

4th Annual Jewish Genealogy Lecture

Sponsored by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston and
Hebrew College

No Way In, No Way Out: The Jews of Interwar Poland

Prof. Adam Teller of Brown University

Sunday, January 9, 2011, 3:30 pm, at Hebrew College

Polish Jews between the two World Wars were caught in political and economic cross-winds as they emerged from the confines of the Russian and Austrian Empires into a new world of competing national identities and powerful ideologies.

This program presents the history of the Jews in interwar Poland along two dimensions. The first is political, showing how the very nature of the new Polish nation-state presented enormous challenges for Jews who were struggling to support themselves and find their place in the new state. Jews responded with various strategies: the Zionists wanted acceptance as a national minority, *Agudas Yisroel* sought recognition as a religious minority, and the *Bund* demanded rights for the Jews as part of the urban proletariat. Each developed the institutions of modern political parties in the struggle for the Jewish street.

The second dimension is cultural. The extraordinary trilingual culture of Polish Jewry --Yiddish-Polish-Hebrew -- enjoyed an almost unprecedented period of blossoming in these twenty years. Its remarkable achievements encompassed literature, the press, the theater, painting, and the cinema, while surrounded by mounting hostility. This is the story of Polish Jewry's tragic second *Golden Age*.

Our speaker, **Adam Teller**, is an Associate Professor of History and Judaic Studies at Brown University. Born in London, Teller completed his undergraduate study at Oxford University and received a Ph.D. in modern Jewish history at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem in 1997. He was on the faculty of the University of Haifa before moving to Brown University this year.

The program is free and open to the public. Reservations are required as seating is limited. Register at www.hebrewcollege.edu/events . For more information, contact Renee Tepper at rtepper@hebrewcollege.edu or 617-559-8622.

The program is made possible with the generous support of Harvey Krueger, who is also supporting a comprehensive introductory course on Jewish genealogy at Hebrew College taught by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston. See www.course.jgsqb.org.

Refreshments will be served following the lecture.