

2023 — 2024



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

ELIE WIESEL CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES
2023 — 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

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Dear Friends,

This past academic year was full of utter heartbreak and intellectual and emotional challenges as we confronted the Israel-Hamas war and mourned its victims. We recalibrated our events at the Center to reflect the rapidly changing world around us, sharply marked by the massacres of October 7th, the kidnapping of hostages, as well as the horrifying increase in antisemitism, anti-Israel bias and Islamophobia on many campuses (including our own). Work was done by faculty at the Center last year to help students feel safer and to fight the rise of harassment and bias.

In September, as the semester began, we presented *The Writings of Elie Wiesel, The Paintings of Judith Zonis Listernick* on September 10, featuring readings from Wiesel's work in dialogue with Listernick's paintings. The event was accompanied by a musical performance and a lively discussion led by **Dr. Samantha Baskind** and **Rabbi Dr. Nehemia Polen**.

On September 27, we hosted *Songs and Stories* as part of this year's *Elie Wiesel Memorial Lecture Series*. The event featured **Cantor Deborah Katchko-Gray**, who explored the spiritual meaning of Hasidic tunes beloved by Elie Wiesel, and included a piano performance by renowned pianist **David Sparr**.

On October 4, we presented a program entitled, *To What End? Fortifications along the Margins of the Hasmonean Kingdom*, featuring our postdoctoral fellow **Dr. Roi Sabar** presenting new archaeological findings on Hasmonean fortresses.

After October 7th, we rescheduled some events and recalibrated our thoughts to reflect our new, painful reality. The second program of the *Elie Wiesel Memorial Lecture Series* was put on hold for a more auspicious moment for celebration. One of our student-led programs, *Hanukkah Snack and Study Break*, occurred on December 13 to support students during finals period and to provide a comforting space for them.

We hosted a very special event on January 27 for *International Holocaust Remembrance Day*, cosponsored by **AJC New England** and the **Consulate General of Israel to New England. Mark Ludwig**, director of the Terezin Music Foundation, presented *Jewish Resistance and the Musicians of Terezin: Lessons for Our Time*, where he discussed the ways in which the music of Jewish composers in the Terezin concentration camp was an act of resistance against the Holocaust. The event featured a spectacular musical performance by the Terezin Music Foundation Ensemble.

On March 19, **Rebecca Clarren** led a powerful discussion on her book, *The Cost of Free Land: Jews, Lakota, and an American Inheritance*, where she delved into the history of Jewish homesteaders and their impact on Native American lands. She also explored the connections between the antisemitism her ancestors experienced and bias towards Native Americans.

We also brought two well-known speakers on antisemitism to better educate our community in the light of rising antisemitism. The first was **Prof. Dara Horn** on April 4,

who in her talk, *Does Holocaust Education Prevent Antisemitism?* challenged traditional approaches to Holocaust education in the context of an understanding of antisemitism. The second speaker was **Rabbi David Wolpe** on April 17, who provided deep insights into the roots of antisemitism and the steps we can take to combat it. Both events took place in cooperation with BU Hillel.

On April 11, **Hannah Lessing** shared her expertise in remembrance work during her talk, *The Culture of Remembrance in Holocaust Perpetrator Countries*, shedding light on the ongoing effects of Austria's National Fund for Victims of National Socialism.

We also offered student-led conversations throughout the year, and we ended with a celebration of our students on May 1, several of whom received awards for excellence, as you will read in this Annual Report.

Our fundraising efforts last year were rewarded by a very generous endowment given by **Al Tapper** that is making possible the development of new courses in Jewish history. We are immensely grateful to him for this landmark gift, and he is featured in this year's Alumni Spotlight. Our course offerings and numbers of students have been steadily growing, and in May we were able to offer a brand new full-time lectureship position to **Dr. Matthew Creighton**—an immensely skilled teacher and scholar, highlighted in this report as our new faculty hire.

We also planned and submitted a new minor in Israel Studies that was approved by the university last summer, and new courses in this area are being planned. We made a proposal to **The Lynn and Gloria Johnson Family Foundation** for a grant to develop more courses in antisemitism that was successful and will begin next year. We are very grateful to them, especially to **Yale Johnson** for his inspiration and support. More about our plans for this fund soon.

The Center is experiencing steady growth and a strong vision for the future, including our new Israel Studies minor and the development of new courses in Jewish history, antisemitism and Israel studies. We were able to offer three sections of our course on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict last spring, which has been an overenrolled course in the past. In 2025-6 we will offer four new courses in different areas of Jewish history. This expansion means that your financial contributions are more important than ever. My hope as Director is to see the establishment of endowed chairs in the areas of Jewish Studies, Israel Studies and Antisemitism Studies to further carry on the important work of the Center.

My fervent wishes for peace and better times ahead for all,

All best,

Nancy Harrowitz

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



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

ABOUT

The Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies (EWCJS) is a vibrant hub within Boston University’s College of Arts and Sciences, dedicated to exploring the rich and diverse dimensions of Jewish history, religion, and culture as well as Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies. As an interdisciplinary academic program, the Center brings together scholars and students through a wide array of courses, public lectures, and cultural events that engage both the university community and the broader public. Our interdisciplinary approach is supported by thirteen core faculty members and nineteen affiliated members. Beyond the classroom, the Center is committed to supporting our community through research grants, travel awards, scholarships, fellowships, and merit-based awards.

Named in honor of Elie Wiesel, the 1986 Nobel Peace Laureate and long-time BU faculty member, our Center embodies his commitment to education, scholarship, and meaningful public engagement. Our events offer a platform for intellectual exchange and the celebration of contemporary Jewish thought and artistic expression.

Housed at 147 Bay State Road—a historical building once home to BU President John Silber—the Center was rededicated in 2005 as Beit Schlomo in memory of Elie Wiesel’s parents, Schlomo and Sarah Wiesel. Thanks to the generous support of Ira and Ingeborg Rennert, who endowed the Center, the Center continues to be a welcoming environment for scholars, students, and visitors alike.

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

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, 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
Tamara Lotner Lev, Israel Institute Teaching Fellow
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

HGHS 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
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
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

ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-2024

- Books published:** 5
Articles/chapters published: 12
Presentations/lectures given: 37
Awards, fellowships, and grants received: 18

JEWISH STUDIES (JS)

- Classes/Sections: **29**
Students Taught: **678**
JS minors: **13**

HOLOCAUST, GENOCIDE, AND HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES (HGHS)

- Classes/Sections: **14**
Students Taught: **442**
HGHS majors: **7**
HGHS minors: **16**



JONATHAN KLAWANS

Professor Jonathan Klawans, a long-standing member of the Boston University faculty, is a renowned scholar specializing in the religion and religious literature of ancient Judaism. Since joining BU's Department of Religion and the Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies in 1997, Klawans has become a central figure in Jewish Studies at the university, offering various courses on ancient Jewish history, the Hebrew Bible, and Rabbinic literature.

Jonathan Klawans

Klawans earned dual B.A. degrees from Columbia University and the Jewish Theological Seminary in 1991, majoring in Ancient Studies and Hebrew Bible, respectively. His education continued with an M.A. in Hebrew and Judaic Studies from New York University, and he completed his Ph.D. in Religion at Columbia University. Throughout his academic journey, Klawans had the privilege of studying under renowned scholars like David Weiss Halivni (z"l) and Alan F. Segal (z"l). However, he credits his maternal grandfather as his most significant teacher, recalling the many Shabbat afternoons spent learning Jewish texts and modern Hebrew literature together.

Klawans is best known for his long-standing course **RN 104: "Judaism, Christianity, and Islam,"** which he has taught for over 25 years. He describes it as both a challenge and a joy, given the vast material it covers and the delicate balance required to engage with three major world religions in a single semester. His other favorite course, **RN 216: "Introduction to Judaism,"** delves deeply into Jewish identity, examining both mainstream and marginal expressions of Jewishness, including Messianic Judaism and Secular-Humanistic Judaism. Each semester, Klawans eagerly anticipates discussing Elie Wiesel's powerful novel *Dawn* with his students as part of this course.

Klawans's research is as expansive as his teaching. Trained across a wide range of texts, from the Hebrew Bible to the Talmud, his work explores themes of purity, sacrifice, and heresy within ancient Judaism. Currently, he is on sabbatical, working on a project titled "Seductive Discoveries: The Academic Authentication of Biblical Finds and Forgeries," supported by the Jeffrey Henderson Senior Fellowship from the Boston University Center for the Humanities. His research investigates the allure of forgeries in biblical scholarship, focusing on recent high-profile cases like the fake Dead Sea Scroll fragments acquired by the Museum of the Bible in Washington, DC. Through this work, Klawans examines how scholars are sometimes deceived and the lessons

learned about provenance, authenticity, and scholarly responsibility.

"I have taken several classes with Dr. Klawans and have loved them all. They not only taught me new information but have changed the way I think and what I pay attention to when learning new information. And they have been fascinating. Fakes and Forgeries always had me eager to learn the new day's story, Dead Sea Scrolls provided me with rich new insights, and Theories and Methods in Religion changed the way I understand systems of meaning and the ways they impact the world. Dr. Klawans is meticulous in his presentation of information and does a fantastic job of making sure that the class understands what he means and why that learning is important. He also does a great job of getting the class involved in the evidence, allowing them to hear competing claims and decide for themselves. I cannot recommend his classes enough!"

– **Sara Boston** (Ph.D. Student specializing in Religions of the Ancient Mediterranean)

"I've had Professor Klawans for RN104 (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam) and RN216 (Judaism), and part of the reason I took these classes was because as a Christian, I wanted to learn more about the history of Judaism. One particular project that I really loved was in RN104 with the collage projects. As someone who loves making art, having that chance to bring creativity into the collage projects was amazing and a relief that it wasn't just another typical paper.

Throughout these classes, I also learned more about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. I honestly didn't know much until recently, when Israel was attacked by Hamas in October 2023. Professor Klawans provided valuable insights into the conflict, helping me understand the complexities. I now stand with Israel's right to exist, and I hope for peace for both Israel and Palestine."

– **Soobin Lee** (Wheelock'25, Education Major & Religion Minor)

Jonathan Klawans (continued)

“During my time at Boston University, I had the opportunity to study under Dr. Klawans in a number of his classes. These have included topics as diverse as rabbinic literature, the Dead Sea scrolls, and biblical fakes and forgeries, as well as department core classes in theory of religion. I’ve also had the chance to study biblical languages and modern Hebrew with Dr. Klawans in a small group setting. In every case, two things about his teaching stand out. The first is his expertise across a vast range of subject matter, from languages and texts to history, cultural studies, and current events. All of these make for fascinating and exciting courses. The other is his enthusiasm. He loves teaching, cares deeply about the students and their learning, and it definitely shows. I would highly recommend them to anyone who is interested in learning about Judaism’s ancient past and the ways in which it connects with our modern religious traditions and wider world.”

– **Scott Chase** (6th-year Ph.D. Candidate Concentrating on the Religions of the Ancient Mediterranean)

“I am thrilled to be asked to write a few words about Professor Jonathan Klawans’s teaching. His was the first class I ever took when I commenced my doctoral studies back in 2019. And his course on “Theory and Methods” in the study of religion was, in many ways, formative—it introduced the students to theorists ranging from Émile Durkheim, Sigmund Freud, and Karl Marx to Max Weber, Clifford Geertz, and Dame Mary Douglas. I always thought of this course as a brilliantly-executed version of “20 Great Books”—something that creates a strong foundation for a discipline. But it was Professor Klawans’s ability to animate the discussions in class that made the content that much more fascinating to engage with. He possesses an uncanny ability to raise the stakes of the central questions concerning the field—if this, then “what??”. How will two

different responses to an important theoretical question lead to two entirely different frameworks which could further lead to two different ideologies? The question wasn’t just a question anymore. It was a decision—an academic, intellectual, and moral decision. One of the main takeaways of the course, for me, was how Professor Klawans helped me cultivate an understanding of Dame Mary Douglas’s Purity and Danger. In addition to being one of the few female theorists of religion considered part of the traditional canon in the field, her work on what is considered “pollution” and how it impacts our understanding of categories makes her a key figure in religious studies. Professor Klawans has himself built on Douglas’s work in highly productive and engaging directions; as such, I consider myself fortunate to have studied her work, and those of other theorists in my field, under the passionate and expert guidance of Professor Klawans.”

– **Ateeb Gul** (6th year PhD student in Islamic Studies, Graduate Program in Religion)

Outside the classroom, Klawans enjoys expanding his knowledge of classical music and is a passionate reader of Hebrew literature, especially the works of Nobel Prize winner S.Y. Agnon. He also takes a particular interest in the history of Jerusalem, a city that fascinates him both in its ancient and modern iterations.

Reflecting on his nearly three decades at Boston University, Klawans expresses gratitude for his colleagues and students, appreciating the respectful and intellectually curious environment that the university fosters. His dedication to teaching and research has made him a cornerstone of Boston University’s Religion and Jewish Studies programs.



ANDREA BERLIN

Professor Andrea Berlin spent the first half of 2023 on leave as a Fulbright-Hays Senior Scholar at Tel Aviv University, conducting research for her monograph entitled *Beyond The Temple: Jewish Material Life from the Maccabees to the Revolt*. She presented her new approach in talks at the University of California Berkeley’s Center for Jewish Studies, Tel Aviv University, and the Albright Institute of Archaeological Research in Jerusalem. In June, she presented a paper entitled “The Kantharos Divide, and wine-drinking in the late Persian-early Hellenistic Levant” at the conference “Cognition and Culture: Hellenistic Identity in the Northern Levant, Anatolia, and Mesopotamia” held at the University of Bern, Switzerland. Upon returning to Boston, Berlin worked on finalizing the final report on her 12 years of excavation at Tel Kedesh, Israel, aiming to submit volumes on the site’s stratigraphy, architecture, and finds to the press by the end of the year. Berlin was also awarded the Archaeological Institute of America’s 2025 Gold Medal for Distinguished Archaeological Achievement, to be presented at the AIA’s Annual Meetings in Philadelphia in January 2025. 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.



MIRA ANGRIST

Master Lecturer Mira Angrist had an exceptionally active and productive 2023-24 academic year. She made notable contributions by presenting at prestigious conferences, engaging in professional training, and actively participating in language education initiatives. Angrist delivered engaging presentations at the National Association of Professors of Hebrew (NAPH), Northeast Conference for Teaching Foreign Languages (NECTFL), Northeast Modern Language Association (NEMLA), International Conference for Hebrew Teachers (Hitkadmud) organized by Hebrew at The Center, and the International Conference for Hebrew Teachers organized by Hebraica University in Mexico City. Her presentations covered topics such as using Canva to develop teaching and learning materials, utilizing linguistic landscape for authentic learning, experiential learning in a food culture course, maximum acquisition with minimum language, and storytelling in teaching and learning Hebrew as a second language. Additionally, Angrist completed professional training in Generative AI in Second Language Acquisition and used GenAI (chatbots and generative images) in all her courses.



ALEJANDRO BOTTA

During the 2023-2024 Academic year, **Professor Alejandro Botta** taught a range of fascinating courses, including Egyptian Magic and Religion, Middle Egyptian (Hieroglyphs), Genesis, Biblical Interpretation from a Hispanic and Latin American Perspective, and Jewish Writings of the Second Temple Period. These courses provided valuable insights into their respective subjects. He continued his active role as doctoral advisor to his student Monica Rey, who successfully defended her GDR dissertation “Captive: Gendering Genocide in the Hebrew Bible” in December 2023, John Ross’ Doctor of Ministry project thesis “Biblical Shalom in Higher Education,” and Togu Sihite, who is preparing his comprehensive examinations in Hebrew Bible at the School of Theology. His ongoing publication projects include a Namebook of Aramaic Names from Egypt (with Bezalel Porten) and the edition of two introductory volumes to the Hebrew Bible in Spanish. His “Introduction, Study Notes, and Excursuses to Joshua” for the Westminster Study Bible (Westminster John Knox Press) will be published in October. Prof. Botta also served on the following editorial boards: Harvard Semitic Museum, Teología y Cultura. Revista de teología de UCEL, Antiguo Oriente. Universidad Católica Argentina, Centro de Estudios de Historia del Antiguo Oriente and Revista del Instituto de Historia Antigua Oriental Nueva Serie, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina. He also served as Biblical Studies Coordinator for the Red Iberoamericana sobre el Próximo Oriente Antiguo (RIPOA).



JENNIFER CAZENAVE

In 2023-24, **Professor Jennifer Cazenave** published “Home as Survival: Seeing Queer Archival Lives” in Alphaville: Journal of Film and Screen Media and “L’archive-monument de Claude Lanzmann” in Balises: le magazine de la Bibliothèque publique d’information (Centre Pompidou). She gave two talks in Paris on the Shoah outtakes at the Centre Pompidou and the Mémorial de la Shoah in November 2023, and a presentation on antisemitism in France at Brandeis University in October 2023. Cazenave received a Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Studies mini-grant and a Pskowski Humanities Junior Faculty Research Fund from CAS to support a French translation of her book *An Archive of the Catastrophe: The Unused Footage of Claude Lanzmann’s Shoah*.



ODILE CAZENAVE

Over the past academic year, **Professor Odile Cazenave’s** publications, invited talks, and teaching have focused on the 1994 genocide of Tutsis in Rwanda. In the fall, she published “Chemin faisant: De l’importance de la postface à la réédition de Murambi. Le livre des ossements (200; 2011)” in *Un cercle autour de Murambi. Le livre des ossements, Actes de la journée autour de Murambi. Le livre des ossements de Boubacar Boris Diop, CORA* as a homage to Boubacar Boris Diop, the recipient of the 2022 Neustadt Literary Prize for his novel, *Murambi. The Book of Bones* (2000, 2011). In the spring, she taught LF481, The Genocide of Tutsis in Rwanda, in Literature and Film. Cazenave was invited to Kigali, Rwanda, for one of the launching literary events at the Genocide memorial, participating in roundtable discussions with survivors and African writers. In April, she was also invited to give talks at Penn State University and George Washington University on the 1994 genocide.



MATTHEW CREIGHTON

During the 2023-2024 academic year, **Matthew Creighton** taught “*World Cultures of the Jews*” and two sections of “*The Holocaust Through Film*.” Through a generous grant from the Wiesel Center, the latter class welcomed **Professor Sue Vice** from the University of Sheffield as a guest lecturer to speak on the various representations of perpetrators in Holocaust cinema. He is currently at work preparing a book manuscript based on his doctoral dissertation, entitled “*The Hidden Father and the Problem of Generations in Luther, Freud, and Kafka*.” His entry on the Catholic movement Opus Dei will appear this summer in Volume 22 of *The Encyclopedia of The Bible and Its Reception* (De Gruyter), while his review of Brian Britt’s *Religion Around Walter Benjamin* (Penn State Press, 2022) is forthcoming with *The Journal of Religion*. Yet he is most excited to begin his new role as a Full-Time Lecturer in Jewish Studies at the Wiesel Center this fall, and he is already at work developing new courses in Jewish history and culture. He will also continue to serve as an Undergraduate Mentor in BU’s College Access & Student Success initiative.



ANDRÉ DE QUADROS

During the 2023-2024 academic year, **Professor André de Quadros** demonstrated exceptional productivity and impact through his research, creative work, and community engagement across various fields. Described as “one of the most inspiring human rights educators of our time” by the Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and as “one of the most brilliant, dynamic, provocative, and accomplished artist-educators in the world today” by Dr. Andrew Clark of Harvard University, Professor de Quadros continues to make significant contributions to human rights, music education, and scholarship.

In the realm of research, Professor de Quadros continued his work on a major project titled “Singing Our Stories,” funded by a CAD \$465,117 grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. This project focuses on narrative work with forced migrants, aligning with his broader research interests in forced migration and LGBTQ+ issues. As part of this project, he conducted fieldwork in Mexico, working with transgender refugees.

Professor de Quadros’s creative endeavors were equally noteworthy. He received a grant of \$111,000 from the New England Foundation for the Arts for “The Slaying of Innocence,” a music-theatre project he co-directs. This project, co-created with four African American men, draws upon their lived experiences in the prison system to form the narrative foundation, reflecting his focus on race and mass incarceration.

As a conductor and music educator, Professor de Quadros continues to direct several ensembles, including the Manado State University Choir in Indonesia, the Muslim Choral Ensemble in Sri Lanka, and VOICES 21C in Boston. In 2022, he co-founded the World Muslim Choral Ensemble, aiming to bring Muslims and non-Muslims together to engage with Islamic culture. He also led a Common Ground Voices residency between Israelis and Palestinians in the Holy Land, with plans for future dialogues in Sweden and Toronto, demonstrating his commitment to peacebuilding through music.

Professor de Quadros’s academic achievements were recognized through several prestigious appointments and awards. These included the Jane Frazee Distinguished Scholar at the University of St. Thomas (2023), the Distinguished Lectureship on Music, Diversity and Inclusion at the University of Colorado (2023), the Kenneth H. Peacock Lecturer at the University of Toronto Faculty of Music (2023-24), and the Miegunyah Distinguished Fellowship at the University of Melbourne (2024).

As a human rights activist, conductor, music educator, and scholar, Professor de Quadros’s work has taken him to diverse settings in 40 countries. His projects have included work with prisons, psychosocial rehabilitation, refugees, and victims of sexual violence, torture, and trauma. Dean Harvey Young, echoing the words of incarcerated individuals, described Professor de Quadros as having “smuggled in humanity” in the 2024 prison arts book.

Professor de Quadros continues to be prolific on the publication front, maintaining an average of one new book per year since 2019. He is also embarking on a new co-edited book series titled “Arts & Abolition” with Bloomsbury, further expanding his scholarly impact in the fields of arts and human rights.

Looking ahead, Professor de Quadros is set to deliver the opening keynote at the Helsinki World Conference of the International Society for Music Education in August, further cementing his status as a leading figure in his field.



ABIGAIL GILLMAN

In July 2023, Professor Abigail Gillman participated in a conference for women scholars titled “Women Write Buber: On the 100th Anniversary of I and Thou” at the University of Haifa. She spoke about Bertha Pappenheim’s correspondence with Martin Buber, and specifically, about a series of letters from June 1935 in which Pappenheim argued with Buber (and indirectly with Hermann Cohen) about interpreting the commandment to “Love your Near One as Yourself” (Lev. 19:18) and elaborated her own, feminist understanding.

In October 2023, she co-organized a panel at the German Studies Association Conference in Montreal on “Heinrich Heine and Translation,” and she presented a paper titled “Heine’s *Fichtenbaum* in a Grove of *Oranim*: Towards a History of Heine in Hebrew.” She was also a commentator for a session on “Modes of Return: German-Hebrew Translation and Self-Translation in Post World War II Poetry.” Both panels took place on October 6, just before Black Shabbat.

In December 2023, she participated in a roundtable at the AJS annual convention in San Francisco on “Revisiting Jewish Women and the Archive.” Her presentation, “‘... and she also translated...’: Uncovering the Careers of Jewish Women Translators,” is part of a larger project about Anglo- and American-Jewish women translators in the late 19th and early 20th centuries such as Emma Lazarus, Amy Levy, Henrietta Szold, and Nina Ruth Davis Salaman. At the AJS, she also chaired a session on “The Translational Turn in Jewish Studies.”

Gillman serves on the faculty advisory boards of the Leo Baeck Institute and the North American Heine Society.

In the Department of World Languages and Literatures, she served as the Convener of the German and Hebrew programs. In the Spring of 2024, she became a member of the president’s Working Group on Jewish Life, Antisemitism, and Anti-Israeli Harassment at Boston University.



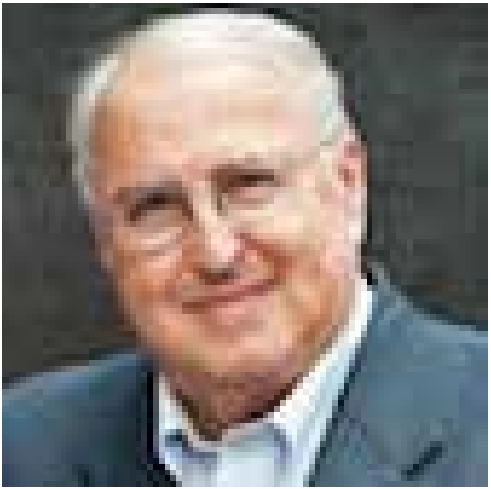
DAVID FRANKFURTER

This past year, **Professor David Frankfurter** coedited (with early Judaism scholars Annette Yoshiko Reed and Ra’anan Boustan) a Festschrift for his Princeton teacher Martha Himmelfarb, *Above, Below, Before, and After*, for Mohr Siebeck’s early Judaism series. His essay “Heavenly Liturgy and Its Materialization in Early Coptic Magical Texts” was included in this volume. Frankfurter also published an essay on demonic threats to homes in late antique Egypt and gave several conference papers on Christian figurines, the late antique presence of the gods Isis and Horus, and “On the Gender of Demons.” His classes this year included advanced courses in Ancient Magical Texts (fall) and “Cults and Charisma” (spring).



NANCY HARROWITZ

Professor Nancy Harrowitz published an essay entitled *Creating the Voice of Jewish Identity: Cesare Lombroso and Giorgio Bassani*, in a collection entitled *Fuori le Mura: Giorgio Bassani e la culture torinese* (Giorgio Pozzi Editore, Ravenna, 2024). In May, she visited Turin to research her new project on Silvia Lombroso’s memoirs about Fascism and Italian Jewish intellectuals’ emigration to the Boston area during that time. As Director of the Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies, she organized a new minor in Israel Studies, planned and introduced the International Holocaust Remembrance Day annual event, *The Music of Terezin*, and served as chair of the Boston University working group on antisemitism and antIsraeli bias. She also worked with the development office to secure a major donation to the Center in order to develop new courses in Jewish history, now underway.



STEVEN KATZ

Professor Steven Katz had another busy and productive year. He taught in the Fall semester and had a sabbatical in the Spring semester, during which he spent two months in Israel doing research at Yad Vashem. Katz continues as the editor of *Modern Judaism* (published by Oxford UP) and signed a contract with Cambridge University Press to edit a 3-volume *Cambridge History of Antisemitism*, involving planning the list of essays and soliciting suitable authors for the 128 articles. He also continued his own research project comparing the Holocaust with other historical examples of mass death. Katz’s extensive pro bono work with national and international organizations continues, including serving as a member of the U.S. State Department delegation to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, on the academic committee of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, and chairing the Kagan International Fellowship program sponsored by the Claims Conference. In April, Katz accompanied a group of university presidents from the U.S. and Canada to Holocaust sites in Poland, including Auschwitz, giving them a new level of appreciation and understanding. He also continued the Two Museums Program, started last year, to foster relations between Black and Jewish college students by jointly visiting the Holocaust Museum and the African American History Museum in Washington, DC.



NAHUM KARLINSKY

Professor Nahum Karlinsky had a productive and challenging year. The outbreak of war in Gaza following Hamas’s October 7th attack on Israel made teaching the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict course more challenging than ever before. Despite these circumstances, Karlinsky continued teaching according to established pedagogical principles, providing students with reliable facts, offering a safe space for respectful discussion, and allowing students to form independent opinions.

Academically, Karlinsky’s project initiated at the Center a few years ago has matured into an edited book, *The Modern Israeli and Palestinian Diasporas – A Comparative Approach*, to be published by the University of Texas Press in the fall of 2024. The book assembles an impressive array of contributors to explore Israeli-Jewish and Palestinian-Arab diasporas alongside one another and in dialogue with other diasporic communities.

Additionally, a revised Hebrew language edition of Karlinsky’s 2021 book with Professor Mustafa Kabha, *The Palestinian Arab Citrus Industry from Ottoman Rule to the Nakba, 1850-1950*, is scheduled to be published by Resling Press (Tel Aviv) in fall 2024.

Karlinsky also presented a paper at the joint annual conference of the Association for Israel Studies and the European Association for Israel Studies in July 2024.



JONATHAN KLAWANS

In 2023-2024, **Professor Jonathan Klawans** continued serving as the Director of Graduate Studies for the Department of Religion (where PhDs in Jewish Studies are trained at BU) and as co-editor of the *Journal of Ancient Judaism* (published by Brill). His publications this year include book reviews and a full-length academic essay related to his ongoing work on forgeries titled “The Magic of Forgery: Patterns of Distraction in the Authentication of Suspicious Objects” in the *Journal of Ancient Judaism*. In Fall 2023, Klawans was awarded a 2024-2025 Jeffrey Henderson Senior Fellowship from the BU Center for the Humanities to work on a book tentatively entitled *Seductive Discoveries: The Academic Authentication of Biblical Finds and Forgeries*. He delivered a talk at Temple Reyim in Newton, MA, in December 2023 and a virtual presentation at the University of St. Andrews (Scotland, UK) in March 2024.



DEEANA KLEPPER

Professor Deeana Klepper achieved several milestones this year. In the Spring, she was promoted to full professor in Religion and History. In January, she was elected to the Medieval Academy of America’s Society of Fellows, recognizing her major long-term scholarly achievement within the field of Medieval Studies. In May, Klepper was a visiting scholar in Professor Elisheva Baumgarten’s Israel Science Foundation-supported research group at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, “Contending with Crises: The Jews in Fourteenth-Century Europe,” where she gave talks including “Regulating Daily Life with Jews and Muslims in Fourteenth-Century Europe: Advice Literature for Christian Priests.” She also completed an essay entitled “Shared Scripture? Nicholas of Lyra’s *On the Difference between the Hebrew Letter and our Translation*” for a volume of essays to be published in 2025 by Brill.



HILLEL LEVINE

Professor Emeritus Hillel Levine is reviewing his 1984 discovery. He edited and analyzed for the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities the importance of the Lublin manuscript. The Academy is planning to republish this work, which has vast implications for the work of Professor Gershom Scholem, the pioneer scholar of Jewish mysticism. Professor Levine, while attending an international conference on the growth of Judaic Studies in Frankfurt, Germany, visited Offenbach. Jacob Frank, along with his daughter, organized the last public assemblies of Frank’s disciples. These were promulgated in the last years of the 18th century and the first years of the 19th.



DIANA LOBEL

Professor Diana Lobel’s most recent book, *Faith and Trust: An Introduction to Judeo-Arabic Thought*, was published in March 2024 by Academic Studies Press for the series *Emunot: Jewish Philosophy and Kabbalah*. She also published an article titled “Bahya ibn Paquda and Virtue Ethics” in *Jewish Virtue Ethics* (edited by Geoffrey D. Claussen, Alexander Green, and Alan L. Mittleman) and reviews of Menachem Kellner and David Gillis’ *Maimonides the Universalist: The Ethical Horizons of the Mishneh Torah* in *Speculum* (April 2023) and Yehuda Halper’s *Jewish Socratic Questions in an Age without Plato: Permitting and Forbidding Open Inquiry in 12-15th Century Europe and North Africa* in *Speculum* (January 2023).



TIMOTHY LONGMAN

Professor Timothy Longman has been busy with administration this year, continuing to serve as the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in the Pardee School and as the treasurer for the National African Studies Association. He had a couple of publications, including “Memorializing Violence as a Political Tool: Public Memory and the Genocide of the Tutsi in Rwanda” in *Violence and Public Memory* (edited by Marty Blatt) and a review essay titled “Researching Under Constraints: Recent Books on Post-Genocide Rwanda” in the *Journal of Human Rights* (February 2023).



MARGARET LITVIN

Professor Margaret Litvin had a productive year focused on her co-edited anthology and related presentations. She gave approximately ten public presentations at various universities and conferences about *Russian-Arab Worlds: A Documentary History* (Oxford University Press, 2023), which she co-edited with historians Masha Kirasirova and Eileen Kane. The book, designed for classroom use, includes a free website presenting primary sources in their original languages: Arabic, Russian, Tatar, Armenian, French, and Persian. Five of the book's 34 chapters contribute to understanding the Holy Land in the 19th and early 20th century, specifically examining the role of Russia's Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society (known by its Russian acronym, IPPO). Contributors translated key texts from the IPPO's history, analyzed how the organization manufactured religious solidarity for the Holy Land among Russian readers and illiterate peasants alike and researched the biographies of prominent Arab IPPO school alumni. To create one of the book's new maps, Litvin collaborated with then-undergraduate Michelle Ramiz to geolocate over 100 IPPO schools in present-day Syria, Lebanon, and Palestine – including some in villages that were destroyed in 1948. This work was supported by Humboldt and Radcliffe fellowships and the BU Center for the Humanities. On October 3, 2023, Litvin hosted “Haunted Sites and Immersive Plays,” a presentation at the Pardee School by Russian-Israeli theatre artist Yulia Ginis, founder and artistic director of Mystorin Theatre in Jerusalem. In her first visit to the United States in more than 20 years, Yulia talked about some of Mystorin's productions, including a musical about the unsolved murder of Haim Arlosoroff and a site-specific performance called Seven staged in the abandoned Tel Aviv bus terminal. The event, sponsored by the Jewish Cultural Endowment,

attracted about 20 BU students and faculty, as well as members of the broader community. Following the October 7 attack, Ginis and the Mystorin team have been creating therapeutic theatre activities for the Jerusalem theatre community and displaced individuals. Litvin also served on the organizing committee of The Jewish Left, a symposium on May 3 featuring various speakers, including Shaul Magid, Daniel May, and Yiddish poet Irena Klepfisz.



SIMON PAYASLIAN

Professor Simon Payaslian, the Charles K. and Elisabeth M. Kenosian Chair in Modern Armenian History and Literature, taught courses on the History of Genocide, Political & Cultural Revolutions, Prevention of Genocide, and World History II. His latest article, “The Origins of Armenian Lobbying in the United States: A Geopolitical Conceptualization of Restorative Justice,” was published in *Studies on National Movements* (vol. 13, 2024). This follows his earlier publication in the same journal, “The Origins of Armenian Nationalism in the United States and the American Armenian Press (1880s-1920s),” showcasing his ongoing research into Armenian-American history and politics. In addition to his publications, Professor Payaslian has been an active participant in international academic conferences. He has presented papers at prestigious events in Paris-Aubervilliers, Montréal, and London. His conference presentations have covered a diverse range of topics, including the pathologization of diasporic existence, the Armenian exodus from Egypt and Syria, and U.S. human rights policy towards Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia.



MERAV SHOHE

Professor Merav Shohet's publications in 2023-24 include a co-authored chapter titled “Revisiting and Revisioning Silence and Narrative in Psychological Anthropology” in *Innovations in Psychological Anthropology*, an article titled “Silenced Resentments and Regrets: Aging in a Changing Kibbutz” in *American Anthropologist*, and a co-authored article titled “Living with Kidney Failure: Structural and Psychosocial Challenges and Sources of Support during the COVID-19 Pandemic” in *Kidney Medicine*. Shohet received the Boston University Provost's Undergraduate Academic Advising Award in 2024. She secured small grants to support a workshop on “Writing with Silence: Engaging with the Unspoken and Unspeakable in Humanistic and Qualitative Social Science Research” for graduate and undergraduate students at BU and Brandeis. Shohet co-organized a session titled “Ecologies of Care in Transition: Theorizing Relational Ethics and Politics” at the AAA/CASCA Annual Meeting in Toronto and presented papers at the AES/APLA Spring Conference in Pittsburgh and the AAA/CASCA Annual Meeting in Toronto.



Alissa Valles received the 2024 Found in Translation Award from the Polish Book Institute, the Polish Cultural Institute New York, and the Polish Cultural Institute London for her translation of Zuzanna Ginczanka's *'Firebird'* published by the New York Review of Books. She also participated in a discussion on “Captivity and Creativity in 20th-Century Polish Literature: Józef Czapski and His Poets” at Yale University's European Studies Council.



JEREMY YUDKIN

As Director of the Beethoven Center, **Professor Jeremy Yudkin** organized a special international conference commemorating the two-hundredth anniversary of the premiere of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony.



MICHAEL ZANK

MICHAEL ZANK AT BOATHOUSE ARTISTS RESIDENCY, AHMEDABAD/GUJARAT (INDIA), JANUARY 2024
PHOTO CREDIT: VANESSA VALERO (BOGOTÀ)

Aside from extensive sabbatical travel and residencies in Europe, India, and the Pacific Northwest, **Professor Michael Zank** enjoyed a BUCH senior fellowship during the Spring of 2024, where he presented on Literary Aspects of Philosophical Writing: The Case of Maimonides’ Guide of the Perplexed, which was accepted for inclusion in an edited volume on *Philosophy and Jewish Thought. Theoretical Intersections*. Zank lectured widely, including at the Catholic Academy, Humboldt University, and the Max Planck Institute for Human Development in Berlin, at the Theologische Fakultät Leipzig, at Yale University, the Maimonides Centre in Hamburg, and at O.P.Jindal Global University near New Delhi/India. Upon returning to BU in the Fall, Zank looks forward to teaching his long-standing course on the Bible (RN101/JS120) and a seminar in the Philosophy of Religion.



MICHAEL ZELL

Professor Michael Zell’s essay “Rembrandt and Multicultural Amsterdam: Jews and Black People in Rembrandt’s Art” was published in the volume *Rembrandt Seen Through Jewish Eyes: The Artist’s Meaning to Jews from His Time to Ours* (edited by Mirjam Knotter and Gary Schwartz), and his review of the MFA exhibition “Michaelina Wautier and ‘The Five Senses’: Innovation in 17th-Century Flemish Painting” was published in *Early Modern Women: An Interdisciplinary Journal*. He also delivered a conference talk in the UK entitled “Dogs at Rest in Rembrandt and Dou.” Most importantly, Zell was promoted to full professor.

Matthew Creighton



MATTHEW CREIGHTON

In May of 2024 **Matthew Creighton** was hired as the first full-time lecturer at The Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies. Having earned his bachelor’s degree from Boston University back in 2011, the appointment carries great sentimental meaning:

“I grew up on Park Vale Avenue in Allston, but it was in the rooms of Commonwealth Avenue and Bay State Road that I found my vocation for the life of teaching and scholarship. Courses in Jewish literature and spirituality—taught by Abigail Gillman and Diana Lobel, respectively—exposed me to the fascinating world of Jewish cultural expression, and together shaped my subsequent academic direction in graduate school. In this new role I hope I can give my alma mater as much as it gave me.”
- **Matthew Creighton**

Matthew Creighton (continued)



STUDENTS FROM "MODERN JUDAISM" (JS 255) ON A TRIP TO BEACON HILL'S HISTORIC VILNA SHUL, FALL 2021

Creighton began working at The Wiesel Center three years ago, soon after completing his doctorate in the field of Religion and Literature at the University of Chicago Divinity School. Reflecting on his experience at the Center thus far, he commented on the strong support continually extended to him by members of the faculty:

"As challenging as it is to secure stable work in higher education, it is even more difficult to find colleagues who value you and encourage your efforts. In the Fall of 2021 Michael Zank first offered me the chance to teach in the Jewish Studies program, and soon after Nancy Harrowitz trusted me to lead a course in Holocaust representation. As director she has placed her confidence in me to help administer life at the Center, and continues to support my endeavors both inside and outside the classroom."

- Matthew Creighton

Although relatively new, Creighton has already taught a multi-disciplinary array of courses through the Center, including "Modern Judaism," "Jewish Literature," "The Holocaust Through Film," and "World Cultures of the Jews." Across these subjects he is at once keen on exposing students to the unique tapestry of Jewish civilization, while also working to translate what seems like strange course content into the familiar fabric of their own lives:

"This dynamic surfaces strikingly in a class like 'Literature of the Holocaust,' wherein students arrive expecting to read stories about the horrors inflicted on a specific group 'way back when,' but are then surprised to learn how deeply human and universal the stories are. Very few experiences top those moments when a teacher senses that students personally resonate with class material."

- Matthew Creighton

Students we reached out to for this profile attested to Creighton's care for course design and to the collaborative environment he worked to foster: *"Professor Creighton's class was refreshingly collaborative, incredibly well-planned, and a thorough, yet succinct overview of Holocaust cinema. He took care to include films from a variety of countries, decades, and perspectives. He is incredibly knowledgeable on this topic and a kind and supportive professor overall. I would highly recommend his*

courses to any student looking for a unique class with a fantastic professor."

- Julia Massey (CAS'24, Psychology Major)

"There is no professor at BU quite like Professor Matthew Creighton. His energy radiates into the classroom, and his extensive knowledge is evident in his clear and articulate teaching style. In Fall '23 I had the privilege of taking Prof. Creighton's course 'The Holocaust Through Film.' Although I came in with a background in Holocaust Studies, each week I was stunned at the ways in which Prof. Creighton challenged me to learn about the Holocaust from different angles (including satire!) and to expand my writing skills to film reviews, film analysis, creative writing, and more. From his perfectly curated movie list to the enriching readings he assigned us to supplement the films, each week brought something new. One of the strengths of Professor Creighton is also his ability to forge community within the classroom, where each student comes in with a varying degree of knowledge or personal connection to the subject. He draws on each student's strengths and background to build a well-rounded discussion that ultimately carries universal lessons about humankind. He has the most joyful and delightful presence, and our class shared many laughs and memorable moments together. You may even find us on a road trip in Dubai together in the future! I am eternally grateful for the opportunity to learn from and to connect with Professor Creighton, and I highly recommend his courses to any student of any background."

- Livia Prince (CAS '26, Anthropology & Religion and Political Science Major)

Alongside his teaching commitments Creighton is also engaged in developing his scholarly profile. He is currently preparing a book manuscript, based on his doctoral dissertation, that explores the impact of Christian theology on twentieth-century German-Jewish writers. Future book projects he intends on pursuing include an intellectual biography of the Jewish theologian and novelist Arthur Cohen, as well as a study of the religious dimensions underpinning Holocaust filmmaking.



CREIGHTON WITH CO-ORGANIZER PROFESSOR ABIGAIL GILLMAN (MIDDLE) AT THE 2023 YITZHAK RABIN MEMORIAL LECTURE, GIVEN BY EMERITA PROFESSOR PNINA LAHAV

Outside of his academic life Creighton loves to cook, watch movies, and garden. You may also find him on campus exercising at FitRec and watching Terrier hockey—something he's done since he was a child.

For the 2024-2025 academic year Creighton will serve as the Associate Director of the Wiesel Center, during which he will focus on developing new courses and programming for the minor in Jewish Studies, the major/minor in Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies, and the new minor in Israel Studies. He will also continue to serve as an undergraduate mentor through BU's College Access & Student Success initiative.

Roi Sabar



ROI SABAR

In the 2023-2024 academic year, our postdoctoral fellow, **Dr. Roi Sabar**, was primarily focused on conducting a series of hybrid discussions entitled *From Rebels to Rulers: The Hasmoneans and their Kingdom*.

As part of The Maccabees Project, initiated at the EWCJS already in 2015 by Prof. Andrea Berlin, the current series focused on the heyday of the Hasmonean Dynasty (late second-early first centuries BCE), when it established a strong presence in the southern Levant and an independent Jewish kingdom in Judaea.

Four discussions, with over 70 attendees, took place at the EWCJS library and via Zoom. Featuring a regional interrogation of archaeological data from the time of Hasmonean independence. The talks covered most of the geographical capacity of the kingdom, including the Galilee, the Jezreel Valley, the Mediterranean Coast, and Idumea. Among the themes investigated were urban-rural relations, military and royal policies, and settlement dynamics. Reflections on historical-archaeological interdisciplinary discourse was one of the series' main objectives.

In addition, Sabar gave a talk at the BU Archaeology Program Seminar entitled Geopolitics and Archaeology in Israel: The Galilee in the Hellenistic Period, based on his recently completed PhD (the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, June 2023). Sabar was also awarded the BU Jewish Cultural Endowment on his proposal to hold a workshop that will explore state formations in ancient Israel. Currently, he is preparing several manuscripts for publications, among which are a co-edited monograph on the Hebrew University Excavations at Khirbet el-'Eika, a second-century BCE farmstead in rural lower Galilee, as well as peer-reviewed journal articles on fortresses of the Hasmonean Kingdom.

Tamara Lotner Lev



TAMARA LOTNER LEV

Tamara Lotner Lev holds a Ph.D. from Tel Aviv University School of Law, a master's degree in Public Policy (magna cum laude) from Tel Aviv University, and first degrees in Law (LLB) and Latin American Studies (BA) from the Hebrew University (magna cum laude). Dr. Lotner Lev spent two years as a visiting researcher at UC Berkeley Law School during her doctoral studies and was a researcher at the Law and Environment Program in TAU faculty of law. After completing her Ph.D., she joined the Israeli Department of Justice as a Postdoc Fellow, later serving as a legal advisor to the Deputy General Attorney.

Dr. Lotner Lev's research includes studies on environmental law and regulation, offshore oil and gas and transportation, and transportation law including smart mobility.

Dr. Lotner Lev spent the 2023-2024 academic year at Boston University as a Postdoctoral Associate at the Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies.

In 2021, Dr. Lotner Lev joined the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (SPNI) as Climate Policy Director. SPNI is Israel's oldest and largest independent nonprofit environmental organization, which leads some of the most influential environmental campaigns and projects in Israel. During her tenure, she has focused on developing SPNI's work in research and education, particularly on the linkage between ecosystems and climate change and its significance for policy design.

Dr. Lotner Lev has also been involved in plans for rehabilitating the Jordan River and the Dead Sea. Her work at SPNI has included analyzing the outcomes of COP 28 and the new Israeli Climate Bill, which was approved by the government and presented to the parliament for discussions in 2023-24. Additionally, Dr. Lotner Lev served as a board member of the Israeli Society of Ecology and Environmental Sciences (ISEES) from 2020 to 2023, promoting the use of scientific knowledge in environmental decision-making.

In response to the tragic events of October 7th, 2023, SPNI launched a new initiative called "Nature Heals." This program aims to provide eco-therapy to Israelis suffering from trauma, addressing the high rates of PTSD symptoms in the country. The initiative includes various programs for all ages, with a special focus on traumatized teens through the Desert Camp activities. These three-day overnight camps in the desert offer activities like rock climbing, trekking, and stargazing, free of charge, to displaced youths aged 16-18. The success of these eco-therapy camps has led to plans for at least 40 sessions throughout 2024, aiming to reach even more displaced youth. This initiative aligns with scientific evidence supporting the therapeutic and healing effects of nature exposure for individuals suffering from trauma, anxiety, stress, or depression.

Dr. Lotner Lev joined Boston University in the Fall of 2023 as a Postdoctoral Associate at the Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies. Dr. Lotner Lev's formal duties included teaching three courses during the 2023-2024 academic year. These included "Israel: History, Politics, Culture and Identity," a course offered in both fall and spring semesters that gives a broad view of Israel's history and correlates historical events and processes with politics, cultures, and identities in modern Israel. The course took on special significance in the fall of 2023, beginning against the backdrop of protests in Israel and continuing through the October 7th events and the subsequent war in Gaza.

Dr. Lotner Lev also taught "Environmental Law in Israel and the Mediterranean," a course that provides students with an understanding of the major principles, justifications, theories, and tools that form the basis for environmental law and regulation. Students learned about the development of natural resources and environmental law, discussed its effectiveness, and recognized its limits. The course covered various cases in Israel and the Middle East, from water issues to nature protection, air pollution, marine protection, and climate change. Students were encouraged to critically analyze the ethical grounds and practical implications of environmental law and policy design.

During her time at Boston University, Dr. Lotner Lev actively engaged in academic discourse beyond the classroom. She gave talks at several conferences and seminars, including Limmud North America, CAN MA, and ADAMA. These presentations allowed her to share her expertise and research findings with a broader audience. Dr. Lotner Lev also used her position at the Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies to further her research on decision-making processes in the development of Israel's offshore gas sector between 2009 and 2015. This ongoing study examines the effects of these processes on the relationship between professional and political decision-makers in Israeli politics since that time.

Tamara Lotner Lev (continued)

Here’s what Boston University students had to say when invited to share their thoughts on Lotner Lev’s courses:

“Professor Tamara Lotner Lev is exceptionally skilled at being an informative and objective professor, who teaches deeply complicated and often contentious issues in a manner that is unbiased, respectful of wide-ranging opinions, and pushes deeper into issues that often stop at buzzwords and headlines. In a time of an unprecedented abundance of misinformation, it is Professor Lev who is needed to be a trusted source. She takes pride in due diligence and tolerance, and her competency shows. There is nothing Professor Lev is more interested in, than the education of her students.”
– **Cole Hecker** (Pardee School of Global Studies ‘26, International Relations)

“I was fortunate to have the opportunity to take HI392: Israel—History, Politics, Culture, Identity with Professor Lev this past semester. Every time I entered the classroom late in the afternoon, tired from my three previous classes, I felt the palpable energy Professor Lev created—an atmosphere of openness and a positive attitude toward learning something new. Although it was my last class of the day, Professor Lev’s infectious enthusiasm for the subject was refreshing for my peers and me. That feeling of fatigue would transform into a desire to participate and engage in thought-provoking conversations each day. What I enjoyed most was the diverse group of peers, each bringing unique backgrounds that shaped their opinions. Professor Lev expertly navigated this multi-faceted and complex topic, which often evokes a rollercoaster of emotions, allowing open discussions and creating an environment focused on educating one another. Instead of feeling intimidated, we were encouraged to expand our thinking and challenge any narrow-mindedness. Reflecting on my experience as Professor Lev’s student, I highly recommend her classes to my peers even if they aren’t initially interested in the topic. Her guidance significantly enhanced my personal growth and critical thinking skills.”
– **Michael Kopeld** (CAS’25, International Relations major and Innovation & Entrepreneurship minor)

“During my time in Professor Lev’s class about Israel’s history, I learned a lot about the state’s various involvements during several wars, their government system, and the demographics of the people who live in Israel. I took this class during a critical time when the Israeli-Palestinian conflict was (and still is) underway. The majority of my classmates were Jewish, such as myself, so I felt safe within the classroom. Professor Lev was adamant about making our classroom a safe space for discussions about both past and present events involving Israel and Palestine. In fact, we spent a couple of weeks talking about the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, which was a focal point for starting the ongoing conflicts that are taking place now. I thoroughly enjoyed one of the guest speakers that we had who was a Palestinian journalist. She talked about her family’s hardships and how she continues to face discrimination while living in the United States. Per Professor Lev’s request, she did not hold back her opinions, and I appreciated hearing her Arab perspective. Overall, I am grateful to have taken this class, and especially with the current events happening in Israel, I learned a lot about most of the Arab-Israeli conflicts that have taken place over the years that led up until now. Furthermore, I live in a mixed religious household where my mother is Christian and my father is Jewish. My mother found our class fascinating, and I often would tell her about what we learned in lecture. I appreciate her always wanting to learn more about my father’s side of the family, and I was able to help her do so all thanks to Professor Lev’s insightful class.”
– **Nadine Hirsh** (Sargent College ‘26, Health Studies BS/Doctor of Physical Therapy)

“As a recently graduated BU student, I experienced my fair share of different professors and teaching styles, some of which were much better than others. Among the best educational experiences I had was my time during the Fall 2023 semester in my class with Dr. Lotner Lev. I had the pleasure of taking CAS HI 392, Israeli History, led by Dr. Lotner Lev. Not only was she extremely knowledgeable and passionate about the class material, she was also one of the most welcoming and kind professors I have ever studied with. Her approach to teaching the class was also fun and unique, including interesting debates (we were

once tasked with attempting to form a coalition using the views of each respective party), near-complete freedom on paper and presentation topics allowing us to explore the areas which were of most interest to each student, and encouraging discussion and collaboration among students. Whenever she wasn’t walking around the classroom, she would always sit on the desk and face us as she taught, which made her feel much more engaged and approachable and was something I absolutely loved about the class. Unlike many professors, Dr. Lotner Lev never engaged in any “gotcha” behavior, and whenever a student was seemingly lost or unprepared, she wouldn’t attempt to embarrass or hound them. Additionally, Dr. Lotner Lev was ALWAYS available immediately after class for both class-related and just normal/friendly discussion and, if that didn’t work for a student, would go out of her way to make time for us around our schedules. This made me feel as if she was cognizant of our oftentimes busy and stressful schedules as students. Although these traits are all extremely important and admirable, the most striking part about my time with Dr. Lotner Lev was her open mindedness and ability to listen to and see the opinions of others. I was in Dr. Lotner-Lev’s class on October 7, 2023, and as we all know that was and continues even now to be an extremely painful, emotional, and divisive time for many people around the world. As an Israeli woman, Dr. Lotner Lev was NEVER biased, insensitive, or harmful in her speech or actions when discussing the atrocities and their complex history. In discussions both in class and outside of class she would always express the extreme nuance of the conversation, quick to nip any hateful or incorrect statements from others in the bud. Obviously, an Israeli history class would attract many Jewish students, both with and without direct ties to Israel. Dr. Lotner Lev never showed any favoritism or bias towards these students and their ideals. She was always the first to discuss the unfair treatment of Palestinians in Israel, exploring in detail the checkpoints, military law, and unequal access to Israeli resources these people faced on a daily basis. It was obvious that Dr. Lotner Lev was deeply upset about the attack and, in my opinion, the fact that she remained professional and collected during these discussions is just another of many testimonies to her outstanding ability and passion for teaching. I feel



DR. LOTNER LEV AT COP27 WITH SNPI’S GENERAL DIRECTOR, IRIS HAN

extremely lucky to have met and learned with Tamara Lotner Lev and wish her nothing but the absolute best in her future endeavors both inside and outside of the classroom!”
– **Carrick Sculley**, (CAS ‘24, History Major & WGS Minor)

“During the spring semester of 2024, I took HI250 under Professor Tamara Lev. Through the class, I was able to learn about the political history of Israel, and the divide between the two main political parties in Israel. We were able to do simulations as a class to pretend as though we were members of parliament, which allowed the whole class to practice what we learned in class. My overall take away of the class is that the Israeli parliament is very complex, and has a lot of layers, but taking class with Professor Lev allowed me to practice my writing skills, while learning about a country I deeply care about.”
– **Hana Elster** (Questrom ‘26, Business Administration with a concentration in law)

Jewish Studies

ISRAEL STUDIES MINOR

The Israel Studies Minor provides a multidisciplinary approach to understanding Israel’s history, politics, culture, and environment. Areas of study include politics, international relations, languages, archaeology, and the Mediterranean environment. Students will also examine topics such as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the diverse communities of Ottoman and British Palestine.

The minor requires two courses, including the gateway course HI 392/JS 285/LH 284: Israel History, Politics, Culture, and one course related to the Middle East. Four electives are also required, with options including Israeli culture through film, archaeology, and environmental law in Israel. Proficiency in Hebrew is a prerequisite or corequisite, with two semesters of language instruction needed.

For more information, contact Professor Nancy Harrowitz at nharrow@bu.edu



STUDENTS IN THE ELIE WIESEL CENTER LIBRARY

ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-2024

Classes offered: 29

Students taught: 678

JS minors: 13

JS 2022-23 graduates: 4

JEWISH STUDIES MINOR CONCENTRATION

Undergraduate students from across Boston University have the opportunity to minor in Jewish Studies, which offers a rich exploration of Jewish history, culture, and religion.

The minor is open to students of all backgrounds and requires the completion of six courses (24 credits), including the foundational course JS 100 **World Cultures of the Jews**.

Students must take courses from at least 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 minor, with JS or LH courses taught in Hebrew eligible. Students are also encouraged to study Hebrew language and literature and consider study abroad opportunities in Israel.

GRADUATE JEWISH STUDIES

The Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies partners with the Graduate Program in Religion (GPR) to offer a Ph.D. specialization in Jewish Studies. Admitted students benefit from a fully-funded graduate fellowship for five years, providing financial support and academic resources to pursue advanced research in Jewish history, culture, law, religion, and society.

The Center also encourages graduate students from other humanities and social sciences departments to affiliate if their research intersects with Jewish Studies. Affiliated students can apply for scholarships and research funding offered through the Center, further enhancing their academic and professional development.

2023-2024 JEWISH STUDIES COURSES

INTERDISCIPLINARY COURSES

JS 100 **World Cultures of the Jews** (Offered both Fall 2023 & Spring 2024)

SACRED TEXTS AND COMPARATIVE TRADITIONS

- JS 110 **Judaism** (Fall 2023)
- JS 120 **The Bible** (Spring 2024)
- JS 121 **Judaism, Christianity, and Islam** (Spring 2024)
- JS 211 **From Jesus to Christ: Origins of Christianity** (Fall 2023)
- JS 255 **Modern Judaism** (Fall 2023)

HISTORY AND HOLOCAUST

- JS 257 **Antisemitism After the Holocaust** (Fall 2023)
- JS 260 **The Holocaust** (Fall 2023)
- JS 261 **Representations of the Holocaust in Literature and Film** (Fall 2023)
- JS 367 **The Holocaust Through Film** (Offered both Fall 2023 & Spring 2024)
- JS 369 **Holocaust Literature** (Spring 2024)

CONTEMPORARY JEWISH SOCIETIES AND CULTURES, INCLUDING ISRAEL STUDIES

- JS 283 **Israeli Culture Through Film** (Fall 2023)
- JS 285 **Israel: History, Politics, Culture, Identity** (Offered both Fall 2023 & Spring 2024)
- JS 286 **Israeli-Palestinian Conflict** (Offered both Fall 2023 & Spring 2024)
- JS 379 **Islamophobia and Antisemitism** (Spring 2024)
- JS 380 **Israeli Culture Through Media** (Spring 2024)
- JS 385 **Israel and the Environment** (Fall 2023)
- JS 387 **Environmental Law in Israel and the Mediterranean** (Spring 2024)

JEWISH LITERATURE AND THOUGHT

- JS 136 **Jewish Literature** (Spring 2024)
- JS 246 **Jewish Mysticism** (Spring 2024)
- JS 348 **Philosophy and Mysticism: Jewish and Islamic Perspectives** (Fall 2023)

HEBREW LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

- JS 282 **Sixth-Semester Hebrew: Food Culture in Israel** (Fall 2023)
- JS 380 **Israeli Culture Through Media** (Spring 2024)

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

Graduate Spotlight



ALINA MARINCEAN

Alina Marincean is a Fulbright grantee at the Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies at Boston University. Originally from Sighet, Romania, Alina earned her BA and MA in Jewish Studies at Babes-Bolyai University in Cluj Napoca. She is completing her Ph.D. in the Department of Communication, PR, Journalism, and Advertising at the same university. Her research focuses on “Elie Wiesel’s Perspective on Genocide as a Paradigm for Interpreting Political Violence.”

Alina’s journey began in Sighet, a town rich in Jewish history and deeply connected to Elie Wiesel. As the curator of the Elie Wiesel Heritage Museum in Sighet, she has dedicated herself to preserving Wiesel’s legacy and promoting Jewish studies through research and cultural projects. In addition to her curatorial role, Alina is an affiliate of the Center for Philosophical Practice Consultancy and Counseling and serves on the board of the Journal for the Study of Religions and Ideologies in Cluj, Romania.

Reflecting on her time at the Elie Wiesel Center, Alina shares:

“My journey from the little border town of Sighet to the bustling academic corridors of Boston University has been nothing short of transformative. The transition from Sighet to Boston was profound, yet the essence of my work and the warmth of the academic community made this transition seamless.”

Alina credits the Elie Wiesel Center with fostering her intellectual growth, providing access to invaluable resources, and creating an environment of meaningful academic engagement.

“The Center became a shelter for my research on Elie Wiesel, minority inclusion, political violence, humanity, and genocide. The deep examination of Wiesel’s archive at the Mugar Library and access to relevant literature fortified my knowledge. The academic practices I observed and participated in at BU are models I aspire to develop further in Romania.”

Beyond the academic setting, Alina embraced Boston’s cultural landscape. She reflects on her experience with fondness:

“The blend of academic rigor and the social life in Boston truly defined my experience. The intellectual rigor, the vibrant Jewish community, and the dynamic city have all contributed to shaping my academic and personal growth.”

As Alina prepares to complete her Ph.D., she is deeply grateful for the impact Boston University and the Elie Wiesel Center have had on her academic journey.

“The Center has not only honed my academic skills but also deepened my understanding of the universal human story. I carry with me the knowledge, experiences, and friendships that have enriched my journey.”

HOLOCAUST, GENOCIDE, AND HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES

Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies (HGHRs)

The Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies (HGHRs) program at Boston University offers an interdisciplinary curriculum that prepares students for graduate studies and careers in fields related to human rights, law, policy, and advocacy. Through the major and minor in HGHRs, students explore the historical and contemporary dimensions of genocides, human rights violations, and the mechanisms for preventing such atrocities.

HGHRs MAJOR

The HGHRs major provides a comprehensive examination of the moral, ethical, and legal aspects of genocide and human rights issues. Students investigate the evolution of human rights discourse, the relationship between governments and citizens, and the role of individuals and organizations in promoting and protecting human rights. The program also covers the causes and consequences of genocide, including the Holocaust, and the impact of human rights law in preventing violence. Additionally, students explore government-sponsored human rights abuses, crimes against humanity, nationalism, and the role of media in shaping racism and prejudice.

The HGHRs major provides a comprehensive examination of the moral, ethical, and legal aspects of genocide and human rights violations. Students investigate the evolution of human rights discourse, the relationship between governments and citizens, and the role of individuals and organizations in promoting and protecting human rights. The program also covers the causes and consequences of genocide, including the Holocaust, and the impact of human rights law in preventing violence. Additionally, students explore government-sponsored human rights abuses, crimes against humanity, extreme nationalism, and the role of media in shaping racism and prejudice.

ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-2024

Classes offered: 14

HGHRs majors: 7

HGHRs minors: 16

HGHRs 2023-24 Students: 442

Students are introduced to the institutions and organizations working to prevent genocide and other crimes against humanity, equipping them with the analytical tools to critically assess genocidal regimes and repressive governments. Graduates are well-prepared for advanced studies in disciplines such as history, political science, law, literature, and religion, as well as careers in social and governmental services focused on human rights advocacy.

To complete the HGHRs major, students must take ten four-credit courses (40 total credits), including three required courses: CAS RN 384: History of the Holocaust, CAS HI 384: History of Genocide, and one Human Rights core course. Six additional electives are selected in consultation with an academic advisor. The major also includes a senior thesis seminar or an internship for four credits.

HGHRs MINOR

The HGHRs minor requires six four-credit courses (24 total credits). This includes three required courses: CAS RN 384: History of the Holocaust, CAS HI 384: History of Genocide, and one Human Rights core course. Students must also complete three elective courses in Genocide, Holocaust, or Human Rights Studies.

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN HGHRs

In partnership 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 Certificate in Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies (HGHRs). This certificate program is designed to complement graduate studies in fields such as history, political science, law, literature, and religion, providing valuable preparation for careers in social and governmental service.

Graduate students pursuing a master's or doctoral degree work with an advisor to select four cross-disciplinary courses that advance their understanding of Holocaust history, ethics, law, public health, comparative genocides, and human rights. To earn the certificate, students must also conduct advanced research in Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies, which may be demonstrated through academic papers, a thesis, or dissertation work.

To qualify for the HGHRs certificate, students must complete at least 16 credits (four standard courses) with a significant focus on human rights, comparative genocide, or Holocaust studies. The coursework must include at least one course in Human Rights and one in Holocaust and Genocide Studies. This program is available to students who are already enrolled in a graduate degree program at Boston University.

HOLOCAUST, GENOCIDE, AND HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES

2023-2024 HGHS COURSES (INTERDISCIPLINARY)

HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE STUDIES

- JJS 260 **The Holocaust** (Fall 2023)
- JS 261 **Representations of the Holocaust in Literature and Film** (Fall 2023)
- JS 367 **The Holocaust Through Film** (Offered both Fall 2023 & Spring 2024)
- JS 369 **Holocaust Literature** (Spring 2024)
- HI 384 **History of Genocide** (Fall 2023)
- HI 271 **The Nazis** (Fall 2023)
- PO 560 **Rwanda: Genocide and Its Aftermath** (Fall 2023)

HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES

- PO 334 **Political Violence** (Fall 2023)
- PO 333 **Democratic Erosion** (Fall 2023)
- PO 346 **Bombs and Bombshells: Gender, Armed Conflict, and Political Violence** (Fall 2023)
- PO 519 **Inequality and American Politics** (Fall 2023)
- IR 453 **Forced Migration and Human Trafficking: Virtual Policy Incubator** (Spring 2024)
- PO 330 **Building a Democratic Society in the Middle East** (Spring 2024)

CROSS-LISTED COURSES

- JS 379/RN 249 **Islamophobia and Antisemitism** (Spring 2024)
- LF 481 **Genocide in Literature and Film** (Spring 2024)

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

Student Awards

The Levine, Martin Family Scholarship for Excellence in Jewish Studies
Jessica Fatzinger and Idan Gutkind

The Brooks Family Scholarship for Excellence in Jewish Studies
Rose Solomon

Jewish Studies Graduate Research Stipend
Emily Bogin

Harold J and Carole Pinkney Research Stipend
Isabelle Wolpert

Award for Excellence in Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies
Ariana Tarhanidis

Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Hebrew
Shelly Neerman and Sarah Kornfeld

THE LEVINE, MARTIN FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP
FOR EXCELLENCE IN JEWISH STUDIES

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.



IDAN GUTKIND RECIEVES THE LEVINE, MARTIN
FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP FOR EXCELLENCE IN JEWISH
STUDIES FROM PROFESSOR INGRID ANDERSON



JESSICA FATZINGER

Jessica Fatzinger is a recent graduate from the College of Arts and Sciences, with a degree in Religion and a minor in Jewish Studies. For her academic work, she received the Richard E. Katz Award as well as the CAS Prize for Excellence in Religion. Her on-campus work included interning at the Teaching Africa Library and working at Marsh Chapel as a Marsh Fellow. Jess also worked at a rock climbing gym and performed for Liquid Fun, an improv comedy group. After graduation, Jess will be interning at Mugar Memorial Library, and hopes to go to graduate school for Library Science.

"I would definitely say taking classes with Professor Katz was the most rewarding aspect of studying Jewish Studies at BU. I took Modern Judaism and The Holocaust with him and I found his style of teaching was very rewarding. He simply sits at the front of the class and lectures, yet the way he explains historical events in a narrative way makes the class immensely engaging. Every class I took four to five pages of notes, and I found that I barely needed to study for the exams because the information stuck so well from the lectures. I would recommend anyone to take a class with Professor Katz."

- Jessica Fatzinger (CAS '24, Religion Major and Jewish Studies Minor)



IDAN GUTKIND

Idan Gutkind is a senior at Boston University, majoring in Economics with minors in Data Science and Business Administration. Born and raised on the Upper West Side of New York, Idan later moved to Israel and then Englewood, New Jersey. Idan's passion for Jewish Studies was ignited after taking his first class with Professor Anderson. Throughout his academic journey, Idan has demonstrated a strong commitment to his studies and extracurricular activities. Idan served as the president of TAMID, a pro-bono consulting club that works with Israeli companies. He is also an active member of the executive board of Meor, showcasing his dedication to community involvement and his passion for fostering connections between students and Jewish life on campus.

"The most rewarding aspects of studying Jewish Studies at BU were the opportunities to explore my Jewish heritage in a new light, different from my previous experiences in Jewish day schools. Courses like JS 286, which delved into the Israel-Palestine conflict, and JS 136, which focused on Jewish literature in the diaspora, were particularly engaging and meaningful. These classes provided a safe space to explore topics and allowed me to examine Jewish themes that changed over time. Moreover, Professor Anderson has been an amazing mentor for me throughout my time at BU. Her guidance and support have been invaluable to my academic growth and overall experience at Boston University."

- Idan Gutkind (CAS '24, Economics Major and minor in Data Science & Business Administration)

THE BROOKS FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP
FOR EXCELLENCE IN JEWISH STUDIES

The Brooks Family Scholarship recognizes exceptional students who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in Jewish Studies at Boston University. This award is available to sophomores, juniors, and seniors who have declared a minor in Jewish Studies and have completed at least three courses counting toward the minor, including up to two courses in Hebrew Language.



ROSE SOLOMON

Rose Solomon graduated in May 2023 with a Bachelor’s degree in mathematics and a minor in Jewish Studies. Growing up in a reconstructionist community in Cleveland, Ohio, Rose attended a Jewish day school until coming out as trans at the end of sixth grade. This led to a period of disconnection from her Jewish community, followed by a journey of rediscovery. After transferring to BU in her sophomore year, Rose seized the opportunity to reconnect with her Jewish identity through courses in Jewish history, mysticism, intersectionality, and Hebrew. Outside the classroom, she found great value in the Jewish Learning Fellowship classes on prayer and text studies. In addition to her Jewish Studies minor, Rose has focused on pure mathematics, taking courses to prepare for graduate school. Outside of academics, she works as the education director for a Mathnasium tutoring center in Newton.

“To me, the most rewarding aspect of studying Jewish Studies at BU was seeing how the various courses and topics of study weave together into the tapestry that is Jewish identity. I found every event I could attend at the Elie Wiesel Center quite meaningful, though I wish I had been able to go to more. My minor in Jewish Studies has sculpted my entire worldview. It has deepened my connection to my Jewish identity and left me proud of our history and community. After finishing the minor, I am also considering going to Rabbinical school later in life to delve deeper into what the minor previewed. One of the most interesting areas I’ve had the honor to learn about is the intersection of Jewish Studies with other fields, including connections between Math and Kabbalah, gender and sexuality in Judaism, and even neuroscience and Jewish mysticism.”

- Rose Solomon (CAS ‘24, Mathematics Major and Jewish Studies Minor)

HAROLD J AND CAROLE PINKNEY RESEARCH STIPEND

The Harold J. and Carole Pinkney Research Scholarship supports undergraduate and graduate students at Boston University conducting research in Jewish Studies. This competitive award provides up to \$500 per year to cover expenses directly related to research or professional development, such as travel costs, conference fees, and other expenses.



ISABELLE WOLPERT

Isabelle Wolpert is a rising senior at Boston University, earning a BA in History and a B.M. in Piano Performance. Her research interests include how the annexations of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth sowed the seeds of antisemitism in Central and Eastern Europe and Polish nationalism in classical music during the 19th and 20th centuries. Isabelle has presented her research at BU’s Undergraduate History Association Annual Conference and at the UMGC International Undergraduate History Conference. She also spent the summer of 2023 at the University of Pittsburgh’s Summer Language Institute in Pittsburgh and Krakow as an SLI Scholar learning Polish to further her research. This past summer, with the aid of the Elie Wiesel Center and UROP, Isabelle returned to Poland to conduct archival research in Warsaw and Krakow for her Senior Honors Thesis in the History Department.

“The Elie Wiesel Center fosters a collaborative community of curiosity. The professors associated with the Center always want to help you in any way they can and are the biggest assets to the student body. The Center has supported my intellectual curiosity and connected me with my identity through my academic interests. The research I have chosen to pursue encompasses all my intellectual and musical interests. Conducting this research has pushed me to ask bigger questions and make bigger claims that change the way we understand the foundations of contemporary antisemitism. It has connected me to my heritage as a Ukrainian/Lithuanian Jew and Pole, allowing me to learn Polish, travel to Poland, and understand how all aspects of my identity connect.”

- Isabelle Wolpert (CAS/CFA ‘25, History and Piano Performance Major)

CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT FOR
EXCELLENCE IN HEBREW

This certificate recognizes students who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in Hebrew language studies at Boston University.



SHELLY NEERMAN AND SARAH KORNFELD
WITH MASTER LECTURER MIRA ANGRIST AND PROFESSOR ABIGAIL GILLMAN



SHELLY NEERMAN

Shelly Neerman is a rising senior at Boston University, majoring in computer science with a minor in Hebrew. She is currently gaining industry experience as a Solutions Engineer Intern at Hashicorp in Austin, TX. Alongside her academic pursuits, Shelly is an active member of the Edge Dance Company at BU and has been recognized with an Award of Excellence for her Hebrew studies at Boston University. In her free time, she enjoys dancing, exploring new technologies, and connecting with friends.

“Studying a minor in Hebrew has been one of the most rewarding aspects of my college career. I came into BU with minimal speaking skills in Hebrew and am leaving next semester being fully fluent in reading, writing, and speaking. Being able to communicate with my family and friends in Israel has been absolutely amazing and life changing. My experience at the Elie Wiesel center has been wonderful. All the events they put together to foster a safe and happy Jewish community is incredible. They make sure each student is heard and seen. I think my time at BU studying Hebrew has expanded my horizons tremendously. I now feel much more comfortable traveling the world and even getting work in Israel!”

- **Shelly Neerman** (CAS '24, Computer Science Major)



SARAH KORNFELD

Sarah Kornfeld (CAS '26) is from Syracuse, New York, studying Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Boston University's College of Arts and Sciences. Sarah works as a Learner's Assistant in the Intensive General Chemistry courses at BU and does research at the Chobanian and Avedisian School of Medicine in the Garcia-Marcos lab. Sarah serves as a part of the BU Hillel Building Leadership Team, Conservative Minyan Board, and as a student representative on the BU Hillel nonprofit board. Sarah is particularly interested in the intersection between Molecular Biology and Organic Chemistry, and hopes to continue learning more about these topics in graduate programs.

“One of the most rewarding aspects of learning Hebrew is gaining direct access to Jewish texts. As I learn more Hebrew, it has been empowering and meaningful to translate for myself the words of various Jewish sources. This has deepened my connection to our vibrant textual tradition, which I hope to continue learning from. The Hebrew classes here at BU have given me the opportunity to understand both ancient texts and relate to thriving communities worldwide. In this way, I know the Hebrew classes I take in college will continue to enrich my Jewish identity for many years to come.”

- **Sarah Kornfeld** (CAS '26, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Major)

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN HOLOCAUST, GENOCIDE,
AND HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES

This award recognizes students who have demonstrated exceptional academic achievement and commitment to the study of Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights.



ARIANA TARHANIDIS

Ariana Tarhanidis is a recent BU graduate with a degree in Sociology and minors in Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies, and Public Health. She’s interested in human rights, particularly immigration and refugee resettlement. Throughout her studies, she gained experience by assisting in skills training classes, providing employment services, and researching curriculum standards for various nonprofit organizations. Ariana is excited to continue her career in refugee resettlement.

“In my opinion, the most rewarding aspect of studying HGHRs at BU was the opportunity to learn from professors who brought a wealth of knowledge, experience, and passion to the classroom. Their firsthand accounts and involvement in various human rights initiatives gave tangible perspectives that not only enriched my academic journey but inspired a profound personal commitment to advocating for human rights. My HGHRs courses equipped me with the critical thinking skills and ethical awareness necessary to contribute meaningfully to the field of human rights.”

- Ariana Tarhanidis (CAS '24, Sociology Major and HGHRs and Public Health Minors)

JEWISH STUDIES GRADUATE RESEARCH STIPEND

This certificate recognizes students who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in Hebrew language studies at Boston University.



EMILY BOGIN

Emily Bogin is a Ph.D. student in the Graduate Department of Religious Studies and an affiliate of the Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies. Her research interests lie at the intersection of eros, reason, and gender in 20th-century Jewish philosophy, with a particular focus on the philosophical aspects of life-writing. Emily holds a B.A. in Philosophy and Classical Studies from Middlebury College and an M.T.S. from Harvard Divinity School. In her free time, she enjoys swimming and film photography.

Reflecting on her academic journey and 2023-24 scholarship she received from the Elie Wiesel Center, Emily shares:

“The scholarship I received from the Elie Wiesel Center has been incredibly helpful for my research. Thanks to this support, I am currently studying German in Leipzig in preparation for my dissertation, which focuses on women’s life-writing at the turn of the twentieth century. I explore questions about the relationship between life-writing and the construction of the self. How does this form of writing create a narrative self, and how might the self be lost or obscured within the very narrative that seeks to define it?”

Emily expresses her gratitude for the continued support of the Elie Wiesel Center and the vibrant community it fosters:

“I have been very grateful to the Elie Wiesel Center for their ongoing support of my research, as well as for the community they cultivate through lectures, seminars, and even passing conversations.”

Alumni Spotlight: Albert M. “Al” Tapper

Albert M. “Al” Tapper is an accomplished entrepreneur, composer, author, and producer who began his journey into the performing arts during his time at Boston University. As Chairman of ACT II Companies Inc., Al acquired and managed business units from major Fortune 500 companies, diversifying his ventures across industries such as distribution, manufacturing, finance, and the music industry.

While attending Boston University, Al wrote his first musical at the age of 20, igniting a lifelong passion that would intertwine with his successful business career. After more than 30 years in the investment community, he returned to his artistic roots in 1997. Al has since written and composed seven musicals, including “David,” “Imperfect Chemistry,” “Sessions,” and “On The Right Track.” His work has been showcased off-Broadway and in various cities along the eastern seaboard. Notably, “Sessions” ran for over 300 performances, was translated into Spanish, and won Best Musical of the Year in Mexico in 2011.

In addition to his musicals, Al has authored four humor books—“A Guy Goes Into a Bar,” “A Minister, a Priest and a Rabbi,” “A Guy Goes Into a Doctor’s Office,” and “A Guy Goes Into a Gym.” He has also produced several documentary films, including “Broadway: The Golden Age, By The Legends Who Were There,” which won thirteen Best Film, Documentary, and Audience Awards at film festivals nationwide. His production “Broadway: The Jewish Legacy” earned him a Peabody Award and highlighted the contributions of Jewish composers and lyricists to Broadway.

Al continues to contribute to the performing arts and is currently working on a new musical titled “Upside/Down,” planned for opening in 2025 in New York City. He resides in Boca Raton, FL, and New York City and remains an active member of the Dramatists’ Guild of America and the American Society of Composers and Publishers. More information about his work can be found on his website: www.amtentertainment.com

Mr. Tapper has very generously created an endowment at Boston University this past year to fund the creation and teaching of new courses in Jewish history, so that more students can benefit from this important topic. Two new courses are already being prepared and will be taught in 2025-26, with more to follow. We thank Al Tapper for his incredible generosity and vision in establishing this new course of study for our students.

LH 340 Israeli Media and Society



MIRA ANGRIST

Mira Angrist is a Master Lecturer in Hebrew and Coordinator of the Hebrew Language Program at Boston University. With extensive experience in language instruction and a deep understanding of Israeli culture, Angrist has developed innovative courses that enhance students’ language skills while providing critical insights into Israeli society.

LH 340 Israeli Media and Society

Mira Angrist’s course, LH 340 Israeli Media and Society, is an advanced Hebrew language and culture course that explores the complex landscape of Israeli media and its role in shaping public discourse. As an ACTFL OPI tester and trained instructor in Teaching with Comprehensible Input, Angrist brings a wealth of expertise to her teaching, integrating authentic materials, advanced technologies, and creative approaches, including gamified lessons and visual literacy to stimulate classroom learning and help students achieve higher levels of proficiency.

LH 340, Israeli Media and Society, introduces students to the main social, cultural, and political issues in Israeli society through the exploration of various media sources. The course begins with an overview of the history and development of Israeli media from 1948 to the present day, covering radio, print and electronic newspapers, television, and the internet. The course’s thematic units include the media’s role in national identity and collective memory, military and security issues, ethnicity, religion, and ethical dilemmas in media coverage.

“I have been teaching this course for several years now, and every year, based on previous experiences and insights, I make changes and modify the content to suit current events in Israel and the world as well as students’ profiles. I enjoy teaching this course and observing how students broaden their knowledge, develop critical thinking skills, and enhance their language abilities to discuss and write on media-related issues. This course forces students to read, hear, and listen to authentic media resources on a daily basis and not rely solely on social media.”

- Mira Angrist

The course is conducted entirely in Hebrew, challenging students to engage with complex ideas and current events in their target language. Students take turns becoming “reporters,” presenting on current events related to Israel as covered by various news sources both in Israel and around the world. This hands-on approach allows students to develop their language skills while gaining a deeper understanding of media analysis and presentation.

“This year was especially meaningful to teach this course after the October 7th events. A significant portion of the course was devoted to following the news and providing a safe environment for students who wanted to share their thoughts and feelings. Many students in the class knew at least one person personally affected by October 7th and had difficulties attending other classes and focusing on schoolwork. All students in the class reported that this was the one class they were looking forward to attending three times a week.”

- Mira Angrist

Students engage in various activities throughout the semester to develop their language skills and critical thinking abilities. They analyze written, auditory, and visual media resources, comparing different sources and thinking critically about the content. A significant component of the course is the digital storytelling project, where students create their own media content based on a driving question of their choice related to the course themes. To enhance the learning experience, Professor Angrist invites guest speakers to provide firsthand insights into the Israeli media landscape.

“In addition to our regular coursework, I invited special guest speakers to talk to students. We had a Zoom session with Sharon Keenan, editor of the morning program on Galtz (the military radio station) ‘Good Morning Israel,’ who discussed this popular radio show and how his work has been affected by the October 7th events. We also had an in-person visit from Erez Kaganovitz, a photojournalist and founder of the Humans of Tel Aviv, Humans of Israel, Humans of the Holocaust, and Humans of October 7th Projects. Following these talks, students were asked to reflect on what they learned and how the presentations influenced them. They were also encouraged to email the presenters with follow-up questions.”

- Mira Angrist

When students reflect on their experience in Angrist’s class on Israeli Media and Society, their words overflow with appreciation for the unique and profound learning journey they embarked upon. From exploring various forms of media to developing critical analysis skills in Hebrew, the course left a lasting impact on their

understanding of Israeli culture and current events. Sophia Breslau, a student who enrolled in Angrist’s class, said the following about her experience:

“Taking Mira’s course was an opportunity for me to focus on different aspects of Israeli media and how events are covered in Israel, depending on what type of event it is and who is telling the story, as well as the history of Israeli news sources. I was fascinated by the different news channels that exist, specifically the news station that is run by young adults completing their military service. Additionally, we had an opportunity to be news reporters ourselves when we each presented current news stories in Israeli media, to the rest of the class, giving me exposure to the different Israeli news sources that exist. This class was especially relevant right now because of what is going on, and it additionally provided me with a safe space to reflect and get support from my peers. Overall, I finished this class with a better understanding of how the media and the diverse Israeli population have shaped each other and how Israel creates new outlets to accommodate the wide range of people who live in Israel or subscribe to their media. Additionally, I learned countless new Hebrew words that have advanced my vocabulary and made me more equipped to have deeper conversations with Hebrew-speakers about Israeli society.”

- Sophia Breslau (CAS’25, Psychology Major and Hebrew Minor)

Here’s what other students we reached out to had to say about their experience in Angrist’s class:

“Professor Angrist’s course, Israeli Culture Through Media (LH340), was an incredibly engaging and meaningful course. In this course, we examined how different sectors are portrayed in the media in Israel. These sectors include (but are not limited to): Religious and Secular Jews, Ashkenazi and Mizrahi Jews, the Army and Security, American immigrants, Arabs, Druze, Ethiopians, Holocaust survivors, etc. We also examined how the media portrays art and graffiti, and life in Israel after October 7th. In studying these sectors of society, we examined different types of media such as news articles online, newspapers, magazines, posters on

the street, social media, and more. We had the privilege of hosting speakers to talk about their photography and media experiences in Israel, which allowed us to have a multifaceted perspective on Israeli culture through the media.

Personally, one of the highlights of the course was the Friday presentations where 1-2 students would make a slideshow bringing in a piece of media and news story from that given week. Not only did these presentations strengthen our public speaking skills, but it also allowed us to see various news stories in Israel and abroad that we may not have heard of during our busy week. The class was able to engage deeply in a question and answer section after the presentation, and I enjoyed seeing the diverse news stories people brought. In addition, we wrote papers on ethical dilemmas in Israeli society, and completed a Digital Storytelling project where we did research on a specific topic and used creative platforms to make a video and vocal aspect. Overall, despite having spent extensive time in Israel, I learned so much about Israeli culture that I did not know, and was exposed to new ways of thinking and researching about Israel. Professor Angrist fosters the most inclusive and special classroom environment, and we are so grateful to have her as our Professor and mentor. Through difficult months in Israel, she always encourages us to stay hopeful. Not only do her courses improve our Hebrew speaking, reading and writing skills so much but I’ve also met my best and lifelong friends in her course. Thank you Mira!!”

- Livia Prince (CAS ’26, Anthropology & Religion and Political Science Major)

The impact of LH 340 extends beyond the classroom, equipping students with language skills, critical thinking abilities, and a nuanced understanding of Israeli society that will serve them well in their future academic and professional endeavors. Through Angrist’s guidance, students not only enhance their Hebrew proficiency but also gain valuable insights into the complex interplay between media, culture, and society in Israel.

This year’s Elie Wiesel Memorial Lecture Series, **Celebrating the Music of Elie Wiesel**, explored the music beloved by one of the world’s greatest humanitarians. Through two events, we delved into the profound connections between Elie Wiesel’s life, writings, and deep love for music.

Songs and Stories



“SONG AND STORIES” WITH CANTOR DEBORAH KATCHKO GRAY

The first event of this year’s series, **Songs and Stories**, took place on September 27 and featured **Cantor Deborah Katchko-Gray**. Cantor Deborah explored the meaning of Hasidic tunes in spiritual life, which inspired Elie Wiesel and presented clips of his songs.

Watch the recorded live stream of the first lecture on our YouTube channel. For detailed descriptions of each event, visit our website.

On Sunday, September 10, we hosted a reading of selections from the writings of the Nobel laureate and former BU Professor Elie Wiesel in dialogue with the paintings of Judith Zonis Listernick (1934-2019). **Dr. Samantha Baskind**, Distinguished Professor of Art History at Cleveland State University and a specialist on Jewish art, and **Rabbi Dr. Nehemia Polen**, a former student of Elie Wiesel and Professor of Jewish Thought at Hebrew College, read selections of Wiesel’s writing as the paintings were projected on a screen. The speakers then discussed the relationship between the texts and the paintings. Pianist and composer **Brian Friedland** played music based on niggunim, or traditional Jewish wordless melodies.

The Writings of Elie Wiesel, The Paintings of Judith Zonis Listernick



THE WRITINGS OF ELIE WIESEL, THE PAINTINGS OF JUDITH ZONIS LISTERNICK

This event was co-sponsored by the Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies and the Jewish Cultural Endowment and organized by Dr. Joan Listernick, the artist’s daughter and an instructor in French at Boston University.

Watch the recording on our YouTube channel, and find more details about this event by visiting our website.

A LOOK INTO THE ELIE WIESEL
CENTER’S 2023 OPEN HOUSE

ELIE WIESEL
CENTER FOR
JEWISH STUDIES

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12
11:45 AM TO 2 PM

STUDENT
OPEN
HOUSE

EWJCS'S LIBRARY, 147 BAY STATE ROAD

ISRAELI LUNCH PROVIDED

SHORT FACULTY TALKS START @ 12 PM

@bujewishstudies



email: ewcjs@bu.edu

On September 12, 2023, students had the chance to meet faculty and learn about the Center’s wide range of courses at our Fall Open House. The event included brief faculty talks and an Israeli lunch.

HANUKKAH SNACK AND STUDY
BREAK

On December 13, the Elie Wiesel Center invited students and staff to a study break with snacks, beverages, and a space for everyone to relax and study. All students were welcome, and faculty were invited to stop by and grab some delicious food from Milk Street Cafe.

ELIE WIESEL
CENTER FOR
JEWISH STUDIES

LOCATION:
ELIE WIESEL CENTER
147 BAY STATE RD
DATE:
FEBRUARY 2
TIME:
12:30-1:30

STUDENT
LUNCH

TOPIC:

BALANCING
IDENTITIES:
JEWISH
IN
AMERICA



RSVP FOR
FREE LUNCH

ALUMNI WEEKEND: CONVERSATIONS
IN JEWISH STUDIES

On September 21, all Boston University alumni were invited to the Center for an engaging event featuring talks by Professors Pnina Lahav and Steve Katz.

JEWISH RESISTANCE AND THE
MUSICIANS OF TEREZIN: LESSONS
FOR OUR TIME

INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY



Music from Terezin will be performed.

ELIE WIESEL
CENTER FOR
JEWISH STUDIES

Boston University College of Arts and Sciences
Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies
147 Bay State Road, Boston, MA 02215
617-353-8096 ewcjs@bu.edu
bu.edu/jewishstudies

REGISTRATION
REQUIRED



SPONSORED BY:

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JEWISH RESISTANCE
AND THE MUSICIANS
OF TEREZIN: LESSONS
FOR OUR TIME

INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY
A REFLECTIVE EVENING OF DIALOGUE, ART, AND MUSIC

JOIN US ON **January 29 FROM 7:00 to 8:30 PM**

LOCATION: **BU HILLEL** 213 BAY STATE ROAD

Terezin Music Foundation director **Mark Ludwig** will discuss how the music of Jewish composers in the Terezin concentration camp showed resistance against the Holocaust. How does the propaganda war staged by the Nazis relate to the rise of antisemitism today? What lessons can we learn?

On International Holocaust Remembrance Day, **Mark Ludwig**, director of the Terezin Music Foundation, discussed how the music of Jewish composers in the Terezin concentration camp showed resistance against the Holocaust. The program included a short musical performance by Terezin Music Foundation Ensemble members.

A recording of this event is available on our YouTube channel. For more information, visit our website.

This event was sponsored by Boston University’s Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies, AJC New England, and the Consulate General of Israel to New England, and supported by the Jewish Cultural Endowment of Boston University and BU Hillel.


MARK LUDWIG

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IDUMEA AND THE HASMONEANS:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES

THE MACCABEES PROJECT
FROM REBELS TO RULERS
THE HASMONEANS AND THEIR KINGDOM

**IDUMEA AND THE HASMONEANS:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES**




Ian Stern
(University of Haifa)
Echoes of War: Life in Maresha
Before and After Hyrcanus' Conquest

Débora Sandhaus
(Ben Gurion University of the Negev)
Idumea, from the Fall of the Seleucids
to the Reign of Herod:
The Archaeological Evidence

**A HYBRID IN-PERSON/ZOOM
DISCUSSION**
JANUARY 31, 2024
12:15 - 1:30 pm (Boston)
5:15 - 6:30 pm (London)
6:15 - 7:30 pm (Berlin)
7:15 - 8:30 pm (Jerusalem)
ZOOM
<https://bostonu.zoom.us/j/5727380547>

IN-PERSON
Elie Wiesel Center Library
147 Bay State Road, Room 202

PLEASE
REGISTER
FOR
IN-PERSON
EVENT



**ELIE WIESEL
CENTER FOR
JEWISH STUDIES**

Boston University College of Arts and Sciences
Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies
147 Bay State Road, Boston MA 02215
(617) 253-5000 ewcs@bu.edu
www.bu.edu/ewcs

**BOSTON
UNIVERSITY**

On January 31, **Ian Stern** from the University of Haifa and **Débora Sandhaus** from Ben Gurion University of the Negev presented at a hybrid event, “Idumea and the Hasmoneans: Archaeological Perspectives,” as part of the 2024 Maccabees Project Series, “From Rebels to Rulers: The Hasmoneans and their Kingdom.”

For more information on the Maccabees Project, visit our website.



THE MACCABEES PROJECT: THE
COAST AND THE JEZREEL VALLEY IN
THE TIME OF THE HASMONEANS

On February 28, Alexander Fantalkin (Tel Aviv University) and Matthew Adams (University of Hawai‘i, Manoa) presented on the Mediterranean Coast and the Jezreel Valley in the time of the Hasmoneans as part of the series “From Rebels to Rulers: The Hasmoneans and their Kingdom.”

For more information on the Maccabees Project, visit our website.

THE MACCABEES PROJECT
FROM REBELS TO RULERS
THE HASMONEANS AND THEIR KINGDOM

**THE COAST AND THE JEZREEL VALLEY
IN THE TIME OF THE HASMONEANS**




**THE SOUTHERN
COASTAL PLAIN
DURING THE 2ND CENTURY BCE**
Alexander Fantalkin
Tel Aviv University

**THE MERCURIAL
JEZREEL VALLEY**
Matthew J. Adams
University of Hawai‘i, Manoa

A HYBRID IN-PERSON/ZOOM DISCUSSION
FEBRUARY 28, 2024
12:15 - 1:30 pm (Boston)
5:15 - 6:30 pm (London)
6:15 - 7:30 pm (Berlin)
7:15 - 8:30 pm (Jerusalem)

IN-PERSON
Elie Wiesel Center Library
147 Bay State Road, Room 202

PLEASE REGISTER
FOR IN-PERSON
EVENT



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BEYOND THE HEADLINES:
RETHINKING LANGUAGE, GENDER,
AND INCLUSIVITY IN ISRAELI
JOURNALISM



ROMY NEUMARK

On February 27, **Romy Neumark**, a trailblazer in Israeli journalism, shared her story as a journalist, from her debut as a famous baby on television to her influential role as a senior anchor on Israeli main TV news. Romy discussed how she is pioneering gender-neutral Hebrew and bringing forward the voices of underrepresented communities in media. The BU Hebrew Program Department of World Languages and Literatures hosted and sponsored this event.

For more information about this event, visit our website.

THE COST OF FREE LAND:
DISCUSSION WITH REBECCA CLARREN

On March 19, award-winning journalist Rebecca Clarren shared archival photographs and stories about her Jewish ancestors who homesteaded on the South Dakota prairie and her family's Lakota neighbors. Clarren's new book **The Cost of Free Land: Jews, Lakota and an American Inheritance** exposes the ways the United States privileged white immigrants at a high cost to Native Americans.


The live stream recording of this event is now available on our YouTube channel.

**THE COST OF
FREE LAND**
JEWS, LAKOTA,
AND AN AMERICAN
INHERITANCE
REBECCA CLARREN

Join award-winning journalist Rebecca Clarren as she shares archival photographs and stories about her Jewish ancestors on the South Dakota prairie and their Lakota neighbors. Clarren's new book *The Cost of Free Land* explores the myriad ways the US privileged white immigrants at great cost to Native Americans and grapples with how we can respond to this history today.

**LOCATION: BU PHOTONICS CENTER
EST. MARY'S STREET ROOM 808
ALSO ON ZOOM**
Tuesday, March 19th 5:00pm


THIS LECTURE WILL BE FOLLOWED
BY A RECEPTION, Q & A
AND BOOK SIGNING.



REBECCA CLARREN

Rebecca Clarren has been writing about the American West for more than twenty years and is the winner of the 2021 Pulitzer Prize for her work on *The Cost of Free Land*.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED
FOR ONLINE AND IN PERSON



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DOES HOLOCAUST EDUCATION PREVENT ANTISEMITISM? WITH DARA HORN

DOES HOLOCAUST EDUCATION PREVENT ANTISEMITISM?

Award-winning author **Dara Horn** will share disturbing findings that undo our assumptions about the effects of teaching about the Holocaust, while pointing us toward different ways of approaching the Jewish past and present.

DARA HORN

AT BU HILLEL 213 BAY STATE ROAD 4TH FLOOR
RECEPTION TO FOLLOW. ALSO ON ZOOM

Thursday, April 4th 5:00pm

Dara Horn is the award-winning author of six books, including the novels *In the Image* and *Eternal Life*, and the essay collection *People Love Dead Jews*. She has received two National Jewish Book Awards and the Reform Judaism Fiction Prize. Her nonfiction work has appeared in many publications, including *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *The Jewish Review of Books*, and she is a regular columnist for *Tablet*.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED FOR ONLINE AND IN PERSON

CO-SPONSORED BY:
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Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies
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617-353-8296 ewc@bu.edu
bu.edu/jewishstudies

BOSTON UNIVERSITY

On April 4, award-winning author **Dara Horn** shared disturbing findings that undo our assumptions about the effects of teaching about the Holocaust while pointing us toward different ways of approaching the Jewish past and present.

Read more about this event on our website.

THE CULTURE OF REMEMBRANCE IN HOLOCAUST PERPETRATOR COUNTRIES WITH HANNAH LESSING

On April 11, **Hannah Lessing**, who has been responsible for the administrative and organizational management of the National Fund of the Republic of Austria for Victims of National Socialism since 1995 and the Fund for the Restoration of the Jewish cemeteries in Austria since 2010, shed light on the historical background of dealing with the Nazi past as well as the effects that continue to the present. She presented the work of the three funds she has managed and discussed experiences related to remembrance work.

Read more about this event on our website.

HANNAH LESSING

THE CULTURE OF REMEMBRANCE IN HOLOCAUST PERPETRATOR COUNTRIES

In her talk, Lessing will shed light on the historical background of dealing with the Nazi past as well as the effects that continue to the present. She will present the work of the three funds she has managed and discuss experiences related to remembrance work.

Thursday, April 11th 3:30pm

IN THE ELIE WIESEL CENTER LIBRARY 1/9C202

Hannah Lessing has administered the National Fund of the Republic of Austria for Victims of National Socialism since 1995 and the Fund for the Restoration of the Jewish cemeteries in Austria since 2010. She managed the General Settlement Fund for Victims of National Socialism until its closure in 2022. Lessing is also Co-Head of the Austrian Delegation to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance and a member of both the International Auschwitz Committee and the International Auschwitz Council.

REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED
REGISTRATION REQUIRED

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CONFRONTING ANTISEMITISM: HISTORICAL CAUSES, PRESENT CHALLENGES, AND FUTURE ACTIONS WITH RABBI DAVID WOLPE

RABBI DAVID WOLPE

CONFRONTING ANTISEMITISM:

HISTORICAL CAUSES, PRESENT CHALLENGES, AND FUTURE ACTIONS

Join us for **Rabbi David Wolpe's** lecture. This event will offer insights into the roots of antisemitism, its current manifestations, and the steps we can take to combat it. Rabbi Wolpe, a respected voice in the Jewish community, will explore the deep roots of antisemitism and its resurgence in recent years. He will also explore the intersection of anti-Zionism and antisemitism and suggest ways both can be addressed without doing violence to free speech and open discourse.

AT BU HILLEL 213 BAY STATE ROAD 4TH FLOOR
RECEPTION TO FOLLOW. ALSO ON ZOOM

Wednesday, April 17th 7:00pm

RABBI WOLPE WILL ALSO GIVE A TALK AT 8PM AT THE BU MEDICAL CAMPUS.

David Wolpe is the Max Webb Emeritus Rabbi of Sinai Temple and a Visiting Scholar at Harvard Divinity School. Author of eight books, including the national bestseller *Making Last Mitter: Creating Meaning in Difficult Times*, Wolpe has been named the most influential Rabbi in America by *Newsweek*, and among the 50 most influential Jews in the world by *The Jerusalem Post*.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED FOR ONLINE AND IN PERSON

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On April 17, **Rabbi David Wolpe**, a respected voice in the Jewish community, offered insights into the roots of antisemitism, its current manifestations, and the steps we can take to combat it. Rabbi Wolpe explored the complexities of antisemitism and its impact on society today.

Read more about this event on our website.

END-OF-YEAR CELEBRATION AND AWARD CEREMONY

On May 1, we celebrated the end of the academic year at the Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies. We honored this year's graduates and presented awards and scholarships while enjoying snacks, drinks, and music.

ELIE WIESEL CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES

END OF YEAR CELEBRATION

JOIN US WEDNESDAY MAY 1ST 4:30 - 5:30 PM

RSVP

Join Us in Celebrating Our Graduates!

The Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies invites you to our **2024 Graduation & Awards Ceremony** WEDNESDAY, MAY 1ST, 2024 FROM 4:30 TO 5:30 PM AT 147 BAY STATE ROAD

Come honor this year's graduates and scholarship recipients! Enjoy snacks and drinks as we recognize our students' accomplishments and wrap up another successful year at the Center.

We hope you can join us!

WOLCAUST 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
ewc@bu.edu 617-353-8296

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- Boston University Department of World Languages and Literature
- Boston University Graduate Program in Religion Student Association
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- Boston University Hillel
- Boston University Institute on Culture, Religion, and World Affairs
- Boston University Program in Archaeology
- Boston University Holocaust, Genocide and Human Rights Studies
- BUCH for Arts and Ideas Lecture
- The Leon and Alice F. Newton Family Lecture Fund

COMMUNITY CO-SPONSORS

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

JEWISH CULTURAL ENDOWMENT FUNDED PROJECTS

About the Jewish Cultural Endowment (JCE)
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 2023-2024, the JCE financially supported the following projects:

- *“The Writings of Elie Wiesel, The Paintings of Judith Zonis Listernick”* event.
- *“Jewish Resistance and the Musicians of Terezin: Lessons for Our Time”* event on International Holocaust Remembrance Day.
- *“Does Holocaust Education Prevent Antisemitism?”* event with Dara Horn.

CO-SPONSORED EVENTS

The *“Jewish Resistance and the Musicians of Terezin: Lessons for Our Time”* event on International Holocaust Remembrance Day was co-sponsored by AJC New England and the Consulate General of Israel to New England, and supported by the Jewish Cultural Endowment of Boston University and BU Hillel.

The *“Beyond the Headlines: Rethinking Language, Gender, and Inclusivity in Israeli Journalism”* event featuring Romy Neumark was hosted and sponsored by the BU Hebrew Program Department of World Languages and Literatures.

The *“Does Holocaust Education Prevent Antisemitism?”* event with Dara Horn was co-sponsored by Boston University Hillel, The Leon and Alice F. Newton Family Lecture Fund, Holocaust, Genocide and Human Rights Studies, and the Jewish Cultural Endowment of Boston University.

“The Culture of Remembrance in Holocaust Perpetrator Countries” event with Hannah Lessing was sponsored by Holocaust, Genocide and Human Rights Studies.

The *“Confronting Antisemitism: Historical Causes, Present Challenges, and Future Actions”* event with Rabbi David Wolpe was co-sponsored by Boston University Hillel, the Jewish Cultural Endowment of Boston University, the Leon and Alice F. Newton Family Lecture Fund, and Holocaust, Genocide and Human Rights Studies.

COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER



KHADIJA EL KARFI JOSS

Khadija El Karfi Joss (she/her) is the Communications Manager at the Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies where she oversees internal and external communications. Beyond her work at the Center, Khadija is scheduled to defend her Ph.D. dissertation this coming spring, which examines the trans-Saharan slave trade and the historical roots of anti-Black racism in the MENA region.

“My time at the Elie Wiesel Center has been an important part of my time at Boston University over the past five years. From the very beginning, I was welcomed with open arms into a supportive and caring community. Working with Professor Zank, Professor Harrowitz, Theresa, Jeremy, and everyone at the Center has made me feel valued and has given me a sense of belonging. The Center has been a constant source of support, and I’m deeply grateful for the friendships, connections, and opportunities it has brought into my life.”

– Khadija El Karfi Joss (Ph.D. Candidate, Francophone Studies)

STUDENT STAFF



JOSEPH (JOEY) RAYMOND

Joseph (Joey) Raymond (he/him) just finished his sophomore year and his first at Boston University and the EWCJS. Joey is majoring in History and grew up in the Boston area. Alongside his work at the center, Joey is a member of the board of BUSI, enjoys playing guitar, and singing. He is active in Jewish life on campus and can be regularly seen at Hillel or Chabad. This summer, he plans on participating in Onward Israel and doing an internship in Tel Aviv.

"I am immensely grateful for the time I've spent working at the center this past year and look forward to hopefully doing so in the future. I am incredibly lucky to be able to do meaningful work for an organization whose mission I think is so important. As a transfer student, working at the center has helped me find my place and identity in an environment that was completely new to me less than a year ago. I first became interested in taking classes at the Center due to my mother who was a student at BU in the 80s and fondly remembers taking classes with Elie Wiesel himself. This past fall I took Representations of The Holocaust in Literature and Film with Professor Harrowitz which was fascinating and moving. I am grateful to her for directing me towards the opportunity of working at the EWCJS. As I gain more experience, I look forward to taking on responsibilities and a more active role in my work at the center."

- **Joseph Raymond** (CAS '26, History Major)



HAGAR LANDAU

Hagar Landau (she/her) graduated in 2024 with Latin honors, majoring in Sociology at CAS. During her time at Boston University, Hagar worked at the center and also served as a Birthright engagement fellow at BU's Hillel and as a peer writing tutor in the Sociology department. After graduating, Hagar hopes to continue working alongside the Jewish community to fight against antisemitism and misinformation.

"I have deeply valued my time working at the center. Being able to work in a space that is so rich with knowledge and importance has meant so much to me, especially during such a challenging year. I will never forget the opportunities I was given through the Center, especially this semester when I was able to speak with and listen to great scholars, authors, and teachers such as Dara Horn and Rabbi David Wolpe. Working alongside Professor Harrowitz, Theresa, Khadija, Eike, Joey and Zhandos has been lovely and I will forever be grateful for the kindness and respect they had shown me. I look forward to seeing what amazing things the Center will continue to do in the next years."

- **Hagar Landau** (CAS '24, Sociology Major)



JENNA RIEDL

Jenna Riedl (she/her) is a BU alum, where she studied painting and statistics. After spending the last 6 months hiking the Appalachian Trail, she's excited to be back at the Center, and to have limitless access to electricity and indoor plumbing. In addition to working in communications, Jenna is part of the Metrowest Writers' Guild and spends a lot of time hiking and painting any available surface.

"I am so glad to be back at the Elie Wiesel Center, with a great community that is doing important and necessary work. After my previous wonderful experience, I look forward to my reconnection with the faculty, staff, and students -- and I'm thankful for their flexibility when I decided to head to the woods for six months! Knowing that this is a community that cares about employees as people, including their dreams and lives beyond the workplace, is a big part of why I came back."

- **Jenna Riedl** (CFA '23, Painting Major)



ZHANDOS ALI BROWN

Zhandos Ali Brown (he/him), CAS '26, is pursuing a Bachelor's in Computer Science at Boston University. From Kazakhstan, Central Asia, Zhandos is fluent in Kazakh, Russian, and English, with additional skills in Turkish, Kyrgyz, and Arabic. His tech journey began with high school robotics and was amplified at multiple internships, where he played pivotal roles in engineering applications, both in architecture and design. Zhandos started working at the EWCJS in October 2023, where he has served as an assistant, managing communications and developing an automated email program.

"During my tenure at the EWCJS at Boston University, which began in October 2023, I have had the honor of serving as an assistant, a role that has been both fulfilling and enlightening. My responsibilities included managing a vast array of communications—handling hundreds of emails weekly. This challenge inspired me to develop an automated program that revolutionized our email system, enabling the dispatch of hundreds of messages within mere seconds, thereby enhancing our efficiency and outreach capabilities. My journey at the EWCJS has been profoundly impactful, not only allowing me to contribute to the center's vibrant intellectual and cultural landscape but also deeply influencing my worldview. The center's dedication to exploring and understanding the complexities of Jewish studies has enriched my perspective, fostering a deeper appreciation for cultural and historical nuances. I am eager to continue my association with the EWCJS throughout my academic career at Boston University. I look forward to further contributing to its mission and growing alongside this esteemed institution, as we strive to expand our horizons and deepen our understanding of the world."

- **Zhandos Brown** (CAS '26, Computer Science Major)

KEEP UP WITH US

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X: @BUjewishstudies

Facebook: facebook.com/ewcjs

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/ewcjs

Instagram: **@ewcjs** (www.instagram.com/ewcjs)

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**.

DONATE

Your continued support allows us to foster meaningful engagement with Jewish culture, history, and tradition. We invite you to consider making a donation to help us continue our important work. Every contribution, regardless of size, makes a significant impact on our ability to provide enriching experiences for our students and the wider community.

To make a donation or learn more about supporting the Center, please visit

www.bu.edu/jewishstudies/support-ewcjs

or contact us at **ewcjs@bu.edu**

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our alumni and community members whose support has been instrumental in sustaining and expanding the Center's activities throughout the year.

This year's BU Giving Day event was a resounding success, with many donors contributing generously.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the following friends of the Center for their generous donations in the past year:

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Written by ***Khadija El Karfi Joss***,
the Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies’ Communications Manager .

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Theresa Cooney, Program Administrator
Khadija El Karfi Joss, Communications Manager
Joseph Raymond, Hagar Landau, Jenna Riedl, Zhandos Brown, Undergraduate Student Assistants

For more information, contact:
Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies
147 Bay State Road, Boston, MA 02215
bu.edu/jewishstudies
ewcjs@bu.edu
+1 (617) 353-8096



ELIE WIESEL
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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

