

TITLE OF PROJECT: **Women Teachers and the Jewish Day School: An Oral History Project**
(Undergraduate / Graduate Student Project)

PROJECT INFORMATION

Jonathan Krasner, Associate Professor of Jewish Education Research, is seeking an intern to assist with a new project focused on the women who were Jewish Studies and Hebrew teachers in Jewish day schools between 1950 and 2000. Although “staffing” and teacher preparation has been a perennial concern in Jewish day schools, the literature has surprisingly little to say about the teachers themselves. Data shows that the vast majority of teachers on the elementary level were women, while upper level administrators (principals, headmasters, etc.) were typically men. Anecdotally, indications are that many of the female teachers were Israelis and graduates of Hebrew teacher colleges. But in reality, very little is known about who they were, how they were trained, why they entered the profession, whether they were religiously and ideologically aligned with the schools where they taught, and how they navigated class, religious and gender dynamics and politics within the school building and with the larger school community.

This oral history project is designed to begin to fill in some of the gaps in the historical knowledge. Working with the faculty supervisor and a staff member from the Jewish Women’s Archive, the intern will be trained in oral history methods and will create an interview guide. The intern will then conduct between 10-12 semi-structured interviews with a preselected group of teachers. Once the interviews are complete the intern will transcribe and code them and create a preliminary report on their findings.

Note: This position will be based part of the time at the Mandel Center on the Brandeis campus.

PROFILE OF APPROPRIATE CANDIDATE

- Experience in history research and excellent writing skills
- Excellent organizational skills
- Hebrew language helpful
- Strong keyboarding skills helpful
- Demonstrated initiative.