AJA HOSTS CINCINNATI PREMIERE OF “I SHALL NOT BE SILENT” —TRACING THE LIFE OF ACTIVIST RABBI JOACHIM PRINZ—

The documentary, Joachim Prinz: I Shall Not be Silent, had its Cincinnati premiere on Tuesday, May 19 at the American Jewish Archives. The film—produced by Rachel Eskin Fisher and Rachel Nierenberg of R Squared Productions—documents Rabbi Prinz’s life and career: from urging Jews to leave Germany before World War II and collaborating with Dr. King in the civil rights struggle to advocating for the emerging State of Israel.

As a preeminent rabbi in Berlin when the Nazis came to power, Prinz (1902-1988) continued to speak out against hatred and discrimination—not only on the pulpit, but in public forums as well. He arrived in the U.S. in 1937 after the Nazi government formally expelled him from Germany. Once here, Prinz became a prominent American Jewish leader, and served as the beloved rabbi of Temple B’nai Abraham in New Jersey for nearly forty years. He was also active in national and world affairs. He joined the executive board of the World Jewish Congress in 1946; he also served as president of the American Jewish Congress from 1958-1966 and as chair of the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations. Additionally, Prinz was one of ten founding chairmen of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

Following the screening, guest panelists Michael A. Meyer, Ph.D., editor of Joachim Prinz, Rebellious Rabbi: An Autobiography, David Mann, Vice Mayor of the City of Cincinnati and civic leader, and Marian Spencer, distinguished community servant and civic leader shared their reflections, responses and reactions with the audience.

Photos: (clockwise from top right) Rabbi Joachim Prinz speaking at the March on Washington in 1963; the audience at the May 19 event; Marian Spencer & Vice Mayor David Mann; Dr. Michael A. Meyer, and Dr. Gary P. Zola, Executive Director of the AJA

IN THIS ISSUE

- Meet the Four American Women Rabbis Who Changed Everything
- Introducing the 2015-2016 AJA Research Fellows
- Rabbi Tanenbaum program at the AJA • Become an AJA Facebook Fan

The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Located on the Historic Campus of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion
3101 Clifton Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45220
www.AmericanJewishArchives.org
SAVE THE DATE
Sunday, October 11, 2015 • 4 pm
The Dedication of the
Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
Digital Collection at the AJA
Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Vatican II
KEYNOTE ADDRESS:
HUC-JIR PROFESSOR RABBI MICHAEL COOK, PH.D.
"Living & Making History: The Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum Collection & Vatican II's 50th Anniversary"
RESPONSE:
DR. JAMES BUCHANAN, Director of the Brueggeman Center at Xavier University

ANNOUNCING THE 2015-2016 AJA FELLOWS

Aviva Ben-Ur, PhD
University of Massachusetts Amherst
The Loewenstein-Wiener Fellowship
American Jewish History in an Atlantic Context: Epicenters and Peripheries

Michal Ben Yaakov, PhD
Elrita College for Education
The Loewenstein-Wiener Fellowship
Getting Acquainted: American Jews Meet Moroccan Jews in the 1940s and 1950s

Judah Bernstein
New York University
The Joseph and Eva R. Dave Fellowship
American Zionism at the Grassroots, 1897–1924

Mikal Brotnov Eckstrom
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
The Bernard and Andre Rapoport Fellowship
American Indians and American Jews in the American West

Cynthia Gensheimer
Independent Scholar
The Bernard and Andre Rapoport Fellowship
Dear Sister Nettie: Late 19th Century Letters Illuminating Jewish Life in Koekuk, Iowa

Emily R. Gioielli
Central European University
The Loewenstein-Wiener Fellowship
Terror and Political Violence During Hungary’s Long World War I

Sara Halpern
Ohio State University
The Starkoff Fellowship
The World of 1939 Stood Still for Us: German-Jewish Emigration from Shanghai, 1945–1965

Kathryn Hellerstein, PhD
University of Pennsylvania
The Joseph and Eva R. Dave Fellowship
The Rosewaters and the Colmans

Barbara Krasner
Independent Scholar
The Natalie Feld Memorial Fellowship
Emma Lazarus

Martina Mampieri
University of Roma Tre and the University of Hamburg
The Rabbi Theodore S. Levy Tribute Fellowship
Isaiah Sonne: Between Italy and the United States, 1922–1960

David Markus
University of Florida
The Loewenstein-Wiener Fellowship
The Archaeology of Jewish Folk Religious Practice: The Materiality of 19th Century Jewish Domestic Life

Olga Malzochova
Husite Theological Faculty, Charles University
The American Council for Judaism Fellowship
American and European Reform Judaism in the 19th century: A Comparative Approach

Carmi Neiger
Northern Illinois University
The Rabbi Harold D. Hahn Memorial Fellowship
Residential Patterns of Jews in Cincinnati, 1945–2000

Avigail Oren
Carnegie Mellon University
The Rabbi Joachim Prinz Memorial Fellowship
Adjusting to Change: The Jewish Community Center Movement in Postwar Urban America, 1945–1980

Abby Rapoport
Independent Scholar
The Loewenstein-Wiener Fellowship
The Galvanot Movement

Doug Rossinow, PhD
Metro State University
The Rabbi Ferdinand Iserman Memorial Fellowship
American Reform Judaism’s reconciliation with Zionism, 1935 to the present

Anne Clara Schenderlein, PhD
German Historical Institute
The Bertha Y. Corets Memorial Fellowship
American Jewish boycott and consumption of German goods before and after WWII

Benjamin Steiner
Brandeis University
The Marguerite R. Jacobs Memorial Fellowship
The Lieberman clause; 20th century American Judaism

Lisa Susner
Ohio State University
The Loewenstein-Wiener Fellowship
Rebecca Gutz, Isaac Leeser, and Critical Reasoning in American Jewish Education in the 19th century

Marlene Trestman
Independent Scholar
The Frankel Family Fellowship
Jewish Orphans’ Home in New Orleans, 1885–1946
This year marks the 80th anniversary of the ordination of history’s first woman rabbi, Regina Jonas (1902-1944). Born in Berlin, Jonas attended the liberal rabbinic seminary, Hochschule für die Wissenschaft des Judentums, where she completed a full rabbinical curriculum. Jonas also wrote a rabbinical thesis titled “Can Women Serve as Rabbis?” – a microfilmed copy of which is now preserved at the American Jewish Archives. Unfortunately for Rabbi Jonas, her thesis advisor, Rabbi Eduard Baneth (1855-1930), died just before she completed her studies and his successor, Rabbi Hanoch Albeck (1890-1972), refused to confer a rabbinical title on her. Jonas left the Hochschule in 1930 with only a teaching diploma in hand.

Surviving documents testify to the fact that Regina Jonas never abandoned her dream of becoming a rabbi. Over the next few years, she continued to teach, study, and occasionally preach. After Hitler’s rise to power in 1933, the German Jewish community confronted unprecedented challenges. In response to the ongoing process of social demonization and ostracization imposed by the Nazis, German Jews increasingly turned to the Jewish community for support. It was in the midst of this time of crisis – in 1935 – that Regina Jonas received rabbinical ordination from Rabbi Max Dienemann (1875-1939) of Offenbach on behalf of the Liberal Rabbinic Association in Germany.

Known thereafter as Fraulein Rabbiner Regina Jonas, she served the Jewish community of Berlin until November 1942 when she and her mother were deported to Theresienstadt where she continued to fulfill her dream of serving as a rabbi and teacher. During those years of incarceration, Jonas preached sermons, provided pastoral care, and offered learned lectures on Jewish topics for her fellow prisoners in Theresienstadt. Finally, on October 14, 1944, Rabbi Jonas was sent to Auschwitz where upon her arrival she was murdered.

**MEET THE FOUR AMERICAN WOMEN RABBIS WHO CHANGED EVERYTHING**

To honor Rabbi Jonas’s memory and heroic legacy, the AJA has invited the first women rabbis from four spiritual movements in American Judaism to come together and share their own pioneering stories.

- Rabbi Sally Priesand (HUC-JIR, ’72)
- Rabbi Sandy Eisenberg Sasso (RRC, ’74)
- Rabbi Amy Eilberg (JTS, ’85)
- Rabba Sara Hurwitz (Orthodox, 2009)

This historic gathering will be the first time these four women will have gathered together in the State of Ohio.

**SAVE THE DATE**

Monday evening, October 26, 2015 at 7 pm
Mayerson Jewish Community Center
C-SPAN AT THE AJA

The AJA’s Executive Director, Dr. Gary P. Zola, was interviewed in June by C-SPAN as part of a spotlight series on Cincinnati’s history and literary life.

Dr. Zola’s interview, along with others recorded in Cincinnati, will air on Book TV (C-SPAN2, Time Warner Cable channels 360 and 876) and American History TV (C-SPAN3, Time Warner Cable channels 361 and 877) on September 19-20.

The visit is part of C-SPAN’s Cities Tour, which features the literary life and history of a selected city on the first and third weekend of each month.