



Program in Jewish Studies  
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

**Kol Mevasser:** The Voice of Jewish Studies at CU-Boulder

March 18, 2014



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## → Student Highlight...



**Chelsea** is pursuing a minor in Jewish Studies in addition to a major in International Affairs and a certificate in Digital Arts and Media. She first joined the Program in Jewish Studies because she wanted to incorporate genocide and religious studies into her broader major, and was specifically attracted to learning about gendered experiences within both the Holocaust and Judaism.

**We would like to congratulate Chelsea on recently being awarded the 2014 Jacob Van Ek Scholar Award!** An outstanding student, this past year, Chelsea has also received the

[Wrenn Scholarship](#) from the Boulder Chapter of the United Nations Association and the Ripple Award from the Dennis Small Cultural Center. During her time at CU, Chelsea has served as a member of the [Jewish Studies Student Advisory Board](#), was the co-president of [Hillel](#), played for CU's [Women's Rugby](#) team, served on [CUSG](#) and [Student Outreach Retention Center for Equity](#) (SORCE), and was on the [KVCU Radio 1190 Task Force](#). Chelsea also works for the [CU Recreation Center](#).

This past summer 2013, Chelsea completed the [CU in D.C.](#) summer session, interning with [Women's Action for New Directions](#) and the [Women Legislators' Lobby](#) in Washington, DC. She worked particularly on women's advocacy and defense budget issues, as well as nuclear policies. While in Washington, DC, she was a participant in the National Council of Women's Organizations' [New Faces, More Voices Leadership Training Institute](#).

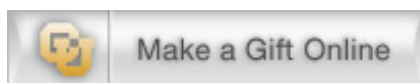
After graduation this May 2014, Chelsea plans to complete a social justice oriented fellowship

to help prepare for law school. She states, "Jewish Studies helped me find my passion for social justice. Jewish Studies has taught me to analyze, to question, and to always see the opponent's point of view, skills that will definitely help me in law school! I hope to continue to develop professionally and use my education to fulfill my goals of making the world a better place."

**Help us ensure that Jewish Studies continues to support students' passions and visions for the future with a donation to the Program in Jewish Studies.**

Donations can be made online at [cufund.org](http://cufund.org) or contact Kimberly Bowman, Director of Development at the University of Colorado Foundation at 303.541.1446.

Thank you!



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 Faculty Updates...



[April First Friday Lecture at Bonai Shalom](#)

Featuring [Professor Liora Halperin](#)

"Babel in Zion: The Complexity of Language in Israel"

Friday, April 4 @ 7PM

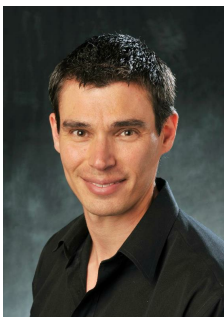
Congregation Bonai Shalom

Please RSVP early so you can secure a seat

at [office@bonaishalom.org](mailto:office@bonaishalom.org) or 303-442-6605

[Liora Halperin](#), Assistant Professor of History and Jewish Studies will discuss the ongoing connection between language and politics in Israel in light of her forthcoming book "Babel in Zion," which is about language diversity in Mandate Palestine. Learn more [here](#). Please contact Bonai Shalom at [office@bonaishalom.org](mailto:office@bonaishalom.org) for additional information.

[Sasha Senderovich](#) Assistant Professor of Jewish Studies and Russian Studies, was awarded a competitive [translation fellowship](#) by the Yiddish Book Center for a collaborative project with [Harriet Murav](#), Professor of Slavic and Comparative Literature at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, to produce the first English-language translation of an important novel written in Berlin in the 1920s by a Soviet Yiddish writer, Dovid Bergelson, entitled *Mides ha-din* [*Stern Judgment*]. He also recently presented a talk at the Boulder Jewish Community Center on Moyshe Kulbak's comic Soviet Yiddish novel [The Zelmanyaners: A Family Saga](#), which was recently published in English by Yale University Press with his critical introduction and notes. Professor Senderovich also gave a talkback and conducted a Q&A session after the screening of two Russian-Israeli films at the Boulder Jewish Film Festival.



[David Shneer](#), Director of the Program in Jewish Studies, Louis P. Singer Endowed Chair in Jewish History and Professor of History and Religious Studies and Gregg Drinkwater, PhD candidate in History served as scholars-in-residence at Temple Sinai in Reno, Nevada February 21-23. David presented an illustrated lecture on [Through Soviet Jewish Eyes: Photography, War, and the Holocaust](#).

[Gregg Drinkwater](#) presented "Creating Welcoming & Inclusive Spiritual Communities." A multi-faith study and conversation event, supported by

Temple Sinai, Nevada Humanities, and two local churches. Drinkwater used Jewish texts that complicate the understanding of the creation of Adam and Eve, and of gender in the Jewish tradition, and then engaged in a conversation about practical steps to make congregations and churches more welcoming and inclusive of diverse communities. This connects his current work as a doctoral student focusing on the history of religion and sexuality with his previous professional work as co-editor of the book [Torah Queeries](#) and in his roles at Jewish Mosaic and [Keshet](#).



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## → Mazal Holocaust Collection in the News...



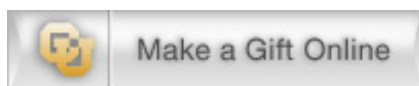
Displayed are some of the more than 500,000 pieces of the Mazal Holocaust Collection, considered the world's largest private Holocaust archive, that have been donated to University of Colorado Boulder. Photo by Glenn Asakawa/University of Colorado

CU recently featured a story on the CU front page about the Mazal Holocaust Collection and how it fits into the [Post-Holocaust American Judaism Archive](#). This important collection will help shape scholarship on the Boulder campus and beyond. Read the complete article [here](#).

Aimee Mazal Skillin, the daughter of Harry Mazal, together with Bruce Montgomery, Faculty Director of the Libraries Archives and Special Collections and Thea Lindquist, Associate Professor in the Library were interviewed by [Channel 9 News](#) reporter TaRhonda Thomas about this important gift. The interview will air on Wednesday, March 19 during the morning show with the complete interview being aired at 8AM.

The Mazal Holocaust Collection will need a great deal of immediate attention and resources. Please help us make these documents and rare materials available to students, researchers and scholars with your gift.

Donations can be made on-line with the link below or contact Kimberly Bowman, Director of Development at the University of Colorado Foundation at 303.541.1446 or via email at [Kimberly.Bowman@colorado.edu](mailto:Kimberly.Bowman@colorado.edu).



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## → CU Welcomes Russian-American Journalist and LGBT Activist, Masha Gessen...



[Russia, the New Anti-Gay Capital of the World](#)

Public Lecture with Masha Gessen

April 24, 12:00PM - 1:30PM

University Memorial Center, Aspen Room

Attendees are welcome to bring own lunch

Masha Gessen will introduce us to the story of how Russia launched its anti-gay campaign and how it not only mobilizes Vladimir Putin's constituency around the notion of "traditional values" but also provides Russia with a national identity it has lacked for 25 years. Masha Gessen has been Russia's most outspoken

LGBT activist since her return there in 1991, a decade after her immigration to the United States with her parents. Following a slew of homophobic legislation adopted by Russia's parliament and signed by Putin over the course of the past year, Gessen re-immigrated to the US with her family in December 2013.

### [Words Will Break Cement: The Passion of Pussy Riot](#)

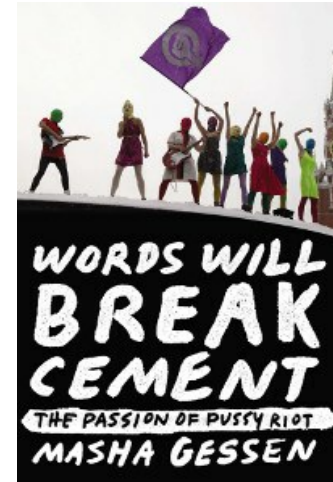
A public talk by Masha Gessen

April 24, @ 7PM-9PM

Eaton Humanities, Room 150

\* Books will be available for sale at this event.

On February 21, 2012, five young women entered the Cathedral of Christ the Savior in Moscow. In neon-colored dresses, tights, and balaclavas, they performed a "punk prayer" beseeching the "Mother of God" to "get rid of Putin." They were quickly shut down by security, and in the weeks and months that followed, three of the women were arrested and tried, and two were sentenced to a remote prison colony. But the incident captured international headlines, and footage of it went viral. People across the globe recognized not only a fierce act of political confrontation but also an inspired work of art that, in a time and place saturated with lies, found a new way to speak the truth.



Masha Gessen's riveting account tells how such a phenomenon came about. Drawing on her exclusive, extensive access to the members of Pussy Riot and their families and associates, she reconstructs the fascinating personal journeys that transformed a group of young women into artists with a shared vision, gave them the courage and imagination to express it unforgettably, and endowed them with the strength to endure the devastating loneliness and isolation that have been the price of their triumph.

#### About Masha Gessen:

Masha Gessen is a bilingual Russian-American journalist. She is the author of [The Man Without a Face](#), an acclaimed biography of Vladimir Putin (2012). Her previous books (all written in English), include: [Dead Again: The Russian Intelligentsia after Communism](#) (1997), [Ester and Ruzya: How My Grandmothers Survived Hitler's War and Stalin's Peace](#) (2004); [Blood Matters: From Inherited Illness to Designer Babies, How the World and I Found Ourselves in the Future of the Gene](#) (2008); and [Perfect Rigor: A Genius and the Mathematical Breakthrough of the Century](#) (2009). Gessen was born in the Soviet Union, immigrated with her parents to the United States as a teenager, and returned to live and work in Russia in the 1990s. Following a slew of homophobic legislation adopted by Russia's government in 2013, she re-immigrated to the US with her family later that year. Gessen has written for *The New Republic*, *Granta*, *Slate*, *Vanity Fair*, *US News and World Report*, and *The New York Review of Books*, among other publications; she also contributes a weekly column to the Latitude blog at *The New York Times*.

For more information, visit [jewishstudies.colorado.edu](http://jewishstudies.colorado.edu).

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### → East European Jewish Affairs Journal to be Housed at CU...

Beginning in April 2014, Drs. [David Shneer](#) (University of Colorado Boulder) and [Anna Shternshis](#) (University of Toronto) will become editors of [East European Jewish Affairs \(EEJA\)](#), the leading journal dealing with Jews in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union as well as Ashkenazic Jews wherever in the world they may be. For the first time, the journal will have an assistant managing editor, Nick Underwood (PhD candidate, University of Colorado), and its operations will be housed at the University of Colorado's Program in Jewish Studies. EEJA, a Routledge publication, is a collaborative effort of the University of Colorado and University of Toronto as well as of [Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Nevzlin Center](#).





In the past few months, EEJA has added new members to the editorial board to broaden the journal's geographic coverage and methodological approach. New members include [Rebecca Kobrin](#) (History, Columbia University), [Jeffrey Kopstein](#) (Political Science, University of Toronto), [Olga Gershenson](#) (Jewish Studies and Communications, UMass Amherst), [Olga Litvak](#) (History, Clark University), [Zvi Gitelman](#) (Political Science, University of Michigan), [Gennady Estraikh](#) (Jewish Studies, NYU), [Amelia Glaser](#) (Literature, UCSD), [Francois Guesnet](#) (History, UCL), and [Scott Ury](#) (History, Tel Aviv University).

For more information, contact Nick Underwood, Assistant Managing Editor via email at [Nicholas.Underwood@colorado.edu](mailto:Nicholas.Underwood@colorado.edu). Additional information can be found at [jewishstudies.colorado.edu](http://jewishstudies.colorado.edu).

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### → Save the Date: Jewish Studies Graduation...

Students, be sure to save the date for the 2013-2014 Jewish Studies Year-end Celebration, Graduation and Awards Ceremony!

**Jewish Studies Commencement**  
**Thursday, May 8, 2014**  
**10:00AM, Reception to follow**  
**By Invitation Only**



Every year, we celebrate the achievements of our students, honoring those who are graduating as well as those who have received scholarships, worked in the community as interns, and have served on our student advisory board. We also welcome the opportunity to recognize the generous support of our community donors as well as the community leaders who have helped make this program possible.

Questions? Please contact the Program in Jewish Studies at [CJewishStudies@colorado.edu](mailto:CJewishStudies@colorado.edu) or 303.492.7143.

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### → Embodied Judaism Symposium Online...



The inaugural Embodied Judaism project, which took place this past October, highlighted the life and work of Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi and his role in shaping Jewish Renewal, the newest movement in Judaism, examining it as a religion, social movement and philosophy of spiritual transformation in America from the late 1940s to the present. The [recording of this event](#) is now online!

You can find out more about [Embodied Judaism and the Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi Archival Collection](#) on our website at [jewishstudies.colorado.edu](http://jewishstudies.colorado.edu). The exhibit, [Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi and the Origins of Post-Holocaust American Judaism](#) is still on view in the Norlin Library on the CU Boulder Campus.

The Embodied Judaism series is presented by the Program in Jewish Studies, the University of Colorado Boulder [Library Archives](#) and [Special Collections](#), the [Department of Religious Studies](#) and the [College of Music](#).

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## Resources and Scholarships for Students...

PLEASE VISIT THE SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS SECTION OF OUR [WEBSITE](#) FOR MORE GREAT SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES!

Applications for the [Rabbi Daniel & Ida Goldberger Fellowship for Jewish Studies Study Abroad or Cultural Immersion Programs](#), awarded to up to two graduate students each year, are due **March 21, 2014 by 5PM**.

[The Ulrich "Ulo" Goldsmith Memorial Prize in German-Jewish Studies](#), offered in conjunction with German and Slavic Languages and Literatures, rewards academic writing on a topic pertaining to Jewish culture in German-speaking lands. Papers are due **April 25 2014**.

There will be a [Fulbright Grant Information Session](#) on **Thursday, April 24 @ 3:30PM-4:30PM** in C4C, room S350. Applications are due September 8, 2014!

The University of San Francisco is offering refresher courses in Hebrew through its [Ulpan Program](#) this summer, **July 7-July 25. Register by April 20.**

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## On Campus & Around Town...

[Congregation Beth Shalom](#) is hiring for a full-time Director of Jewish Education. Click [here](#) for more details (pdf).

Register now for [Keshet's annual queer seder](#), April 17! More details [here](#).

Save the date for [Hillel's Spring Fling Brunch](#), April 27 @ 11AM at [RedLine](#) in Denver!

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For questions or to have information about your campus or community event included in our newsletter, please contact Jamie Polliard at [Jamie.Polliard@colorado.edu](mailto:Jamie.Polliard@colorado.edu).