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**News from the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences (Cleveland, Ohio)**

**Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences (MSASS) ranked in the Top Ten in U.S. News & World Report Graduate Schools Rankings**

By Jeff Hagan



The Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences (MSASS) has moved up in the influential U.S. News & World Report rankings of social work graduate schools, appearing in the Top Ten nationally and remaining the top-ranked school in the state of Ohio.

"The ranking recognizes the quality of our education programs, the scholarship we produce, and the excellence of our alumni," said Dean Grover C. "Cleve" Gilmore. "The School has a stellar history of achievement and contributions. This ranking recognizes that we are all a part of that great legacy."

The MSASS is placed in the number 10 spot among the 177 social work schools U.S. News ranked.

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**Addressing questions concerning improvement of the Human Condition: The Mandel Scholars Luncheon at the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences**

By Jeff Hagan

Nearly two dozen students at the MSASS—all recipients of prestigious scholarships—gathered in early April at the Case Western Reserve University Alumni House for a luncheon with Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel to celebrate their accomplishments and for two Mandel Scholars to present findings of their research. They were joined by members of the Mandel Foundation Board and staff, and faculty and staff of the Mandel School, including Dean Cleve Gilmore.



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“We’re very grateful that the Mandel family and the Mandel Foundation began a relationship with the school some time ago,” said Dean Gilmore, when introducing Morton Mandel.



Top Row (L-R) Jack Mandel, Joseph Mandel, Dean Gilmore, Morton Mandel; Bottom Row (L-R) Monica Bricker-Thompson, Jennifer Kennedy

Morton Mandel called the students, which also included Dean’s Scholars and Mandel Merit Scholars, “the fighters who are going to change the world.”

“My brothers and I lived in a home where sharing with others was an important value. We were taught to work to improve the human condition,” said Morton Mandel. “And the central thrust of our philanthropic efforts, is to invest in people,” he explained.

Mandel Scholar Jennifer Kennedy presented her research - “Aging Out of Foster Care: The Need for a Smoother Transition”- on individuals who reach the age of maturity (18-21 years of age) while still in the foster care system. These children who have aged out of the foster care system face significantly worse conditions than their peers, on average. Therefore, according to Ms. Kennedy, focusing on the time *before* aging out begins can have the largest impact on making a smoother transition into society as an independent individual.

Mandel Scholar Monica Bricker-Thompson presented her research “A Look at Our Infinite Identity.” Ms. Bricker-Thompson presented the development of the professional identity of social workers since the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and showed how the professional identity has changed through the years. Accordingly she raised some questions concerning the presentation of a professional identity in the future: if the social work professional identity is changing so frequently, how does the social work community collectively define who they are? How is the profession communicated to others not in the field of social work?



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Mandel Scholars, selected by a committee consisting of representatives from faculty, admissions and field advisors, and Dean Scholars, selected by the Dean, all receive full tuition, while admissions-selected Mandel Merit Scholars receive awards of \$10,000-12,000.

To learn more visit the MSASS website <http://msass.case.edu>

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News from the Mandel Leadership Institute (Jerusalem, Israel)

### **A Heartfelt Encounter: ‘Dialogue from the Heart of Confusion’ is warmly received at an evening to mark the book’s launch**

Moving responses to a new publication by Keter/Mandel Foundation were heard at a special evening dedicated to the book’s launch at the Mandel Leadership Institute (Jerusalem).

The book ‘Dialogue From The Heart Of Confusion’ records the encounter between twelve Israeli teachers – half of them Russian speaking immigrants, half Israeli veterans, as they met once a week over a year in order to get to know each other beyond the usual stereotypes and to promote a productive discourse in the embroiled relations between cultures in Israel.

The mixed audience, including new and old immigrants, native Israelis, teachers, academics, Mandel fellows and graduates was fitting for the launch of a pioneering initiative focused around inter-cultural discourse and activity.



Yael Bar-Lev: “a book that widened my world”

Ms. Yael Bar Lev, co-Director with Dr. Daniel Marom of the Visions of Jewish Education Project at the Mandel Leadership Institute facilitated the evening.

“This is one of the books which have widened my world,” she said. “The book and the activity surrounding it enrich me with a different vision, helping me observe the reality in Israel through questions, thoughts and deeds.”

“Reading this book arouses great excitement and leads to new insights we didn’t have previously to understanding “the other”. A great step has been taken here,” said Ms. Annette Hochstein, President of Mandel Foundation-Israel. Hochstein, recalling her own experiences as a new immigrant in Israel, praised those involved in the project, and stated that the book provides a dive into the depths of Israeli society.



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Various aspects of the books were discussed by guest panelists - Mandel faculty member Prof. Moshe Halbertal, of the Hebrew University; MK Yuli Edelstein, Deputy Chair of Knesset and a Mandel graduate; and Iris Wolf, currently a Mandel fellow.

Prof. Halbertal described the book as, “human to the point of tears in its sensitivity, modesty, generosity and patience.”

“The book testifies to changes in society, it shows Israeli society has reached the ability to create listening which didn’t exist before, and in this there is an aspect of repair,” said Halbertal, adding that the book highlights the difference between pluralism and multiculturalism: “The book ‘Dialogue from the Heart of Confusion’ for me was a multicultural experience – where ‘the other’ makes you think about who you are. The multiculturalism of the “other” makes you interpret yourself.”

Commenting on chapters in the book which discuss Jewish identity, Halbertal claimed the questions raised are much deeper than those of identity, they are questions of what it is to be human. “From these questions of culture and identity I can learn about what type of person I am,” concluded Halbertal, “We have so much to learn as people from this encounter”.

MK Edelstein agreed that the book awakens questions “within” and drew from a chapter discussing the different kindergarten experiences of the teachers from Shevach-Moffet, which resulted in a discussion of different principles of educators and the purpose of the education system.

Iris Wolf perceived the book from a different angle. Before joining the Mandel Leadership Institute as a fellow, Wolf was principal of a school in Lod where 30-35% of the student population were new immigrants. She told the audience that school is the natural place where intensive encounters of the kind investigated in the book are created: “Principals in Israeli society do not have the



Mandel Fellow Iris Wolf: “you cannot ignore such a subject”



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privilege of ignoring this subject,” said Wolf. “You have pioneered a way which is visionary and exciting,” she told the editors of the book, praising them for challenging school principals to initiate discourse.

The evening concluded with ‘I Was Born Here’, a one-man play by actor Vladimir Friedman, which takes a humorous look at the encounter between cultures in Israel.

Nonetheless, Bar-Lev stressed: “We don’t see this book as a book about Russian immigrants or "aliya" but a book about encounters and how we can have encounters. We see in this book an opening for these encounters and important conversations that need to take place.” The success and value of the book, Bar Lev emphasized, is not in its existence on the bookshelf, but in its potential use to positively affect the education system.

'Dialogue from the Heart of Confusion' edited by Daniel Marom and Michael Miller is published by Mandel Foundation and Keter Books.

To learn more visit the Mandel Leadership Institute website [www.mli.org.il/english](http://www.mli.org.il/english)

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**News from the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland (Cleveland, Ohio)**

## **Developing Lay Leadership in the Jewish Community**

By Daniel Blain

In March, the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland (JCF) hosted a two day consultation with Debbie Smith, Senior Executive Advisor to UJC's Mandel Center for Leadership Excellence. The purpose of the visit was to look for opportunities for collaboration with UJC, and to build relationships with the key professionals engaged in leadership development work. Ms. Smith returned to Cleveland in late April for sessions with agency directors and presidents. These sessions focused on best practices in succession planning as we strive to attract and retain the highest caliber lay and professional leaders in the sacred work of the Jewish community.

## **Investing in People: Human Resource Development at the Jewish Community Federation**



With the support of the Mandel Foundation, the JCF has enhanced its capacity in the Human Resources Development area through the addition of two experienced HRD professionals. Tammy Dubin and Jennifer Cohen join Daniel Blain, JCF's Senior Vice President, and Susan Avitan, Assistant Director of Human Resources.

Tammy Dubin, as Director of Professional Education and Development, has primary responsibility for working with the Federation's professional staff on individual and group developmental needs, coaching and team building activities, and JCF's on-site training program. Tammy's early work at JCF has focused on defining the key leadership competencies required for professional success at senior levels.



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As a senior HRD associate, Jennifer Cohen has primary responsibility for recruitment, orientation and on-boarding of professional staff, along with a number of other key functions related to professional and volunteer development.

Tammy holds a Master of Science degree in Organizational Development and Analysis from Case Western Reserve University's Weatherhead School of Management. She has worked for a number of major companies.

Jennifer brings over twenty years of professional experience, with the last eighteen years spent at Progressive Insurance in a variety of HR leadership/management positions.

To learn more visit the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland website [www.jewishcleveland.org](http://www.jewishcleveland.org)

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**News from The Mandel Center for Studies in Jewish Education at Brandeis  
(Waltham, MA)**

**Mandel Center convened leading education researchers for a special  
session on Jewish education**

By David J. Weinstein

The Mandel Center for Studies in Jewish Education at Brandeis organized a forum to tackle critical questions surrounding Jewish education on March 24th at Brandeis House in New York City. The event was concurrent with the annual American Educational Research Association (AERA) meeting.

The forum has brought leading Jewish and general education researchers from the US and Israel together to discuss the current state and future directions of research in Jewish education.



Annette Hochstein, President,  
Mandel foundation-Israel  
addresses the forum

According to Dr. Sharon Feiman-Nemser, Mandel Center director, the field of academic studies in Jewish education is still in an early stage, but a growing number of researchers are interested in building the field. The forum was meant to reflect and support the trend of recruiting general education researchers into Jewish educational research.

This has been an explicit strategy of Brandeis' Mandel Center and its partner, the Mandel Foundation of Cleveland.

“The study of Jewish education poses big and important questions that can engage the interests of serious researchers and contribute to broader understandings inside and outside the field of Jewish education,” said Dr. Feiman-Nemser. “The Mandel Foundation has given many researchers the opportunity to make such a contribution.”

Participants in the discussion included Adam Gamoran, Professor of Sociology and Educational Policy Studies and Director of the Wisconsin Center for Education Research,



Prof. Sam Wineburg

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University of Wisconsin; Miriam Raider-Roth, Associate Professor and Co-Director of the Center for Studies in Jewish Education and Culture, University of Cincinnati; and Sam Wineburg, Professor of Education and History at Stanford University. Ms. Annette Hochstein, President of Mandel Foundation-Israel, delivered welcoming remarks and a greeting on behalf of Morton Mandel, Chair and CEO of the Mandel Foundation.

In 1991 the Commission on Jewish Education in North America, convened by the Mandel Foundations, the Jewish Community Center Association (JCCA), and the Jewish Education Service of North America (JESNA) in collaboration with CJF (forerunner of United Jewish Communities), and chaired by Morton L. Mandel, published the groundbreaking report “A Time To Act” which moved Jewish education to the top of the communal agenda in North America. The Commission relied on accomplished researchers from general and Jewish education to develop research-based policy recommendations. The Mandel Foundation has consistently relied on and recruited accomplished researchers from general education to the study of Jewish education.

In addition to the forum at Brandeis House, two sessions at the AERA meeting featured Mandel Center research, including a symposium, “Context-Specific Teacher Education: Identity, Coherence, and Career Commitments” and the session “Examining the Roles of School and Policy Communities in New Teacher Induction.”

### **About the Mandel Center for Studies in Jewish Education at Brandeis**

The Mandel Center is dedicated to transforming the quality of teaching and learning in Jewish education by working at the intersection of scholarship and practice. The center is a partnership between the Mandel Foundation of Cleveland and Brandeis University.



The Mandel Center at Brandeis University

To learn more, visit the Brandeis Website <http://www.brandeis.edu/mandel>

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**News from Neighborhood Progress, Inc. (Cleveland, Ohio)**

## **Serving Cleveland's Community Development Corporations**

By Walter Wright



Neighborhood Progress Inc. (NPI) has worked since 1998 to increase the scale and pace of neighborhood development; increase economic opportunity, build local capacity; create private investment opportunities, and to advance stakeholder objectives.

Recently, NPI has taken a lead role in taking on the foreclosure crisis, through organizing, education, the creation of working partnerships, and assisting in site control efforts and abatement of blighted properties. It is through these efforts that Cleveland's Community Development Corporations (CDC's) and their leadership, is seen as a nationally recognized force for community transformation.

In 1988, the Mandel Foundation, The Cleveland Foundation, The George Gund Foundation, The Ford Foundation, and other local private, public and philanthropic interests, joined to create NPI to serve Cleveland's CDC's..

Implementing their anchor projects, each of the CDC's is attracting new partners and addressing a wide range of quality of life issues from neighborhood involvement to open space improvements.

Recently, six Community Development Corporations received support under NPI's Strategic Investment Initiative (SSI) program, funded by the Mandel Foundation.

Below are some examples of the community partnerships and redevelopment efforts in the six SII program. SII's goal is to create viable, healthy "neighborhoods of choice" :

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### **Buckeye Area Development Corporation**

The Saint Luke's Foundation of Cleveland presented a \$1 million grant to ParkWorks in support of the redevelopment of the former Saint Luke's Medical site, for enhancements at the anchor project. The Legacy at Saint Luke's Pointe, a 16-acre campus that will ultimately include 80+ units of market rate town homes and single family homes, and a new Cooperative Learning Campus - Harvey Rice elementary school, the Harvey Rice branch of the Cleveland Public Library, a community auditorium in the historic hospital building, and many other amenities.

### **Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization**



Anchor project Battery Park, by Vintage Development Group is the largest new housing development to date in the Detroit-Shoreway neighborhood.

Featuring 328 condominium units, the \$100 million housing development on 13 acres overlooking Lake Erie will feature lake and downtown views. This development will take advantage of such assets as the Shoreway Boulevard redevelopment project, new streetscape on Detroit Avenue, the Gordon Square Arts District including the Capitol Theatre, and many new restaurant, arts, fashion and home venues.

### **Fairfax Renaissance Development Corporation**

The former Andrew Carnegie Library Building will be renovated and a 13,000 square foot addition will be added. Fairfax will master lease the building to Senior Outreach Services (SOS). The library building will also feature Cleveland Clinic's Community Health Resource Center that will offer free medical screenings and education to area residents Monday-Fridays.

### **Famicos**

The Heritage Lane Historic Homes anchor project has received numerous

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awards, including:

- The HGTV/National Trust for Historic Preservation “Restore America” award
- The Cleveland Restoration Society Preservation Award
- Charter One Bank and Fox 8 News “Champions in Action” Award
- Northern Ohio Live Award – Honorable Mention

### **Slavic Village Development**

Morgana Run, a new housing development on the site of former industrial property, received a remediation grant from Clean Ohio, and the project is fully funded for the 90 unit first phase; groundbreaking on the Model Home planned for late fall '08.

### **Tremont West Development Corporation**

Tremont Pointe anchor project, a Hope VI funded development that is turning public housing into a 190-home mixed-income community that will help transform the neighborhood, launches the “Welcome Home” program, recognizing former public housing residents who are returning to this revitalized neighborhood.



To learn more visit Neighborhood Progress Inc.'s website:

[www.neighborhoodprogress.org](http://www.neighborhoodprogress.org)

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## **Outstanding Achievement for Mandel Scholars of Scholion Center at Hebrew University**

Three Mandel Scholars of the Scholion interdisciplinary research center in Jewish studies at Hebrew University have been awarded tenure track, and a fourth will be awarded a teaching position in the faculty of humanities.



Mandel Scholars Dr **Pavel Maciejko**, Dr **Dimitry Shumsky** and Dr **Uzi Leibner** applied along with approximately 70 other talented post-doctoral applicants for positions at the Hebrew University in the faculty of Humanities. Four Mandel scholars reached the final stage of selection.

“The four received positions, which is an absolutely huge achievement, for the scholars and for us,” said Zohar Marcovich of the Scholion Center.

The Mandel Scholars program offers two teaching and research positions per year to young, outstanding researchers in the area of Jewish society and culture. The positions are filled by researchers from Israel and abroad who have recently received their doctorates, having conducted distinctive and extraordinary research in fields relating to Jewish Studies. Each year, applicants are sifted by a careful selection process until the two deemed most outstanding are invited to further their research over a triennial term.



**Dr Pavel Maciejko's** research interests include the History of the Jews in Central and Eastern Europe, German-Jewish Thought, Jewish-Christian Polemics, Jewish and Christian Mysticism, Jews and Armenians, and the Enlightenment.



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**Dr Dimitry Shumsky** specializes in Ethnicity, Nationalism and Multi-Nationalism in the Late Habsburg Monarchy and the Soviet Union; Socio-Cultural History of the Jewish Nationalism and Zionism in the Eastern and Central Europe; Soviet Jewish Cultural and Intellectual History; Russian-Jewish Migration Studies



**Dr Uzi Leibner's** current research projects include an Eastern Galilee Survey publication; Settlement and Demographic changes in Byzantine Galilee and their implications on the society and culture of the Galilean Jewry; and Imported Fine Ware in Palaestina Secunda, 4th-7th centuries.

To learn more about 'Scholion' at the Mandel Institute for Jewish Studies, Hebrew University [click here](#)