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The Program in Jewish Studies, an interdisciplinary unit of the College of Arts and Sciences, offers a Bachelor of Arts degree in Jewish Studies as well as minors in Jewish Studies and Hebrew Studies.

The primary goal of the program is to explore Jewish culture, history, society, and thought while equipping students with a fluency in a number of the disciplines offered through the College of Arts

Letter From Our Director, Nan Goodman

This is supposed to be an end-of-the-year message, but like everything else, it's not as simple as that. For those of us teaching our last classes or taking final exams, this time of year marks a middle and a beginning as well as an end.



It's the end of 2015, but it's the middle of the academic year, which we will pick up again after a few weeks away. Ralph Waldo Emerson referred mysteriously to this overlapping of academic time frames as a "recommencement," an ending that is also a beginning and that comes together in an enduring sense of a time in between.

I have always loved this temporal confusion. To be a member of the university community is to experience time's multiple layers and to blur the lines between beginning, middle, and end. So in what I prefer to see as a multi-faceted time-of-the-year message, I want to note the projects we have begun, are still working on, and have finished, while acknowledging that everything we are doing may affect our students, faculty, community members, and friends as beginnings, middles, and/or ends, depending on where their experiences intersect with our own.

We celebrate the successful end of Embodied Judaism 2015 *Freedom Seder: American Judaism and Social Justice*, an event that moved large numbers of students, faculty, and community members to engage with scholarship and materials in the Post-Holocaust American Judaism Archives in a uniquely tangible way. This project can still be enjoyed

The Program in Jewish Studies is an academic program open to ALL students of ALL backgrounds, Jewish and non-Jewish.

Learn more at our website colorado.edu/JewishStudies

Contact Us:

Phone: 303.492.7143

Email:

CUJewishStudies@colorado.edu

through the Freedom Seder exhibit on the second floor of Norlin Library. We marked the launch of our new Israel/Palestine Professorship with a public lecture and student/faculty colloquium with renowned author Sayed Kashua. Our students worked in our community as interns, and our faculty once again delivered an engaging roster of courses. We mark the beginning of a new track to our major (to begin Fall 2016), which will allow more students to experience what the Program in Jewish Studies has to offer, and we observe the

productive mid-point of our ongoing projects to make the Jewish Studies office a more user-friendly place and to engage newly admitted students, many of whom we hope to see working or relaxing in our new lounge area in our office when they start CU in the fall.

Best wishes for a happy beginning, middle, or end to the year-however you choose to see it.



Nan Goodman, PhD, JD
Director, Program in Jewish Studies
Professor, English Department

Support Our Initiatives in Jewish Studies

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Student Highlight: Meet Judd Schiffman



Judd Schiffman, MFA student in **Art and Art History** at CU-Boulder, recently presented an exhibition of ceramic wall objects as part of his master's thesis project. Titled "Because it Could Get Infected," Judd's studio research focuses on his own identity as it relates to contemporary Jewish American culture. His ceramic wall objects draw from diverse sources such as Seinfeld, Phillip Roth, historical Jewish artifacts, and his own internal dialogue.

Meet Judd!

The **Program in Jewish Studies** explores Jewish culture, history, religion, society, and thought from a broad, interdisciplinary perspective, training graduate students for diverse career

paths. With a faculty of cutting-edge, engaged scholars and teachers working in fields across the humanities and social sciences, the Program supports the research, teaching, and professional development of graduate students pursuing master's or doctoral degrees in a diverse and growing array of departments

Learn More about Graduate Opportunities in Jewish Studies!

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Faculty and Graduate Student Updates:



Lucy Chester, Associate Professor of History and International Affairs, presented her paper "The Eyes of Islam are Watching!: Transcolonial Activism in India and Mandate Palestine," at the Center on American and Global Security at Indiana University in October.

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Gregg Drinkwater, PhD student in History, presented a paper entitled "AIDS Was Our Earthquake: American Judaism in the Age of AIDS," at the annual conference of the American Academy of Religion this past November.

[Read More](#)



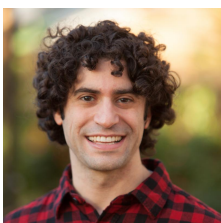
Nan Goodman, Director of the Program in Jewish Studies and Professor of English, gave a paper on Sholem Asch's play, *Sabbatai Zevi* this past weekend at the Association for Jewish Studies conference in Boston.

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Liora Halperin, Assistant Professor of History and Jewish Studies, published an article, "A Murder in the Grove: Conceptions of Justice in an Early Zionist Colony" in the Winter 2015 issue of the *Journal of Social History*.

[Read More](#)



Moshe Kornfeld, postdoctoral fellow and lecturer in Jewish Studies, finished his work as lead curator for the *Freedom Seder* exhibit, which is now on display on the second floor of Norlin Library. At the *Freedom Seder* symposium, Kornfeld presented concluding remarks, reflecting on social justice seders as examples of re-enchantment.

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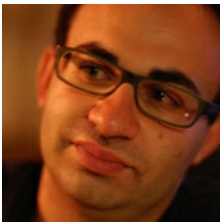
Tyler Lehrer, Outreach & Administrative Coordinator for the Program in Jewish Studies, presented a paper at the annual conference of the American Academy of Religion, entitled "Reframing Authority: Buddhist Blogging and the Theravāda *Bhikkhunī* Ordination Dispute."

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Elias Sacks, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies and Director of Graduate Studies for the Program in Jewish Studies, recently spoke at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion in Atlanta and at a conference on "This World and the World to Come in Jewish Belief and Practice" at Creighton University. In December 2015, he will be speaking at a workshop at Boston University entitled "Thinking With Rabbinic Texts."

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Sasha Senderovich, Assistant Professor of Russian Studies and Jewish Studies, presented a paper on how contemporary Soviet-born American Jewish writers respond to the idea of "the Soviet Jew" that emerged in the West during the Cold War, at the annual conference of the Association of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) in Philadelphia in November.

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David Shneer, Louis P. Singer Endowed Chair in Jewish History and Professor of History, Religious Studies, and Jewish Studies, presented his book, *Lin Jaldati: Trümmerfrau der Seele*, in Berlin at the Akademie der Künste (Academy of Arts) in a talk about the book in German. He also returned to his musical roots and will be performing "Art is My Weapon: The Life and Work of Lin Jaldati," at the Association for Jewish Studies conference in Boston this December.

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Nick Underwood, PhD Candidate in history, presented a paper at the Association for Jewish Studies conference in Boston, entitled "A Workers Avant-Garde: Yiddish Theatre and Transnational Jewish Culture in Interwar Paris."

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We are excited to announce that the 2015 [Embodied Judaism Symposium Freedom Seder: American Judaism and Social Justice](#), was a phenomenal success!



The event brought together around 100 students, community members, scholars, and practitioners for an evening of learning and embodied engagement with the Post-Holocaust American Judaism Archives. The exhibition is currently on display on the second floor of [Norlin Library](#). In the coming months, we will release a recording of the event, which will be located on the Program in Jewish Studies website.

[Read more and view photos from this year's Embodied Judaism Symposium](#)

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Students: Want to go to Istanbul?



Join us this summer 2016 on our second
Global Seminar to Istanbul:
Jews and Muslims: The Multi-Ethnic History of Istanbul
(JWST/IAFS/RLST 3530)

Led by Professor **Nan Goodman**
3 credit hours | Meets core requirements for Human Diversity

We will be holding a Spring information meeting.
Look out for more information coming soon.

Open to ALL students of ALL majors and
backgrounds, undergraduate and graduate.
Scholarships are available.

[Learn More Here](#)

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Preview of Upcoming Events for Spring 2016!

The Program in Jewish Studies is pleased to announce this Spring's upcoming events, the following events coming up during the Spring semester. This is just a sample of our

exciting roster of talks, symposia, colloquia, and other events we have in store. Stay tuned for more information about these events, and check out our [events page!](#)

Film Screening: *Free Men (Les Hommes Libres)*

with Talk-Back from Prof. [Beverly Weber](#)

In honor of International Holocaust Remembrance Day

Wednesday, January 27 @ 7:00PM, Old Main Theater

Free and open to the public

British Jewishness: A Day-Long Conference on Jews in Britain

Friday, February 12

Co-Hosted with the [Center for British and Irish Studies](#)

Jewish Studies Student Movie Nights:

Wednesday, February 17th, Wednesday March 16th, and Tuesday April 19

Free and open to students

Organized by the [JWST Student Advisory Board](#)

2016 Sondra Bender Visiting Scholar, Professor Naomi Seidman

Public Lecture, Wednesday, March 10

Religion and Law: CU-DU Week of Jewish Philosophy

Monday, April 11 - Friday, April 15

Co-Hosted with the [University of Denver's Center for Judaic Studies](#)

Jewish Studies Graduation Ceremony

Friday, May 6

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Community Events and Opportunities:

CEES Certificate Program: The certificate program in Central and East European Studies is pleased to announce the launch of its new information website for students.

[Check it out here.](#)

CAS Summer Language Fellowships:

The Center for Asian Studies is pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for the CAS Summer Language Fellowship. Three fellowships of \$5,000 to \$7,500 will be awarded. Application Deadline: Monday, February 15, 2016 at 12:00PM. [Learn more here.](#)

Coexistence in the Middle East:

Experience the challenge of human diversity where nations, civilizations, and religions converge through our intercultural academic field summer programs in Israel, [Coexistence in the Middle East \(CME\)](#), at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Legacy Heritage Dissertation Fellowships:

This fellowship program will award seven finishing-year fellowships annually (\$20,000 each) to PhD students entering the final year of their programs and completing a dissertation in the field of Jewish Studies. AJS will launch the program in early 2016. Detailed information about the program will be available early January 2016. Contact [Amy Weiss](#).

Interdisciplinary Summer 2016 Program in Conflict Resolution, Management, and Negotiation:

offers students the opportunity to earn 10 academic credits (5 courses, including an internship in peace NGOs and leading think tanks) in a period of four weeks (June 30 - July 28, 2016) and get a certificate. Individual courses all taught in English, are also possible. Applications due by April 30, 2016. [Learn more here.](#)

Alternative Breaks Program:

Alternative Breaks sends teams of college students to engage in community-based service projects during each college break. This year there are fifteen trips to choose from, you can find out more information about the trips by visiting their [webpage](#) or coming into the Volunteer Resource Center in UMC 458. Applications will be accepted through January 6, 2016.

Israel Institute Paid Internships:

The Israel Institute is sponsoring outstanding paid internship opportunities for current undergraduates and recent graduates. We are seeking candidates with an established record of academic excellence, leadership potential and Israel engagement. Applications are due January 10, 2016. [Learn more here.](#)

Summer Yiddish Program:

Current undergraduate and graduate students are eligible to apply for the Yiddish Book Center's Steiner Summer Yiddish Program, a seven-week, tuition-free, intensive language and culture course in Amherst, Massachusetts. This year's program runs from June 5 - July 22. Applications are due by February 8, 2016. [Learn more here.](#)

Naomi Praver Kadar International Yiddish Summer Program at Tel Aviv University:

The summer program will take place on the Tel Aviv University campus from June 26 to July 21, 2016. The program offers intensive Yiddish instruction at five levels. Language instruction will be supplemented by an afternoon program of lectures, conversation workshops, tours, and by evening cultural and social events. Registration open until May 1, 2016. [Learn more here.](#)

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For questions or to have information about your campus or community event included in our newsletter, please contact Meghan Zibby at Meghan.Zibby@Colorado.edu.



Find us on
Facebook

Program in Jewish Studies

Phone: 303.492.7143

Email: CUJewishStudies@colorado.edu

Website: www.colorado.edu/JewishStudies

