



**ELIE
WIESEL**
מרכז מחקר וחינוך
במסגרת תוכנית
**CENTER FOR
JEWISH STUDIES**

2017-2018 Annual Report

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About the Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies



The Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies (EWCJS) is an academic program unit of the College of Arts and Sciences and serves as Boston University's hub for co-curricular and public events related to Jewish history, religion, and culture.

With currently fifteen core and sixteen affiliated faculty, we offer a content-rich, interdisciplinary range of courses and events in Jewish studies and related fields. We support faculty and students through research and travel grants, scholarships, fellowships, and merit awards. Our lectures and events provide the campus community and the Boston-area public with opportunities to learn, exchange ideas, and encounter contemporary forms of Jewish intellectual life and artistic creativity.

Named for Elie Wiesel, the 1986 Nobel Laureate for Peace and a member of the BU faculty for nearly forty years, our Center fosters excellence in teaching and scholarship, as well as meaningful public engagement.

The Elie Wiesel Center is housed at 147 Bay State Road, a former patrician building that once also served as the office of BU president John Silber and provides office, classroom, and function spaces that we share with the Department of Religion. At its dedication in 2005, the building was renamed in honor of Elie Wiesel's parents Shlomoh and Sarah Wiesel. It was renovated with the generous support of Ira and Ingeborg Rennert who also provided the founding endowment of the Center.

Find us online!
facebook.com/ewcjs
twitter.com/ewcjs
[instagram @ewcjs](https://instagram.com/ewcjs)
bu.edu/jewishstudies

Faculty & Courses

Core Faculty

- **Kimberly Arkin**, Assistant Professor of Anthropology
- **Andrea Berlin**, Professor of Archaeology
- **Alejandro Botta**, Associate Professor of Hebrew Bible
- **Katheryn Darr**, Professor of Hebrew Bible and Harrell F. Beck Scholar of Hebrew Scripture
- **David Frankfurter**, Professor of Religion and Aurelio Chair for the Appreciation of Scripture; Chair, Religion Department
- **Abigail Gillman**, Associate Professor of German and Hebrew
- **Michael Grodin**, Professor of Health Law, Bioethics & Human Rights and Professor of Family Medicine and Psychiatry
- **Nancy Harrowitz**, Professor of Italian
- **Steven Katz**, Professor of Religion; Alvin J. Slater and Shirley Slater Chair in Jewish Holocaust Studies
- **Jonathan Klawans**, Professor of Religion
- **Deeana Klepper**, Associate Professor of Religion and History
- **Pnina Lahav**, Professor of Law
- **Diana Lobel**, Associate Professor of Religion
- **Simon Rabinovitch**, Assistant Professor of History
- **Michael Zank**, Professor of Religion; Director, Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies

Affiliate Faculty

- **Ingrid Anderson**, Lecturer in the Arts and Sciences Writing Program; Associate Director, Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies
- **Miriam Angrist**, Lecturer in Hebrew, Head of Hebrew Language Program
- **John Bernstein**, Professor of Film
- **Susan Bernstein**, Research Professor in the English Department
- **Alicia Borinsky**, Professor of Latin American and Comparative Literature
- **Charles Dellheim**, Professor of History
- **Aaron Garrett**, Associate Professor of Philosophy
- **Alexandra Tali Herzog**, Postdoctoral Fellow in Jewish Studies and Lecturer in the CORE Curriculum
- **Nahum Karlinsky** (Ben-Gurion University), Visiting Professor of Israel Studies
- **Irit Kleiman**, Associate Professor of Romance Studies
- **Jennifer Knust**, Associate Professor of New Testament and Christian Origins
- **Margaret Litvin**, Associate Professor of Arabic and Comparative Literature
- **Jeffrey Mehlman**, Professor of French
- **Michael Prince**, Associate Professor of English

2017-2018 Courses

Writing and English

- WR 100 M9 After Auschwitz: The Search for Ethics in Post-Holocaust Thought
- WR 100 K8 Beyond Night: The Work of Elie Wiesel
- WR 100 L9 Global Judaisms
- WR 150 After Auschwitz: The Search for Ethics in Post Holocaust Thought
- WR 150 American Conversations: Jews and Blacks
- WR 150 Beyond Night: The Work of Elie Wiesel
- EN 125 20th Century American Jewish Literature

Hebrew Language and Literature

- STH TO 704 Hebrew Bible 1
- STH TO 723 Biblical Hebrew 1
- LH 111 Fundamentals of Modern Hebrew 1
- LH 211 Intermediate Modern Hebrew 1
- LH 212 Intermediate Modern Hebrew 2
- LH 312 Sixth-Semester Hebrew
- LH 330 Israeli Pop Music
- LH 453/LH 283/CI 270 Israeli Culture through Film

35 COURSES OFFERED

Religion

- RN 104 Religions of the World: Western
- KHC RN 104 Moses and Muhammad
- RN 106 The Bible
- RN 206 Scriptures in World Religions
- RN 216 Judaism
- RN 338/PH 408/RN 368 Mysticism and Philosophy: Jewish and Islamic Perspectives
- RN 420/RN 720/PH 609/PH 409 Maimonides
- RN 439/RN 739/STH TX 859/SPH LW 739 Jewish Bioethics

Jewish History

- RN 328 Judaism in the Modern Period
- RN 384 The Holocaust
- RN 460 Seminar on the Holocaust
- HI 393 Israeli-Palestinian Conflict (both Fall and Spring semester)

Comparative Literature & Gender Studies

- RN 337/WS 305 Gender and Judaism
- WS 300/RN 524/LR 456/XL 560 Gender and Religion in the Graphic Novel
- XL 223 Introduction to Middle Eastern Literatures
- RN 459/XL 459/LI 459 Primo Levi Within Holocaust Studies
- XL 281/RN 385/RN 685/CI 269 Representations of the Holocaust in Literature and Film

Director's Message



Regular readers of our annual reports have come to expect an impressive tabulation of statistics on faculty productivity, classes offered, students taught, social media reach, and public engagement. As in past years, we delivered on all of those counts. We taught more than 500 students in 35 classes and sections; our faculty published many books and articles (see page [10](#)), while contributing to our academic community through research presentations and participation in interdisciplinary workshops (see page [23](#)); we offered an ambitious range of events of our own, and we supported the initiatives of other units on and off campus (see page [32](#)).

What stays with me the most, however, are some of the personal encounters that make the work we do truly enjoyable.

Spending untold hours planning our Day of Learning and Celebration of Elie Wiesel (see page [25](#)) paid off in two ways. Our team got to spend a lot of time with wonderful professionals, foremost among them the Director of Events and Conferences Michael Ciarlante and Christine Wynne, Director of Presidential Functions, who kept all the moving parts together in good cheer. And, on the day itself, we, and everyone in attendance, were struck by the many thoughtful contributions and spontaneous expressions of deep appreciation of the impact of “our professor” on so many of us: as a teacher, colleague, and friend. If you haven’t had a chance before, the Day of Learning and Celebration is documented [here](#).

When the year wound down and we realized that Sophie and Blake, two of our long-time student assistants, were about to leave we felt that every staff meeting and casual encounter around the office was precious. We realized just how much our work is sustained by the devotion and enthusiasm of our co-workers.

I also vividly recall the appreciation written on the faces of the students who stayed behind at the Rabin lecture (see page [27](#)) to thank Senator Mitchell, our featured speaker, personally for speaking as he did. The major lesson I carried away from his remarks are also still with me: All conflicts are man-made, he said. Which means that all conflicts can be settled, if we only want to settle them.

These are examples from a year replete with moving personal encounters, thoughtful conversations, and uplifting musical and artistic moments.

Let me take this opportunity to thank Dean Ann Cudd who supported the Elie Wiesel Center and our many initiatives with deep sympathy and personal engagement over the past three years. We wish her all the best as she moves on to the position of Provost at the University of Pittsburgh.

With best wishes for a restful summer,

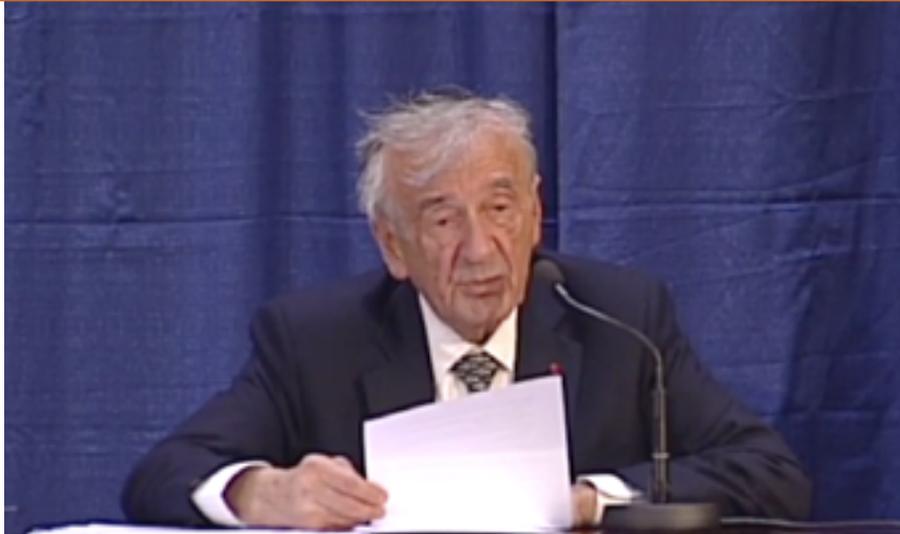
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Zank". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "M".

Michael Zank, Director

Futures: The Elie Wiesel Memorial Lectures, starting in Fall 2018

Elie Wiesel speaks on "A Judge Named Deborah" in Fall 2010, as part of his "Three Encounters with Elie Wiesel" lecture series.



Throughout his years of teaching at Boston University, Professor Elie Wiesel offered his signature fall lecture series, "Three Encounters with Elie Wiesel." Building on this tradition, we are launching a new annual series of Elie Wiesel Memorial Lectures, starting in Fall 2018. You can find out more and register for all of the lectures [here](#).

The inaugural theme for Fall 2018 will be "Kristallnacht 1938: What happened? What have we learned?" The schedule of lectures is as follows.

Monday, October 15, 7pm, Photonics Colloquium Room (9th Floor), 8 St. Mary's Street
Ute Frevert (Berlin) "November 9, 1938: Emotions and Emotional Politics Then and Now, and In-between"

Dr. Frevert's talk explores the emotional politics of the first state-orchestrated pogrom in Nazi Germany, and the emotions it raised among Jewish and non-Jewish Germans. It then goes on to investigate the memory culture that emerged after 1945, and it concludes by putting Elie Wiesel's 1989 warning to the test: has the memory of 1938 faded after the German reunification?

Dr. Frevert is Director of the Center for the History of Emotions at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development, Berlin.

Monday, October 29, 7PM, Photonics Colloquium Room (9th Floor), 8 St. Mary's Street
Omer Bartov (Brown University) "After Kristallnacht: The Routinization of German State Violence in the East"

This talk will investigate the uniquely public nature of the events of November 9-11, 1938, in contrast to German actions behind enemy lines, during WWII.

Prof. Bartov is John P. Birkelund Distinguished Professor of European History and Professor of German Studies at Brown University.

Monday, November 12, 7PM, LAW Auditorium, 765 Commonwealth Avenue
Mark Hetfield (President and CEO of HIAS), "Lessons from the Past: From Kristallnacht to the Refugee Crisis of Today"

Over the last year, the number of refugees and displaced people across the world has grown to more than 65 million – more than any time in history. The moment is made all the more critical by the recent Executive Orders barring refugees from the United States and the administration's reduction of the number of refugees admitted to the United States in 2018 to an unconscionably low number. The talk examines how lessons from pre-WWII Germany can inform contemporary discourse about today's global refugee crisis.

Mark Hetfield is President and CEO of [HIAS, the oldest refugee organization in the US.](#)

Events are subject to change: for the latest information please always check www.bu.edu/jewishstudies

People

Faculty Accolades

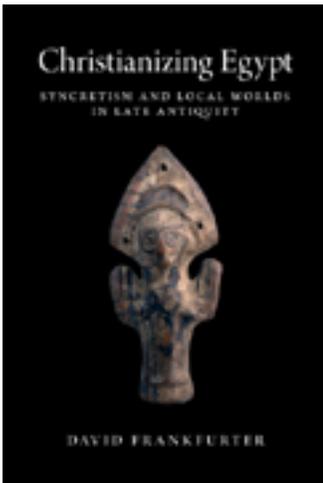
Ingrid Anderson, full-time instructor in the CAS Writing Program, assumed the position of Associate Director of the EWCJS. In 2017 she published the article "'Faithful to the Law': Why Richard Rubenstein is not a Death of God Theologian" in *Crisis, Exposure, Imagination: Lifting Veils*. Edited by Jordan E. Miller, Craig Condella, and Fred Abong (Cambridge: Cambridge Scholars Press, 2017). A chapter on "'There is Nothing Final About the Death of God': The Radical Theology of Richard Rubenstein" is forthcoming in *The Handbook of Radical Theology*, edited by Jordan Miller and Christopher Rodkey.



Professor Ingrid Anderson speaks during the discussion following the 2017 Leo Trepp Lecture

Kimberly Arkin, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, continued to host the [Modern Mediterranean Identities workshop series](#) with two sessions in the fall and one in the spring (see page 24). In addition, she published two articles, namely, "Jews, Jesus, and the problem of postcolonial Frenchness," in *Public Culture* 29(3): 457-480 (2017) and "Historicity, Peoplehood, and Politics: Holocaust talk in 21st Century France" in *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 60(4), 2018. A further article on "Talking about Anti-Semitism in France Before and After Charlie Hebdo and Hyper Cacher" was accepted for publication in the journal *Jewish History*.

Andrea Berlin, James R. Wiseman Chair in Classical Archaeology, Professor of Archaeology, published the last installment of *Discoveries from Tel Anafa* (Kelsey Museum Fieldwork Series, Ann Arbor MI, 2018). Two further articles of Berlin's appeared in 2017, namely, "Ends and Beginnings: Political Change and Daily Life at Sardis in Late Classical and Early Hellenistic Times," in *Archaic and Classical Western Anatolia: New Perspectives in the Ceramic Studies*, edited by R. Gül Gürtekin Demir et al. (Leiden, 2017), and Katherine A. Larson, Andrea M. Berlin, and Sharon Herbert, "Glass Vessels from the Persian and Hellenistic Administrative Building at Tel Kedesh, Israel" in *Annales du 20e Congrès de l'Association Internationale pour l'Histoire du Verre*, edited by Sophie Wolf and Anne de Pury-Gysel (Association Internationale pour l'Histoire du Verre, 2017).



Religion Chair and Professor [David Frankfurter](#)'s book [Christianizing Egypt: Syncretism and Local Worlds in Late Antiquity](#) was published in 2017 by Princeton University Press. Drawing on sermons and magical texts, saints' lives and figurines, letters and amulets, and comparisons with Christianization elsewhere in the Roman empire and beyond, *Christianizing Egypt* reconceives religious change—from the "conversion" of hearts and minds to the selective incorporation and application of strategies for protection, authority, and efficacy, and for imagining the environment.

Last year also saw the publication of Professor [Abigail Gillman](#)'s seminal [History of German Jewish Bible Translation](#) by the prestigious University of Chicago Press. This book is the first in English to offer a close analysis of German Jewish translations as part of a larger cultural project. Looking at four distinct waves of translations, Abigail Gillman juxtaposes translations within each that sought to achieve similar goals through differing means. As she details the history of successive translations, we gain new insight into the opportunities and problems the Bible posed for different generations and gain a new perspective on modern German Jewish history. Professor Gillman teaches German and Hebrew language and literature and convenes the Hebrew Program in the Department of World Languages and Literatures.



[Michael Grodin](#), Professor of Health Law, Ethics & Human Rights, Health Law, Policy & Management in the School of Public Health and Professor of Psychiatry and Family Medicine at the Boston University School of Medicine, continued to direct the project on Medicine and the Holocaust at the Elie Wiesel Center. Last year he published five co-authored studies on topics as diverse as human trafficking, the 70th anniversary of the Nuremberg Doctor's Trial, Nazi Physicians as leaders in eugenics and "euthanasia," the history of transcervical sterilization, and ethical questions of medical treatment and organ procurement.

Congratulations to Professor [Nancy Harrowitz](#) (Romance Studies) on her promotion to Full Professor of Italian in the College of Arts and Sciences. Harrowitz's field is Italian and Jewish studies, with a focus on the history of racialism, the Holocaust, and the life and works of Primo Levi. Considered among the foremost experts in modern Italo-Jewish writing, Harrowitz has received numerous humanities grants to support her research and has published or coedited four books, most recently [Primo Levi and the Identity of a Survivor](#) (2016).

In September 2017, Founding Director of the EWCJS Professor [Steven T. Katz](#) delivered a lecture on “Elie Wiesel: His Work and His Legacy” at the Elie Wiesel International Commemoration in Sighet, Romania. While there, he also participated in the commemorative candlelit march from Wiesel’s childhood home to the train station from where he had been deported. The station has now been renamed in Elie Wiesel’s memory. Professor Katz also served as the University of Sydney’s 2017 Mandelbaum Scholar of International History and Jewish History.

Professor of Religion [Jonathan Klawans](#) continued his work in the area of pseudepigraphy studies with an essay on “The Pseudo-Jewishness of Pseudo-Phocylides” which was published in the *Journal of the Study of the Pseudepigrapha*. He also published an article on “Site-Seeing: Archaeological Remains in Holy Sepulchre’s Shadow” in *Biblical Archaeology Review* 43.1 (2017).

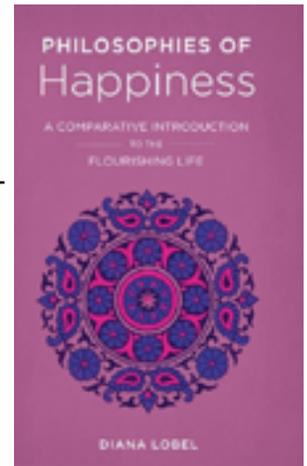
Associate Professor of History and Religion [Deeana Klepper](#) published an article on “Pastoral Literature in Local Context: Albert of Diessen’s Mirror of Priests on Christian-Jewish Coexistence” in the journal *Speculum*. She continued to serve as Provost Faculty Fellow for Undergraduate Affairs, a position she has held since 2015.

Professor [Pnina Lahav](#) received the 2018 Silver Shingle Award for Service to the School of Law. Professor of Law and Law Alumni Scholar Pnina Lahav has spent her career examining Israeli law in the context of history and culture. Her work is considered foundational in several fields, including women’s rights, freedom of expression, and judicial biography. In 2017, the Association for Israel Studies (AIS), in cooperation with the Israel Institute, have recognized that work by honoring Lahav with a Lifetime Achievement Award.



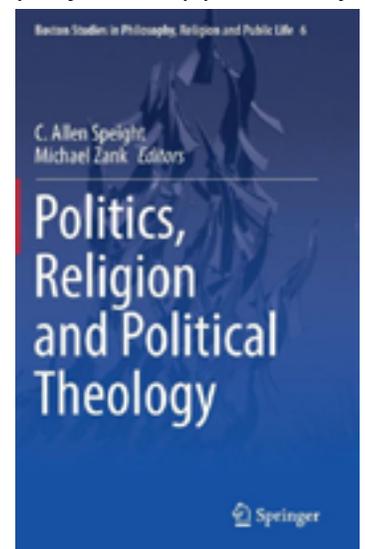
Professor Steven Katz remembers Professor Wiesel at the “In Memory of Elie Wiesel: A Day of Learning and Celebration” tribute event

In November 2017, Associate Professor of Religion [Diana Lobel](#) published her most recent book, [Philosophies of Happiness: A Comparative Introduction to the Flourishing Life](#), with Columbia University Press. The book provides a spectrum of arguments for a theory of happiness as flourishing or well-being, offering a global, cross-cultural, and interdisciplinary perspective on how to create a vital, fulfilling, and significant life. Professor Lobel continues to serve as teaching mentor for the doctoral students in the Graduate Division of Religious Studies.



Professor [Simon Rabinovitch](#) (History) published an article on “Jewish-Soviet-Ukrainian Relations during the Civil War and the Second Thoughts of a Minister for Jewish Affairs,” in *Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism*, in a special issue on nationality questions and the creation of the Soviet Union vol. 17, no. 3 (2017). An article on “The Quality of Being French v. the Quality of Being Jewish: Defining the Israelite in French Courts in Algeria and the Metropole” is forthcoming in *Law and History Review*, vol. 36, no. 4 (2018). He spent the 2017-18 academic year as a fellow in residence at the Northeastern University Humanities Center, supported by a Luce/ACLS Fellowship in Religion, Journalism and International Affairs, where he worked on a project on Jewish collective rights and religious liberty. A volume edited by Prof. Rabinovitch on [Defining Israel: The Jewish State, Democracy, and the Law](#) is forthcoming with Hebrew Union College Press.

EWCSJ Director and Professor of Religion and Jewish Studies [Michael Zank](#) co-edited a volume with Prof. Allen Speight (Philosophy) on [Politics, Religion and Political Theology](#), (Amsterdam: Springer Verlag, 2017), which includes an essay by Prof. Zank on “Torah v. Jewish Law. A Genre-Critical Approach to the Political Theology of Reappropriation.” A German version of that essay appeared in *Interjekte*, an e-journal. A book chapter on Jewish theology appeared in a German publication on “God Beyond Monism and Theism,” edited by Bernhard Nitsche, Klaus von Stosch, and Muna Tatari (Paderborn, 2017), and an article on “blasphemy” appeared in the second edition of *the German Lexicon for Evangelical Theology and Congregation* (LETG). In May 2018, Zank collaborated with Dr. Thomas Meyer (Universität München) on a Leo Strauss-papers publication project, supported by a grant from the Boston University Center for the Humanities.



Visiting Faculty in Israel Studies

This year for the first time, due to student demand, the Center supported two semesters of the much sought-after Israeli Palestinian Conflict course (HI 393). In the fall, we welcomed back longtime Visiting Professor [Nahum Karlinsky](#) (Ben-Gurion University). His course has become so popular that students petitioned successfully to have it taught during both semesters of the academic year. While Professor Karlinsky had to return to Israel in the spring to teach at BGU, he will join us again in Academic Year 2018-2019, both as an instructor for HI 393 and as the organizer of a conference on the Israeli Diaspora in Comparative Perspective.

The spring course was taught by [Walker Robins](#) (PhD, University of Oklahoma), a post-doctoral associate at the Schusterman Center for Israel Studies at Brandeis. Students were deeply impressed with Dr. Robins' ability to present complex and sensitive material in a compelling and nuanced manner.

A Warm Farewell to Dr. Alexandra Herzog

This June marked the end of [Alexandra Herzog's](#) 4-year postdoctoral position at the Elie Wiesel Center. During her time at the Center, Dr. Herzog has served as a valued colleague to faculty and staff and a mentor and teacher to our students. Each year of her appointment, Dr. Herzog taught courses for the CAS Core Curriculum (CC 101 and CC 201) and also taught courses in the Religion department, English department, and Women's and Gender Studies on topics such as "Sex in the Shtetl," "Religion and Gender in the Graphic Novel," and "Gender and Judaism." She also offered directed studies for both undergraduate and graduate students, and served as a primary advisor for a PhD student's comprehensive exams. We deeply appreciate her service to our students.

While at the Center, Dr. Herzog prepared her full-length manuscript for publication. She also prepared a number of articles and book chapters for submission, on topics from Isaac Bashevis Singer and immigration to gender and trauma in the graphic novel. She presented at several conferences, including the AJS annual meeting and a conference on Yiddish literature at Oxford University, and led discussions at the Boston Jewish Film Festival among other venues.

Dr. Herzog is also an accomplished photographer who [has been featured in the Boston Globe](#).

We are pleased to report that Dr. Herzog recently received and accepted the offer to serve as the director of the Harriet and Kenneth Kupferberg Holocaust Resource Center and Archives at Queensborough Community College.

We wish her the best of luck in all of her future endeavors!



Dr. Alexandra Herzog

The Postdoctoral Associate Program

This spring, the Elie Wiesel Center conducted a search for its next postdoctoral associate in Jewish Studies. The position is fairly unique at Boston University where few postdoctoral positions are offered in the Humanities. An international search yielded nearly fifty highly qualified applications from across a multitude of fields and approaches. After careful deliberations, the Jewish Studies faculty voted to offer the position of postdoctoral associate for the 2018-2019 academic year to **Alexandra Zirkle**, an exceptional scholar from the University of Chicago who works in the fields of modern Jewish thought, politics of modern exegesis, German-Jewish religious history and history of hermeneutics. Dr. Zirkle will spend the year preparing her manuscript for her forthcoming book, *Retrieving a Lost Disciple: Biblical Hermeneutics and the Formation of Modern German Jewry* for publication, and will also contribute to the scholarly life of the Center through research presentations and collaboration with faculty and students.

Dr. Zirkle will be joined by visiting scholar **Sultan Dughan** who is about to defend her PhD in Anthropology at UC Berkeley, where the late Saba Mahmood was one of her mentors. Sultan, a native of Germany of Turkish descent, spent the last three years doing fieldwork in Berlin, where she studied public and non-governmental initiatives that use Holocaust history as a tool in the civic education of Muslim migrants.



Alumni Spotlight: Rachel Kohl Finegold

Rachel Kohl Finegold graduated BU with her B.A. in Religion in 2003. After a few years of study and work in the Jewish community in New York and Chicago, she became a student of the inaugural class of Yeshivat Maharat, the first institution to grant rabbinic ordination to Orthodox Jewish women. Upon receiving her ordination in 2013, she then became the first Orthodox woman to be hired as synagogue clergy in Canada. Today, she serves as the Maharat (female member of clergy) of Congregation Shaar Hashomayim in Montreal, in the role of Director of Education and Spiritual Enrichment. She teaches classes, offers sermons, officiates at life cycle events, and coordinates all of the synagogue's educational efforts and youth programming.

During her time at BU, Rachel relished the chance to explore religious ideas with fellow students whose backgrounds were different from her own. As a traditional Jew, this was her first chance to study Christianity and Islam, as well as Eastern religions. She was deeply involved with the Women's Interfaith Action Group (WIAG), which was her first exposure to interfaith dialogue. During her classes at BU, Rachel also encountered diverse Jewish ideas, and developed a passion for religious pluralism. This followed her into her professional life, where she finds herself always looking to interact with diverse colleagues from both the Jewish tradition and other faith traditions. It was a special thrill for her to return to campus last year as a speaker for the Leo Trepp Memorial Lecture, to discuss her work and offer her perspective on the future of the Jewish community.

Maharat Finegold and Rabbi Jacobson at the 2017 Trepp Lecture



Student Support

The EWCJS supports undergraduate and graduate students with stipends and scholarships, as well as academic enhancement grants. This year, **Simone (Deni) Budman** a rising junior in the College of Communication received the Brooks Family Scholarship to recognize her achievement in earning the highest GPA as a Jewish Studies minor.

Danielle Asbel and **Jesslyn Katherine**, both graduating seniors in the College of Arts and Sciences, were also recipients of Brooks Family Scholarships, recognizing their excellent work in Jewish Studies during their time at BU.

Sophie Bartholomew, a rising senior in the College of Arts and Sciences, received a Henry J. and Carole Pinkney Research Scholarship to fund her research at the National Yiddish Book Center, which will allow her to complete a project on the aesthetics of Yiddish print culture.

Emma Berman, (COM '20) was awarded a David V. Karney Israel Travel Scholarship to support her summer travel to Israel for her internship with The Israel Movement for Reform and Progressive Judaism.

Frances Gould, (CAS '20) received both a Henry J. and Carole Pinkney Research Scholarship and a David V. Karney Israel Travel Scholarship to support her study at the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies during the next academic year.

Talya Laver, a rising sophomore in the College of Arts and Sciences, also received both a Henry J. and Carole Pinkney Research Scholarship and a David V. Karney Israel Travel Scholarship to support her study of Hebrew at Ulpan Bayit in Tel Aviv this summer.

We also recognized student achievements in the area of Holocaust and Genocide Studies. **Samantha Gagne** (CAS '19) received a Levine, Martin Family Scholarship for the highest GPA of a student minoring in HGS, and **Leigh Crossett** (CAS '18) and **Matthew Guenoun** (CAS '18), both graduating seniors, received awards from the Levine, Martin Family Scholarship in recognition of excellence in Holocaust and Genocide Studies.



Professor Zank presents Jesslyn Katherine with the Brooks Family Scholarship

Undergraduate Staff Social Action

Two of our long-time undergraduate student employees, Simone (Deni) Budman (COM '20) and **Blake Dickler** (QSB '18) have been heavily involved in action against gun violence as part of the Union for Reform Judaism. Blake was one of the main organizers of a pre-march rally at the March for Our Lives in Washington, DC this spring. Deni says the following about her role in the March and her work this summer with the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism:

I'm now on a committee of college students working with the Union for Reform Judaism which was formed as a response to the MFOL. There's maybe 10-15 of us and we have been working together to come up with new ways to engage college students in gun violence prevention work, starting with giving students the necessary tools to be activists in their own communities. It's still a work in progress and we're figuring out what our role is/will be in the future, but it's exciting stuff! Especially because in the world of Judaism, there's tons of youth engagement in high school, then there's congregational life, but not much for college students/young adults in between, so our goal has been to bring the Jewish values aspect of gun violence prevention activism back into people's lives.

We've also been working a lot with the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (where I'm interning this summer!) by supporting their Civic Engagement Campaign which hopes to get people registered to vote and engaged in political activism. My boss has been awesome about making sure I have a seat at the table in any advocacy areas I'm interested in, so I've been personally trying to do a lot with GVP work and planning our movement-wide communications initiatives surrounding the topic.



Blake Dickler (third from right) with members of the Union of Reform Judaism perform at the March for Our Lives in Washington, D.C. Photo taken by Deni Budman

Graduate Student Spotlight: [Elisheva \(Ellie\) Ash](#) (PhD Student, Graduate Program in Religion)

I am currently in the midst of preparing for my first comprehensive exam, for which I am reading all about the emergence of the modern Jewish religious movements in the 19th century and their development up to contemporary times, under the tutelage of Professor Michael Zank. I hope to do my dissertation research about the role of belief and ideology in the religious lives of participants in partnership minyans, which are an emergent feminist Orthodox style of congregation.

In addition to the financial support for summer study I received through the Elie Wiesel Center both last year and this year, I have benefited greatly from our wonderful Jewish Studies courses and from conversations with the affiliated faculty, including in particular Professors Steven Katz, Deeana Klepper, Jonathan Klawans, and Diana Lobel, in addition to Professor Zank. At EWCJS events I have consistently found warm interest and good advice from other faculty I work less closely with as well as from students and former students (including the fantastic Dr. Theresa Cooney, who serves as our program administrator). I look forward to continuing these relationships as I take my exams and begin the somewhat scary but exciting process of doing a dissertation.



2017-18 Graduates

The following students graduated with a PhD from the Division of Religious Studies, specializing in Jewish Studies.

Jennifer Lindsay. Thesis title: Pluralismo Vivo: Lived Religious Pluralism and Interfaith Dialogue in Rome. Major Professor: **Nancy Ammerman** (Sociology).

Chaim Elly Moseson. Thesis title: From the Spoken Word to the Discourse of the Academy: Reading the Sources for the Teachings of the Besht. Major Professor: Steven T. Katz (Religion)

Rabbi Benjamin Samuels. Thesis title: How Advances in Science Change Jewish Law and Ethics: Assisted Reproductive Technologies and the Redefinition of Parenthood. Major Professor: Michael Grodin (SPH/MED).

As of Fall 2018, students interested in the PhD in Jewish Studies can apply to the [Graduate Program in Religion](#), which has replaced the Graduate Division of Religious Studies.

Continuing PhD students specializing in Jewish Studies are Elisheva Ash, **Johnathan Kelly**, and **Monica Rey** (GDRS), and **Samantha Pickette** in the American and New England Studies Program.



Professor Zank with newly minted Drs. Elly Moseson and Jennifer Lindsay

Undergraduate Academic Program News

Updates to the Jewish Studies Minor

With the energetic leadership of newly-appointed associate director Ingrid Anderson, the Jewish Studies curricular committee updated the Jewish Studies minor. These updates make the language describing the minor compliant with the new BU “HUB” general education curriculum, they clarify the range of our curriculum offerings, and they allow students to count beginning Hebrew classes toward the minor. The next step will be to implement a dedicated numbering system for Jewish Studies courses. The curriculum committee also drafted an outline for a major in Jewish Studies that will be discussed over the course of the next year. For the updated CAS bulletin description of the Jewish Studies minor, see [here](#).

Name change: Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies

With the unanimous approval of area and CAS faculty, the Provost approved the renaming of our academic program in Holocaust and Genocide Studies, which is now called [Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies \(HGHR\)](#). Professor Nancy Harowitz (Romance Studies) and Professor [Simon Payaslian](#) (History) continue to co-direct the program. Prof. [Tim Longman](#) (Professor of Political Science and Director of CURA) developed a graduate certificate program in HGHR that is also now officially open to students. The name change signals a widening of the intellectual scope of the minor, which aims to enable students to develop proficiency in examining government-citizen relations, including the extent to which individuals, societies, and domestic and international NGOs can effectively advocate and advance human-rights related causes. Completion of the Minor in Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies helps students to prepare for graduate studies in history, political science, law, literature, and religion, as well as careers in social and governmental service.

In addition to taking the core courses of CAS RN 384 History of the Holocaust and CAS HI 384 History of Genocide, students minoring in HGHR will now also choose one of the following core courses in Human Rights: CAS IR 352 / CAS PO 378 International Human Rights: Applying Human Rights in Africa, CAS HI 346 / CAS IR 348 History of International Human Rights, and CAS HI 435 Histories of Human Rights. Students will have three remaining elective courses in Holocaust studies, Genocide studies and/or Human Rights studies.

The program offices of the HGHR minor will move to the first floor of the Elie Wiesel Center in Fall 2018, and we will celebrate the renaming with an opening reception prior to [the first Elie Wiesel Memorial Lecture](#) on October 15.

You can find out more about the Holocaust, Genocide and Human Rights Studies minor [here](#). For the graduate certificate program see [here](#).

Jewish Studies Course Highlights

With topics ranging from the Bible to bioethics, our courses attract a wide array of students interested in exploring the multifaceted world of Jewish history, religion, and culture.

This year, we added a new course on Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia, taught by Professors [Adam Seligman](#) and [Kecia Ali](#). The course examines the current upsurge in Islamophobia and anti-Semitism both in the US and abroad. Readings include texts in history, theology, current events, law, and the social sciences. For a video of Professors Ali and Seligman discussing their approaches to the course, and their reasons for tackling these issues in a classroom setting, see [here](#).

514 STUDENTS TAUGHT



Professor Zank offered a well-subscribed seminar on Maimonides and his modern readers, which enrolled students of diverse educational and personal backgrounds. Starting with the Aristotelian conception of the ethics of the mean conveyed in the youthful “Commentary on the Mishnah” of the Andalusian-born savant, the seminar made its way through the Guide of the Perplexed, and finally took note of modern Jewish responses to Maimonides, from Spinoza to Leo Strauss. The seminar, whose weekly three-hour sessions featured student presentations, close reading, and discussion, elicited enthusiastic feedback, with a course ranking of 4.6 and a faculty ranking of 4.8 out of 5. Student comments included the following:

Prof. Zank is extremely good at illuminating concepts during class; the readings for class were fantastic; (...) does a great job leading class discussion; stimulating course material, engages during class discussions, really pushes you to think; (...) very passionate about Maimonides and Jewish Philosophy. He is also very knowledgeable and super helpful during his office hours.

Advanced Studies and Academic Colloquia

BU Jewish Studies Faculty/Grad Student Research Forum

The BUJS Research Forum met twice this year. On December 17, 2017, Professor of Religion Jonathan Klawans presented on "Judaism as a civilization." Taking his cue from Mordecai Kaplan's famous book on the subject, Prof. Klawans suggested that there is merit in using Kaplan's approach to Jewish peoplehood in antiquity when studying Jews as a society as well as a religious group.

On January 29, 2018, Professor **Derek Penslar** (University of Toronto and Harvard) presented on a work in progress dealing with different Zionist responses to anti-Semitism from the perspective of affect theory. Primary cases for this examination were Theodor Herzl and Chaim Weizmann who attached different affective qualities to anti-Semitism while using the fact of anti-Semitism differently for their respective Zionist advocacy under very different historical circumstances. Professor Simon Rabinovitch offered a finely-honed response to Prof. Penslar's paper. Prof. Penslar, who is about to take a permanent position at Harvard University, returned to campus again later as a respondent for one of the workshop papers of the Modern Mediterranean Identities series, directed by Prof. Arkin (see page [24](#)).



Professor Klawans presenting his work at the BUJS forum

Modern Mediterranean Identities

The workshop series, now in its second year, explores the formation of minority identities in the Mediterranean region. It is part of a growing trend of studies of Mediterranean societies as a meaningful unity open to comparative ethnographic and social scientific investigations. We held two workshops in the fall, and one in the spring. The first gathering focused on the pasts and futures of Jews and Catholics in the region. Professors **Naomi Davidson** (University of Ottawa) and **Abigail Jacobson** (Hebrew University) spoke about 20th-century cases of Jewish minorities, specifically Algerian Jewish immigrants to France and Sephardi and Oriental Jews living in pre-1948 Palestine, respectively. Dr. **Mary Lewis** (Harvard) and Dr. **Michelle Campos** (University of Florida) offered responses to these presentations.

On November 17, 2017 Professor **Elayne Oliphant** (Anthropology/NYU) presented her work on Catholic futures in France, namely the “unacknowledged privileges” that Catholic culture receives despite France’s commitment to *laïcité* and secular politics. Cornell Professor of History **Camille Robcis** responded to Oliphant’s research by highlighting her study of marriage traditions in France, and how changing norms impact the “ambient” Catholicism of the country.

Spring 2018 featured a presentation by Professor **Jessica Marglin** (Ruth Ziegler Early Career Chair in Jewish Studies and Assistant Professor of Religion at USC), with Professor Penslar offering a response, on the “unofficial imperialism” of the 19th century. Westerners living in other countries could be considered immune to the laws of their residence, which happened often among Europeans living in West Africa and around the Mediterranean. Marglin’s work addresses how this practice shaped conceptions of nationalism, which ties to Penslar’s work on Jewish nationalism.

The Modern Mediterranean Identities workshop series has been supported by the Elie Wiesel Center’s Kaufthal Lecture Fund, as well as by a grant from the BU Center for the Humanities and the Jewish Cultural Endowment. For more information, see www.bu.edu/modern-med.



Professor Arkin introducing the first Modern Mediterranean Identities workshop of the Fall 2017 semester

Events

Public Lectures

In Memory of Elie Wiesel: A Day of Learning and Celebration

The academic year opened with an all-University event in honor of Elie Wiesel, organized by the Elie Wiesel Center with the help of the offices of All-University Functions, Presidential Functions, and the BU Alumni Association. The “Day of Learning and Celebration,” held September 17 as part of the 2017 BU Alumni Weekend, featured three distinguished morning panels, a VIP lunch with an exclusive presentation by artist/illustrator [Mark Podwal](#) on forty years of collaboration with Elie Wiesel, and a festive commemoration, featuring brief reminiscences of alumni, colleagues, friends, and family, as well as a variety of musical performances.

In the weeks leading up to the Day of Learning, we offered a sustained [“Retrospective”](#) on social media that featured quotes from Wiesel’s published work as well as exclusive tributes from some of his most eminent readers, including Massachusetts Senators Ed Markey and Elizabeth Warren, Ambassador Samantha Power, and President Barack Obama.

For more information, including images and edited videos of the September 17 event, see [here](#).



Professor Zank moderates the third panel of the September 17 event, “In Practice: Elie Wiesel’s Personal Impact.” The panel featured (right to left) Dr. Janet McCord (Marian University), Sonari Ginton (CAS ’96), LAW Professor Dr. Cornell Brooks, and Dr. Michael Berenbaum (American Jewish University)

The 2017 Leo Trepp Memorial Lecture

Held at the auditorium of the School of Education on October 19, 2017, this year's [Leo Trepp lecture and panel discussion](#) explored how rabbis can have a constructive impact on the lives of young people. **Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld**, Dean of the Rabbinical School and incoming President of Hebrew College, delivered the keynote speech. In her remarks, Rabbi Cohen Anisfeld spoke of the rabbi as a “doorway” to Jewish life, describing moments where authentic connections and solid relationships shaped her work as a rabbi. Following her speech, **Maharat Rachel Kohl Finegold** of Quebec’s Shaar Hashomayim (profiled on page 16), **Rabbi Suzie Jacobson** from Temple Israel in Boston, and **Rabbi Elie Lehmann** of BU Hillel, representing different streams of Jewish congregational life, joined her for a panel discussion on the role of the rabbinate. Each one of them gave eloquent and moving expression of their practice and experience, attesting to the vibrancy of contemporary Jewish communal life. They agreed on the necessity of relationships built on trust and openness to change as the condition for communities to thrive and meet the challenges of the 21st century.

[The Leo Trepp Memorial Lecture series](#) honors **Rabbi Leo Trepp** (1913-2010), a revered German-born American rabbi and philosopher who left Germany after brief internment following the November 1938 pogrom (“Kristallnacht”) and served as a rabbi in Massachusetts before settling in Northern California. The series is generously supported by his widow, Ms. **Gunda Trepp**.



The panel on the future of the rabbinate at the 2017 Leo Trepp Lecture. From left to right: Maharat Finegold, Rabbi Jacobson, Rabbi Lehmann, and keynote speaker Rabbi Cohen Anisfeld

The 2018 Yitzhak Rabin Memorial Lecture with the Honorable George J. Mitchell

Supported by Mr. [Jonathan Krivine](#) (CAS '72), [the Yitzhak Rabin Memorial Lecture series](#) brings significant speakers to campus with expertise in Israeli politics and Middle East affairs. This year, Former Senate Majority leader [George J. Mitchell](#) delivered the lecture about the pursuit of peace in the Middle East from the perspective of his long career in diplomacy and peacemaking. The lecture took place on March 17, 2018. The lecturer was introduced by Professor [Ann Cudd](#), Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Senator Mitchell's lecture on "[The US Role in the Middle East: Past and Future,](#)" which attracted more than three hundred students and members of the public to the BU Law Auditorium, was followed by Q&A, moderated by Professor [Adil Najam](#), Dean of the Pardee School for Global Studies. Mitchell, in addition to serving in Congress, oversaw the "Good Friday Agreement" that ended the violence in Northern Ireland in 1999, and he served as a special envoy to the Middle East under Presidents Clinton and Obama. Senator Mitchell came across as engaging and good-humored. His answers to audience questions displayed his consummate diplomatic skills that combined a clear position with respect for his interlocutors, even when he disagreed with them. Students lingered after the event ended and expressed their gratitude to the speaker for modeling how to conduct a civil and humane discourse on polarizing issues.

You can watch a full video of the event [here](#).



Senator Mitchell in conversation with Adil Najam

Arts and Culture

Israeli Authors at BU

Prize-winning Israeli novelist **Dorit Rabinyan** spent two days on campus, where she spoke to several classes and held an intimate conversation at the Elie Wiesel Center on her most recent book, *All the Rivers*, and the political backlash it caused in Israel. Her novel is a fictionalized version of her own relationship as an Israeli woman with a Palestinian man who meet in New York. The novel, which has been translated into many languages, gained particular notoriety when the Israeli Ministry of Education removed it from texts recommended for high school age students. Students in our Hebrew and Israel-studies courses appreciated the opportunity to speak to the author who proved an animated and probing interlocutor.



Dorit Rabinyan signing books following her lecture

Later in October, writer and filmmaker **Nir Baram** discussed his experience traveling across the West Bank and parts of East Jerusalem that fall outside the separation wall, where he interviewed Jewish settlers and Palestinian residents about their respective understanding of the political situation and their visions for the future. The discussion was preceded by a screening of *A Land Without Borders*, a documentary based on Baram's book of the same title, consisting of interviews and the personal reflections of the author. The screening attracted many students from the Film and Television studies program in COM for whom it satisfied a Cinematheque requirement.



Nir Baram

Spring 2018 Film Series

To open our [Spring 2018 Film Series](#), our director's office transformed into a screening room when Senior Lecturer [Miriam Angrist](#) (WLL) hosted a screening of the documentary *In Search of Israeli Cuisine* on February 12. The documentary profiles the diverse food cultures of Israel, ranging from trendy restaurants to home chefs to street food from a variety of traditions. The screening was co-sponsored by the BU Gastronomy Program, and featured a catered lunch by Bonapita.

On February 26, visual artist and filmmaker [Cynthia Madansky](#) screened her essay film *HARĀM*. The film's aural narration juxtaposes contemporary Jewish apocalyptic expectations and traditional Muslim attitudes toward the Noble Sanctuary/Temple Mount area on the visual backdrop of steady-shot scenes capturing the daily routines of Israeli-controlled access to the Islamic holy place. In the discussion, following the screening, the artist, a Guggenheim Fellow, discussed her use of older film technologies and the difficulties in making art about a politically charged subject.

Austrian composer and live accompanist [Gerhard Gruber](#) was the star of a co-curricular film screening at Kilachand Hall on April 11. The film *Moon of Israel* (1924), directed by Michael Curtiz, recounts a story of forbidden love between an Egyptian prince and an Israelite woman set at the time of the biblical Exodus. Notable, at the time, for its dramatic sets and costuming, the film competed with Cecil B. DeMille's original *Ten Commandments* (1923). Students were impressed by this unusual viewing experience and were surprised to learn that Gruber always improvises so as to keep the experience fresh and compelling.

In April, executive producer [Jonathan Bernstein](#) discussed *The Chosen*, an adaptation of Chaim Potok's novel, and *In Her Own Time*, a documentary recounting the work of anthropologist Dr. Barbara Myerhoff in the Orthodox communities of Los Angeles. Bernstein, executive producer of both films, discussed questions of film production and the films' portrayal of Orthodox Jewish life in an event arranged by his sister, Professor [Susan Bernstein](#) (English).

FILM SERIES

February 12 at 4 pm
ELIE WIESEL CENTER ROOM 404
In Search of Israeli Cuisine
This screening followed a luncheon with Miriam Angrist, Senior Lecturer, BU College of Arts and Sciences, Hebrew program.

February 26 at 4 pm
ELIE WIESEL CENTER ROOM 404
HARĀM
This screening and discussion will be moderated by Cynthia Madansky, visual artist and filmmaker.

April 9 at 7 pm
KILACHAND HALL ROOM 404
Moon of Israel (1923)
This screening will be accompanied by Gerhard Gruber, composer.

April 19 at 3:30 pm
ELIE WIESEL CENTER ROOM 404
The Chosen
This screening will be moderated by Jonathan Bernstein, executive producer.

April 24 at 3:30 pm
ELIE WIESEL CENTER ROOM 404
In Her Own Time
This screening will be moderated by Susan Bernstein, executive producer.

ELIE WIESEL CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES

BOSTON UNIVERSITY

El ECO and End of the Year Party

The academic year concluded with a reception for our graduating seniors, followed by a CD release concert by Boston-based Argentinian composer, drummer, and bandleader **Guillermo Nojehowicz** and his group **El ECO** who performed music from “Puerto de Buenos Aires, 1933,” a concept album that recounts the journey of Nojehowicz’s grandmother and father from Warsaw to Buenos Aires and commemorates those left behind who perished during World War II.

Center director Michael Zank joined graduating seniors and long-time student employees of the Elie Wiesel Center Blake Dickler and **Sophie Collender** *in song* before and after the awards ceremony and recognized student achievements in Jewish Studies and Holocaust and Genocide Studies. WLL faculty Abigail Gillman and Mira Angrist joined Israeli Consulate representative **Matan Zamir** in recognizing student achievements in Hebrew language and literature.

Professor of Spanish and Latin American Studies **Alicia Borinsky**, like Nojehowicz a native of Buenos Aires of eastern European descent, generously introduced EL ECO before they took the stage at 8pm and performed two sets to an enthusiastic, standing-room only crowd.



EL ECO and Guillermo Nojehowicz performing



Professor Zank performing Bashanah Hab'ah with Sophie and Blake at the End of the Year Party

“A Putative Life of Hannah Arendt” Symposium and Exhibition

In late May, our boardroom was transformed into an exhibition space and salon, with works by [Miriam Shenitzer](#) and [an opening symposium held on May 27](#). “A Putative Life of Hannah Arendt” remains on display at the Elie Wiesel Center until August 25. As part of the opening event, Shenitzer, a visual artist and artist-in-residence at the Boston Center for the Arts, joined Arendt-scholar [Thomas Meyer](#) (Munich), artist/philosopher [Jennifer Hall](#) (MassART), and [Joni Doherty](#) (Kettering Foundation) for a conversation on questions of biography and representation. The event attracted an audience of about sixty people.

Following the conversation, members of Palaver Strings performed a trio of works by Mozart and Beethoven at the EWCJS library. The event was generously supported by the Boston University Center for the Humanities, the Jewish Cultural Endowment, the College of Arts and Sciences Dean of the Humanities, and the Kettering Foundation.



Prof. Zank speaks with Miriam Shenitzer and Boston gallerist Andrew Witkin

Participants listen to speakers at the May 27 symposium



Collaborations and Co-Sponsorships

In 2017-18, the Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies once again collaborated with academic departments and units across the University, as well as with off-campus organizations, by providing funding and in-kind support.

We partnered with the BU Center for the Humanities in a screening and discussion of “Ex Libris: The New York Public Library,” with filmmaker **Frederick Wiseman**.

We partnered with the Boston University Provost’s Office, the Dean of Students’ Office, the Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, the Kilachand Honors College, the NEH Distinguished Teaching Professorship, the CAS Core Curriculum, and the BU Alumni Association to launch a new series of annual lectures in the Humanities that was inaugurated by a two-day residency of acclaimed author **Zadie Smith**.

We supported the Boston Playwrights’ Theatre US premiere of *The Rosenbergs (An Opera)* co-produced by Boston University and Brandeis University.

In addition, we funded travel expenses for two students accepted to the African American Studies Program for an alternative Spring Break in Havana/Cuba, during which students had the opportunity to meet with leading members of the *patrimonio* of the Jewish community in Havana.

We also partnered with the Boston Jewish Film Festival for a Coolidge Corner screening of *Etched in Glass*, a film by **Roger Lyons** that tells the story of long-time Boston resident **Steve Ross** who was the driving force behind the establishment of the Boston Holocaust memorial.

BOSTON UNIVERSITY'S CONVERSATIONS IN THE ARTS AND IDEAS



ZADIE SMITH

ON WRITING

with Christopher Lyden

MARCH 26 AT 7PM

THE PERFORMANCE CENTER
AND COMMONWEALTH HOUSE

The acclaimed writer **Zadie Smith** was born in South London in 1975 to an English father and a Jamaican mother (her first novel, *White Teeth* (2002), has been translated into over twenty languages). *On Beauty* was named one of the *San Best* Books of 2012 by *The New York Times*. She is a regular contributor to *The New Yorker* and *The New York Review of Books*. Her most recent novel is *Daisy Jones* (2015).

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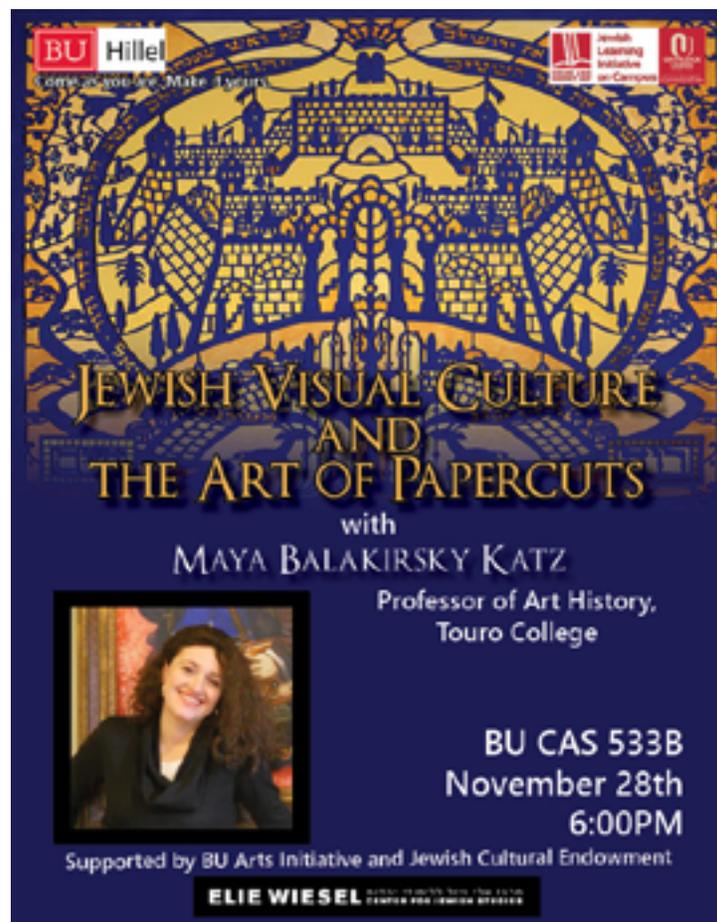
THIS EVENT IS SUPPORTED BY BOSTON UNIVERSITY'S OFFICE OF THE PROVOST, DEAN OF STUDENTS, AND WISEL CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES, COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES, KILACHAND HONORS COLLEGE, AND AN UNDESIGNATED FUND FOR RESEARCH, AND ALSO COLUMBIAN, AND BOSTON ASSOCIATION.

BOSTON
LIGHTS OFF

Jewish Cultural Endowment Funded Projects

The [Jewish Cultural Endowment](#) operates under the auspices of the Elie Wiesel Center and supports Jewish cultural programs across Boston University, sponsoring lectures, conferences, literary events, curricular enhancement, and artistic performances and exhibitions. Its mission is to foster an appreciation of Jewish culture in all its richness and diversity. In 2017-2018, the JCE financially supported the following projects:

- Jewish Graduate Students Challah Baking and Social
- Film screenings of *The Chosen* and *In Her Own Time* with Executive Producer Jonathan Bernstein
- Class visits by guest speakers [Alan Rosen](#) and [Eliana Jacobowitz](#)
- Hillel Public Art Project: The Jewish Paper Cut from the Shtetl to Steel
- Jewish Law Students Association Lecture with [David G. Dalin](#): Jewish Justices of the Supreme Court: from Brandeis to Kagan
- Jewish Food History of Boston symposium with BU Gastronomy Program
- Leaving Egypt Today: Personally Meaningful and Diverse Passover Seders at BU Hillel
- "A Putative Life of Hannah Arendt" Symposium and Exhibit
- Personally Meaningful and Diverse High Holidays organized by BU Hillel



Outreach And Media

The Elie Wiesel Center grew in its reach on social media in 2017-2018 with the focus on remembering Professor Wiesel. The social media retrospective of Elie Wiesel's work and impact reached 2,384 people on Facebook organically. For the first time, the Center also offered Facebook Live streams of our public events, which [remain archived on our page](#) and reached hundreds of viewers who could not attend events in person. The website for the Elie Wiesel Center also got a much-needed update in 2018.

Press

The Elie Wiesel Center received several mentions in the press regarding our tribute to Elie Wiesel, including [Judy Bolton-Fasman](#) for Jewish Boston, "[Remembering Elie Wiesel at Boston University](#)," [Lara Ehrlich](#) for Bostonia, "[A Call to Action from Distinguished Alumni Award Winners](#)," and the Associated Press, "[Boston University honors Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel](#)."

Several members of our faculty contributed to articles in the press. Prof. Ingrid Anderson spoke with [Caleigh Cross](#) of the Stowe Reporter in "Teaching the Holocaust: Educators learn about tragedy," discussing how educators can approach the subject of the Holocaust most effectively for young people. Professor Simon Rabinovitch spoke to Aeon about [religious reciprocity in a civil society](#), and how "tolerance" does not go far enough.



The audience welcomes the speakers at the "In Memory of Elie Wiesel: A Day of Learning and Celebration" morning panel

Acknowledgements

We thank our alumni and community members who supported us this year and helped us to sustain and expand the activities of the Center. We extend a special thank you to Mr. Jonathan Krivine and Mrs. Gunda Trepp for their ongoing friendship and support. We are grateful to the following friends of the Center for their generous donations in the past year:

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