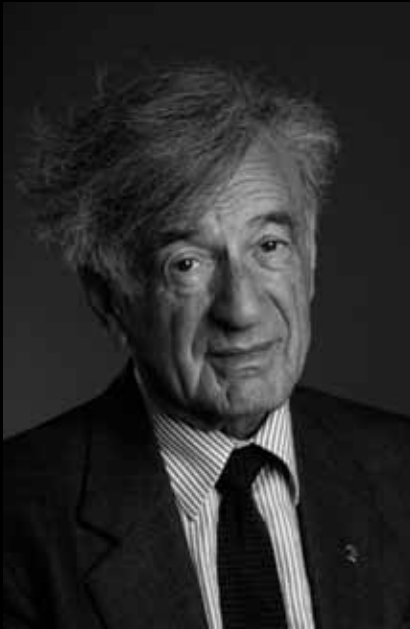


ELIE WIESEL CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES
2022 — 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



**ELIE
WIESEL**
מרכז אלי ויזל ללימודי יהדות
**CENTER FOR
JEWISH STUDIES**



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SEPTEMBER 30, 1928
JULY 2, 2016

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Dear Friends,

It has been my honor and privilege to serve as the new director of the Elie Wiesel Center for a little over a year now, after the extremely productive leadership of Michael Zank.

It was an intense and fruitful year, with exciting and innovative programming. We also suffered a great loss, in the passing of Prof. Michael Grodin, who was one of our devoted core faculty and an internationally recognized scholar in the fields of medicine and the Holocaust, and human rights. You can read more here. We have created a memorial fund in his honor, to support students in our program in Holocaust, Genocide and Human Rights Studies. If you would like to donate to this fund, please follow this link and specify in your donation that it's for the gift fund in Professor Grodin's memory. May his memory be a blessing for us as well as for future generations, as he will live on through his many accomplishments and his legacy of groundbreaking work.

We are very proud of our growing academic programs in Jewish Studies and in Holocaust, Genocide and Human Rights Studies. There are now more sections of Jewish Studies and of Holocaust Studies courses offered than ever before: our enrollments demonstrate the passion and enthusiasm students have for our courses. I am indebted to our exceptional faculty, who are committed to making the Elie Wiesel Center a success through their inspirational teaching and mentoring of students.

Both of our programs have facilitated discourse between faculty and students in different departments and centers, as well as encouraging stimulating conversations between diverse groups. Last year we hosted a student-led set of encounters so that students could discuss matters of importance to them, such as how to respond to antisemitism on college campuses, as well as celebrating Jewish holidays through study groups and refreshments.

Our events this past year were quite remarkable, as we brought the renowned historian Timothy Snyder of Yale University to campus to give an inaugural lecture celebrating our new and unique undergraduate major in Holocaust, Genocide and Human Rights Studies. His presentation, on the question of genocide in the attacks on Ukraine, drew a large audience both in person and on livestream. Our second lecture last fall featured

Irene Kacandes of Dartmouth College, who spoke on co-witnessing and social justice. Both lectures were part of the Elie Wiesel Memorial Lecture series, whose theme in 2022 was Justice and Co-Witnessing: Our Responses to Humanitarian Crises. A third EWMLS lecture was given by Leora Bilsky in the spring, on the topic of the immense challenges faced by Jewish scholars after World War II as well as by Kenyan and German activists in seeking restitution for looted books and cultural artifacts. Other notable events include this year's Rabin Lecture, centered on Prof. Pnina Lahav's discussion of her new book on Golda Meir, "The Only Woman in The Room," that has received critical accolades. Jonathan Krivine (CAS '72) was instrumental in supporting and helping us plan this important lecture series. Myriam Bienenstock joined us from Paris to speak on Hermann Cohen, Felix Adler and ethical culture. And let's not forget the stunning and evocative film Space Torah! Please read ahead for more details of these and all the other events we held at the Center last year.

A difficult choice that we have had to make is whether or not to continue to livestream events. Building back our in-person audience recreates the dynamics that enrich our programs for both the speaker and the audience. All of our events are recorded and available on our YouTube channel. Some events were indeed livestreamed (as well as recorded) to meet the requests and needs of our out of town community, and we hope that you found them enriching and diverse. We will continue to livestream some of our events in the coming year, and all will be recorded as well.

The Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies has become one of the most important centers in the College of Arts and Sciences at Boston University. We hope you will continue to support the Center in our endeavors to bring Jewish life to our campus and to the larger community, and to honor the legacy of Elie Wiesel.

We owe all of our supporters and friends our deepest gratitude for helping to make our programs happen, and encouraging us along every step of the way.

All best,

Nancy Harrowitz

Director, Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies
Professor of Italian and Jewish Studies
Boston University



BEIT SCHLOMO V'SARAH WIESEL
147 BAY STATE ROAD; SILBER WAY BALCONY.

ABOUT

The Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies (EWCJS) is an academic program unit of the College of Arts and Sciences. It serves as Boston University's hub for co-curricular and public events related to Jewish history, religion, and culture.

With currently thirteen core and seventeen affiliated faculty members, we offer a content-rich, interdisciplinary range of courses and events in Jewish Studies and related fields. Our Center supports faculty and students through research and travel grants, scholarships, fellowships, and merit awards. Our lectures and events provide the campus community and the public in Greater Boston opportunities to learn, exchange ideas, and encounter contemporary forms of Jewish intellectual life and artistic creativity.

Named for **Elie Wiesel**, the 1986 Nobel Laureate for Peace and a BU faculty member for nearly forty years, our Center fosters excellence in teaching, scholarship, and meaningful public engagement. The Elie Wiesel Center is located at 147 Bay State Road, a former patrician building that once also served as the office of BU President John Silber. At its dedication in 2005, the building was renamed Beit Schlomo in honor of Elie Wiesel's parents, Schlomo and Sarah Wiesel. It was renovated with the generous support of Ira and Ingeborg Rennert, who provided the founding endowment of the Center.

Boston University Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies
147 Bay State Road, Boston, Massachusetts 02215
Phone: 617.353.8096, Email: ewcjs@bu.edu

ACADEMIC YEAR 2022-2023

Books published: **3**
Articles/chapters published: **15**
Presentations/lectures given: **24**
Awards, fellowships, and grants received: **6**

Classes/sections offered in JS and HGHRs: **31**
JS minors: **12**
HGHRs majors: **3**
HGHRs minors: **13**

FACULTY

CORE FACULTY

- Kimberly Arkin**, Associate Professor of Anthropology
Andrea Berlin, James R. Wiseman Chair in Classical Archaeology and Professor of Archaeology and Religion
Alejandro Botta, Associate Professor of Hebrew Bible
Katheryn Darr, Harrell F. Beck Professor of Hebrew Scripture
Charles Dellheim, Professor of History
David Frankfurter, Professor of Religion and Aurelio Chair for the Appreciation of Scripture
Abigail Gillman, Professor of Hebrew, German, and Comparative Literature
Nancy Harrowitz, Professor of Italian and Jewish Studies; Director of the Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies; and Coordinator of Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies Programs
Steven T. Katz, Professor of Religion, Alvin J. Slater and Shirley Slater Chair in Jewish Holocaust Studies, and Founding Director of the Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies
Jonathan Klawans, Professor of Religion
Deeana Klepper, Associate Professor of Religion and History
Diana Lobel, Associate Professor of Religion
Michael Zank, Professor of Religion and Previous Director of the Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies

AFFILIATE FACULTY

- Ingrid Anderson**, Senior Lecturer in the Arts and Sciences Writing Program and Associate Director of the Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies
Miriam Angrist, Master Lecturer in Hebrew; Coordinator of Hebrew Language Program; and CAS language liaison
Susan Bernstein, Research Professor in the English Department
Alicia Borinsky, Professor of Spanish and Latin American Studies; Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies and Head of Spanish Section
Jennifer Cazenave, Assistant Professor of French
Matthew Creighton, Part-time Lecturer in the College of Arts and Sciences & the College of General Studies
André de Quadros, Professor of Music
Aaron Garrett, Professor of Philosophy
Nahum Karlinsky, (Ben-Gurion University), Visiting Associate Professor in the College of Arts and Sciences
Irit Kleiman, Associate Professor of Romance Studies
Yair Lior, Lecturer in Religious Studies

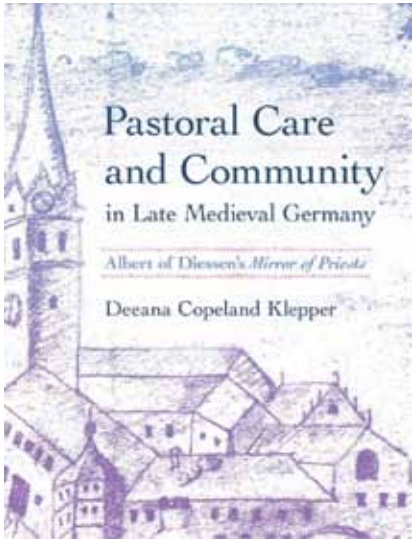
- Margaret Litvin**, Associate Professor of Arabic and Comparative Literature and Director of Undergraduate Studies
Michael Prince, Associate Professor of English
Adam Seligman, Professor of Religion; Director of Graduate Program in Religious Studies; Research Associate at the Institute for the Study of Economic Culture; and Director of Graduate Studies at the College of Arts and Sciences
Alissa Valles, Part-time Lecturer at the College of Arts and Sciences
Merav Shohet, Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Co-Director of Undergraduate Studies
Jeremy Yudkin, Professor of Music, Musicology, and Ethnomusicology
Michael Zell, Associate Professor in the Department of History of Art and Architecture

HGHRs FACULTY

- Odile Cazenave**, Professor of French Studies in Romance Studies, African Studies, and the Center for the Study of Europe; Associate Faculty of the Pardee School of Global Studies
Jennifer Cazenave, Assistant Professor of French
Petra Hesse, Clinical Associate Professor, Wheelock College of Education and Human Development
Linda Heywood, Professor of African American Studies and History
Timothy P. Longman, Director of the Institute on Culture, Religion and World Affairs, Associate Professor of International Relations and Political Science
Simon Payaslian, Kenosian Chair in Modern Armenian History and Literature
Robert D. Sloane, Professor of Law; R. Gordon Butler Scholar in International Law

EMERITUS FACULTY

- John Bernstein**, Professor Emeritus of Film
Paula Fredriksen, Professor Emerita of Religion; William Goodwin Aurelio Chair Emerita of the Appreciation of Scripture
Thomas Glick, Professor Emeritus of History
Michael Grodin, z"l Professor Emeritus of Health Law, Bioethics, and Human Rights; Professor Emeritus of Family Medicine and Psychiatry
Pnina Lahav, Professor Emerita of Law
Hillel Levine, Professor Emeritus of Religion
Jeffrey Mehlman, Professor Emeritus of French at the Romance Studies Department
Elie Wiesel, z"l Andrew W. Mellon Professor Emeritus in the Humanities; Professor of Philosophy and Religion



DEEANA KLEPPER

Professor Deeana Klepper is a distinguished scholar known for her research on religious identities, cultures, and interreligious encounters in medieval Europe, with a particular focus on the thirteenth to fifteenth centuries. Her multidisciplinary approach and unique insights make her work accessible and engaging to a broad audience.

Deeana Klepper

With a 23-year tenure at Boston University, Klepper holds the position of Associate Professor in both the departments of Religion and History. She has core affiliations with the Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies (EWCJS) and the Global Medieval Studies Program. She is also an affiliated faculty member in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, reflecting her commitment to interdisciplinary scholarship.

After attending Northland College, a small liberal arts institution in Northern Wisconsin, Klepper shifted her academic focus from environmental studies to secondary education specializing in Native American Studies. Little did she know that this experience would significantly influence her understanding of religious "minorities" in Christian-controlled Europe during the Middle Ages. She credits Professors Patricia Shifferd and Kent Shifferd for guiding her toward graduate school and becoming lifelong mentors and friends.

One key aspect of Professor Klepper's research examines the interplay between biblical interpretation and religious polemic in late medieval Christian-Jewish intellectual exchange. Her monograph, *The Insight of Unbelievers: Nicholas of Lyra and Christian Reading of Jewish Texts in the Later Middle Ages*, examines the complex attitudes of Christian scholars toward Jewish tradition during this time. Additionally, Klepper's research investigates the allegorical association of Jews with Hagar in medieval Christian texts and art, revealing how this association was used to justify the expulsion of Jews and uncovering the intersection of religion, art, and politics.

Another area of Klepper's research centers around regionally authored guides for parish priests, offering fresh perspectives on broader aspects of medieval religious culture. Her recent book, *Pastoral Care and Community in Medieval Germany: Albert of Diessen's 'Mirror of Priests'* sheds light on the significance of regionally authored guides for parish priests in understanding Christian-Jewish interactions and local religious practices.

From her recent work, Klepper has embarked on two ongoing projects. The first project examines advice on coexisting with Jews in local priests' guides from Germany, Spain, Italy, and England, aiming to deepen our understanding of late medieval Christian attitudes towards Jews and other religious minorities. The second project explores demonic obsession and mental illness in medieval Europe, examining the transition from possession to obsession and incorporating diverse sources beyond traditional texts.

Expanding her scholarly interests, Klepper's current focus also includes Christian approaches to Muslims and Islam. She is working on an article comparing advice on living with Jews and Muslims in local priests' guides from medieval Germany, Spain, Italy, and England. Through this research, she highlights significant variations in expectations and concerns across different regions, challenging prevailing descriptions of medieval Christian approaches to religious minorities.

As an educator, Professor Klepper derives immense satisfaction from witnessing her students' intellectual growth and transformative moments. Her passion for teaching resonates through the diverse range of courses she offers, including "Magic, Science, and Religion," "Food and Religion," "Gender and Sexuality in Judaism," and "Religion, Community, and Culture in Medieval Spain." Among these courses, "Magic, Science, and Religion" is her favorite as it continuously evolves to address changing cultural contexts.

Klepper highly values the Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies for fostering collaboration among students and scholars from diverse disciplines. She believes the Center's unwavering support for faculty research, programs, and students aligns perfectly with Elie Wiesel's values.

Outside of academia, Klepper enjoys spending time outdoors, engaging in activities like walking, hiking, and biking. Additionally, cooking and baking for family and friends hold a special place in her heart as it connects her to cherished memories of learning about food from her maternal grandmother.



MIRA ANGRIST

Master Lecturer Mira Angrist had an exceptionally active and productive 2022-23 academic year. She made notable contributions by presenting at prestigious conferences, publishing scholarly work, and actively participating in language education initiatives. At NECTFL (Northeast Council of Teaching Foreign Languages) in New York, Mira Angrist delivered two engaging presentations: “Visualizing Voices and Voicing Visuals in the Language Class” and “Re-imagining Upper Level Language and Culture Courses Through Popular Music.” Later, at NAPH (National Association of Professors of Hebrew) held at Tel Aviv University, Angrist shared her expertise through a presentation titled “Analyzing Popular Israeli Cultural Expression Through the 3P’s Model (Products, Practices, and Perspectives).”

In addition to her conference engagements, Angrist made significant academic contributions. She wrote a chapter on the Status of Hebrew Higher Education in the USA for the handbook “*Master Stones*,” published in Hebrew by the Israeli Ministry of Education. Angrist was also a member of the organizing and planning committee for a Virtual Language Conference organized by the Middle East National Resource Center (ME NRC) held in March 2023. She also facilitated four workshops for Hebrew faculty in higher education organized by George Washington University. Lastly, Angrist completed her second year as the CAS Language Liaison, further contributing to the academic community and promoting language education.



JENNIFER CAZENAVE

During the 2022-2023, **Professor Cazenave** participated in BU’s inaugural Inclusive Pedagogy Institute where she focused on the topic of courageous conversations around race. During the Spring 2023 semester, she gave a keynote address on gender and archives at Brooklyn College as part of an LGBTQ+ film series hosted by their film department. That semester, she also gave a paper titled “Mediating Disability Beyond the Home Movie” at the annual Society for Cinema & Media Studies conference in Denver. In March 2023, she published in Nexus: Essays in German Jewish Studies a short piece titled *An Ethics of Radical Visibility* on disability representation in film archives.



ANDREA BERLIN

In the spring 2023 semester, **Professor Berlin** was on leave, as a Fulbright Senior Research Scholar, at Tel Aviv University’s Institute of Advanced Studies and Department of Archaeology and Ancient Near Eastern Cultures. Professor Berlin spent most of her time working on her current book project: *Beyond the Temple: Jewish Material Life from the Maccabees to the Revolt*. In this book, she used archaeological remains to show how Palestinian Jews crafted a Judean/Jewish identity via utilitarian objects in the home. This “material identity” is first recognizable in Judea in the late 2nd-early 1st centuries BCE, in the time of the consolidation of the independent Hasmonean kingdom. People there deliberately choose pared down, simplified surroundings, a choice that she read as a deliberate rejection of the Mediterranean goods and styles common all around them. Interestingly, at this time Jews living up in the Galilee and the Golan do not adopt such material “signals.” There are several possible reasons, ranging from a less charged relationship with Mediterranean culture to a more complicated attitude towards Hasmonean rulers and their policies. This Judean/Galilean divide disappears several generations later, at the end of the 1st century BCE, immediately after the dedication of the grand new temple in Jerusalem. At this moment, Jews throughout the land adopt two new household items both invented in Jerusalem: plain oil lamps and white chalk stone vessels.

Berlin argues that Jews used the lamps specifically to usher in the Sabbath, while the stone vessels were, in effect, souvenirs of the new temple. Together these small household items allowed people to connect their homes with the rhythms of the temple, and demonstrate their personal affiliations. She has termed this phenomenon “household Judaism.” It gave rise to a strongly unified national sensibility, which over time helped to consolidate Jewish social identity – but also led to a heightened sense of nationalism and, ultimately, fed the catastrophic decision to revolt against Rome.

Her other main project this year was the writing and filming of a 20-part video series on the Archaeology of Israel in the Second Temple Period, entitled “*From Artifact to History*.” The plan was to complete the series this summer – but ongoing political turmoil kept them from filming two episodes in Jericho. She hopes to make a quick visit back to Israel in early January for that.



MATTHEW CREIGHTON

During the 2022-2023 academic year **Dr. Matthew Creighton** taught “World Cultures of the Jews” and “Representations of The Holocaust in Literature and Film.” Through generous grants from the Wiesel Center and the Jewish Cultural Endowment, these two classes not only welcomed Professors Froma Zeitlin and David Biale as guest lecturers, but also participated in Boston’s annual Cape Verdean Passover seder. Towards his professional development, he was invited to participate in two pedagogical workshops: the Teaching with Impact seminar hosted by the Israel Institute, and the Summer Institute on the Holocaust and Jewish Civilization hosted by Northwestern University. In his public engagement he led two discussions on Holocaust cinema: one through the Belmont World Film Festival and one through Richland Library in South Carolina. He also served on the Yitzhak Rabin Memorial Lecture Series Committee that invited Emerita Professor Pnina Lahav back to campus. In Fall 2023, he will be teaching “The Holocaust Through Film,” and he will continue to serve as both the Honors advisor in CAS’s Core program and an Undergraduate Mentor in BU’s College Access & Student Success initiative.



ANDRÉ DE QUADROS

Professor André de Quadros directed Common Ground Voices, an international project in music and peacebuilding in Haifa, from June 29 to July 4.



DAVID FRANKFURTER

In the 2022-23 academic year, **Professor Frankfurter** presented papers on demons in Warsaw, magical collages in Denver, Egyptian concepts of hell in Bern, Coptic magical texts in Brussels, and the concept of “belief” in ancient religions in Columbus OH. He also participated in Zoom conferences on protective art (from Warsaw) and rabbinization and magical bowls (from Princeton). Frankfurter published several papers, including one comparing the preservation of traditional Greco-Roman religion in early Christian times to the preservation of Judaism by Hispanic Jews after 1492. As Chair of Religion, he offered two courses, one of which explored the continuing Jewish context of the early Christ movement.



PAULA FREDRIKSEN

During the past academic year, **Professor Fredriksen**, Aurelio Professor of Scripture emerita at Boston University and Distinguished Visiting Professor at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, delivered several notable lectures. In October, she presented the Taubman Lectures in Jewish Studies at the University of California, Berkeley, with a thought-provoking title: “Just Like Everyone Else, Only More So: Jewish Romans and the Rise of Christianity.” Additionally, she gave the Goodman Lecture in Jewish-Christian Understanding at St. Catherine’s University in St. Paul, MN, focusing on the topic of “Mediterranean Mixing: Pagans, Jews, and Christians in Roman Antiquity.”



ABIGAIL GILLMAN

In summer 2022, **Professor Gillman** taught an intensive summer course for MA students at Hebrew College on “Parables, Fables, and Short Stories in Modern Jewish Literature.” During the academic year, she chaired the WLL Curriculum Committee and convened both the German and the Hebrew language sections. In the fall, she organized a reading by Israeli poet Almog Behar, and throughout the year, she worked with Coordinator Mira Angrist to plan community events for the Hebrew program. She published two book chapters. The first, “*Die Bibel in gerechter Sprache and the History of German Jewish Bible Translation*” studies a new Bible translation into German which strives to do justice, in its language, to Judaism, gender and other social principles. The essay appeared in the volume *Re-gained in Translation: Bibles, Theologies, and the Politics of Empowerment*. She also contributed an essay, “Emma Lazarus, Heinrich Heine and the Splendid Galaxy of Jewish Poetry,” to a Festschrift for Lawrence Rosenwald titled *In the Face of Adversity. Translating difference and dissent*. In February, Gillman participated in the second meeting, hosted by the University of Toronto, of the “Dialogue and Translation Workshop” which convenes scholars of German Jewish thought to study the manuscripts of the Buber-Rosenzweig Bible. The workshop is organized through the Franz Rosenzweig Minerva Research Center. She continued to work as an editor in the Modern Judaism section of the Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception, and was invited to join the Academic Advisory Board of the Leo Baeck Institute.



NANCY HARROWITZ

2022-23 was an intense and productive year, as **Professor Harrowitz** assumed the leadership of the EWCJS. She continued her research in the field of Italian Jewish cultural studies, writing a paper on the links between the Jewish criminologist Cesare Lombroso, the writer Giorgio Bassani, and the changing profile of Italian Jewish identity after unification and emancipation. The presentation was given at a conference at the University of Turin, Italy in May, 2023 with subsequent publication planned this fall. She has begun research on a book on the Lombroso family and the creation of secular Judaism in Italy in the nineteenth century.

Her teaching last year included courses on Fascism and the Holocaust in Italy, and the Holocaust through the eyes of cinema.



DIANA LOBEL

Professor Lobel conducted a review of Ehud Krinis' book, *Judah Halevi's Fideistic Scepticism in the Kuzari* (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2020), which was published in *Judaica: Neue digitale Folge* in February 2022.



ODILE CAZENAVE

In the academic year 2022-23, **Professor Cazenave** co-moderated a reading and conversation with Rwandan writer Scholastique Mukasonga. In the upcoming academic year 2023-24, Professor Cazenave will teach a course on the genocide of Tutsis in Literature and Film, commemorating the 30th anniversary of the genocide.



STEVEN KATZ

Professor Katz continues to teach his courses on the Holocaust and Jewish history. In addition, this year, he was asked by a colleague at Adelphi University to advise and participate in a new program entitled "The Two Museums Seminar" that involved both Black and Jewish students, with the aim of integrating and encouraging understanding and empathy between the two groups. After completing joint preparation at Adelphi, the students spent two days in Washington, D.C., where together they visited both the Holocaust Museum and the Museum of African American History. Katz joined them in Washington, where he lectured to the students and helped to guide them around the museums. It is hoped that this inaugural program, which was written up in *Inside Higher Education*, will involve more students and universities going forward and will encourage "future leaders" of both groups to feel empathy for others and to stand against racism, intolerance, and antisemitism.

Professor Katz also serves on the academic committee of the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, evaluates grant applications for the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture, and chairs the Saul Kagan Fellowship Committee of the Conference for Material Claims Against Germany. The Saul Kagan Fellowship awards graduate and post-doctoral fellowships in Holocaust Studies both in the US and internationally, and, additionally, works on getting the support of universities in Eastern Europe to encourage them to offer Holocaust courses. Katz is also a member of the US government delegation to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) where he is part of the Academic Working Group and the Antisemitism and Holocaust Denial Committee. This past year he attended IHRA meetings in Croatia.

On the publication side, Professor Katz published two articles ("Thinking about the Uniqueness of the Holocaust" and "Who is Elie Wiesel for me and for us today"). His 2022 edited book, *The Cambridge Companion to Antisemitism*, was well received, and has led to his being asked to construct and edit a major 3-volume Cambridge History of Antisemitism. This has involved the time-consuming task of finding suitable authors for 127 different articles, a task that has now been completed, and the articles should come in over the next year. He is now looking forward to returning to his own research, comparing the treatment of Jews during the Holocaust to the 16th century Spanish treatment of South American Indians, and his book on this topic is almost ready for submission to his editor at Cambridge U.P. Finishing touches will take place this summer, when he will again conduct research as a visiting professor at Dartmouth College.



NAHUM KARLINSKY

Professor Karlinsky encountered unique challenges while teaching the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict course during the 2023 Spring term. The political turmoil caused by the new Netanyahu right-wing government’s judicial overhaul introduced significant social, cultural, and political instability in Israel. Despite the ongoing Israeli instability, Karlinsky maintained the regular schedule for most students with limited knowledge of Israel and the conflict. Updates on new developments were periodically provided to the class. Notably, the course boasted a diverse and socially inclusive student composition, with many Muslim students, including those from Arab countries, and Israeli-American students, including an individual who had served in the Israeli army and shared their experiences. Guest speakers included a Palestinian-Muslim and an Israeli-Jewish representative. The course also featured a memorable Israeli-Palestinian food banquet, fostering discussions on food as a cultural and identity marker. The term concluded with a dynamic staged peace conference, where students actively discussed core conflict issues, facilitating a comprehensive understanding of the subject matter.

In terms of publications, Karlinsky co-authored a book titled *From Rivalry to Bi-Nationalism: The Jewish and Arab Citrus Industries, 1850-1950*, with Professor Mustafa Kabha, to be published in 2024 by Resling Press in Hebrew. Additionally, an edited book titled *The Israeli, Palestinian, and Other Diasporas in Comparative Perspective*, stemming from an international workshop initiated by Professor Karlinsky at the Elie Wiesel Center, was accepted for publication by the University of Texas Press. The book features established and well-known scholars of international migration and diasporas, ‘newcomers’ to this field, and Israeli and Palestinian scholars of the Palestinian and Israeli diasporas.

Regarding service, Karlinsky spoke about the Israeli judicial overhaul to students and faculty on February 23, moderated the Rabin Memorial Lecture on April 25, and was interviewed for the WTBU Radio program “Beyond the Compass” to discuss Israel’s judicial overhaul.



JONATHAN KLAWANS

In the academic year 2022-2023, **Professor Klawans** assumed the role of Director of Graduate Studies for the Department of Religion at BU, where he oversees the training of PhDs in Jewish Studies. Additionally, he continued his work as the co-editor of the *Journal of Ancient Judaism*, a publication by Brill, which began in January 2022. Notably, Klawans published several works related to the Mishnah this year. One of his publications includes a translation and annotation of Mishnah Tractate Pesahim, which appeared in *The Oxford Annotated Mishnah* (Oxford University Press, 2022), edited by Shaye J.D. Cohen, Robert Goldenberg, and Hayim Lapin (3 vols., 1.494-556). Another significant contribution is his essay titled “Priests and Pietists in the Mishnah,” featured in *What is the Mishnah* (Harvard University Press, 2023), edited by Shaye J. D. Cohen (329-53). Furthermore, Klawans explored the topic of forgeries in his essay entitled “Nastiness, Nonsense, Antinomianism, and Abuse: Morton Smith versus Morton Smith on Jesus, Secret Mark, and the Letter to Theodore,” published in the *Journal of the Jesus Movement in its Jewish Setting* 9 (2022) (43-71).



DEEANA KLEPPER

A major achievement for **Professor Klepper** in the 2022-23 academic year was the publication of her book, *Pastoral Care and Community in Late Medieval Germany: Albert of Diessen’s ‘Mirror of Priests’* (Cornell University Press). This book delves into the daily religious experiences of medieval European communities by studying manuscripts from the late fourteenth century. It emphasizes the value of locally authored guides for parish priests and sheds light on the values and concerns of the community. Of particular significance is the book’s exploration of Albert’s advice on Christian-Jewish interactions in shared communities. As a follow up to her book project, Klepper organized a panel titled “Localizing the Universal: What Late Medieval Pastoral Texts and Episcopal Statutes Say (and Don’t Say) about Jews and Muslims” at the Medieval Academy of America conference in February. Her paper, “Localized Approaches to Jews and Muslims in Pastoral Care Manuals,” initiated a broader research project investigating the treatment of Jews and Muslims in local guides for Christian priests across different regions of Europe from the 13th to 15th centuries.



PNINA LAHAV

Professor Lahav, an emerita law professor and member of the Elie Wiesel Center at Boston University, has been actively involved in various public engagements to promote her book, *The Only Woman in the Room: Golda Meir and her Path to Power* (2022, Princeton University Press). Her endeavors include delivering the distinguished Rabin Lecture at Boston University on April 25, 2023 and the Merchand Lecture at the Princeton Public Library on May 30, 2023. She was also interviewed by Dr. Yehuda Kurzer, President of the Shalom Hartman Institute, for the insightful “Identity Crisis” podcast. Moreover, Professor Lahav participated in a thought-provoking Zoominar organized by Moment magazine, focusing on the intriguing connection between Justice RBG and Golda Meir. Her expertise and book were also featured in a Boston University School of Law podcast. Additionally, Lahav actively engaged with various book clubs, synagogues, and other venues, sharing her insights on her newly published book. Lahav was also invited to speak at a distinguished event organized by the Boston University School of Law on April 19, 2023, where esteemed speakers such as Professor Gary Lawson, Professor Martha Minow, and Professor Ron Harris contributed to the discussion. Lastly, the Association for Israel Studies hosted a significant plenary session on June 26, 2023, providing a platform for Lahav’s book to be explored and discussed by renowned experts in the field of Israel Studies.



SIMON PAYASLIAN

Professor Payaslian offered four courses in the academic year of 2022-2023. In the fall semester of 2022, he taught HI 384, History of Genocide, and HI 379, Modern Armenian History and Literature. In the spring semester of 2023, he taught HI 383, History and Geopolitics of the Caucasus, and HI 549, History of Nationalism. Throughout the academic year, he presented two papers at international conferences. The first paper, titled “The American Armenian Press in the United States and the Construction of Durable Memory (1920s-1950s),” was presented at the interdisciplinary conference on “Faces of Postmemory 5 - Conflicts or Negotiations?” held at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland, on October 25-26, 2022. The second paper, titled “A Global Forum for Restorative Justice: Armenian Lobbying at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco, 1915,” was presented at the National Movements and Intermediary Structures in Europe (NISE) conference on “Nationalism and World Fairs” in Vienna, Austria, from May 30-June 1, 2023.



ALEXIS PERI

During the 2022-2023, **Professor Peri** published two articles pertaining to her most recent research into the pen-friendships between Soviet, American, and British women during WWII and the early Cold War. One of these articles, dealing with the Soviet and British letters is titled “Operation Friendship: Soviet and British Women Discuss War, Work, and Womanhood” and appeared in *The Russian Review* while the second focuses on American-Soviet correspondence and is titled “Spreading Intimacy and Influence: Women’s Correspondence across the Iron Curtain.” It appeared in *Diplomatic History*. Professor Peri is completing a book manuscript on this topic, which is under contract with Harvard University Press.



MERAV SHOHET

During the 2022-23 academic year, **Professor Shohet** achieved significant milestones and made notable contributions to her field. She was promoted to the position of Associate Professor with tenure. Her collaborative research was recognized through the publication of an article titled “Patients’ Perspectives on Race and the Use of Race-Based Algorithms in Clinical Decision-Making: A Qualitative Study” in the Journal of General Internal Medicine. She also received the prestigious Stirling Prize for Best Published Book in Psychological Anthropology for her book, *Silence and Sacrifice: Family Stories of Care and the Limits of Love in Vietnam*. Furthermore, Shohet received the Templeton Award for Excellence in Student Advising/Mentoring from the College of Arts & Sciences at Boston University and the Carole H. Browner Award for Best Undergraduate Mentor in Medical Anthropology from the American Anthropological Association’s Society for Medical Anthropology. She also delivered several invited lectures and participated in multiple conferences, showcasing her expertise in topics such as silence, narrative, aging, and care. Shohet also secured grants to support her research, including a Center for Innovation in Social Science Faculty Research Pilot Grant focused on stigma, care, and end-stage kidney disease in racialized Boston communities. Additionally, she served as a mentor for various student honors thesis and UROP research projects at Boston University.



MICHAEL ZANK

After handing over the responsibilities of director of the Elie Wiesel Center, **Professor Zank** returned to full time teaching (Bible, Maimonides, Holy City: Jerusalem, and Philosophy of Religion) and graduate advising in the Department of Religion. Zank welcomed two first year PhD students from Spain, supervised two dissertations, and mentored two second- and one third-year PhD student going into qualifying exams. Two talks on themes in Jewish philosophy he was scheduled to give in Germany in the summer of 2022 had to be canceled due to a medical emergency. Zank delivered the first lecture on the Hebrew Bible for the CAS Core Curriculum in the fall semester, spoke on “Literary Aspects of Philosophical Writing: The Case of Maimonides” at the Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference in December, and in March of 2023, he gave a keynote lecture on “Hebrew Humanism and Zionism: Martin Buber on the Jewish-Arab Question” at the Catholic Academy in Berlin. The Spring semester also saw the publication of a review of Jerusalem: History of a Global City, (University of California Press, 2022) in the journal of Mediterranean Studies.



MICHAEL ZELL

Last fall, **Professor Zell** co-taught a new graduate seminar “A Golden Age? Global and Material Turns in the Study of Seventeenth-Century Dutch Art” with Christopher Atkins, Director of the MFA’s new Center for Netherlandish Art (CNA). Balancing the latest scholarship on the global dimensions of Dutch art and the intersection between global and material methodologies with object-based inquiry, the seminar offered students an unmatched experiential learning and career development opportunity. Classes were conducted at the CNA, established as part of a landmark 2017 gift of over 113 Dutch and Flemish paintings and other objects to the MFA, which overnight transformed Boston into the North American hub for the study of this fundamental period of European art. Students worked directly with the MFA’s outstanding collection of Dutch paintings, prints, drawings, decorative arts, and Judaica; we also met regularly with the museum’s curators, conservators, researchers, and staff, all of whom generously shared their knowledge and expertise. Through sustained access to the artworks and regular interactions with museum professionals, the students learned the skills required for their future careers in museums as well as academia. To extend the students’ learning beyond the class, Atkins and Zell took them to Amsterdam to see the Rijksmuseum’s Vermeer exhibition over Spring Break, providing a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see the largest Vermeer exhibition ever mounted. With a seed grant from the CNA and generous contributions from across BU, every student was given the opportunity to participate.

Professor Zell’s review of the MFA exhibition Michaelina Wautier and ‘The Five Senses’: Innovation in 17th-Century Flemish Painting (on view through November) is scheduled to appear in the interdisciplinary journal Early Modern Women in the fall. His essay “Rembrandt and Multicultural Amsterdam: Jews and Black People in Rembrandt’s Art” will be published later this year in the volume edited by Mirjam Knotter and Gary Schwartz (Amsterdam University Press). In early July he will present “Dogs at Rest: Animals and Identity in Rembrandt and Dou” in a Rembrandt and genre conference at Herstmonceux Castle, Queen’s University’s study center in Sussex, England. Zell is also co-organizing the conference “Affective and Hermeneutic Functions of the Self-Aware Picture, 1550-1700” with Walter Melion of Emory University, scheduled for the end of 2023. At the conference, he will present a paper on Gerard ter Borch’s unusual Horse Stable of 1654, in which the artist included himself grooming a horse and a portrait of his wife, Geertruyt Matthijs, whom he married in the same year.

Gilah Kletenik



GILAH KLETENIK

The 2022-2023 academic year was most productive for our Postdoctoral Associate, **Dr. Gilah Kletenik**.

Her primary focus during this time has been on her research and publications. Kletenik made significant progress - completing three chapters of her book *Sovereignty Disrupted: Spinoza and the Disparity of Reality*, which is now in the final stages of completion. The book introduces a fresh reading of Spinoza’s philosophy, demonstrating how it advances a critique of the mutually reinforcing sovereignties that secure our grasp of reality, the promise of reason, and the status of humans.

In addition, Kletenik also worked on preparing two peer-reviewed journal articles, “Totalizing Infinity, Erasing Difference, Returning to the Self or How Levinas Reprises Hegel and Misperceives Spinoza,” as well as “State of Exception: A Rabbinic Critique of Absolute Sovereignty and the Expulsion of God from Politics.” Kletenik also oversaw the final edits of her chapter, “To Infinity, not Beyond: Spinoza’s Ontology of the Not One,” which is included in a forthcoming volume on Jewish philosophy and thought.

JEWISH STUDIES

MINOR CONCENTRATION

Undergraduate students from across Boston University have the opportunity to minor in Jewish Studies. The Jewish Studies minor offers students of all backgrounds the opportunity to explore Jewish history, culture, and religion from various perspectives. To complete the minor, students must take six courses totaling 24 credits.

▪ **JS 100 World Cultures of the Jews** must be one of these courses. The remaining five courses need to include one or more from three of the following areas:

- **Sacred Texts and Comparative Traditions**
- **Jewish Literature and Thought**
- **History and Holocaust Studies**
- **Contemporary Jewish Societies and Cultures, including Israel Studies**

Students may also count up to two Hebrew courses toward their Jewish Studies degree, including any JS or LH course taught in Hebrew. Students are strongly encouraged to study Hebrew language and literature and pursue study abroad opportunities in Israel.

For complete program and contact information, see www.bu.edu/jewishstudies/academics/undergraduate/minor-in-jewish-studies



STUDENTS IN THE ELIE WIESEL CENTER LIBRARY

ACADEMIC YEAR 2022-2023

Classes offered: **25**
Students taught: **765**
JS minors: **12**
JS 2022-23 graduates: **7**

2022-2023 JEWISH STUDIES COURSES

INTERDISCIPLINARY COURSES

JS 100 **World Cultures of the Jews** (Offered both Fall 2022 & Spring 2023)

SACRED TEXTS AND COMPARATIVE TRADITIONS

JS 120 **The Bible** (Fall 2022)
JS 121 **Judaism, Christianity, and Islam** (Fall 2022 & Spring 2023)
JS 255 **Modern Judaism** (Fall 2022)
JS 416 **Biblical Fakes and Forgeries** (Fall 2022)

HISTORY AND HOLOCAUST

JS 250 **Holy City: Jerusalem in Time, Space, and Imagination** (Spring 2023)
JS 252 **History of Judaism** (Spring 2023)
JS 260 **The Holocaust** (Fall 2022)
JS 261 **Representations of the Holocaust in Literature and Film** (Fall 2022 & Spring 2023)
JS 366 **Fascism and the Holocaust in Italy** (Spring 2023)
JS 367 **The Holocaust through Film** (Fall 2022)
JS 460 **Seminar on the Holocaust** (Spring 2023)
HI 384 **History of Genocide** (Fall 2022)
HI 500 **Nazis, Jews, and Art** (Fall 2022)
PO 580 **Rwanda: Genocide and its Legacies** (Fall 2022)
RN 410/HI 410 **Religion, Community, Culture in Medieval Spain** (Spring 2023)

CONTEMPORARY JEWISH SOCIETIES AND CULTURES, INCLUDING ISRAEL STUDIES

JS 280 **Israeli Popular Music** (in Hebrew) (Spring 2023)
JS 281 **Advanced Modern Hebrew: Voices in Israeli Society** (Fall 2022)
JS 283 **Israeli Culture through Film** (in English translation) (Fall 2022)
JS 286 **Israeli-Palestinian Conflict** (Fall 2022 & Spring 2023)
JS 377 **Gender, Sexuality, and Judaism** (Fall 2022)
JS 379 **Islamophobia and Anti-Semitism** (Spring 2023)

JEWISH LITERATURE AND THOUGHT

JS 136 **Jewish Literature** (Spring 2023)
JS 348 **Philosophy and Mysticism: Jewish and Islamic Perspectives** (Fall 2022)
XL 223 **Introduction to Middle Eastern Literatures** (Fall 2022)
RN 420 / PH 409 **Maimonides** (Fall 2022)

UNDERGRADUATE SPOTLIGHT



GABRIELLE PECK

Gabrielle Peck recently graduated with the class of 2023 with a major in English and a minor in Jewish Studies. In addition to working at the EWCJS, Gabrielle was involved in Jewish life on campus through BU Hillel as a member of Coffee Crew and the Fighting Hate Fellowship, as well as conservative minyan. She was also a writer and editor for BU's chapter of Her Campus. Beginning this summer, she will be working as a Birthright and Israel Specialist at University of Pennsylvania's Hillel.

"Pursuing a Jewish Studies minor allowed me to learn about different aspects of my heritage. I believe in the importance of storytelling and that, even when fictional, writing requires a person to understand their background. Exploring various topics across the minor has allowed me to strengthen my connection to my identity and create a deeper connection to the Jewish community."

I also enjoyed working at the Elie Wiesel Center because it allowed me to find a connection between my Judaism and my interest in communications and social media. I particularly liked planning our Student Lunch conversations and I am grateful for the impact I have been able to make on behalf of the Jewish community at BU."

– Gabrielle Peck (CAS'23, English Major)

STUDENT REFLECTION ON
JEWISH STUDIES CLASSES

"Being part of the Jewish studies program allows me to connect more with Judaism and learn more about myself. I'm currently taking JS100 and JS286, and have previously taken JS260. They are some of the best classes I have taken for how interesting and informative they are. I learned so much about my identity through this program and can feel the passion of the professors teaching these courses."

– Jacob Knight (CAS'23)

GRADUATE JEWISH STUDIES

The Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies collaborates with the Graduate Program in Religion (GPR) to offer a Ph.D. specialization in Jewish Studies. Students admitted to this program receive a fully-funded graduate fellowship for five years. Additionally, the Center welcomes the affiliation of graduate students in other humanities and social sciences departments if their research topics significantly relate to Jewish history, culture, law, religion, or society. Affiliated graduate students have the opportunity to apply for available scholarships and research funding.



EMILY BOGIN

GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT

Emily Bogin is a PhD student in the Graduate Department of Religious Studies and an affiliate of the Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies. She is interested in the relationship between eros, reason, and gender in 20th century Jewish Philosophy, and in the philosophical aspects of life-writing. Emily has a B.A in Philosophy and Classical Studies from Middlebury College and a M.T.S from Harvard Divinity School. She loves swimming and film photography.

"There are so many different ways to "do" Jewish Studies at Boston University, and this is supported by a diverse faculty and a diversity of projects that are brought together under the umbrella of EWCJS. The Elie Wiesel Center is a nexus on campus where different kinds of study are supported and put in conversation with each other, from Jewish philosophy to Israeli politics to the arts. I have benefited tremendously from this constellation of thinkers and ideas, and the conversations that arise during the events at the Center."

Earlier this year, the Elie Wiesel Center supported me in my effort to bring a speaker to campus to discuss Hannah Arendt's writings on the Eichmann controversy. Professor Michael Weinman, faculty in Jewish Studies at Indiana University, gave a rousing lecture on how Arendt's writings instigated the friendship break-up between herself and Gershom Scholem. The Q&A was so lively and urgent that it felt almost like they were in the room with us. It was especially exciting for me to see the interaction between my home department, the Graduate Department of Religion, and the EWCJS."

The Elie Wiesel Center has also supported me in my language acquisition. Both this summer and last summer, with a generous grant from the center, I have been able to travel to Israel to study Hebrew in an intensive university ulpan. These experiences have been incredibly useful in building my competence to do primary and secondary research in Hebrew, and have also helped me build a more robust understanding of the field of Jewish Studies."

I have been lucky to attend many of the EWCJS events this past year and enjoy the conversations that surround them. I am grateful for the opportunity to be part of such a thriving intellectual community during my PhD program and I look forward to more graduate involvement in the years to come!"

– Emily Bogin

HOLOCAUST, GENOCIDE, AND HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES

The Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies (HGHRs) program at Boston University offers an interdisciplinary program that prepares students for graduate studies and careers in various fields. Through the major and minor in HGHRs, students delve into the historical context and contemporary concerns surrounding genocides, human rights violations, and related issues.



STUDENTS IN THE ELIE WIESEL CENTER LIBRARY

THE HGHRs MAJOR

We are proud to announce our new HGHRs major, launched in Fall 2022.

The HGHRs major allows students to engage in a comprehensive course of study that examines moral, ethical, and spiritual aspects linked to genocides and human rights violations. Students will explore the evolution of human rights discourse and law, the dynamics of government-citizen relations, and the roles of individuals and organizations in advocating for human rights causes.

The major allows students to understand the causes and consequences of past acts of genocide, including the Holocaust. It also enables students to investigate the impact of human rights law in preventing violence, and encompasses an extensive study of government-sponsored human rights abuses, crimes against humanity, extreme nationalism, and the influence of the media on racism and prejudice. Students pursuing the HGHRs major or minor are also introduced to institutions and organizations that prevent genocide and other crimes against humanity. The program equips students with the necessary analytical tools to examine genocidal regimes, repressive governments, and the domestic and international environments in which they operate.

Graduates of the HGHRs program are well-prepared for advanced studies in disciplines such as history, political science, law, literature, and religion. They are also equipped for careers in social and governmental services, where they can contribute to addressing and advocating for human rights issues in diverse professional settings.

To complete the HGHRs major, students must take ten four-credit courses, 40 total credits. The curriculum includes three required courses: CAS RN 384: History of the Holocaust, CAS HI 384: History of Genocide, and one of three Human Rights core courses chosen in consultation with the student’s advisor. Additionally, students select six electives from a pre-approved list of classes in consultation with an academic advisor. The major also includes a four-credit senior thesis seminar or the option to pursue an internship.

To complete the HGHRs minor, students must complete six four-credit courses, 24 total credits. The curriculum includes three required courses: CAS RN 384: History of the Holocaust, CAS HI 384: History of Genocide, and one of three Human Rights core courses chosen in consultation with the student’s advisor. Additionally, students must complete three elective courses in Genocide studies, Holocaust studies, and Human Rights Studies.

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN HGHRs

In collaboration with the Pardee School of Global Studies and the Institute on Culture, Religion, and World Affairs (CURA), the Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies offers a graduate certification program in Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies (HGHRs) for graduate students already enrolled in a degree bearing program. The Graduate Certificate in HGHRs complements graduate studies in history, political science, law, literature and religion, and serves as a valuable preparation for social and governmental service careers.

Master’s or doctoral students work with an advisor to select four cross-disciplinary courses that advance their knowledge of Holocaust history, ethics, law, and public health analysis, as well as comparative genocides and human rights. To receive the certificate, students also undertake advanced research within the field of Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies, which can be demonstrated through papers, a thesis, or dissertation work. To qualify for the HGHRs certificate, students must be enrolled in a graduate degree program and complete at least 16 credits (equivalent to four standard courses) with a significant focus on human rights, comparative genocide, or Holocaust studies. Students must take at least one course in Human Rights and one course in Holocaust and Genocide Studies as part of their coursework.

ACADEMIC YEAR 2022-2023

Classes offered: **19**
HGHRs majors: **3**
HGHRs minors: **13**
HGHRs 2022-23 graduates: **3**

For complete program and contact information, see www.bu.edu/jewishstudies/academics/undergraduate/holocaust-genocide-and-human-rights-studies-major

HOLOCAUST, GENOCIDE, AND HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES

2022-2023 HGHRs COURSES (INTERDISCIPLINARY)

HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE STUDIES

- JS 367 **The Holocaust Through Film** (Fall 2022)
- JS 379 **Islamophobia and Anti-Semitism** (Spring 2023)
- HI 384 **History of Genocide** (Fall 2022)
- CI 390 **Stalin-Gulag and Genocide** (Spring 2023)
- PO 580 **Rwanda: Genocide and its Legacies** (Fall 2022)

HISTORY AND HOLOCAUST

- JS 260 **The Holocaust** (Fall 2022)
- JS 261 **Representations of the Holocaust in Literature and Film** (Offered both Fall 2022 & Spring 2023)
- JS 366 **Fascism and the Holocaust in Italy** (Spring 2023)
- JS 460/RN 460/STH TX 805 **Seminar on the Holocaust** (Spring 2023)
- HI 489/AA 489 **The African Diaspora in the Americas** (Spring 2023)
- HI 500 **Nazis, Jews, and Art** (Fall 2022)
- HI 539 **Nazis on Film** (Spring 2023)

HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES

- HI 279 **Experience of Total War** (Spring 2023)
- PO 303 **It's a Free Country: Civil Liberties in America** (Spring 2023)
- IR 352/PO 378 **International Human Rights: Applying Human Rights in Africa** (Spring 2023)
- IR 375 **International Law and Organizations** (Spring 2023)
- PO 519 **Inequality and American Politics** (Spring 2023)

HGHRs STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



ALLISON HECHMER

Allison Hechmer is a graduating senior, majoring in international relations with a minor in Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies. Following graduation, she hopes to pursue a career in the human rights field, focusing on refugee and immigration advocacy. She will begin interning with the Holocaust Museum LA in July. At Boston University, Allison is heavily involved in the transfer student community and was formerly the vice president of the school's UNICEF chapter. Allison is also a travel enthusiast and enjoys exploring new destinations abroad when possible.

"From a young age, I felt drawn to work in the human rights sector. My parents taught me to care deeply about the world around me, and from my own background, I became particularly passionate about refugee and immigrant advocacy. However, once I entered college and chose to pursue a degree in international relations, I felt intimidated by the breadth of the field. I wanted to pursue a career rooted in helping marginalized populations, but I had no idea where to start. In the fall of 2021, I took a religion course with Professor Michael Zank, who suggested I minor in HGHRs. I am incredibly grateful for Professor Zank's guidance, as studying at the Elie Wiesel Center was a pivotal part of my experience at Boston University. Through the courses I took, I deepened my knowledge of the past and began to understand just how dangerous the forces of hatred, anti-Semitism, and bigotry are. Although it was difficult to study the history of the Holocaust and other genocides, my professors and classmates gave me hope for the future. The Elie Wiesel Center offers us a space to discuss our world's gravest injustices and explore how we can combat hatred. Its purpose and function go far beyond remembrance; I believe the Center and its community empower students like me to be global changemakers.

While I am sad to leave behind Boston, I am excited to apply what I have learned in a real-world setting. The Elie Wiesel Center has given me the foundational skills necessary to work in the human rights field. But most importantly, it has inspired me to keep the legacy of the Holocaust alive. As a student and young adult, I have witnessed the rise of hate speech within the United States and abroad. We are at a pivotal point in history, and it is the responsibility of myself and others to fight hatred anywhere we see it. I recommend all BU students, even those majoring and minoring in other subjects, to take HGHRs-related courses and explore the Center's resources. I believe everyone should understand the dangers of prejudice and the role they have in preventing it."

- Allison Hechmer
(CAS'23, International Relations Major)



PROFESSOR NANCY HARROWITZ AND MERON REUBEN
CONSUL GENERAL OF ISRAEL TO NEW ENGLAND

MEET THE 2022-23 AWARD & SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:
ALEX WECHT, ROSE SOLOMON, DAPHNE JENNINGS, MIKAYLA STEINBERG, GABRIELLE PECK, ALLISON HECHMER.

THE LEVINE, MARTIN FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP FOR EXCELLENCE IN JEWISH STUDIES
Gabrielle Peck, Mikayla Steinberg, Rose Solomon, and Yagev Levi

THE LEVINE, MARTIN FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP FOR EXCELLENCE IN HOLOCAUST, GENOCIDE,
AND HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES
Allison Hechmer, Ava Namazi, and Daphne Jennings

CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT FOR EXCELLENCE IN HEBREW
Alexander Wecht and Rose Solomon

The Levine, Martin Family Scholarship honors outstanding students who focus on Jewish Studies throughout their time at Boston University. Recipients are students who have declared a minor in Jewish Studies and completed six courses counting toward the Jewish Studies concentration.



MIKAYLA STEINBERG

Mikayla Steinberg graduated in May 2023 with a dual degree in Pure and Applied Mathematics and Computer Science and a minor in Jewish Studies at Boston University. Mikayla was extremely involved in Jewish life at BU, including being active at EWCJS events and leading the conservative minyan at BU Hillel. She also served as the 2022 Director of BU Computer Science Ambassadors. She will be working in New York as a security operations engineer at Balyasny Asset Management.

"I loved my experience at the Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies! There have been many events I have enjoyed, including the Elie Wiesel Speaker Series each year as well as celebrations. Having the privilege to work at EWCJS during Spring of 2022 allowed me to gain a larger appreciation for the community that the center fosters. I loved aiding in building this community, and I am incredibly thankful to be a part of it.

The most rewarding aspect of Jewish Studies is my better understanding of the Jewish religion and culture. I had an extremely comprehensive Jewish education, ranging in topics from Hebrew, to the Holocaust, to Jerusalem, to world cultures, to gender and sexuality. I have a very well-rounded perspective of Jewish studies, thanks to this minor. Additionally, as a STEM major, this was my greatest opportunity to grow my writing and reading comprehension skills.

My minor in Jewish Studies and my involvement at EWCJS will help me in the future because it has taught me to value my community. Although Jewish studies is extremely important to me, it doesn't specifically go with my major, and pursuing and completing this minor degree has taught me that I should always have my personal goals and interests at heart, and I should always do things that make me happy to work towards self-fulfillment."

– Mikayla Steinberg
(CAS'23, Pure and Applied Mathematics and Computer Science Major)



GABRIELLE PECK

Gabrielle Peck, a recent graduate from the class of 2023, completed her studies with a major in English and a minor in Jewish Studies. Alongside her academic pursuits, she actively contributed to Jewish life on campus through BU Hillel, where she participated in various roles including Coffee Crew, the Fighting Hate Fellowship, and the conservative minyan. Additionally, Gabrielle showcased her talents as a writer and editor for BU's Her Campus chapter. Starting this summer, she will begin a new position as a Birthright and Israel Specialist at University of Pennsylvania's Hillel.



ROSE SOLOMON

Rose Solomon graduated in May 2023 with a Bachelor's degree in mathematics and a minor in Jewish Studies. She grew up in a reconstructionist community in Cleveland, Ohio, and went to a Jewish day school until coming out as trans at the end of sixth grade. After this, she had trouble connecting with Judaism until her synagogue brought her on to lead services with the Hebrew school. She attended her freshman year of college at Cleveland State University before transferring to BU so that she could take courses in Hebrew and Jewish studies and continue to rebuild that connection. She works as a tutor at Mathnasium and is planning to attend graduate school to further her studies in mathematics.

"For me, the most rewarding aspect of studying Hebrew and Jewish Studies at BU has been the chance to engage with and deepen my connection to Judaism. Being able to engage with new facets of Jewish culture each semester in my JS courses, and learn about Jewish and Israeli culture in my Hebrew courses, has been an invaluable experience for me.

One of the most meaningful experiences I have had at BU has been drawing connections between what I learn in my math courses and what I learn in my Jewish studies courses, primarily in my research essay for the course on Jewish mysticism."

– Rose Solomon
(CAS'23, Mathematics Major)

STUDENT AWARDS

The Levine, Martin Family Scholarship honors outstanding students who focus on Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies throughout their time at Boston University. Recipients are students who have declared a minor in Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies and completed six courses counting toward the Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies concentration.



ALLISON HECHMER

Allison Hechmer graduated in May 2023 with a major in international relations and a minor in Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies. At Boston University, Allison was heavily involved in the transfer student community and was the vice president of the school’s UNICEF chapter. Allison is also a travel enthusiast and enjoys exploring new destinations abroad. Following graduation, she hopes to pursue a career in the human rights field, focusing on refugee and immigration advocacy.

“After studying in the Elie Wiesel Center throughout the past few years, I have come to understand the significance of “never forgetting.” While our history, specifically Holocaust history, can be difficult to remember, we have a responsibility to keep the legacy of the Shoa alive. Unfortunately, there is no shortage of human rights abuses, but hopefully, we students can lead the way in championing a more equitable, safe world. The Elie Wiesel Center is home to incredible staff and faculty, who have shown me the value of studying Holocaust history and who have sparked my passion to combat injustices. I firmly believe that studying Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies has made me a better student and a better person.

As a student majoring in International Relations, I have always wanted to focus on the humanitarian side of the field and plan to pursue a career focused on human rights work. My HGHRS minor paired perfectly with my major and gave me the foundational knowledge necessary to study other subjects within the Pardee School of Global Studies. By learning about the past, I am better equipped to analyze and address contemporary issues.

I could not have asked for a more enriching experience with the Elie Wiesel Center. I have taken a range of Holocaust courses -- from a Holocaust film and literature course to a Holocaust seminar-- that have expanded my knowledge of the past, as well as deepened my understanding of the Holocaust. I want to give a special thanks to Professor Creighton, Professor Harrowitz, and Professor Katz who helped cultivate my interest in the subject and for exceeding what it means to be exceptional educators.”
– Allison Hechmer
(CAS’23, International Relations Major)

THE LEVINE, MARTIN FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP FOR EXCELLENCE IN HOLOCAUST, GENOCIDE, AND HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES



AVA NAMAZI

Ava Namazi graduated with a bachelor’s degree in Political Science and a minor in Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies. She was born in Tehran, Iran, and moved to Dubai, United Arab Emirates, at the age of nine. Ava attended the American School of Dubai before heading to American University in Washington, DC. She transferred to Boston University as a sophomore. Ava will begin law school in the fall at the University of San Diego.

“I loved the Elie Wiesel Center. I found great life-long mentors there and everyone was very kind and welcoming. It made me feel like I was part of a smaller community at BU and had people supporting me and advocating on my behalf. I think my minor will help me in the future as it helped grow my critical thinking skills and gave me the experience of learning about a topic and debating it while being sensitive to the victims.

The most rewarding part of the minor for me was learning about the Armenian Genocide and dedicating time to studying it. I come from an Armenian background, so I thought it was very fruitful to learn about my own history, something that I had not been able to do prior.”
– Ava Namazi
(CAS’23, Political Science Major)



DAPHNE JENNINGS

Daphne Jennings graduated from BU with a major in Sociology and minors in French and Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies. She grew up in a small town in Massachusetts and now lives in New York City with her mom, dog, and cat! This summer, she is doing a research internship with NYC’s Housing Preservation and Development. In the future, she hopes to continue exploring work in the city in the non-profit/ government/social justice realm.

“I graduated from BU with a major in Sociology and a minor in both French and Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies. The HGHRS minor was a valuable and rewarding experience that added a lot of depth and perspective to my other studies. It rooted my studies in sociology and passion for social justice in history and experience. I enjoyed the multidisciplinary aspect of the minor, as I got to approach issues through many perspectives and fields of study, including law, literature, and international relations. I carry this knowledge of past events and individual stories that I learned through my minor with me as I move forward in search of a job/career focused on helping people and bringing about justice.”
– Daphne Jennings
(CAS’23, Sociology Major)



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: MERON REUBEN, CONSUL GENERAL OF ISRAEL TO NEW ENGLAND, MASTER LECTURER MIRA ANGRIST , ALEXANDER WECHT, PROFESSOR ABIGAIL GILLMAN

Alex Wecht is a junior from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, who studies Philosophy and Political Science on the pre-law track. He will graduate from the College of Arts and Sciences in 2024.

"Learning Hebrew has been extremely rewarding. I went from not knowing the alphabet to being able to read, write, understand, and speak the language (sufficiently well) in less than two years, and it's very fulfilling to experience that progress. Additionally, this progress combined with the other knowledge gained in the Hebrew classes, has further strengthened my appreciation for, and connection to, Jewish and Israeli culture."

Each time I've visited the Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies I've been both amazed by the building's beauty and appreciative that our University has such an extraordinary space for Jewish learning."
- Alex Wecht
(CAS'24, Philosophy and Political Science Major)



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: MASTER LECTURER MIRA ANGRIST ,ROSE SOLOMON, PROFESSOR ABIGAIL GILLMAN

Rose Solomon graduated in May 2023 with a Bachelor's degree in mathematics and a minor in Jewish Studies. She works as a tutor at Mathnasium and is planning to attend graduate school to further her studies in mathematics. According to Rose, her Hebrew and Jewish Studies courses deepened her connection with Judaism and enabled her to draw connections between her math courses and Jewish Studies.

"I honestly wish I had been more engaged in events at the Elie Wiesel Center. Having to work alongside school left me without much spare time, but the events that I did attend, and the courses I took at the center, felt important and meaningful. My courses have made me feel proud and honored to be a part of the Jewish community, and has even led me to consider going to rabbinical school later in life to learn about the material my courses have taught from the insider perspective."
- Rose Solomon
(CAS'23, Mathematics Major)



SAMANTHA PICKETTE

Samantha Pickette

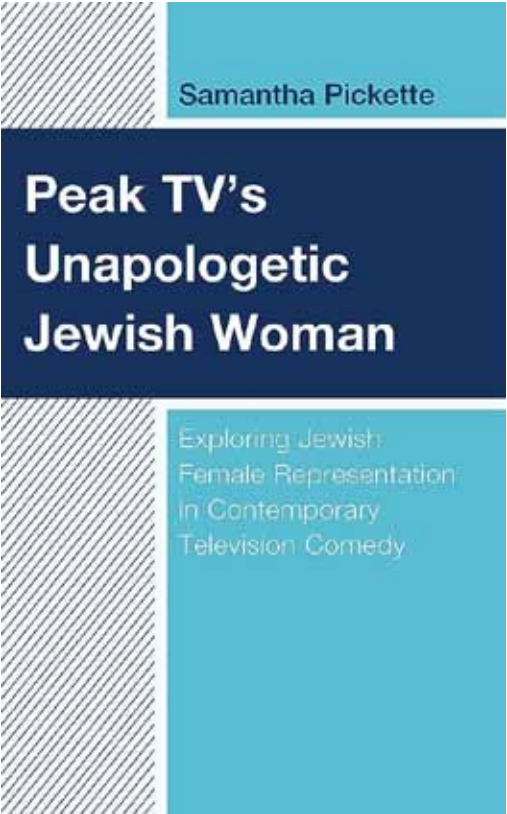
Samantha Pickette is the Assistant Director of Brandeis Hillel and is a research associate at the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute (HBI) on Brandeis University's campus. She received her Ph.D. in American Studies from Boston University in 2022, after which she worked as the Assistant Director of the Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. Her research focuses on American Jewish literature, film, and popular culture with an emphasis on the intersection of gender and Jewish identity in representations of American Jewish life. Her work has been published in the Journal of Modern Jewish Studies, Shofar, and Studies in American Jewish Literature. Her first monograph, Peak TV's Unapologetic Jewish Woman: Exploring Jewish Female Representation in Contemporary Television Comedy, was released in December 2022.

"I entered Boston University as a Ph.D. student in the fall of 2015, and while my homebase at BU was the American Studies program, the Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies quickly became the place on BU's campus where I felt most at home, both personally and academically. Through generous graduate student funding opportunities available through the center, I was able to attend my first academic conference—the annual Association of Jewish Studies (AJS) conference, an activity that became a yearly mainstay for me every December. The EWCJS's conference funding not only provided networking opportunities that helped me foster connections with scholars from around the country I otherwise would have not been able to meet and learn from, but also gave me access to scholarly forums that elevated my research to a higher professional standard. These opportunities, in turn, ultimately led to the publication of my first two peer-reviewed articles. EWCJS Graduate scholarships also allowed me to travel to Israel to learn Yiddish at the Naomi Prawer Kadar International Yiddish Summer Program at Tel Aviv University, an experience that expanded both my teaching and research interests to include the rich history and literature of Jewish immigrants at the turn of the twentieth century.

My most cherished memories of my time as a graduate affiliate of the Center include the invaluable mentorship of faculty members like Dr. Ingrid Anderson, Dr. Nancy Harrowitz, Dr. Michael Zank, and Dr. Alexandra Herzog.

As my dissertation progressed and I became more immersed in my research, I relied on these wonderful mentors for career-related advice, scholarly insight about my chosen methodologies, and encouragement when the project took me in unexpected directions. Yet, despite my status as a graduate student, every faculty member I encountered treated me as a colleague; at the EWCJS, I always felt respected, heard, and as though I was contributing to the important work being done in Jewish Studies at BU. At an otherwise very large (and sometimes impersonal) university, the Elie Wiesel Center always felt heimish, tight-knit, and engaged, despite the wide-ranging work that the Center does throughout the university. As a graduate student, I was always grateful for that delicate balance, and I have no doubt that my experience at the EWCJS helped give me the tools I needed to begin my professional career as an educator and author."

– Samantha Pickette



JS 136 JEWISH LITERATURE



ABIGAIL GILLMAN

Abigail Gillman is a professor of Hebrew, German, and Comparative Literature at Boston University. Her scholarship focuses on Jewish literature and culture of the German-speaking world, with notable essays on Kafka, Freud, Heine, Buber, Appelfeld, Bertha Pappenheim, and others, as well as on Holocaust memory and monuments. She has authored two influential books, *Viennese*

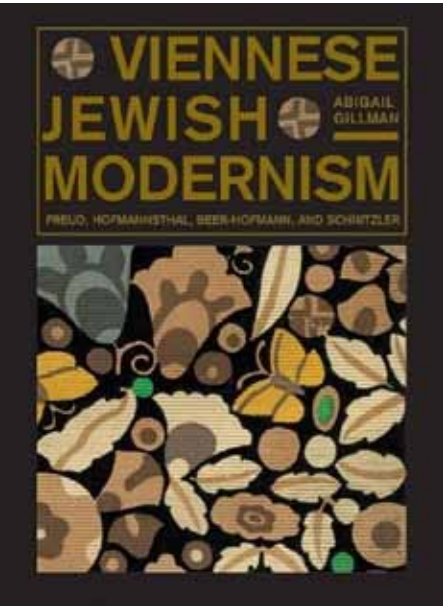
Jewish Modernism: Freud, Hofmannsthal, Beer-Hofmann, and Schnitzler (Penn State Press, 2009) and *A History of German Jewish Bible Translation* (University of Chicago Press, 2018). In 2021-22, she was a visiting scholar at the Porter School for Cultural Studies of Tel Aviv University. She is currently writing a history of the Jewish parable (mashal) from Kafka to Keret.

At Boston University, Gillman teaches courses on German literature, Hebrew literature, Israeli Cinema, and literature of the Middle East. She has also given Boston University students the opportunity to enroll in her well-sought-after course on Jewish Literature.

Professor Gillman’s course on Jewish Literature explores the modern Jewish diasporic experience through literary works, plays, films, and memoirs. The course is described as “ashkenormative,” featuring writers from North America, Europe, and Israel, and it covers various themes such as immigration, identity struggles, assimilation, and the impact of historical events like the Holocaust. The course proceeds chronologically, divided into six units: introductory readings, immigration and wandering, Holocaust memoirs, postwar journeys and legacies, Black Jews in America, and “All you need is love.”

“Unlike my other courses, this course is based in the English Department. But the “Jewish Diaspora” is, of course, a global, multilingual phenomenon, so it is appropriate that we offer sections in World Languages and Literature and Jewish Studies. I enjoy teaching about the American Jewish experience and also providing students access to Jewish writing in German, Hebrew, and Yiddish.

In past years, most students would introduce themselves on the first day by saying, “I’m Jewish.” Now, students come to the course from every background and major, and each has a different reason for wanting to learn Jewish literature and history. Even students who may be JS minors or who have Jewish backgrounds couldn’t be more different from one another. My course in Spring 2023 was exceptionally diverse, and this enriched the experience for everyone and, of course, for me as well.”
– Abigail Gillman



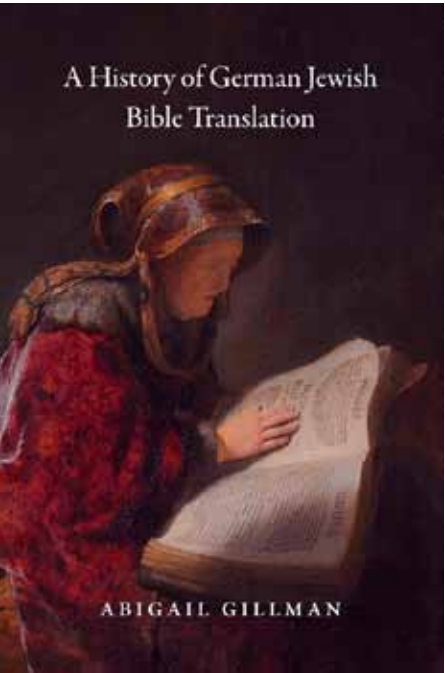
According to Professor Gillman, the most rewarding aspect of teaching the course is introducing students to powerful texts that delve into themes of identity, memory, family, and community.

“This course allows me to teach extraordinarily powerful texts about identity, memory, family, and the self in community. Franz Kafka’s story “Report to an Academy” should be required for all human beings; I can’t tell you how many students relate deeply to this parable of 1916. We read three brilliant memoirs: Elie Wiesel’s Night, Eva Hoffman’s Lost in Translation, and Art Spiegelman’s Maus. I enjoy educating the students about Elie Wiesel’s career as a literature professor at our university. Of course, I bring them on a field trip to the Wiesel Center. We end the course with Nicole Krauss’ novel The History of Love, which brings the struggles of the third generation into the mix. Her creative plot gives this book the feel of a mystery novel, and the ending is exquisite. It’s good to end the course with love.

Last year, the National Jewish Book Award for Best Jewish Book of 2022 was awarded to Michael W. Twitty’s Koshersoul: it’s a food memoir which also teaches us a great deal about Judaism. This award represents a watershed moment in celebrating the experiences of Jews of color and African descent, and I was inspired to add Twitty to my syllabus. I also enjoyed showing students the panel discussion “Black/s and Jew/s. Then and Now,” organized by the Wiesel

Center in 2019, with diverse voices and perspectives. This was an excellent resource for this course, and I hope other colleagues draw from the video archive of the Center’s past events in their courses.

Ultimately, what is most rewarding about this course and every course I teach is to watch students grow in their thinking and improve their writing and interpretive skills.”
– Abigail Gillman



JS 136 JEWISH LITERATURE

Students engage in explication assignments throughout the semester to develop skills of close reading and interpretation. Additionally, they undertake a creative project related to one of the readings, which can be fictional or autobiographical in any genre. These projects are compiled into a book, and the class discusses them in the final session. This allows students to explore their storytelling abilities and gain inspiration from the narratives shared by Jewish writers in the readings.

One noteworthy example of a creative project is Clara Yun’s Wiesel-Spiegelman mashup, where she drew a scene from Elie Wiesel’s Night in the style of Spiegelman’s Maus. The project showcases students’ ability to engage with famous writers’ styles and tell their stories uniquely and compellingly. Yun (Clara) Tang’s Drawings of Wiesel/Spiegelman



CLARA YUN: WIESEL-SPIEGELMAN MASHUP

When students reflect on their experience in Professor Gillman’s class on Jewish Literature, their words overflow with admiration and gratitude for the unique and profound learning journey they embarked upon. From exploring canonical Jewish literature to delving into various forms of storytelling, the course left a lasting impact on their understanding of Jewish culture and history.

Dora Betts, a student who enrolled in Professor Gillman’s class, said the following about her experience taking this course:

“Professor Gillman’s class is a must-take for those interested in Jewish studies. She provides a unique deep-dive into canon Jewish literature, while introducing a variety of other pieces that represent the Jewish experience. After reading and discussing these works throughout the semester, we wrote our own creative stories in which we applied our newfound perspectives and unique experiences with the influence of these works. On a more personal note, Professor Gillman’s class provided me with a raw understanding of my ancestors’ experiences, and that I am grateful for.”

– Dora Betts
(CAS ‘25, International Relations Major)

For her creative project, Dora Betts imagined a letter her Polish grandmother might have written to her father (Dora’s great-grandfather) Zalman during the Holocaust. Her grandmother, together with her sister and mother, survived in hiding in France, but Zalman was arrested during the green ticket roundup in Paris in 1941 and died in Auschwitz in 1942. His family emigrated to the U.S. after the war, and were not informed about Zalman’s death until the mid-1980s.



“My great grandfather, Zalman, writes a letter to my grandma, her sister, and my great-grandmother while he is interned at the Beaune-la-Rolande internment camp in 1941 before being deported to Auschwitz a few months later. The portrait in the photo is of my great aunt Paulette, my great grandmother Dora, and my grandma Regina.”

– Dora Betts

JS 136 JEWISH LITERATURE

Here's what other students we reached out to had to say about their experience in Professor Gillman's class:

"This past semester, I had the opportunity to take Professor Gillman's CAS EN126, "Jewish Diaspora in Literature." I have always loved literature; I grew up telling people I wanted to be an author. But as an engineering student, some of that love for literature was lost amongst degree requirements. Professor Gillman's class reinvigorated my passion for reading, analyzing, and interpreting literature. Together, our class explored Jewish culture, history, and identity through a curriculum that immersed us in the Jewish diaspora. Not only was Prof. Gillman a talented instructor in the classroom, but she was also a compassionate editor and mentor during office hours. Prof. Gillman was always willing to help with assignments during office hours and wrote meaningful comments when returning papers. I am so grateful for Professor Gillman and her undying passion for the course content and her students."

– Sofiya Filippova
(ENG'24, Mechanical Engineering Major)

"Professor Gillman is a very kind, passionate, and knowledgeable person that I was privileged to learn from this past semester. She did her best to spark her students' interests in the Jewish diaspora and history through various forms of storytelling and class participation. In her class this past year, I read phenomenal books that I recommend everyone read by writers like Elie Wiesel and Nicole Krauss. As a Jewish student that loves literature, this class was wonderful for me; I was very pleased to finish this class having learned so much about my history and feeling a new and stronger connection with my culture. Overall, Professor Gillman loves what she teaches, wants to see her students succeed, and it shows."

– Eva Fournel
(COM '25, Journalism Major)

"Being a chemistry major, it is only thanks to the BU Hub that I stumbled across Professor Gillman's Jewish literature course. I was initially hesitant to enroll, as I am not Jewish and usually only take science courses; however, Professor Gillman provided a space for me to explore Judaism and learn about the Jewish identity through literature, film, and discussion. We read memoirs, novels, short stories, and even a graphic novel, all of which provided insight into how the Jewish experience has evolved throughout history. We also watched interviews with Jewish writers, a documentary on the notorious "Hava Nagila" song, and a film centered around Jewish immigration to the United States, all forms of media that provided visual representations and enhanced detail of the ideas discussed in our texts. I am fortunate to have gained a better understanding of Jewish history, culture, and traditions, and I am grateful that the works we studied allowed me to recognize the hardships faced by the Jewish people and how they have remained faithful and persevered as a religion and a culture."

– Grace Lewis
(CAS'24, Chemistry—Chemical Biology Major)

"Before I took XL236, Jewish literature was a completely different field for me and such "mystery" and "unknowingness" in turn motivated me to crave each reading professor Gillman assigned in class. I especially love the way she selected excerpts and encouraged students to thoroughly analyze the connotative meanings in class. In terms of the class discussion, it's admitted that talking about Holocaust is distressing and suffocating. The scenes in Maus by Art Spiegelman and Night by Elie Wiesel always reminds me of the Nanjing Massacre that my grandparents have experienced in China during World War Two. Although Nanjing Massacre and the Holocaust took place in two different regions, but the ultimate pain and trauma are the same. With the memory of Nanjing Massacre in mind, I could easily connect with characters in Maus and Night and I'm really enjoying reading and analyzing these great works of art."

– Yun (Clara) Tang
(CAS '24, Economics and Mathematics Major)

"As a human physiology major, studying Jewish literature was certainly outside my comfort zone prior to taking Professor Gillman's Jewish literature course. Professor Gillman exposed the class to works created by Jewish authors in a wide variety of mediums from traditional books to graphic novels. She is immensely knowledgeable on the subject she teaches and was able to very successfully convey that knowledge to her students. She led engaging discussions that helped me to grasp the common themes across the works and gain a new and profound understanding of people's experiences in the Jewish diaspora. Additionally, while writing has never been my strongest area, Professor Gillman provided encouragement and support to me and all her students regardless of their writing ability level. She provided detailed feedback that helped improve my writing throughout the semester. I can confidently say that my writing improved because of Professor Gillman's course, which will be very beneficial in my future coursework. Overall, Professor Gillman is a dedicated and passionate professor who fosters a comfortable and open space for students to discuss, learn and become immersed in the world of Jewish literature."

– Carolyn Hagy
(Sargent College '25, Human Physiology Major)

THE ELIE WIESEL MEMORIAL LECTURE SERIES
CO-WITNESSING AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

LAUNCH EVENT FOR THE NEW MAJOR IN HOLOCAUST, GENOCIDE AND HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES

TIMOTHY SNYDER



THE WAR IN UKRAINE AND THE QUESTION OF GENOCIDE

With Moderator **Alexis Peri**
Dept. of History, Boston University

Wednesday, October 26

QUESTROM SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AUDITORIUM
595 COMMONWEALTH AVE, BOSTON

5 PM RECEPTION
6 PM LECTURE



HOLOCAUST
GENOCIDE
AND HUMAN
RIGHTS
STUDIES

**ELIE
WIESEL**
CENTER FOR
JEWISH STUDIES

for more information contact:
Boston University
Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies
147 Bay State Road, Boston MA 02215
bu.edu/jewishstudies 617-353-8096



WITH SUPPORT FROM CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF EUROPE

THE 2022 ELIE WIESEL MEMORIAL LECTURE SERIES

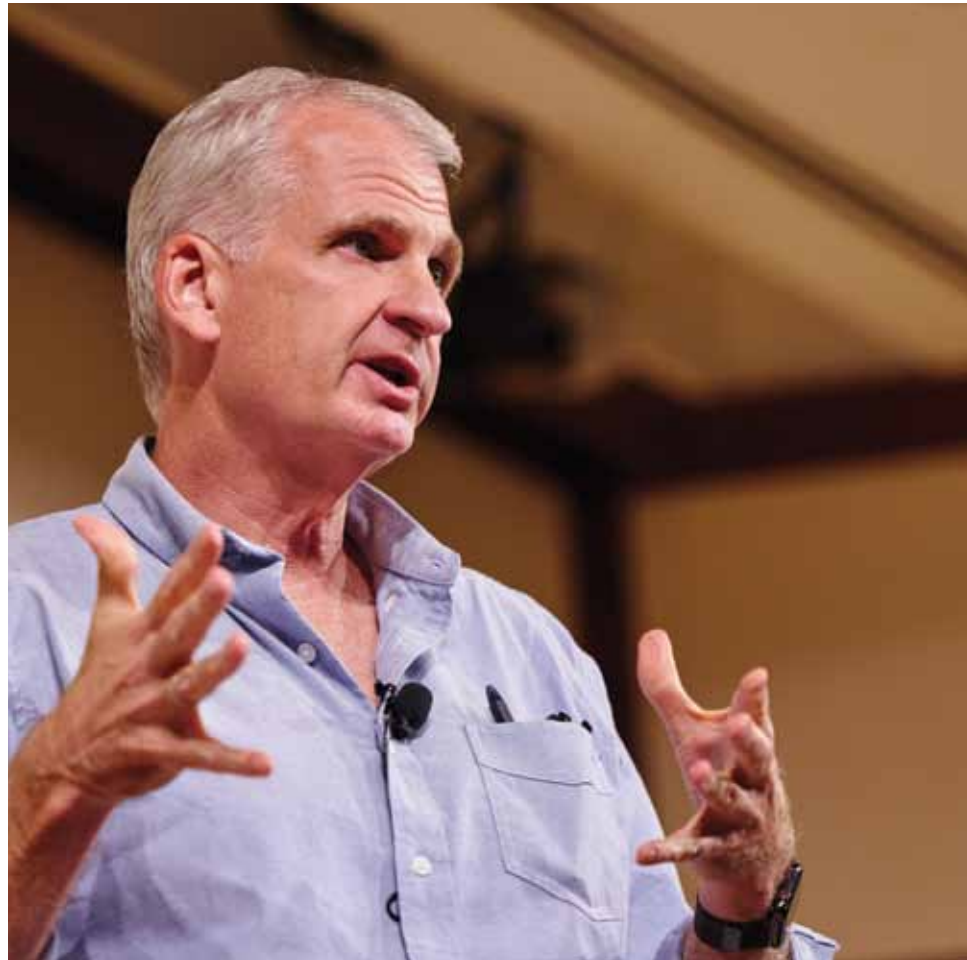
The 2022 Elie Wiesel Memorial Lecture Series upheld the esteemed tradition of honoring the profound legacy of Elie Wiesel, a Holocaust survivor and Nobel laureate. With the overarching theme of “Justice and Co-Witnessing: Our Responses to Humanitarian Crises,” this year’s Lecture Series strived to delve into topics closely aligned with Elie Wiesel’s influential work.

The inaugural lecture featured the renowned historian Professor Timothy Snyder, who offered a compelling analysis of the ongoing situation in Ukraine, contextualizing it within the framework of historical and contemporary genocides. Professor Irene Kacandes delivered the second lecture, introducing the powerful concept of “co-witnessing,” which entails respectfully listening to and sharing the narratives of individuals who have endured oppression. Finally, Professor Leora Bilsky delivered the concluding lecture, illuminating the challenges faced by Jewish scholars after World War II and Kenyan and German activists in seeking restitution for looted books and cultural artifacts.

Through thought-provoking discourse and engaging lectures, the 2022 Elie Wiesel Memorial Lecture Series effectively advanced the exploration of justice and co-witnessing as responses to humanitarian crises. These three lectures stimulated meaningful discussions among both the academic community and the general public, fostering heightened awareness of paramount issues.

For those who missed the live sessions, we are pleased to announce that the recorded live streams of the 2022 Elie Wiesel Memorial Lecture Series are now available on our YouTube channel. Search for “Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies”

THE WAR IN UKRAINE AND THE QUESTION OF GENOCIDE WITH PROFESSOR TIMOTHY SNYDER



TIMOTHY SNYDER

In a momentous event on **October 26, 2022**, the Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies at Boston University launched a new major in Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies. To mark this significant milestone and pay homage to the enduring legacy of Elie Wiesel, we organized the inaugural Elie Wiesel Memorial Lecture featuring esteemed historian **Professor Timothy Snyder**. His captivating address, titled “The War in Ukraine and the Question of Genocide,” served as a catalyst for intellectual exploration and engaged our community in critical discussions.

Professor Snyder’s lecture delved into the genocidal language and actions surrounding Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. Drawing upon his expertise in Eastern Europe and the Second World War, he shed light on the historical context and emphasized the importance of labeling these actions as genocide. He powerfully conveyed that even if prosecution may not be possible, recognizing these atrocities as genocide is crucial for remembrance and acknowledgment.

The lecture successfully engaged both the academic community and the public, fostering meaningful discussions on justice and co-witnessing in the face of ethical crises. Participants provided overwhelmingly positive feedback, highlighting the lecture’s impact in raising awareness and promoting critical dialogue.

The event benefited greatly from the expertise of **Professor Alexis Peri**, the Director of Graduate Studies and an Associate Professor in the History Department at BU, who served as the moderator and brought a wealth of knowledge and insight to the discussion.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER:

Dr. Timothy Snyder is a professor of history at Yale University with expertise in Eastern Europe and the Second World War. He is the author of renowned books, including *Black Earth: The Holocaust as History and Warning*, *On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century*, *Bloodlands*, and *The Road to Unfreedom: Russia, Europe, America*.

ABOUT THE MODERATOR:

Dr. Alexis Peri is the Director of Graduate Studies and an Associate Professor of History at Boston University who specializes in the history of modern Russia and Eastern Europe, particularly the Soviet period.



This lecture was made possible through a collaborative partnership with the Center for the Study of Europe. We appreciate their invaluable support in organizing this event.

CO-WITNESSING AND SOCIAL JUSTICE: OUR RESPONSE
TO HUMANITARIAN CRISES
WITH PROFESSOR IRENE KACANDES



IRENE KACANDES

Professor Irene Kacandes delivered a captivating address titled “Co-Witnessing and Social Justice: Our Response to Humanitarian Crises” as part of the Elie Wiesel Memorial Lecture Series. The event, which took place on **November 9, 2022**, was moderated by **Professor Ingrid Anderson**.

During her lecture, Professor Kacandes introduced the concept of “co-witnessing,” which refers to how individuals who were not directly oppressed can support those who were by respectfully listening to and sharing their stories. She stressed the importance of presenting someone’s experiences in their own words without appropriating their pain or centering one’s own learning experience. According to Professor Kacandes, this approach allows for the genuine respect of the original experiences of those impacted by oppression.

Professor Kacandes also explored our roles and responsibilities in engaging with humanitarian crises. She discussed strategies for assisting victims of injustice, highlighting the significance of active listening, genuine compassion, thorough research, humility regarding our own limitations, and the proper recognition of the actual victims rather than appropriating their victimhood. She also touched upon various domains where co-witnessing can occur, such as literature, documentaries, journalism, and public speeches.

The lecture gave the audience valuable insights into how individuals can engage with humanitarian crises and fulfill their ethical responsibilities while also considering strategies for supporting victims of injustice.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER:
Dr. Irene Kacandes teaches German and Comparative Literature at Dartmouth College. She has authored several influential monographs, including *Let’s Talk About Death: Asking the Questions that Profoundly Change How We Live and Die* (2015).

ABOUT THE MODERATOR:
Dr. Ingrid Anderson is the Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies Associate Director and a Senior Lecture in the CAS Writing Program. Her expertise lies in modern and contemporary Jewish theology, philosophy, and political thought.



THE QUESTION OF RESTITUTION: FROM POST
HOLOCAUST TO POST COLONIAL STRUGGLES
WITH PROFESSOR LEORA BILSKY

The lecture explored how both groups composed “inventory lists” to change history’s direction and reclaim lost cultural heritage. Through explicit documentation, they sought to make visible the absences caused by the systematic attacks on their culture. The talk highlighted the bottom-up mobilization efforts of the victim groups and their challenge to the conventional paradigm of restitution advocated by lawyers and museum gatekeepers. Professor Bilsky argued for a reparative framework for transitional justice that goes beyond a private property conception of restitution and instead emphasizes the ethical creation of new relationships between the looters and the looted and between victim groups and their cultural heritage.

Professor Bilsky’s lecture provided a thought-provoking examination of the complex issue of restitution and its implications in post-Holocaust and post-colonial contexts. This event concluded the year’s lecture series by exploring crucial examples of how justice and co-witnessing in response to humanitarian crises can shift existing paradigms of reparation.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER:
Leora Bilsky is the Benno Gitter Chair in Human Rights and Holocaust Research at Tel Aviv University Faculty of Law and Director of the Minerva Center for Human Rights. She has published extensively on law and the Holocaust, transitional justice, political trials, criminal international law, and feminist legal theory and is currently working on the history of genocide and cultural restitution.

ABOUT THE MODERATOR:
Pnina Lahav is a Professor of Law, Emerita, and a member of the Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies at Boston University. Her fields of expertise are constitutional law, first amendment law, and legal history. Her biography of Golda Meir, titled *The Only Woman in the Room: Golda Meir and Her Path to Power*, is part of the 2022-2023 book picks of the Jewish Women’s Archive.



LEORA BILSKY

Professor Leora Bilsky delivered the final lecture of the 2022 Elie Wiesel Memorial Lecture Series on **April 3rd**. Her talk, titled “The Question of Restitution: From Post Holocaust to Post Colonial Struggles,” discussed the challenges faced by two victim groups: Jewish scholars after World War II and Kenyan and German activists. These groups struggled to create inventory lists for the large-scale restitution of looted books and cultural artifacts, challenging the traditional conception of restitution in legal discourse.



This lecture was made possible through a co-sponsorship with the Center for the Study of Europe and was thoughtfully moderated by Professor Pnina Lahav.

BOSTON UNIVERSITY
JEWISH STUDIES
RESEARCH FORUM
(BUJS)

The Boston University Jewish Studies Research Forum (BUJS Forum) aims to facilitate advanced research in Jewish studies or Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies. On **March 1, 2023**, the Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies was honored to host **Professor Myriam Bienenstock**, a renowned scholar from France, who delivered a lecture titled “A Controversy on Ethical Culture: Hermann Cohen and Felix Adler”.



MYRIAM BIENENSTOCK

In her talk, Professor Bienenstock delved into the history of the German Society for Ethical Culture, which was founded in Berlin in 1892 and modeled after the Ethical Culture Society created by American philosopher and social reformer Felix Adler in New York in 1876. The society had won the support of prominent figures, including the German-Jewish philosopher Hermann Cohen, who later withdrew his support. Professor Bienenstock argued that Cohen remained a staunch defender of the universalistic ethical convictions advocated by Ethical Culture societies but contended that they had to be defended by law to avoid becoming marginalized and relapsing into the very ‘confessionalism’ of the sectarian and ‘religious’ communities they wanted to eradicate. This argument remains highly relevant in the realm of education, particularly in the ongoing debate about how ethics should be taught in schools.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER:

Myriam Bienenstock is a renowned expert in Practical Philosophy of German Idealism and Jewish Thought. Born and educated in France, she is currently an Emeritus Professor at the University of Tours and has published extensively on Hermann Cohen, Franz Rosenzweig, and Emmanuel Levinas.

To learn more about Professor Bienenstock, please visit her website at mbienenstock.free.fr

BUJS

Myriam Bienenstock

A CONTROVERSY ON ETHICAL CULTURE: HERMANN COHEN AND FELIX ADLER



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1ST AT 4 PM

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW
ELIE WIESEL CENTER LIBRARY
147 BAY STATE ROAD

Myriam Bienenstock was born and educated in France and is today em. Professor at the University of Tours. She dedicated her research to the Practical Philosophy of German Idealism and to Jewish Thought in the 19th-20th centuries, publishing mainly on Hermann Cohen, Franz Rosenzweig, and Emmanuel Levinas.
<http://mbienenstock.free.fr>



ELIE WIESEL
CENTER FOR
JEWISH STUDIES

Boston University College of Arts and Sciences
Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies
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www.eliewieselcenter.org



A LOOK INTO THE ELIE
WIESEL CENTER’S FALL
2022 OPEN HOUSE

On **September 15, 2022**, the Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies celebrated the start of the academic year with its annual Open House. Students had the opportunity to meet faculty and staff members, ask questions about the Center, and learn about the wide range of courses offered in Jewish Studies and Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies. In addition to learning about the Center’s courses and funding opportunities, students enjoyed a delicious Israeli lunch from Rami’s while connecting with their peers.

ELIE WIESEL CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES

We welcome you to our

OPEN HOUSE

ELIE WIESEL
CENTER FOR
JEWISH STUDIES

Thursday, September 15
12 — 2 PM

BOSTON
UNIVERSITY

This event featured two brief talks by **Professor Nancy Harrowitz**, who celebrated the launch of the new HGHS major, and **Professor Ingrid Anderson**, who spoke on “The World Culture of the Jews.” The Open House also offered a sneak peek into the fall semester’s events, including the highly anticipated Elie Wiesel Memorial Lecture Series

SCREENING AND
DISCUSSION OF THE
DOCUMENTARY
SPACE TORAH:
EXPLORING JEWISH
CULTURE, SCIENCE,
AND THE COSMOS

On **October 19, 2022**, the Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies hosted a highly attended screening of Space Torah at BU Hillel. This documentary follows the remarkable journey of **Dr. Jeffrey Hoffman**, an MIT astronaut, who brought a Torah scroll aboard the Space Shuttle Columbia, fostering a profound appreciation for Jewish culture and its intersection with science and exploration.

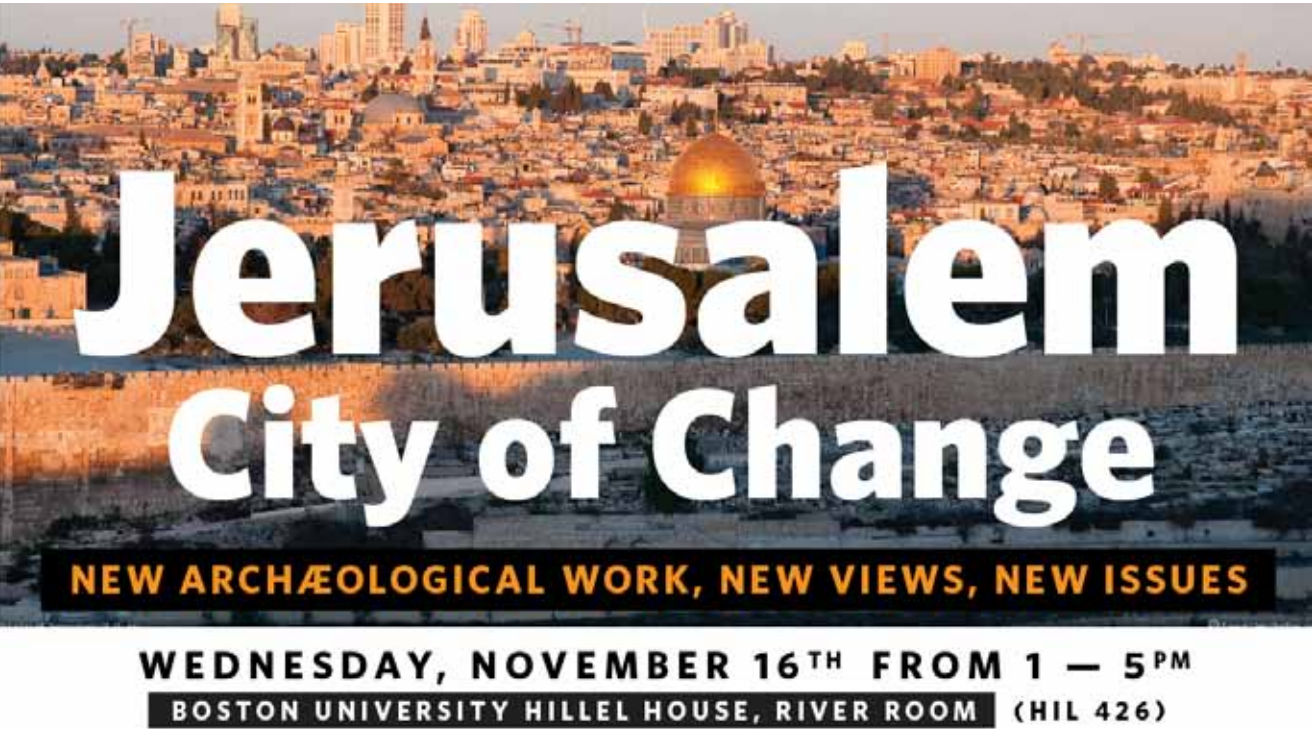
Following the screening, **Mira Angrist**, a Master Lecturer in Hebrew, moderated a thought-provoking discussion. Attendees had the unique opportunity to speak directly with **Dr. Hoffman** and executive producer **Rachel Raz**. The panel explored the significance of reading the Torah in outer space, its implications for the Jewish present and future, and the profound connection between Jewish tradition and space exploration.

A collaboration with the Hebrew Language Program and the Department of World Languages and Literature made this incredible event possible.

A recording of this event is available on our YouTube channel by searching for “Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies”

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On **November 16, 2022**, in collaboration with the Department of Religion and the Program in Archaeology, the Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies co-sponsored a groundbreaking forum titled “Jerusalem: City of Change.” This event brought together six experts from Israel and the U.S. to explore Jerusalem’s history across time and disciplines. The conference highlighted Jerusalem’s transformation from a colonial capital in the early first millennium BCE to a vibrant commercial center in the early first millennium CE. These esteemed scholars unveiled fresh evidence and novel insights into Jerusalem’s distinct character and defining moments throughout its history.

Professor Andrea Berlin, the James R. Wiseman Chair in Classical Archaeology and Professor of Archaeology and Religion conceived and organized “Jerusalem: City of Change.” As the moderator, Professor Berlin skillfully facilitated the panel discussion, weaving together the perspectives and voices of the participating scholars and archaeologists.



ANDREA BERLIN

JERUSALEM: CITY OF CHANGE FORUM

Yuval Gadot:
The Colonial City: Jerusalem in the First Temple Period

The forum commenced with **Professor Yuval Gadot’s** captivating lecture titled “The Colonial City: Jerusalem in the First Temple Period”. Professor Gadot is head of the Alkow Department of Archaeology and Ancient Near Eastern Cultures at Tel-Aviv University. His talk focused on the appropriation and resistance trends within Jerusalem’s elite during the Assyrian takeover of the 7th and 8th centuries BCE. Integrating new findings from the city and its surroundings with a critical reading of Biblical texts, Professor Gadot illustrated the contradictory response of Jerusalem’s elite to the Assyrian empire. He highlighted how kings who cooperated with the Assyrians were often condemned as “evil” and received no credit for architectural innovation. Nevertheless, their maneuvering allowed them to encourage the empire’s construction efforts in Jerusalem.



YUVAL GADOT

Yiftah Shalev:
The Ruined City: Jerusalem Under Achaemenid Persian Rule



YIFTAH SHALEV

Dr. Yiftah Shalev, a senior research archaeologist at the Israel Antiquities Authority and a teaching fellow at Tel Aviv University, presented a thought-provoking talk on “The Ruined City: Jerusalem Under Achaemenid Persian Rule.” He highlighted the disparity between biblical descriptions of Persian-era Jerusalem and the limited archaeological remains. Dr. Shalev presented compelling evidence of people returning to live within usable sections of original houses after the city’s destruction. He also highlighted the growth of the economy into the early Hellenistic period, offering new insights into Jerusalem’s location, size, and nature during this period and its implications for our understanding of the city.

JERUSALEM: CITY OF CHANGE FORUM

Tehillah Lieberman:
The Reclaimed City: Jerusalem Under
Hasmonean Rule

Tehillah Lieberman, a Ph.D. candidate at Bar Ilan University and an experienced collaborator with the Israel Antiquities Authority, provided an enlightening perspective on “The Reclaimed City: Jerusalem Under Hasmonean Rule.” She highlighted the significant role played by Hasmonean king Alexander Jannaeus in shaping Jerusalem as the central city within Judea. Lieberman explored how water distribution structures and residential buildings reflected a bustling economy and investment in the city’s livability and religious significance.



TEHILLAH LIEBERMAN

Yana Tchekhanovets:
The Pilgrim’s City: Byzantine
Jerusalem



YANA TCHEKHANOVETS

Dr. Yana Tchekhanovets, an archaeologist and senior lecturer at Ben Gurion University of the Negev, captivated the audience with her presentation, “The Pilgrim City: Byzantine Jerusalem.” Dr. Tchekhanovets discussed how Jerusalem became a global religious center during the Byzantine era, attracting pilgrims from around the Christian world. She highlighted the archaeological evidence of monasteries, hostels, and souvenirs that indicated people brought their beliefs to Jerusalem and took images of the holy city back with them. Dr. Tchekhanovets’ presentation provided valuable insights into the cultural and religious significance of Byzantine Jerusalem.

Bethany Walker:
The Commercial City: Mamluk
Jerusalem

Bethany Walker, professor of Islamic Archaeology at the University of Bonn and co-director of the Khirbet Beit Loya excavations, shared her expertise in a compelling talk titled “The Commercial City: Mamluk Jerusalem.” She focused on Mamluk Amir Tankiz al-Nasiri, the Governor of Syria, and emphasized his investments in Jerusalem’s commercial buildings, urban infrastructure, markets, water systems, and the opening of new farmland. Walker demonstrated how these initiatives resulted in significant returns for the city in subsequent years, contributing to its economic prosperity.



BETHANY WALKER

Tamara Lotner Lev:
The Contested City: Jerusalem Today



TAMARA LOTNER LEV

In addition to archaeological perspectives, the forum also explored contemporary aspects of Jerusalem. **Tamara Lotner-Lev** discussed the legal framework managing Jerusalem and drew lessons from environmental law on reconciling opposing interests, such as conservation and development. Lotner-Lev specifically highlighted the creation of the Jerusalem Wall National Park and emphasized the importance of involving diverse stakeholders in the park’s management for optimal protection of the area.

We extend our deepest gratitude to all the participants, sponsors, and supporters who made this remarkable forum possible.

2023 INTERNATIONAL
HOLOCAUST
REMEMBRANCE DAY

A CONVERSATION WITH SARAH BOTSTEIN

On **January 22, 2023**, The Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies co-sponsored a commemoration of International Holocaust Remembrance Day. The event featured an engaging conversation between **Sarah Botstein**, a renowned documentary producer, **Professor Nancy Harrowitz**, Director of the Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies, and **Rob Leikind**, Regional Director of the American Jewish Committee of New England.

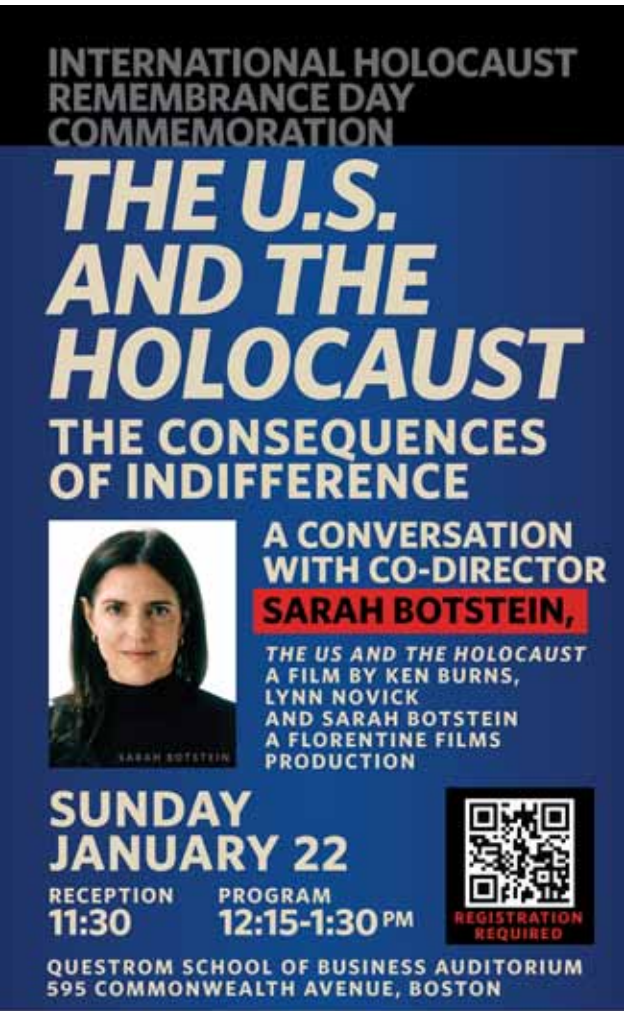
Sarah Botstein provided valuable insights into her groundbreaking documentary series, *The U.S. and the Holocaust*. This three-part, six-hour series, co-directed by Botstein and Lynn Novick, aired on PBS last fall. It offers a compelling exploration of America’s response to one of the most significant humanitarian crises of the twentieth century.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER:

Sarah Botstein is an accomplished documentary producer with a career spanning over two decades. She has been involved in the creation of some of the most popular and critically acclaimed documentaries aired on PBS. Collaborating with esteemed directors Ken Burns and Lynn Novick, Botstein has contributed to a wide range of impactful projects. Her notable works include *Hemingway* (2020), *College Behind Bars* (2010), *The Vietnam War* (2017), *Prohibition* (2011), *The War* (2007), and *Jazz* (2001).

This event was co-sponsored by AJC New England and the Consulate General of Israel to New England of Boston, with support from the Jewish Cultural Endowment of Boston University and BU Hillel.

The recording is available on our YouTube channel: search for “Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies”



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ELIE WIESEL CENTER’S
SPRING 2023 OPEN HOUSE: FOSTERING
COMMUNITY AND EXPLORING INTERFAITH
CONNECTIONS

On Thursday, **January 26th**, the Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies hosted a successful Open House to mark the beginning of the 2023 spring semester. Our open houses foster a vibrant and supportive community among students, including the opportunity to connect with faculty and staff members and gain insight into the Center’s programs, courses, and available resources, all while enjoying a delicious lunch.

The Open House included a short talk delivered by **Professor Deeana Klepper**, Associate Professor of Religion and History, on the historical relationships between Jews, Christians, and Muslims in Medieval Europe. Professor Klepper’s talk shed light on this significant period of interfaith interactions, providing attendees with valuable insights and perspectives on the topic.



EXPLORING CURRENT EVENTS IN ISRAEL
STUDENT Q&A WITH PROFESSOR KARLINSKY



Current Events in Israel:
Student Q&A with
Professor Karlinsky

FEBRUARY 23RD 5 PM

ELIE WIESEL CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES
SECOND FLOOR
REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED


Professor Karlinsky will provide an informative presentation on recent developments in Israel, followed by a lively and engaging discussion. As Jewish and Hebrew Studies students, we know that many of you are passionate about staying informed about current events in Israel, and this event will provide a comfortable space for you to learn more, ask questions, and engage with your peers. We encourage all of you to come and join us for this unique opportunity to hear from an expert in the field and to engage in meaningful dialogue with your fellow students. We look forward to seeing you on Thursday for what is sure to be a fascinating and thought-provoking event. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.



The Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies hosted a student-centered conversation on current events in Israel on Thursday, February 23rd. The event included a Q&A session with **Professor Nahum Karlinsky**, who delivered an informative presentation on recent developments in Israel. This student-centered discussion aimed to deepen students’ understanding of the situation in Israel and create a safe space to explore the topic, ask questions, and have meaningful conversations with their peers.

HAMANTASCHEN STUDY BREAK

The Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies hosted a fun and delicious Hamantaschen Study Break on **Thursday, March 2nd**. An array of hamantaschen was provided for students to enjoy while studying or taking a break from their busy days. The event aimed to bring together Jewish and HGHS studies students by providing them with a space to socialize and connect.



THURSDAY
MARCH 2ND
AT 5 PM
147 BAY STATE ROAD
IN THE LIBRARY

HAMANTASCHEN STUDY BREAK


Take a break from your studies and join us for a fun and delicious **Hamantaschen Study Break**! We will provide you with an array of sweet hamantaschen to enjoy while you study or take a break from your busy day. We'll also have coffee, tea, and other refreshments to keep you energized and focused. This is an excellent opportunity to meet other **Jewish** and **HGHS studies** students on campus. All are welcome to join us for this relaxed and friendly event. So bring your books and your appetite and join us for an afternoon of **snacks and study**!

“ARENDRT, ISRAEL,
AND THE CONTEMPORARY RELEVANCE OF
THE EICHMANN CONTROVERSY”
WITH PROFESSOR MICHAEL WEINMAN

The Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies hosted a book talk featuring renowned **Professor Michael Weinman** on **March 16th**. Professor Weinman discussed his recently released book, *Hannah Arendt and Politics*, which argues that Arendt’s thinking about Zionism and the modern state of Israel has everything to do with the furious and sometimes demonizing reception Eichmann in Jerusalem and its author faced upon initial publication.

This event was made possible thanks to the generous co-sponsorship of the Jewish Cultural Endowment, the Institute on Culture, Religion, & World Affairs, the Graduate Program of Religion Student Association, and the Department of Religion.


ABOUT THE SPEAKER:
Michael Weinman is a Professor of Philosophy at Bard College Berlin and a Visiting Professor at the College of Arts and Sciences at Indiana University. He is the author of five books, including *The Emergence of Illiberalism* and *The Parthenon and Liberal Education*.



MICHAEL WEINMAN
ARENDRT, ISRAEL,
AND THE
CONTEMPORARY
RELEVANCE OF
THE EICHMANN
CONTROVERSY


Michael Weinman
is Professor of Philosophy at Bard College Berlin (on leave in 2022-23) and Visiting Professor in the College of Arts and Sciences at Indiana University.

REGISTRATION REQUESTED




MARCH 16TH 4:30 - 6:00
ROOM JSC 201
147 BAY STATE ROAD

WITH SUPPORT FROM: THE JEWISH CULTURAL ENDOWMENT, CURA, THE GRADUATE PROGRAM OF RELIGION STUDENT ASSOCIATION, THE DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION.

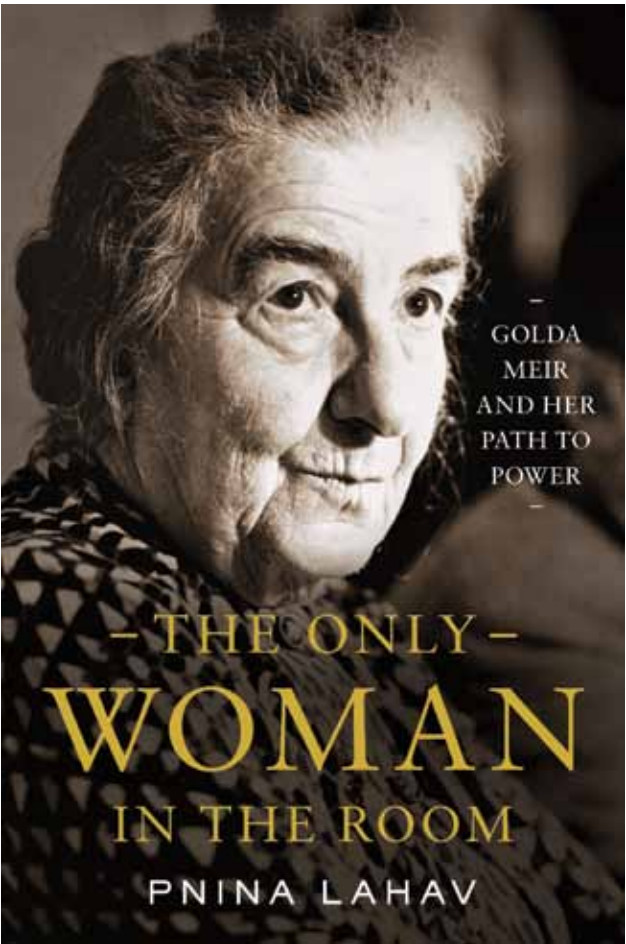


For more information contact:
Boston University
Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies
147 Bay State Road, Boston MA 02215
bu.edu/jewishstudies 617-353-8096



THE 2023 YITZHAK RABIN LECTURE

THE ONLY WOMAN IN THE ROOM:
WRITING THE LIFE OF GOLDA MEIR



The Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies was pleased to host this year’s Yitzhak Rabin Lecture on April 25th featuring **Professor Pnina Lahav**. Lahav, a Professor of Law, Emerita, and a member of the Center, delivered a talk titled:
*The Only Woman in the Room
Writing the Life of Golda Meir*

A livestream option was made available for those unable to attend the lecture in person, and the lecture’s recording is available on our YouTube channel. Search for “Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies”

THE 2023 YITZHAK RABIN LECTURE



(PHOTO: JAC LAHAV) PNINA LAHAV

Pnina Lahav is a Professor of Law, Emerita, and a member of the Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies at Boston University. Her fields of expertise are constitutional law, first amendment law, and legal history. Most recently, she has received the Israel Studies Award for Lifetime Achievement (2017) and Prime Minister Golda Meir for Society and Leadership Award (2021). Recently, Lahav has focused her attention

on the status and history of women, and her biography of Golda Meir, Israel's fourth prime minister, presents Golda Meir's life in the context of the twentieth century through the gender lens. This biography, titled *The Only Woman in the Room: Golda Meir and Her Path to Power* (Princeton University Press: 2022), is a part of the 2022-2023 book picks of the Jewish Women's Archive.

The Yitzhak Rabin Lecture Series at Boston University is generously supported by **Mr. Jonathan Krivine** (CAS '72).

THE ONLY WOMAN IN THE ROOM: WRITING THE LIFE OF GOLDA MEIR WITH PROFESSOR PNINA LAHAV

In her lecture, Professor Lahav explored the life of Golda Meir, Israel's fourth prime minister, in the context of the twentieth century through a gender lens. She discussed how Golda Meir overcame gender bias to achieve her goals and become a trusted leader. Professor Lahav also delved into the misogyny in Israeli culture that made it difficult for women to hold positions of power and explained why Israelis ultimately turned against Golda Meir in 1973.

The program began with a welcome video from **Dalia Rabin**, daughter of Yitzhak Rabin and a notable politician herself. **Bat-Sheva Margalit Stern, Ph.D.**, an expert in 20th-century Jewish women, served as the respondent, while **Professor Nahum Karlinsky** moderated the discussion.



STUDENT LUNCHES

During the Spring 2023 semester, the Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies hosted two student lunches to provide a place for BU students to discuss topics related to Jewish and Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights studies. These student lunches were student-focused and student-led and were facilitated by a faculty member who provided input when needed. This first lunch centered on the theme of “Balancing Identities: Jewish in America,” while the second lunch focused on “Jews in the Media: Representation Matters.” The lunch offered BU students an opportunity to discuss an important topic while connecting in a relaxed environment.



END-OF-YEAR CELEBRATION



This year’s End of Year Celebration took place on May 3rd at the Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies. The event honored and presented awards to the exceptional graduating students in Jewish Studies, Holocaust, Genocide and Human Rights Studies, and Hebrew. The undergraduate and graduate students and faculty members in attendance were treated to a delightful array of food and drinks, creating a festive atmosphere.



JEWISH CULTURAL ENDOWMENT FUNDED PROJECTS

The Jewish Cultural Endowment (JCE) supports Jewish cultural programs on campus, including lectures, academic conferences, literary events, curricular enhancement, artistic performances, and exhibitions. It accepts submissions from all BU faculty, staff, and students and operates under the auspices of the Elie Wiesel Center. The Jewish Cultural Endowment’s mission is to foster an appreciation of Jewish culture’s richness and diversity.

In 2022-2023, the JCE financially supported the following project:

Professor Ianna Hawkins Owen’s “Jewlia Eisenberg memorial event” which took place on October 18 at the Howard Thurman Center.



CO-SPONSORED EVENTS

- The documentary screening and discussion of **Space Torah** received co-sponsorship from the Hebrew Language Program and the Department of World Languages and Literature.
- The **Jerusalem: City of Change** Forum was co-sponsored by the Department of Religion and the Program in Archaeology.
- The Elie Wiesel Memorial Lectures, titled “The War in Ukraine and the Question of Genocide” featuring **Professor Timothy Snyder**, and “The Question of Restitution: From Post Holocaust to Post Colonial Struggles” featuring **Professor Bilsky**, received co-sponsorship from the Center for the Study of Europe.
- The International Holocaust Remembrance Day event, which included a conversation with **Sarah Botstein**, received co-sponsorship from AJC New England and the Consulate General of Israel to New England of Boston. The event was also supported by the Jewish Cultural Endowment of Boston University and BU Hillel.
- The event titled “Arendt, Israel, and the Contemporary Relevance of the Eichmann Controversy” with **Professor Michael Weinman** received co-sponsorship from the Jewish Cultural Endowment, the Institute on Culture, Religion, and World Affairs, the Graduate Program of Religion Student Association, and the Department of Religion.
- **Dr. Samira Mehta’s** talk titled “Contraception and the Culture Wars” was co-sponsored by the Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies.
- BU Conversations in Ideas & The Arts with **Marilyne Robinson** was co-sponsored by the Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies.

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- Boston University Center for the Study of Europe
- Boston University Department of Religion
- Boston University Department of World Languages and Literature
- Boston University Graduate Program in Religion Student Association
- Boston University Hebrew Language Program
- Boston University Hillel
- Boston University Institute on Culture, Religion, and World Affairs
- Boston University Program in Archaeology

COMMUNITY CO-SPONSORS

- AJC New England
- The Consulate General of Israel to New England of Boston

PRESS MENTIONS

December 2, 2022
Hebrew University, “Hebrew University Unveils Sculpture in Memory of Nobel Prize Laureate and Holocaust Survivor Elie Wiesel on Mt. Scopus Campus” www.afhu.org/2022/12/02/hebrew-university-unveils-sculpture-in-memory-of-nobel-prize-laureate-and-holocaust-survivor-elie-wiesel-on-mt-scopus-campus

December 2, 2022
Boston University News Service, “Timothy Snyder presents the first lecture of this year’s Elie Wiesel Memorial Lecture Series” bunewsservice.com/timothy-snyder-presents-the-first-lecture-of-this-years-elie-wiesel-memorial-lecture-series

January 13, 2023
Books Tell You Why, “The Best of Elie Wiesel” blog.bookstellyouwhy.com/the-best-of-elie-wiesel

April 24, 2023
The Daily Free Press, “Dialogue and discomfort: BU senior creates documentary about antisemitism on college campuses” dailyfreepress.com/2023/04/24/dialogue-and-discomfort-bu-senior-creates-documentary-about-antisemitism-on-college-campuses

June 28, 2023
BU Today, “BU Elie Wiesel Center Director: Boston’s Proposed Holocaust Museum Would Educate and Inform about the Legacy of Genocide” www.bu.edu/articles/2023/boston-holocaust-museum-would-educate-and-inform

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR
Khadija El Karfi Joss

STUDENT STAFF
Gabrielle Peck
Hagar Landau
Jenna Riedl



HAGAR LANDAU

Hagar Landau (she/her) completed her third year at Boston University in 2023. In addition to working at the center, Hagar worked with BU’s Hillel as a community engagement fellow and a Fighting Hate and Antisemitism fellow. This summer she will be going on Birthright before going back home to Los Angeles. Next year, she hopes to continue working with both the Elie Wiesel Center and Hillel to foster a stronger Jewish community at BU and provide more space for students to have engaging, productive conversations with one another. In her free time, Hagar enjoys trying out new recipes, doing yoga, and listening to podcasts.

“At the time of my writing, I am a rising senior at Boston University majoring in Sociology and minoring in Philosophy. During this past year, I have had the immense pleasure of working with both BU’s Hillel as a community engagement fellow and a pioneering member of the Fighting Hate and Antisemitism fellowship as well as a contributing member at the Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies.

Working at the Elie Wiesel Center has been incredible. I fell in love with the EWCJS after attending the Fall 2022 open

house. I was inspired by the building’s architecture and by a conversation with Jeremy Solomons wherein we discussed the need for a space where students could have educational discourse around Judaism, Israel, and the Holocaust. I waited patiently for the fall semester to end so that I could apply to work for the center in the spring and I was thrilled when I learned I had been hired.

Over the course of spring 2023 semester, my coworkers and I succeeded in curating two student discussions discussing Jewish identity and Jewish representation in the media. The students that attended were passionate and completely engaged and I hope to do many more of these student conversations when I come back to work in the fall semester.

I want to thank everyone at the EWCJS for being so kind and inviting. I can not wait to work with them again in the coming year.”
– Hagar Landau
(CAS’24, Sociology Major)



GABRIELLE PECK

Gabrielle Peck (she/her), a recent graduate from the class of 2023, obtained a major in English and a minor in Jewish Studies. Alongside her work at the EWCJS, Gabrielle actively engaged in Jewish campus life through BU Hillel. As a member of Coffee Crew, the Fighting Hate Fellowship, and the conservative minyan, she made significant contributions to the Jewish community. Gabrielle also showcased her writing and editing skills as a valued member of BU’s chapter of Her Campus. Starting this summer, she will be taking on the role of Birthright and Israel Specialist at Penn Hillel.



JENNA RIEDL

Jenna Riedl (she/her) graduated in May 2023, summa cum laude, with a major in Painting and a minor in Statistics. She was part of the Kilachand Honors College and explored young adult conservative beliefs on queer people for her honors thesis. In addition to working at the Center, Jenna interned with the Initiative on Forced Migration and Human Trafficking and sang a cappella with BU Mustard Seed. Next year, she’ll be hiking the Appalachian Trail and applying for a Fulbright Scholarship to study the social and emotional importance of green spaces within communities. In her free time, Jenna loves to read, and her top books of 2023 so far are *Untamed* by Glennon Doyle and *How Far The Light Reaches* by Sabrina Imbler.

“I have deeply enjoyed my time working at the Center, both for the community and for the opportunity to help coordinate and attend events that teach and inspire me. I joined the EWCJS team in Fall 2022 as part of the communications team, where I worked on organizing and promoting events. If you’re on the newsletter list, that was me, popping up in your inbox! I enjoyed practicing my communication skills in a professional setting, with colleagues that were so flexible and supportive. I also loved getting to work with Gabrielle, who’s been my friend since kindergarten. But most of all, I appreciated the opportunity to use my skills for a cause that I cared about: to further scholarship on Jewish Studies and Human Rights Studies. I think that there are few more important things in life than finding meaningful work, and I’m grateful that the Center has given me the opportunity to engage in work that feels necessary and beneficial to the wider world.”
– Jenna Riedl
(CFA’23, Painting Major)

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YouTube: You can find the Center’s channel by searching for “Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies”
www.youtube.com/channel/UCMY3HH6KCSYnW83_GA6YFAQ

If you would like to be kept informed of upcoming events and hear about the work of the Center, please sign up for our newsletter at www.bu.edu/jewishstudies

DONATE

Please consider donating to the Center to help us continue engaging our students and the public through lectures and events like the Boston University Jewish Studies Research Forum (BUJS). We want to do our part in building a community around the values of Jewish history and tradition, to engage and challenge ourselves and our students to remember the past, think more deeply about the present, and work toward a shared future for all.

To do this, we need your support. To give to the Elie Wiesel Center, visit www.bu.edu/jewishstudies/support-ewcjs

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We are grateful to our alums and community members who supported us this year and helped us sustain and expand the activities of the Center.

During BU Giving Day, the Center received generous contributions from 67 donors, totaling \$4,161. We are incredibly thankful for the support we received from our donors. Additionally, we were awarded an additional \$250 bonus, adding to the overall impact of the funds raised.

We are also grateful to the following friends of the Center for their generous donations in the past year:

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ELIE WIESEL CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

Written by ***Khadija El Karfi Joss***,
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