

Dear friends and supporters of the Program in Jewish Studies,

As the war in Israel, Gaza, and the West Bank escalates and the fall-out around the world – also in Boulder – intensifies, we want to express the Program in Jewish Studies’ and its members’ strong commitment to keeping everyone on campus safe and maintaining a constructive and healthy learning environment. All of us have had conversations with concerned and worried members of the campus and broader off-campus communities. We hear you! We are deeply disturbed and worried by new expressions of antisemitism, racism, and various forms of aggression. We are working closely with campus leaders, colleagues, staff, students, and the campus police. At a basic level, we seek to lower the heightening tensions on campus and keep our focus on the safety of all our students and community members.

The Program, as stated in our vision statement, continues to “strive to be an inclusive community of learning in which students, scholars, artists, staff, and members of the public— from Colorado and across the globe—come together for collaborative, academic examination of Jewish cultures and histories, producing new knowledge and promoting dialogue, tolerance, and a commitment to social justice.”

In the coming weeks and months, we will continue on this path and recalibrate our work to address the ongoing conflict in Israel, Gaza and the West Bank. Our [campus-wide panel discussion with Israeli, Jewish and Palestinian colleagues](#) in mid-October demonstrated that constructive dialogue and active listening is possible. Among others, we

- will offer more programming about the war and its context.
- will offer classes on the topic such as [JWST/HIST 4338 “History of Modern Israel/Palestine”](#) in S’24.
- plan to launch an informal discussion and support group with various faculty members from Jewish Studies and other departments.
- continue to combat hate speech and violence to secure the safety and well-being of every member of our campus communities.

Please continue to contact the Program with concerns, to exchange ideas or to seek a safe space on campus.

On behalf of the Program in Jewish Studies,



Thomas Pegelow Kaplan, PhD
Interim Director
Program in Jewish Studies

This announcement does not reflect the viewpoint of the University of Colorado Boulder.