

PROGRAM IN JEWISH STUDIES
2023-2024
ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

STUDENTS • ALUMNI • FACULTY • EVENTS



Program in Jewish Studies
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

MESSAGE FROM PROFESSOR THOMAS PEGELOW KAPLAN INTERIM DIRECTOR



I stepped in as interim director of the Program in Jewish Studies this past summer at a time of repeated shootings on university campuses, most prominently at UNC-Chapel Hill. Disturbingly, the year quickly got a lot worse. The shock and trauma of the October 7 Hamas terrorist attacks on Israel that left some 1,200 Israeli women, men, and children dead have been overwhelming and devastating in and far beyond Israel. Many members of the CU and wider Boulder communities have family members, friends, and other loved ones in the region. Some of whom have been hurt, others murdered. The ongoing war in Israel, Gaza and, to an extent, the West Bank has cost many more lives. The fall-out, also on university campuses in the US, has been profound. There has been a noticeable rise in microaggressions, and verbal and even physical violence—some of which is steeped in antisemitism and some in other forms of racism. Students have felt increasingly unsafe and for the first time in a quarter century of college teaching in the US, some of my students expressed a visceral fear of being attacked (by outsiders) in my Jewish studies classroom and asked to go on Zoom for safety.

All of us in Jewish studies have had, and continue to have, many conversations and exchanges with each other, with students, faculty, and administrators across campus, and with parents and community members. This is not a time to be silent or alone. As a university program, the Program in Jewish Studies has done its share to address the many challenges that resulted from the October attack, especially by focusing on education and providing safe spaces. From issuing statements to reaching out to partners across campus, town, the state, and abroad, from organizing a panel discussion to a public community exchange with CU faculty experts, we have been trying to invite constructive dialogue even, and particularly, between those who have different positions on the ongoing conflict. It is not easy. But none of us will stop and we hope to bring even more members of the campus and broader community into dialogue in the coming year. I am grateful to everyone who contributed and joined us, and I invite those who have not done so already to join us in programs in 2024. This is too important to be left to those who bring about distrust and fan the flames on social media and elsewhere.

At the same time, I was privileged enough to help with the ongoing building and realignment of the Program in Jewish Studies. Everyone in the Program is enthusiastic about the hiring of our new, well-versed and experienced business manager, Felicia Naranjo Martinez. The Program has reviewed the stunning work done of our teaching professors, Rebecca Wartell and Eyal Rivlin, who were both unanimously recommended for promotion. In fact, as you will see on the following pages, the Program in Jewish Studies faculty and affiliates have accomplished a lot. I also want to mention the prestigious Outstanding Book Award from the History of Education Society garnered by Hilary Falb Kalisman for her study *Teachers as Statebuilders: Education of the Modern Middle East*. But first and foremost, I am personally grateful for all the supporters of the Program in the state and beyond, who play a special role in making our work possible. I am confident that with their help, we can continue to strengthen the Program even more by the time Professor Samira Mehta returns to Boulder next summer from her well-deserved fellowship at Harvard University. Thank you and all the very best during these difficult times at the end of yet another year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas P. Kaplan".



DISCUSSIONS ON THE CRISIS IN ISRAEL, GAZA, & THE WEST BANK



Within days after the Hamas terrorist attacks on Israel on October 7, the Program in Jewish Studies began its programming and started to provide safe spaces to discuss the war and conflict in Israel, Gaza, and the West Bank. A first panel discussion on October 11 brought together CU faculty members with extensive expertise in the region. Political Scientist Prof. Zach Levey (International Affairs/Jewish Studies), a visiting faculty member from the University of Haifa, Middle East scholar Prof. John Willis (History Department), and Middle East literature Prof. Karim Mattar (English Department) offered reflections on the conflict's context and history. The program aimed at providing

campus and Boulder area community members in search of information with solid insights that also revealed disinformation. It also sought to offer a space to come together for everyone in shock and pain to listen, ask questions, and offer thoughts of their own. After all, so many are directly impacted, have friends and family in the conflict zones, or even lost loved ones. Everyone was grateful for the composed and reflective exchanges that avoided shouting matches endured by other universities. In late November, the Program in Jewish Studies organized a community discussion event that brought more faculty members with expertise in various areas—from antisemitism to Palestinian history—to talk at length with students, faculty, staff, and community members. After more positive feedback from many participants, the Program will continue organizing this kind of programming in the new year.

WELCOME TO FELICIA NARANJO MARTINEZ

Felicia Naranjo Martinez has joined the Program of Jewish Studies staff to provide high level budgetary, financial, policy, and administrative support to the unit. She manages the day-to-day operations of the program including finances, human resources, public programs, curriculum and student outreach, and faculty affairs.

In her tenure at the University of Colorado Boulder, she has served as Executive Director of the Colorado European Union Center of Excellence, worked with Advancement and the Industry and Foundations Relations team, and in Environmental Studies as the Director of Special Projects. Felicia has managed a portfolio of diverse foreign grant awards that funded multiple programs, projects, and events in the U.S., Europe, and Scandinavia. She is excited to now be supporting the Program.



SPRING 2024 GLOBAL INITIATIVES FELLOWSHIP AWARDEES

- Noa Greene - Tel Aviv University
- Jacqueline Herman - Semester at Sea
- Yotam Nissim - Sapin, Barcelona International Studies
- Gigi Saad - Sydney, Australia

Our scholarships, fellowships, and new Global Intensive program enable undergraduate and graduate students to participate in study abroad opportunities, language learning, research initiatives, and other activities around the world.



SPRING 2024 EVENTS

Programs are free and open to the public.

To learn more and view recordings of past events, visit www.colorado.edu/jewishstudies/events.

JANUARY

“Reimagining Citizenship in Fascist Italy”

Monday, January 29, 2024 | 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM (MT) | Dr. Roberta Pergher, Professor of History, Indiana University | Research Colloquium | UMC Rooms 382, 384, & 386

2024 Holocaust Remembrance Day Lecture

“How Ordinary Were the Ordinary Men: The Puzzle of Perpetration in the Holocaust”

Monday, January 29, 2024 | 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (MT) | Dr. Mark Roseman, Distinguished Professor of History, Indiana University | In-Person at the Norlin Library and via Zoom

FEBRUARY

“Degrees of Order, Measures of Freedom: Modern German History and the Challenge of Postmodern Historiography”

Tuesday, February 13, 2024 | 5:00pm | Dr. Paul Nolte, Professor of History, Free University Berlin | Humanities 1NB50

Zone of Interest

Film screening and discussion

Tuesday, February 20, 2024 | 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM (MT) | Muenzinger Auditorium (E050) | Panelists include: Dr. Greg Grobmeier, Dr. Thomas Pegelow Kaplan, Dr. Paul Shankman

“Jewish Women Photographers”

Tuesday, February 27, 2024 | 5:00pm | Dr. Michael Berkowitz, Professor of Modern Jewish History, University College London | Lucile Berkeley Buchanan Building, Room 220

MARCH

2024 Sondra & Howard Bender Visiting Scholar

“Heretics and crypto-Christians: the controversies of Rabbi Jonathan Eibeschuetz”

Wednesday, March 6, 2024 | 5:00pm | Dr. Pawel Maciejko, Professor of History and Leonard and Helen R. Stulman Chair in Classical Jewish Religion, Thought, and Culture, Johns Hopkins University | In-Person at the Norlin Library and via Zoom

STAY TUNED FOR MORE 2024 EVENT DETAILS

Annual Hebrew Schmooze-A-Palooza Concert | Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Holocaust, Genocide, and Contemporary Bioethics Program | April 2024
In Partnership with CU Anschutz's Center for Bioethics and Humanities



FALL 2023 EVENTS

Holocaust Child Survivor Osi Sladek at CU

Tuesday, October 17, 2023 | Testimony by Holocaust Survivor Osi Sladek, hosted by the Louis P. Singer Chair in Jewish History and the Program in Jewish Studies Boulder

Oscar (“Osi”) Staub (Sladek) was born in 1935 to an orthodox Jewish family in the town of Prešov (present-day Slovakia). Although he was younger than ten years of age when he was liberated, he remembers the persecutions that intensified at the beginning of the war and gradually being stripped of virtually everything. As in the rest of the country, deportations from Prešov took place in two waves in mid-1942 and late 1944-45. They were coordinated by the Germans, but largely carried out by their Slovakian allies. When the round-ups started, the Staubs (Sladeks) went into hiding, sometimes together, but often separately. They were liberated by the Red Army in late 1944. After the war, the family settled in Israel, where Osi began a musical career before, finally, immigrating to the U.S. Osi’s testimony was followed by a Q-and-A and a book signing. A recording of his talk can be viewed on our website’s Events page.



November Residency with Alicia Svigal and Donald Sosin



Tuesday, November 7, 2023 | Community Klezmer Workshop

Internationally renowned klezmer violinist Alicia Svigals taught workshop participants how to make the mysterious, beautiful, and deeply Jewish sounds which characterize authentic klezmer playing. Sponsored by Congregation Har HaShem.



Thursday, November 9, 2023 | Cine-Concert: The Man Without a World

In a collaboration among the CU Boulder College of Music and Program in Jewish Studies—as well as the Boulder Jewish Film Festival, Boulder Jewish Community Center and Congregation Har HaShem—renowned klezmer violinist Alicia Svigals and celebrated silent film pianist Donald Sosin presented a silent film with live music.

Jewish Studies Student Advisory Board Fall Activities

Monday, October 2, 2023 | Israeli Dance

Monday, November 6, 2023 | Film screening and discussion of *Til Kingdom Come*

The Jewish Studies Student Advisory Board held several meetings and two outreach events this fall. The Board’s mission is to build student community, promote the Major and Minors, and connect with members of the broader public.





FACULTY & STAFF UPDATES

Samuel Boyd published his latest book, *Babel: Political Rhetoric of a Confused Legacy*, this summer. He delivered a paper for the Society of Biblical Literature, which will be published in the journal *Metatron*. This fall, he submitted articles to the *Journal of Hebrew Scriptures* and *The Scandinavian Journal for the Old Testament*, and he has a forthcoming article in *Hebrew Bible/Ancient Israel* and a forthcoming article in an edited volume on the concept of the literary motif in biblical literature. He is also currently a fellow in the Office of Faculty Affairs.

Hilary Falb Kalisman's book, *Teachers as State-Builders: Education and the Making of the Modern Middle East* won the annual History of Education Society Outstanding Book Award. She gave talks on her book, and her second book project at the University of Haifa, the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, the University of Memphis, and Ole Miss. She also published an

article, "The Historiography of education in the Modern Middle East." **Yonatan Malin** presented a paper on Timing in Klezmer Performance at an international Symposium on Analytical Approaches to World Music. He was also pleased to host the renowned klezmer violinist Alicia Svigals and acclaimed silent film pianist Donald Sosin for a residency at CU Boulder and "cine-concert" (silent film with live music) at the Dairy Arts Center. The residency is a collaboration with the Boulder JCC, the Boulder Jewish Film Festival, Congregation Har HaShem, the College of Music, and the Program in Jewish Studies. **Felicia Naranjo Martinez** entered into her fifth year and second years serving on the board of directors for the Santa Fe World Affairs Forum, and for Growing Up Boulder and POCACITO, respectively. **Samira Mehta** published a book titled *The Racism of People Who Love You*, which Oprah Daily called "the epitome of a book meeting a moment." She also received a fellowship to spend a year at Harvard University, as a Research Associate in the Women's Studies in Religion Program, where she is completing her book *God Bless the Pill: Contraception and Sexuality in Tri-Faith America*. In 2023, she also became a board member of Feminist Studies in Religion and the co-chair of the North American Religions Program Unit at the American Academy of Religion. **Thomas Pegelow Kaplan** published a co-edited volume entitled *Holocaust and Police: One Generation After Christopher Browning's Ordinary Men* (in German, with Brill/Schoeningh). The first (revised) paperback edition of his co-edited volume *Resisting Persecution: Jews and Their Petitions during the Holocaust* (with Berghahn Books) also appeared in the fall as did his latest single-authored book entitled *The German-Jewish Press and Journalism Beyond Borders, 1933-1943* (in Hebrew, with Yad Vashem Publications). Pegelow Kaplan also received a grant from RIO's new Arts & Humanities Grant Program for a Russian-language edition of his book *The Language of Nazi Genocide*. **Eyal Rivlin** continued to provide musical leadership and facilitation for Front Range Jewish communities including Yom Hazikaron and Yom Haatzmaut at the Boulder JCC, Yom Kippur at Congregation Nevei Kodesh, and Simchat Torah at Congregation Bonai Shalom. Following the October 7 events, he helped organize and produce the music at Congregation Har Hashem for the community vigil and brought together the local Israeli community for a vigil at the JCC. **Rebecca Wartell** contributed an entry on Rabbi David Nieto to the *Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception* and an article to the *Journal of the Mediterranean Studies Association*. She also presented papers on her research on early modern conversa women at conferences including the Association for Spanish & Portuguese Historical Studies and the Society for Crypto-Jewish Studies this year.

EMBODIED JUDAISM EXHIBIT

The Embodied Judaism series explores embodied Jewish life and experience through public gatherings and multimedia exhibits aimed at academic and non-academic audiences, drawing on materials in the Innovations in Jewish Life Collections held at CU Boulder. The 2022-2024 symposium and exhibit explores the significance of food for Jewish religious, cultural, national, and political identities, focusing on the United States and Israel/Palestine. It is a partnership between the Program in Jewish Studies and CU's Rare and Distinctive Collections. The symposium and exhibit are organized and curated by Gregg Drinkwater, Hilary Falb Kalisman, and Samira Mehta.



Join us for the exhibit opening on January 24 in room N345. The exhibit will be on display on the second floor landing of Norlin Library, CU Boulder campus from January to March 2024.

2023 UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

Through our Undergraduate Research Assistant program, the Program in Jewish Studies provides University of Colorado Boulder undergraduate students with opportunities to collaborate with faculty on cutting-edge research projects by asking new questions, producing new knowledge, and sharing their findings with diverse audiences.

Spring 2023 research projects included:

- **Catholic Attitudes Toward Birth Control - Bryn Norrie (with Prof. Samira Mehta)**
- **Timing in Klezmer Music - Cooper Etters (with Prof. Yonatan Malin)**
- **Trial Data from the Portuguese Inquisition of Coimbra - Hannah Zaritsky (with Prof. Rebecca Wartell)**



We are grateful for a generous gift from Joseph Goldhammer and Elizabeth Block that has transformed this initiative into an annual program, supporting a range of undergraduate research positions and a student research showcase event each spring. We're deeply thankful to Joseph and Elizabeth for this opportunity to support and empower CU students as they cultivate diverse skills, build mentorship relationships, and share their work with the broader community.

Learn more about Undergraduate Student Research Projects: colorado.edu/jewishstudies/undergraduate/UROP

2023 SCHMOOZE-A-PALOOZA HEWBREW CONCERT



Last year's Schmooze-A-Palooza concert returned in-person! The most iconic collection of songs in the Hebrew/Israeli repertoire were performed. Backed by a live band, students took their language knowledge beyond the classroom and offered a participatory, communal celebration of Hebrew learning. The evening was filled with a variety of musical and dance genres. CU students, along with the general public, was invited to come sing along to renditions of American songs they already know, and listen to fellow classmates rap and rock out in Hebrew. This event is always free and open to the public!

CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2023!

MAJOR IN JEWISH STUDIES

Shane Matthew Ball
Emily R. Howard

MINOR IN JEWISH STUDIES

Charles Lawrence Perlstein

MINOR IN HEBREW & ISRAEL STUDIES

Zachary Bruce Hunter

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN JEWISH STUDIES

Jonathyn Zapf,
M.A. in Religious Studies

Student Testimonial

"It is difficult to put into words how influential a role the Program in Jewish Studies played in my personal, academic, and career growth during my time at CU Boulder. From my very first semester, I knew the Program was special; as a smaller Program, I was able to receive unparalleled support, opportunities, and resources that pushed me to be not just a better student, but a better person. I cherish all the memories and connections that were only possible because of Jewish Studies."



Julia Leonne
Class of 2022



Program in Jewish Studies
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

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Boulder, CO 80309-0122

YOUR GIFT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Alumni, donors, friends and community supporters bring the Program in Jewish Studies to life! Because of your commitment to PJS, we are able to provide students with the critical thinking and communication skills they need to navigate a diverse world and become leaders in their communities. Your gifts also help foster community education, support faculty research and staff professional development, and cultivate archival resources.

Thank you for your commitment to expanding the boundaries of academic learning.

Please support Jewish Studies by making a donation through the enclosed envelope or online at:
www.colorado.edu/jewishstudies/giving

COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD

The Program in Jewish Studies Advisory Board is comprised of strong supporters of Jewish Studies. The mission of the board is to help the Program obtain resources for maintenance and growth, enhance the Program's reputation within CU and beyond, and help the Program facilitate community engagement and development within Colorado. We are grateful for the board's dedicated work to expand the reach of Jewish Studies on campus and in the wider community. Thank you for all you do.

Larry Cohn, *Chair*
Barry Baer
Shane Ball
James Brantz
Jim Edelman
Sandy Friedman

Ira Greschler
Bruce Henderson
Midge Korczak
Johnathan Lev
Peter Ornstein
Douglas Sparks

Jack Zable
Samira Mehta, *Director*
Thomas Pegelow Kaplan, *Interim Director*
Michelle Gaffga, *Advancement*
Jazmin Kay Brooks, *Advancement*