world. They help to fund the vast network of Jewish communal institutions, while also acting as catalysts for innovative programming and upstart organizations meeting the diverse needs of the Jewish community. The increasing role of foundations is not uniquely a Jewish trend. From 1999 to 2009 the number of grantmaking foundations in America has increased in total number from 50,201 to 76,545, an increase of over 50%. Nearly 10,000 foundations have made grants to Jewish causes and of the 100 largest private foundations, 16 were founded by a Jewish donor.

Means, Makenzie. | HUC-JIR Thesis

**A Study of the Usefulness of Jewish History Knowledge in Jewish Communal Professions**

Little research exists on Jewish communal professionals’ level of Jewish history knowledge and its importance to their jobs. This thesis aims to fill that scholarly gap through interviews with program directors from eight Jewish professional Master’s programs, an examination of the history course offerings for each of the programs, and a survey that measured self-selected Jewish communal professionals’ knowledge of Jewish history and how valuable it is to their careers. Survey respondents demonstrated an average level of Jewish history knowledge, with greater than fifty percent "passing" the quiz. Though program directors and respondents asserted that modern Jewish history, American Jewish history, and the history of Israel were the most important elements of Jewish history for communal professionals, quiz takers did not answer questions related to those fields correctly at a higher rate than questions on other aspects of Jewish history. It was also expected that respondents with a certificate or master’s degree from a Jewish professional program would have a greater level of Jewish history knowledge and perceive that knowledge to be more valuable to them, but this only held true for respondents with a degree or certificate in Jewish nonprofit management. The sole discrepancy among communal professionals in terms of their levels of Jewish history knowledge and the perceived value of that knowledge was between CEOs and development professionals.
Jewish American Voting Behavior 1972-2008: Just the Facts

This extensive analysis of exit poll data yields several key conclusions about the voting behavior of American Jews:

- From 1972 through 1988, Republican candidates for president attracted between 31% and 37% of the Jewish vote. From 1992 through 2008, the GOP share of the Jewish vote dropped to between 15% and 23%.
- In 2008, Barack Obama captured 74% of the total Jewish vote, which translates into 76% of the two-party vote.
- Jewish voters remain much more Democratic than the rest of the electorate.
- Jews have given even higher levels of support to Democratic congressional candidates.
- A majority of Jewish voters identify themselves as Democrats, and these numbers have proved remarkably stable over time.
- A large plurality of Jewish voters identifies as liberals, and these numbers too have been relatively stable over time.

Expanding Adoption Opportunities For Children At Risk

Israel's Department of Adoption Services, Division for Personal and Social Services at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Services, in partnership with Ashalim, initiated a program which aims to increase adoption opportunities for children at risk who are unable to grow up in their birth families, and to improve adoption support services in Israel. The Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute was asked to provide research to support the initiative. This report presents the first stage of the study, that consists of (a) a review of the literature about the adoption of children at risk, options for expanding adoption, and adoption support services and (b) interviews conducted with senior decision-makers at the Ministry of Social Affairs, professionals at NGOs in the areas of foster care and family court judges. The review presents findings about how current Israeli policy and regulations may lead to an overly protracted process before a child can be adopted and placed in a permanent home. Findings about the implementation of three policy options for improving the process and expanding possibilities for adoption are presented:

- Open adoption, whereby some contact is maintained with the birth family - in contrast to the strict confidentiality currently imposed
- Adoption by a foster family
- Concurrent planning, whereby, for one year, work is done to rehabilitate the birth parents in parallel with preparations for adoption so that at the end of that period, a permanent solution is achieved for the child.

Effective CEO Transitioning/Leadership Sustainability in North American Jewish Nonprofit Organizations: A Research Study of 440 CEO's

This report explores the nature and causes of a major challenge faced by countless North American Jewish nonprofits: effective succession planning for CEO transitioning and organizational leadership sustainability. It concludes by proposing ten practical recommendations to address this challenge. A survey was administered to 440 CEOs in the Jewish nonprofit world to explore these transition challenges. One major finding is that the vast majority of Jewish nonprofits do not have an "in-place" emergency back-up plan to address the situation of an unforeseen event in which the CEO exits very abruptly.
Reid Weiner, Justus. | Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs (JCPA)

**Targeted Killings and Double Standards**

TKs (targeted killings) have been subjected to significant scrutiny by several human rights groups in a manner that has both contributed to the lack of a genuine, honest, public debate surrounding the issue, and created an atmosphere in which different countries' TK policies are subject to different standards of evaluation and critique. This monograph looks closely at the work of both Human Rights Watch (HRW) and Amnesty International (AI), with respect to the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) and several Western armies (the U.S., the U.K., the Netherlands, Canada and Australia) that have implemented TK policies since November 2000 (collectively labeled "Western TKs"). A product of a year and a half of detailed research, the monograph identifies substantial and systemic failings in the work of HRW and AI.

Rosen, Steven J. | Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs (JCPA)

**Israeli Settlements, American Pressure, and Peace**

The settlement issue was often at the heart of U.S.-Israeli differences during the Obama administration. However, the crisis that erupted between the two countries appeared to be completely unnecessary. A settlement freeze had never been a precondition for negotiations when the 1993 Oslo Agreements were originally signed. Israeli-Palestinian negotiations continued with no settlement freeze under successive Israeli governments as well. When the Netanyahu government actually agreed to a ten-month moratorium on settlement construction, its importance was discounted by the Palestinian side, which only came to negotiate with Israel in the last month of the moratorium. Settlements turned out to be a far less important issue for determining the course of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

Rubin-Schlansky, Hannah. | HUC-JIR Thesis

**An Exploration of Israel Education in URJ Summer Camps**

This study examines how Israel Education is integrated into the curriculum of Jewish summer camps based on interviews of individuals in six URJ summer camps. Each was asked a series of questions probing their camps’ curricular development and how they implement Israel Education throughout the summer. All of the camps integrate Israel into their curricula in some way. Some camps segregate Israel into its own learning activity, and others integrate pieces of Israel Education into many daily activities.

Sheskin, Ira M.

**The Jewish Vote**

This is the slide presentation accompanying Prof. Ira M. Sheskin's presentation in June 2012 (updated in October 2012) to the American Jewish Press Association's annual conference. It covers:

- Size and Geographic Distribution of the US Jewish Population and Implications for the Jewish Vote
- A Few Key Demographic Indicators
- Political Party
- Political Views
- Voter Registration
- Politically Active
- Obama’s Policies: Impact on Jewish Vote?
Comparisons of Jewish Communities: A Compendium of Tables and Bar Charts

This compendium is a single source of tables and bar charts designed to provide a comparative context for understanding American Jewish communities. It is intended for local Jewish communities seeking to compare themselves to others, as well as for researchers, teachers and students of North American Jewry.

Yiddish in the Former Soviet Union since 1959: A Statistical-Demographic Analysis

This paper is based mainly on the results of the post-war Soviet censuses concerning respondents’ native language and second language. The statistical data on Yiddish were studied for the former union republics of the USSR and their capitals.

Trajtenberg Report: Creating a More Just Israeli Society

This is an English translation of the official summary of the Trajtenberg Report. This report came out of the Trajtenberg committee, which was appointed by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in August 2011 in order to examine and propose solutions to Israel's socioeconomic problems. It was established following the 2011 Israeli housing protests.

Why Join?: An Examination of Membership in National Council of Jewish Women/Los Angeles and Hadassah Southern California

This thesis examines reasons why women join membership organizations like National Council of Jewish Women/Los Angeles (NCJW/LA) and Hadassah Southern California (HSC). To understand members’ attraction to these organizations, 17 interviews were conducted with professional staff and lay leaders. Observational data was also collected at events sponsored by NCJW/LA and HSC.

Jewish Philanthropy: A Family Affair?

The goal of this paper is to better understand how the value of tzedakah is transmitted between parents and children. The paper looks at how parents of religious school children in an LA Reform congregation understood tzedakah when they were growing up; how they experience tzedakah as adults with children of their own; how they give; where they give; and to what degree they involve their children in their giving. The results of this study are intended to inform a family education curriculum on the subject of tzedakah.
The best data on the positions of American Jews on the peace process show that they are more on the "right" side of the political spectrum than is often claimed regarding such issues as the two-state solution, basic Arab goals, the future status of Jerusalem, and the settlements, and this pattern has been consistent over the last decade. Moreover, the more attached American Jews feel to Israel and the more importance they attribute to their Jewishness, the more likely they are to take positions on the right.

This report is the latest in a series covering data relating to births, marriages, divorces and deaths in the British Jewish community. These data are collected on behalf of the whole community and this survey is the only one which regularly collects such data. Participants of this survey are those who have associated themselves with the Jewish community through a formal Jewish act, i.e. circumcision, marriage in a synagogue, or Jewish burial or cremation.

Accusations of racism have become a staple of anti-Israel protest on campus and, for Jewish students, these charges can negatively impact their college experience and raise important questions about their Jewish identity. The irony of the racism accusation is that young Jews are firmly committed to the global world in which they live. They embrace a world with permeable boundaries and multiple identities that celebrate and validate diversity, as do most young Americans. It should come as no surprise that Jewish students are committed to an expansive and inclusive vision of the world. Many are raised in homes that reflect the changing demographics of the 21st century. Nearly half (45%) of Jewish college students arrived on campus having been raised in a family with some level of diversity. The most effective defense against charges of racism is to embrace and celebrate the full spectrum of Jewish identity.

Anti-Semitism and anti-Israelism on campus often uses the language of resistance against Western power and is embedded within a loosely defined set of ideologies that include anti-Americanism, opposition to free markets and distrust of business. In this framework, Israel is viewed as an extension of Western neo-colonialism and Jews as the epitome of the oppressive powerful elite. Previously unacceptable anti-Jewish sentiment is then repackaged in a more palatable form. This research provides an exploratory look at the relationship between critical views of the West and negative views of Jews and Israel. The findings presented in this report reveal consistent and significant differences that shed light on the relationship between existing criticisms of America, capitalism and business, and rising anti-Israel and anti-Semitic views. Conclusions are based on data from an IJCR national survey of over 1400 college students fielded in 2010-2011.