And you shall tell your child on that day” (Exodus 13:8). Storytelling has been essential to the expression of the Jewish experience from biblical times to the present. Oral traditions recorded in the Book of Genesis; the commandment to remember the Exodus from Egypt; the ritualized reading of the Book of Esther; the iconic Hagaddah (narrative) of Passover; the Hasidic maggid “storyteller;” and the modern writings of such outstanding authors as Aleichem, Peretz, Kafka, Singer, Bellow, Agnon, Roth, Ozick, Goldberg, and Keret. These examples represent the integrated trajectories of Jewish civilization and Jewish narrative. Not only can history be understood through the stories told by each generation, new modes of telling stories influence the character and content of Jewish narratives and the framing of the Jewish experience. Even in antiquity, biblical narratives were retold, expanded, and shared more broadly through new genres such as Greek tragedies, epic poetry, romance novels, history, philosophical discourses, mosaics, and graphic arts. In recent decades as well, from Art Spiegelman’s *Maus* and *The New American Haggadah* to Laszlo Nemes’s Oscar-winning film, *Son of Saul*, Jews of diverse origins continue to tell their stories to each other and to the wider world. New media has impacted the messaging as greater numbers of Jews tell their stories on Facebook, on blogs, and even on online Jewish dating services. This year’s Lichter Lecture series, “To Make a Long Story...: Messaging the Medium in Jewish Culture,” examines Jewish story-telling through the ages from Antiquity to Modernity. The series will explore changes in the varieties and the medium of storytelling from oral to written culture, and from film to online messaging and their impact on understanding the human condition.

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Contact Professor Gila Safran Naveh at 513-556-2300 or gila.naveh@uc.edu
### Elaine Reichek
**Artist**

**Title:** “A Postcolonial Kindergarten”  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 15, 2016  
**Time:** 7:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Taft Center, 1 Edwards, UC Uptown Campus

**About the speaker:** In 1993 the Jewish Museum commissioned Elaine Reichek to create an installation that explored her personal identity. *A Postcolonial Kindergarten* probed the fears and embarrassments—real or imagined—that still prevailed among many American Jews and is one of the earliest major works to confront the paradoxes of American Jewish identity. She was a natural for the project: her work at the time was preoccupied with marginalized cultures—Irish, Native American, and other threatened peoples. Yet probing her American Jewish identity presented new complexities and paradoxes. Were Jews still marginalized in the United States? Had they not seamlessly assimilated into American culture? What barriers, if any, still limited Jewish inclusion in the American mainstream? The relevance of the project was so prophetic that the Jewish Museum commissioned a reinstallation in 2013 for which the artist has added several components. Telling the story of her upbringing through the re-creation of her childhood bedroom, Reichek writes of her work: “The life of a middle-class Jewish girl from Brooklyn, I saw, encompassed the same sorts of ambiguities of belonging that the cultural theoretician Homi Bhabha has ascribed to cultures ‘in-between’—those ‘produced in the articulation of cultural differences.’”

**Parking:** Paid parking at Corry Garage.

### Jeffrey L. Rubenstein
**Professor of Hebrew and Judaic Studies; Skirball Professor of Talmud and Rabbinics New York University**

**Title:** “Talmudic Stories: From History to Literature”  
**Date:** Thursday, January 26, 2017  
**Time:** 7:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Taft Center, 1 Edwards, UC Uptown Campus

**About the speaker:** Jeffrey L. Rubenstein was born in Johannesburg, South Africa and grew up in Chicago, Illinois. He received his B.A. in Religion from Oberlin College, his M.A. in Talmud from the Jewish Theological Seminary, where he also received rabbinic ordination, and his Ph.D. from the Department of Religion of Columbia University. He has taught at Columbia University, the University of Pennsylvania and the Jewish Theological Seminary in addition to New York University. Dr. Rubenstein has written numerous books and articles on the festival of Sukkot, Talmudic stories, the development of Jewish law, and topics in Jewish liturgy and ethics. He is the author of *Stories of the Babylonian Talmud* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2010); *The Culture of the Babylonian Talmud* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2003); *Rabbinic Stories* in “The Classics of Western Spirituality” series (Paulist Press, 2002); *Talmudic Stories: Narrative Art, Composition and Culture* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1999); and *The History of Sukkot in the Second Temple and Rabbinic Periods* (Scholars Press, 1995).

**Parking:** Paid parking at Corry Garage.

### Jon Adam Ross
**Actor, Playwright**

**Title:** The Rachel and Leah Play  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017  
**Time:** 7:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Mayerson JCC, 8485 Ridge Road, Cincinnati, OH 45236 (South, off Ronald Reagan Highway)

**About the speaker:** Jon Adam Ross has performed his one-man shows in over 90 cities around the world. His newest endeavor is the ambitious inHEIritance Project, which has Jon writing and performing 5 new plays in 5 cities over the next 3 years. Jon lives in NYC where his stage credits include: a dog, a bird, a horse, a goat, an elderly orthodox Jew, a spurned wife, a British naval officer in 1700’s Jamaica, Jesus Christ, a lawyer, a hapless police chief, and a cyclops. Jon holds a BFA in Acting from NYU/Tisch and is a founding company member of Storahtelling and the Northwoods Ramah Theater Company.

**Parking:** Free parking is available at the Mayerson JCC

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**The 2016-2017 Jacob and Jennie L. Lichter Lecture Series in Judaic Studies**

**ON THE COVER:**  
From Fable of the Ancient One, by Isaac ben Solomon Sahu la, published in Venice 1546.  
Image provided courtesy of HUC-JIR.