

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE JEWISH STUDIES PROGRAM

FROM THE DIRECTOR



The Jewish Studies Program is pleased to share news of its programs and developments. In spring 2019, the Program co-sponsored a visit to campus and a photo exhibition by Argentinian photojournalist Silvina Frydlewsky. Her exhibition, entitled "Argentinian Jewry: Experience, Identity, History," was held at the Siegel Jewish Community Center in Wilmington. In April, we

hosted Dr. Inna Bakker, who spoke on Soviet Jewish history, and the Siege of Leningrad, which she survived as an infant. Also during the spring semester, we co-sponsored the annual Holocaust Remembrance Day event in May 2019 featuring Hasia Diner of NYU.

In Fall 2019, we hosted a three-part lecture series to commemorate the mass shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue, entitled "After Pittsburgh: Antisemitism in our World Today." Funded by a grant from the Academic Engagement Network, the lectures focused on antisemitism on the political left, the right, and in the Muslim world. In November 2019, we hosted Mr. András Riedlmayer of the Harvard Fine Arts Library. His lecture, "A European Islam in the Balkans: History, 'Ethnic Cleansing' and the Search for Justice," served as the inaugural Chaiken Lecture in Holocaust and Genocide Studies. This exciting talk generated interest and numerous co-sponsorships.

We are also proud to share the accomplishments of our Jewish Studies Minors. In May 2019 Allison Chelst graduated with a Triple Language Major and a Jewish Studies Minor. Based on her outstanding academic and community service record, she received the Klaff Memorial Award for Excellence in Jewish Studies. She is now working for the American Jewish Committee in Washington, DC. During summer 2019, senior Hunter Graves received an Undergraduate Research Fellowship, which he used to conduct archival work at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum. His study is entitled "Morality in the Midst of Genocide." Also during summer 2019, freshman Dalia Handelman worked with the Jewish Historical Society of Delaware to take oral histories of local residents. Jewish Studies professor Roger Horowitz served as her advisor.

— Polly Zavadvivker
Director, Jewish Studies Program

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: HUNTER GRAVES

Hunter Graves, a native of Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, began his undergraduate career in Manhattan, studying acting at the Juilliard School. After two years, he decided that a life in the theater wasn't all he'd dreamed it would be and transferred to the University of Delaware as a Philosophy major. While pursuing his BA in Philosophy, Hunter enrolled in JWST254: the Jewish Holocaust 1933-1945. From that moment on, Hunter has been an avid student of Jewish Studies. The tragedy of the Holocaust was not limited to the physical destruction of persons within the Jewish community, but also included the attempted destruction of a culture that spans millennia. In attempting to understand just what was lost under the Nazi Regime,

Hunter was drawn into the rich heritage and traditions of Judaism.

Although not Jewish himself, Hunter is constantly awed by Jewish culture; Judaism's emphasis on education and community is something that the rest of the world could certainly learn from. In 2017, Hunter travelled with his father and brother to Germany and Poland. The trip served two purposes: there Hunter saw the sites of destruction but he also saw how the community has rebuilt, preserved, and celebrated its identity. In Warsaw, having spent hours inside of the POLIN Museum of the History of the Polish Jews and then the Warsaw Uprising

Continued next page



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: HUNTER GRAVES

Museum, Hunter felt called to work towards preserving the history of Jews in the twentieth century. Returning to the University of Delaware, he became a History major with a Jewish Studies minor.

There was one major issue that Hunter kept running up against in his studies: antisemitism and its most violent display, the Holocaust, just didn't make any sense to him. Why did Germany – a place where so many Jews felt they had found a home that respected them and recognized their humanity in ways they had never

experienced – turn so violently against the community? This question led Hunter to pursue a research project titled *SS-Totenkopfverbände: Morality in the Midst of Genocide*. Having been named the Hellen Pattison Undergraduate Research Scholar for 2019, Hunter worked throughout the summer under Dr. Polly Zavadivker examining the motives of the Holocaust's perpetrators and what we can learn from their crimes. His project led him to Washington D.C. where he did archival research at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum's Archives, and he has

recently finished a paper on his findings which he hopes to have published.

Being a Jewish Studies minor has completely changed the direction Hunter hopes his career will take. He is currently applying to graduate school so that he may continue his study of the Holocaust and its effects on Judaism. Ultimately, Hunter wants to educate others about the beautiful culture that came so close to being lost, honor the memory of those who paid the greatest price for their heritage, and celebrate what Judaism has become in the 21st century.

ARGENTINIAN JEWRY: EXPERIENCE, IDENTITY, HISTORY

ARGENTINIAN PHOTOJOURNALIST

SILVINA FRYDLEWSKY. During the spring 2019 semester, the Jewish Studies Program co-sponsored a visit to campus and a photo exhibition by Argentinian photojournalist Silvina Frydlewsky. Her exhibition, entitled "Argentinian Jewry: Experience, Identity, History," was held at the ArtSpace at the Siegel Jewish Community Center in Wilmington. In addition to her exhibition, she gave numerous guest lectures on campus about her life and work in Argentina to students in Jewish Studies, Women and Gender Studies, and Latin American Studies classes. She also had a photography exhibit on campus in the atrium of UD's Tower on STAR campus, which was curated by Priscilla Smith, associate professor of art and design. Frydlewsky's visit, part of the International Artist in Residence program in the College of Arts and Sciences, enabled her to share her photography and unique perspective with students, as well as the larger community. Her visit was the result of a collaboration between the Frank & Yetta Chaiken Center for Jewish Studies, English Language Institute, Center for Global and Area Studies, College of Arts and Sciences, the Jewish Community Relations Committee of Delaware and ArtSpace at Siegel JCC.

Born in Buenos Aires in 1969, Silvina Frydlewsky is

the granddaughter of Jewish immigrants from Russia. She has worked since 1989 as a photojournalist in both Argentina and Spain. Her work has appeared in *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *El Pais*, among many other news outlets. Frydlewsky's work, which depicts scenes in her native Argentina, focuses broadly on the culture and people and, more narrowly, on the Jewish community there. Buenos Aires has a significant Jewish population, being one of the top ten largest Jewish urban centers in the world, and Frydlewsky captures this vibrant community in her work. Speaking on her sense of responsibility as related to her work, she said, "I put on my shoulders the need to communicate, to represent who we are and who were the Jews who came to Argentina many years ago." Outside of the city, she also documents life in the province of Entre Rios, home to a village founded by Eastern European Jewish immigrants in the 1890s. Her photography series entitled "The Last Jewish Gaucho," shows the life of the late Jaime Jruz, who worked the land there in the small community of Villa Dominguez City. This project began as a Washington Post feature story in 2013, but Frydlewsky returned on her own to continue documenting Jruz and the disappearing way of life of Jewish gauchos after being invited to exhibit her work at the University of Delaware. She returned to see Jruz during Yom Kippur in 2018, one of only three holidays when the local



temple is opened for worship, and captured images of their religious life. Jruz passed away shortly before the exhibit opened and Frydlewsky dedicated the exhibit to his memory in her opening remarks.

With an unrestrained interest in people, Frydlewsky's photography captures almost all corners of Argentine life, from art and music to politics, from everyday life in shantytowns to synagogues and religious life in her home country. She acts at once as an insider, as an Argentine Jew herself, and as an outsider, documenting the lives of those around her from behind the camera.



DR. VIVIAN Z. KLAFF MEMORIAL AWARD WINNER 2019



ALLY CHELST. When I started college, I never expected to become a Triple Language major. After studying abroad in Rome as a UD World Scholar, I learned that I had a knack and passion for foreign language that I wanted to pursue. I decided to take coursework in both Spanish and Italian upon returning to the US, and I then realized that I wanted to add a third language. I chose Hebrew because I wanted to have more opportunities to connect with my heritage, but I never really knew how transformative my Hebrew language experience would be in both my personal and academic life. My coursework in Hebrew at UD eventually inspired me to study abroad at Tel Aviv University, and I enjoyed my experience

there so much that I interned in Jerusalem the following summer. My knowledge of Hebrew and travels to Israel has helped me grow in so many ways, and I am so thankful that I can use these skills in my new position at the American Jewish Committee (AJC) in Washington, DC. I am so thankful for all that the Jewish Studies Program and the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures has done for me, and I look forward to my future with the skills I acquired at UD.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: DAVID WINKLER

DAVID WINKLER joined the University of Delaware following the completion of his PhD in Italian at Indiana University. He is an Assistant Professor of Italian with the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures. His broad knowledge base has allowed him to teach a variety of courses including Italian, Jewish Studies, and English classes. This is his second year instructing the annual Jewish Studies Spring Lecture Series, and he is an active member on the Jewish Studies Executive Committee. Below, David discusses his academic interests and the upcoming JWST201: Issues and Ideas in Jewish Studies lecture series course.

I completed my PhD in Italian at Indiana University in 2016 with a dissertation on the Italian language survivor-writers Primo Levi, Edith Bruck, and Giuliana Tedeschi. Broadly speaking, my research examines the shape, trajectory, ethics, and aesthetics of Holocaust memory in the Italian context. Departing from the Halbwachsian notion that all historical narration is a selective operation performed in accordance with the needs of the present, I examine the ways in which the Holocaust has been storied to affirm the existential and political fixations of the various socio-cultural milieus in which it has been treated. Other scholarly interests of mine include Mediterranean Studies, Italo-Judaic literature, and Italian cinema.

My background in Italian Studies, Jewish Studies and Memory Studies has enabled me to offer a number of interdisciplinary courses across various departments within the University, including the titles *Old Myths and New Discourses: Representations of the Holocaust in World Cinema*, and *I Am Not an Anti-Dentite!: Jewish Humor from the Shtetl to Seinfeld and Beyond*.

I am particularly excited about the upcoming Jewish Studies Spring Lecture Series I will be co-teaching with the world-renowned musician Xiang Gao. This course, entitled *Shalom Shanghai*, focuses on the remarkable and little-known history of the Jewish refugees who fled Western Europe in the late 1930s and settled in the only city in the world that didn't require a visa: Shanghai, China. The course, which can be taken as a one-credit elective by any UD student, as well as being open to the public, is being offered in celebration of the Spring debut of Xiang Gao's eponymous musical. The musical will have its world premiere performances on the UD campus on February 15th and 16th. The course



focuses not only on the cultural history of the Shanghai Jews, but also the way that history is utilized to create a successful musical.

It has always been my great pleasure to collaborate with the wonderful Jewish Studies Program at the University of Delaware. I look forward to seeing what the future has in store!

For more information on the *Shalom Shanghai* performance and to purchase tickets, please visit the University of Delaware Master Players Concert Series website (www.masterplayers.udel.edu)

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS: THE FORTUNOFF VIDEO ARCHIVE FOR HOLOCAUST TESTIMONIES

UD'S NEW ACCESS PARTNERSHIP.

Through a partnership with the Fortunoff Video Archive at Yale, the University of Delaware is now an access site providing UD researchers with the opportunity to explore the entire archive of Holocaust testimonies. Associate Librarian Derek Dolby, liaison for Jewish Studies, has updated the [Library resource guide for Jewish Studies](#) to provide new information about access to Holocaust Testimonies.

Beginning in 1989, the Halina Wind Preston Holocaust Education Committee (HEC) of the Jewish Federation of Delaware conducted a testimonies project that was affiliated with the Fortunoff Video Archive. The Delaware group was one of 36 projects that took place across three continents between 1982 and 2008. These international affiliates received training and support from the Fortunoff Archive, which served as a central repository for these historical testimonies.

The Halina Wind Preston Holocaust Testimonies Project recorded 24 interviews of Delawareans who were survivors, Righteous Gentiles, rescued children, and liberators, and donated masters of these interviews to the Fortunoff Archive at Yale and copy collections to the University of Delaware Library. The HEC team added more interviews to UD's Library collection and current HEC chair Steve Gonzer produced a five-part documentary, *No Denying*, drawn from the original interviews plus additional interviews. *No Denying* was distributed throughout schools and libraries in Delaware to support Holocaust education.

Until now, all of the Delaware interviews were limited to use in Special Collections or in classrooms through loan of DVDs through the Library. Because the Library is a new access site in partnership with Yale, all University faculty, students and anyone using the entire campus IP range may access the full Fortunoff Video Archive of more than 4,000 worldwide interviews. This includes anyone connecting to UD's authorized network via VPN (Virtual Private Network). Non-University members may access the collection if they are using a public computer in Morris Library.



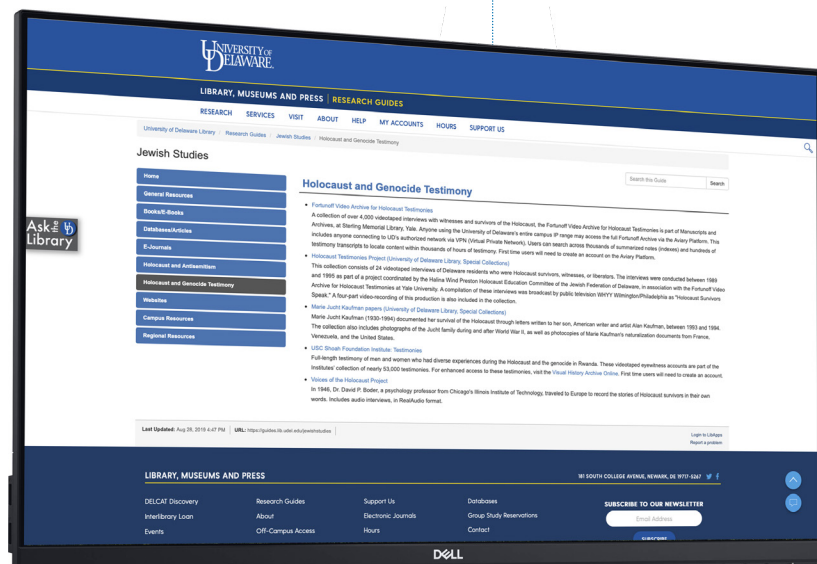
Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies
fortunoff.library.yale.edu/archive/overview

Researchers are granted secure access to the Fortunoff Video Archive through Yale's Avary Platform, which is linked from the [Library resource guide for Jewish Studies](#).

Researchers will need to register on Avary and receive a confirmation email before having access to the video testimonies, but the entire process is quick and easy. The Avary Platform is fully searchable. Researchers may seek common subjects such as place names for ghettos, concentration camps, or camps for

refugees and displaced persons; geographic headings; topical headings such as "child survivors"; or free keywords in text.

This enhanced access is the fruition of the long-term relationship between Special Collections in Morris Library and the Halina Wind Preston Holocaust Education Committee, both of which are dedicated to preserving and providing access to these historical testimonies for research and education.



www.udel.edu/006847

SPRING 2020 COURSES

Hebrew Language

JWST/HEBR105: Hebrew I - Elementary Hebrew

MW 1:25pm – 2:15pm
T/Th 2:00pm – 2:50pm
Instructor: Eynat Gutman,
eynat@udel.edu

Introduction to the Hebrew alphabet and language, and development of basic speaking, listening, reading and writing skills.

JWST/HEBR106: Hebrew II - Elementary/Intermediate Hebrew

MW 2:30pm – 3:20pm,
T/Th 3:30pm – 4:20pm
Instructor: Eynat Gutman,
eynat@udel.edu

Continuation of Elementary Hebrew. Increasing mastery of the basic skills of speaking, listening, reading, and writing through texts, conversations and songs.

Literature & Culture

JWST201/MUSC267: Issues & Ideas in Jewish Studies: Shalom Shanghai

W 12:20pm – 1:10pm
Instructor: David Winkler,
dwinkler@udel.edu
Instructor: Xiang Gao,
xiangg@udel.edu

This lecture series will explore the remarkable story of 450 professional Jewish musicians from Austria and Germany who fled to Shanghai, China in the late 1930's and the new musical inspired by their stories, The Shanghai Sonatas. In-class lectures will include world-class musicians, historians, playwrights, museum curators, and literary scholars.

JWST/ENGL202: Biblical & Classical Literature

MWF 12:20pm – 1:10pm
Instructor: Miranda Wilson,
wilsonm@udel.edu

Study of Greek, Roman, and Biblical literatures, set in their mythical, historical and cultural contexts, introducing appropriate critical concepts.

JWST/ENGL212: Jews & American Pop Culture

T/Th 9:30am – 10:45pm
Instructor: Leslie Reidel,
lreidel@udel.edu

As the Jewish population of America grew rapidly during the early decades of the 20th century, Jews brought with them a rich and diverse tapestry of dramatic and theatrical modes. This course will examine the development of this extraordinary creative and commercial phenomenon.

LLCU/JWST335: A Land of Many Faces: Israel Through Time

T/Th 11:00am – 12:15pm
Instructor: Eynat Gutman,
eynat@udel.edu

In this course, we consider questions such as: did the Israeli kibbutz (communal living) survive the test of time? How do Arab citizens of a Jewish state perceive themselves vis a vis their Jewish counterparts? And what were the customs of Jews living in Arab countries a century ago? What changes did they undergo upon moving to Israel? Through analysis of leading Israeli authors' literary works, we explore these major themes, as they pertain to Israeli society's complex structure, from the foundation of the state until today. Taught in English.
Fulfills History and Cultural Change Requirement and University Multicultural Requirement. Section 011 fulfills Second Writing Requirement

JWST/ENGL349: Interpreting Jewish Tradition: Ancient Scrolls to Netflix

T/Th 11:00am – 12:15pm
Instructor: Nick Renner,
nrenner@udel.edu

Jewish tradition has a long history of interpretation - understanding ancient Biblical sources by making meaning of them in different eras. We'll be looking at the way in which this interpretive tradition makes claims on our own lives and stories today, on the ways in which religion evolves, and how all of this is woven through text.

Fulfills History and Cultural Change Requirement

History & Politics

JWST/HIST146: Introduction to Jewish Culture & History

MW 5:00pm – 6:15pm
Instructor: Roger Horowitz
rh@udel.edu

This course will explore Jewish persistence over thousands of years as a durable minority interacting with the far larger cultures and societies that surrounded them. Class sessions will focus on major periods of Jewish civilizations in the Middle East, Europe, and North Africa from ancient times to the 20th century. **Fulfills Jewish Studies Minor 100 Level Requirement. *Fulfills History and Cultural Change Requirement and University Multicultural Requirement**

JWST/HIST254: Jewish Holocaust 1933-1945

MWF 11:15am – 12:05pm
Instructor: Polly Zavadvivker,
pollyz@udel.edu
Instructor: Devon Miller-Duggan,
dmd@udel.edu

In this team taught course we will study the Holocaust from the overlapping

perspectives of literature and history. We will explore the history of Eastern and Western European Jewish communities, the origins and development of antisemitism, the rise of the Nazi Party in Germany, establishment of labor and extermination camps, Jewish resistance movements, and the Holocaust as a problem for world history. Our sources will include memoirs, historical documents, poetry, documentary footage and films. Lectures on the historical and literary topics will alternate with the showing of films, guest speakers, and group discussions.

Fulfills History and Cultural Change Requirement and University Multicultural Requirement

JWST/HIST327: Topics in Jewish History: Imagining Modernity: Key Jewish Thinkers And Artists in Modern Europe

MWF 2:30pm – 3:20pm
Instructor: Polly Zavadvivker,
pollyz@udel.edu

Modern European cultural and intellectual history would be immeasurably impoverished without the extraordinary contributions of Jewish writers, artists, scientists, scholars and critics. How do we explain this rich legacy of creativity and achievement, especially if we consider the persistence of hostility that Jews faced throughout Europe? This course will investigate varieties of that creativity and their specific historical contexts: salons, ghettos, shtetls, cities, cafés (or, in the case of Isaac Bashevis Singer, cafeterias), universities, artists' studios, and scientists' laboratories. We will consider how certain aspects of traditional Jewish culture enabled Jewish intellectuals to become pacemakers of modernity (and of modernism). And we'll examine a variety of responses by Jewish intellectuals to the crises and catastrophes of modern Jewish and European history. Our subjects will include Benedict Spinoza, Walter Benjamin, Franz Kafka, Hannah Arendt, Primo Levi and others.

Fulfills History and Cultural Change Requirement and University Multicultural Requirement

JWST/HIST482: America in the Middle East

MW 3:35pm – 4:50pm
Instructor: Daniel Green,
dgreen@udel.edu

Examines history of America's engagement with an emphasis on issues since 1979. After brief intro portion on the mechanics of American foreign policy-making and America's global political and strategic position over time, we will spend most of the semester on America's involvement in regional oil politics, Middle East peace process, first and second Iraq Wars, relations with Iran, plans for Middle East democratization and the Bush II administration.

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THE JEWISH STUDIES
PROGRAM AT UD
WINTER 2020

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FACULTY NEWS

POLLY ZAVADIVKER (History) continues to write a monograph on the history of Jews in First World War Russia, entitled *Experiments in Catastrophe*. Part of that project appeared as an article, entitled “Contending with Horror: Jewish Aid Work in the Russian Civil War Pogroms,” in *The Pogroms of the Russian Civil War at 100: New Trends, New Sources*, eds. Elissa Bemporad, Thomas Chopard, in *Quest. Issues in Contemporary Jewish History*. *Journal of Fondazione CDEC*, no. 15, August 2019. She composed the wall texts for a photography exhibit in February 2019 by UD’s visiting global artist in residence, Silvina Frydlewsky. The exhibit, “Argentinian Jewry: Identity, Experience, History,” was hosted at ArtSpace in the Siegel Jewish Community Center in Wilmington, February 8–15, 2019. Her conference participation included a presentation at the symposium “Legacies of Violence: The Pogroms of the Russian Civil War at 100,” held at the Center for Jewish History, New York, May 19–20, 2019. She was also invited to present her research on Soviet Jewish writer Vasilii Grossman at the international conference “The Holocaust as Reflected in Public Discourse in the Soviet Union during the Stalinist Period, 1941–1953,” held at Yad Vashem, Jerusalem, December 2–3, 2019. And together with Brian Horowitz of Tulane University, she organized a day-long symposium for scholars of Russian and East European Jewish Studies, held at the University of Pennsylvania, October 11, 2019.

SARAH WASSERMAN (English) was a regional faculty fellow at the University of Pennsylvania’s Mellon-funded Wolf Humanities Seminar for the 2018–2019 academic year. For the journal *Post45*, she edited a cluster of essays on “How We Write (Well),” in which her own essay “How We Write Funny” appears. Another recent *Post45* cluster on literary studies and the participatory internet includes her essay “Multiplayer Lit/Multiplayer Crit.” With Kinohi Nishikawa, she wrote about Jordan Peele’s movie *Us* for the *Los Angeles Review of Books*. She continues to curate the Stanford Arcade Colloquy website on Thing Theory in Literary Studies. Recent talks include “How I learned to stop worrying and love Academia Twitter,” at Hamburg University, “All the Things” at the 2019 MLA Conference on a panel she organized on “Method Wars?,” “Ralph Ellison, Chester Himes, and the Persistence of Forms” at Princeton University, “Writing Funny” at the ASAP Conference in 2018, and remarks on the closing roundtable at “Stuff: Anxieties and Aspirations of the Material World,” hosted at UPenn in February 2019.

YDA SCHREUDER (Professor Emerita, Geography) has embarked on her next project focusing on the early seventeenth century tobacco trade in the Caribbean region, and the role that Amsterdam Portuguese Jewish merchants played. This new project follows the publication of her book *Amsterdam’s Sephardic Merchants and the Atlantic Sugar Trade in the Seventeenth Century* (2019). She has just completed an initial search in the Engel Sluiter Historical Documents Collection at UC Berkeley (Bancroft Library) and hopes to return to do a more thorough exploration of the documents.