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Director’s Welcome

I trust that you will find our current report on the activities of the Center for Christian-Jewish Learning to be informative and encouraging. Thanks to the resources that have been made available to us, the Center has continued to make important contributions to the ongoing project of promoting understanding and friendship between Christians and Jews. Boston College has extraordinary strengths for serving this goal. As you see, we offer a wide range of courses in which our students have the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of both Jewish and Christian traditions. One of the greatest consolations in working with young people at the College, both undergraduate and graduate students, is imagining the interfaith future that they will help to shape. The promise that this development of learning represents is historically unprecedented and I believe that we have much to look forward to as this education influences the future.

In looking back on the last two years we have much to be grateful for as our report indicates: courses, lectures, conferences, and dialogues of all sorts. Professor Theodore Perry has occupied the Corcoran Visiting Professorship with great distinction for the last two years and so has followed in the generous tradition of its first two occupants, Raymond Cohen and Daniel Lasker. During his tenure Professor Perry has been tireless in his teaching, his collaboration with the faculty and in his direction of two outstanding conferences. We wish him all the best as he leaves Chestnut Hill. I am very confident that our incoming 2013-2014 Corcoran Visiting Professor, Professor Marc Epstein of Vassar College, will make comparable contributions.

As some of you know, I have been particularly concerned to enhance the bonds of friendship between Jews and Jesuits. One of my dreams for that was realized last summer with the Center’s sponsorship of the Conference “The Tragic Couple: Encounters Between Jews and Jesuits.” With participants in attendance from around the globe, the Conference was an outstanding success and showed how complex the interactions have been between Jesuits and Jews over the centuries. Their encounters do not reduce to one tale of tragedy as will be evident with the publication of a selection of papers from the meeting that Brill will bring out in the Fall of 2013.

We were very surprised by the election to the Papacy on March 13, 2013 of the first Jesuit to be selected, the Argentinian Cardinal Archbishop of Buenos Aires, Jorge Mario Bergoglio. There is a deep Jesuit commitment to the avoidance of ecclesiastical offices and the choice of a Jesuit Pope shattered that tradition just as his nationality departed from the European identity of the Papacy. His election signaled a new direction for the Church, and may also indicate a fresh opportunity for relations between Jews and Catholics in general, and Jews and Jesuits in particular. We know that when he was archbishop, Pope Francis enjoyed a warm relationship with the Jewish community in Argentina and Jewish and Israeli commentators applauded his election. He had attended synagogue services and made public protest against crimes that targeted the Jewish population. He has spoken of Nazi activities as diabolical and satanic and he looks forward to the opening of the Vatican archives from the years of the Holocaust.
Pope Francis has stated that he chose to become a Jesuit because he wanted to be on the “front lines of the Church” and that is certainly now the case for him, in a way that he could not have imagined. While his election shows a departure for the Church, his interviews give hope that he will carry into his papacy helpful elements from Jesuit spirituality. A decisive element is a confidence in the capacity for transformation. St. Ignatius, the founder of the Jesuits, regarded himself as a pilgrim on a sacred journey that was not captive to the particular forms that Christianity had taken on in previous stages along the way. One of the Saint’s closest companions, Jerónimo Nadal, had said of the Jesuits: “The road is our home.” Pope Francis obviously shares this perspective when he says: “What a great word: path! In my personal experience with God I cannot do without the path. I would say that one encounters God walking, moving, seeking Him and allowing oneself to be sought by Him....The initial religious experience is that of walking: walk to the land that I am going to give you. It is a promise that God makes to Abraham.” Jesuits do not inhabit monasteries because they are activists who are called to live in the world as it is and ours is a post-Holocaust world and Pope Francis recognizes this in his reflections. Particularly striking for me was a response he made to a question about his artistic interests. He said that his favorite painting was none other than Marc Chagall’s 1938 White Crucifixion. Chagall painted it as a response to Nazi assaults on the Jews and their synagogues. Jesus is portrayed as a martyr but it is very much a Jewish Jesus, draped as he is in a tallith, or prayer shawl. At the top of the canvas are Biblical figures who are weeping at the sight of scenes of Jewish persecution below, with a Torah scroll and a synagogue burning, and people fleeing in fright. Chagall saw the painting as both an embodiment of love and a witness to the suffering of his people. And that is how Bergoglio understood it. Already Pope Francis has announced his intention to visit Israel in 2014 and we will certainly look forward to that encounter.

I hope that you will enjoy reading our Bulletin and I trust that you will feel free to contact me with reactions. We at the Center want to thank you for your support and I am personally especially grateful to our two Associate Directors, Professor Ruth Langer and Dr. Camille Fitzpatrick Markey who do so much for the work of interfaith understanding.

James Bernauer, S.J.
Kraft Family Professor
Director, Center for Christian-Jewish Learning
2011-2013 Corcoran Visiting Chair: Theodore A. Perry

Prof. Theodore A. Perry, Professor Emeritus at the University of Connecticut, was the Corcoran Visiting Chair in Christian-Jewish Relations during the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 academic years. Prof. Perry has published and taught prolifically in the areas of comparative literature, the Hebrew Bible as literature, medieval Sephardic (Spanish Jewish) and Spanish literature, religious studies, paremiology, and 16th-century French literature. His most recent books include *God's Twilight Zone: Wisdom in the Hebrew Bible* (2008) and *The Honeymoon is Over: Jonah's Arguments with God* (2006). He was formerly Professor of Comparative Literature at Ben Gurion University of the Negev in Israel, Cardin Chair in Jewish Studies at Loyola College in Maryland, Visiting Fulbright Professor at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and Professor of Modern and Classical Languages at the University of Connecticut. Prof. Perry studied at Yale University (Ph.D., Romance Philology; M.A., French Literature), the Université de Bordeaux, France (Fulbright Fellow in French Literature and Philosophy), and Bowdoin College (B.A. summa cum laude, French).

During Prof. Perry’s tenure at Boston College, his research focused on literary and philosophical exegesis of the Book of Qohelet (Ecclesiastes) based in part on interpretative principles elaborated by philosopher Emmanuel Levinas. In addition to his research activities, Prof. Perry’s contributions included teaching graduate level courses, organizing a Spring 2012 and Spring 2013 conferences, and offering public lectures.

2013-2014 Corcoran Visiting Chair: Marc Michael Epstein

Boston College and the Center for Christian-Jewish Learning are pleased to announce the appointment of Marc Michael Epstein to the 2013-2014 Corcoran Visiting Chair in Christian-Jewish Relations. Prof. Epstein is Professor of Religion at Vassar College, where he has been teaching for over two decades. A graduate of Oberlin College, he received his M.A., M.Phil., and Ph.D. at Yale University, and did much of his graduate research at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

He has written on various topics in visual and material culture produced by, for, and about Jews. His most recent book, *The Medieval Haggadah: Art, Narrative, and Religious Imagination* (Yale, 2011) was selected by the *London Times Literary Supplement* as one of the Best Books of the Year.
During the 80s, Prof. Epstein was Director of the Hebrew Books and Manuscripts division of Sotheby's Judaica department, and continues to serve as consultant to various libraries, auction houses, museums and private collectors throughout the world, among them the Herbert C. and Eileen Bernard Museum at Temple Emanu-El in New York City, for which he curated the inaugural exhibition.

During Prof. Epstein’s tenure at Boston College, he will complete his book *Extremities: Mapping the Margins of Jewish Visual Culture*. In addition to his research and writing activities, he will teach a course on *Religion, Art and Politics*, organize a conference titled *Collisions and Collusions in Christian and Jewish Visual Culture*, and offer public lectures.

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**Center Courses**

**Medieval Religions & Thought**

The medieval world of philosophy and theology was a multicultural world: Arabian, Jewish, and Christian thinkers from the three great religious traditions adopted, adapted, and shared the philosophical riches of the classical world and the religious resources of the biblical heritage. This course introduces students to the great Arabian thinkers: Alfarabi, Avicenna, Algazel, and Averroes, the respected Jewish authors: Saadiah Gaon, Moses Maimonides, and Gersonides, and the famous Christian writers: Anselm, Bonaventure, and Thomas Aquinas, and the intellectual challenges from the Greek intellectual world that they met and faced in the Middle Ages. (Stephen F. Brown)

**Religious Quest: Judaism and Christianity**

This two-semester undergraduate theology core course explores Judaism and Christianity through their points of apparent contact as well as their differences. The fall semester focuses on Exodus and Matthew and their functions as the “master stories” of their communities, shaping self-understandings and ritual lives. The spring semester delves into the creation narratives of Genesis, studying the two communities' interpretations of the biblical text and how it and its interpretations shape people’s lives. It considers such topics as birth and death, marriage and reproductive ethics, ecology, economic justice, and the Sabbath. (Ruth Langer, Rifat Sonsino)

**Exploring the Theology of Abraham Joshua Heschel**

A refugee from the Nazis, Abraham Joshua Heschel became one of the most beloved and influential Jewish theologians of his day. He advised the bishops in formulating their new teachings about Jews and Judaism at the Second Vatican Council, he marched with Martin Luther King in Selma, he protested the Vietnam War, and he dialogued with other leading Christian theologians. This course is an exercise in comparative theology, engaging key elements of Heschel’s writings and the Judaism expressed in them in order to investigate their potential for contributing to the self-understanding of Christians and practitioners of other religions. (Ruth Langer)

**Israelis & Palestinians: Two Peoples, Three Faiths**

In 1993 the parties in the Middle Eastern Conflict came to a watershed agreement, which had eluded them earlier, to recognize one another's legitimacy as peoples. The agreement has been difficult to maintain and to withdraw and has figured massively into the turbulent events in the
region since that time. This course examines how, in the whole history of the conflict, the elements of ethnicity and faith have contributed to the hatreds and resentments of these peoples and the extent to which mutual acceptance and respect at these levels of faith and ethnicity can contribute to healing the conflict. (Raymond Helmick, S.J.)

**Jewish Liturgy: History and Theology**
Embedded in rabbinic prayer is a concise statement of Jewish theology. After an examination of the precursors of rabbinic prayer and of the development of the synagogue as an institution, this course examines the structures and ideas of the prayers themselves as they have been received from the medieval world. This creates a context for a deeper discussion of some key Jewish theological concepts as well as a comparison of Jewish and Christian liturgical traditions. (Ruth Langer)

**Introduction to Judaism**
In this elective, we study the historical development, the belief system, the main practices, as well as the major points of contacts of Judaism with Christianity and Islam throughout the centuries. (Rifat Sonsino)

**Jews and Christians: Understanding the Other**
Interreligious dialogue requires interreligious understanding. This course builds a foundation for genuine dialogue between Jews and Christians by posing fundamental theological questions in a comparative context. Students gain an understanding of the other tradition while also deepening their understanding of their own, discussing such matters as the human experience with God, the purpose of human existence, the nature of religious community, and the ways that the communities respond to challenges, both contemporary and ancient. (Ruth Langer and James Bernauer, S.J.)

**Hitler, the Churches, and the Holocaust**
This course examines the antisemitism and nationalism that weakened the churches' response to Hitler's policies. It analyzes the theological and institutional resistance that emerged in response to totalitarianism and to the Holocaust and consider the post-Holocaust paradigm shift in theology. (Donald J. Dietrich)

**From Diatribe to Dialogue: Studies in the Jewish-Christian Encounter**
Christians and Jews, living together, have never ignored one another. Only in our times have these encounters begun to include positive affirmations of the other. To provide the student with a background for the contemporary situation, this course explores various theological facets of the Jewish-Christian encounter, from the diatribes of earliest Christianity through the medieval disputations, concluding with the contemporary dialogue. Readings are drawn from Jewish and Christian primary sources in translation. (Ruth Langer and Charles Gallagher, S.J.)

**Passover in Midrash and Talmud**
Fundamental to any understanding of Judaism is an ability to enter into its formative literature, Midrash and Talmud, the primary texts of Jewish learning. Focusing on texts (in translation) relevant to the celebration of Passover, this course introduces students to the rabbinic approach to Scripture and their means of making it relevant in their (and our) world. This understanding is heightened by comparisons to early Christian modes of discourse on the same themes. (Ruth Langer)
Jewish & Christian Approaches to Bible
Although Jews and Christians share many scriptural texts (the Christian “Old Testament,” the Jewish Tanakh), they often understand them differently. This course explores the ways that Jews and Christians have interpreted key texts, separately and together, over two millennia of learning from and disputing with each other. Students themselves engage in interreligious learning while learning about ancient Israel’s scriptures and studying methods of biblical interpretation from late antiquity to today. (Ruth Langer and David Vanderhooft)

Finding God: Aspects of Jewish Theology
Beyond the dogmatic requirement of divine unity, Jewish theology has allowed great freedom to those seeking to find and understand God. This introductory course surveys various theological viewpoints about God from the biblical period to the present time, covering such responses as theism, mysticism, religious naturalism, and religious humanism. (Rifat Sonsino)

Early Christianity in Its Jewish Context
This course surveys the Jewish context of early Christian literature and history, through close analysis of primary texts. We begin with the origins of Jewish sectarianism in the second century BCE and study the development of various Jewish and Christian sects, concluding with Jewish and Christian groups in the second century CE. We explore how closely related, and in many cases inseparable, Christian and Jewish identities were well into the second century CE. (Yonder Gillihan)

German-Jewish Thinkers
The brilliance and tragedy of German- (and Austrian-) Jewish Culture is decisive for interpreting twentieth-century experience. This graduate seminar examines writings of some of its major thinkers including Arendt, Buher, Freud, Kafka, Rosenweig, and Strauss. (James Bernauer, S.J.)

The Holocaust: A Moral History
This course explores the issues of good and evil and how human beings succeed or fail to meet the challenge such issues pose. The Holocaust, the tragic series of events which ruptured modern western morality, is examined from a variety of perspectives (literary, cinematic, philosophical, theological, and political). It includes a study of the testimony of both its victims and its perpetrators. A special emphasis on a consideration of the intellectual and moral factors which motivated resistance or excused indifference is performed by a cooperative investigation into the ethical life histories of people from this period. What part of themselves did they think of as primarily concerned with moral conduct? What form of obligation did they think of as specifically ethical? To what training did they commit themselves in order to develop as ethical beings? Why did they desire to be moral or why did they find it troubling to be immoral or amoral? The course concludes with an interpretation of the Holocaust for contemporary morality and of its theological significance for Christians and Jews. (James Bernauer, S.J.)

Levinas and Biblical Wisdom
This course examines the writings of Levinas through three different and interrelated lenses: philosophy, religion, and literature. The focus is how Levinas’ theories offer new perspectives for reading and interpreting the Wisdom Books of the Hebrew Bible: Job, Ecclesiastes, and Proverbs. (Theodore Perry)
The Book of Psalms in Jewish and Christian Tradition.
This course focuses on the Book of Psalms. Hebrew and/or Latin is recommended but not required. (Theodore Perry)

Center Programs

Rabbi Daniel L. Lehmann and Rev. David C. Michael
Beyond Catholic Jewish Dialogue: A New Paradigm for the 21st Century
October 4, 2011
Rabbi Daniel L. Lehmann and Rev. David C. Michael delivered a lecture about the progress made in Catholic-Jewish relations in the decades following the Holocaust and Vatican II based on the model of dialogue as well as the new vision needed for the 21st century. Rabbi Lehmann is a Jewish innovator who has devoted his career to pluralistic Jewish education and is the president of Hebrew College, Newton, MA. Rev. Michael is the pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Needham, MA, and Associate Director, Office for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, Archdiocese of Boston. This was the School of Theology and Ministry Anniversary Lecture and was co-sponsored by the School of Theology and Ministry and the Center for Christian-Jewish Learning.

The Jewish Annotated New Testament
December 8, 2011
Rabbi James Rudin  
**Cushing, Spellman, O'Connor: The Surprising Story of How Three American Cardinals Transformed Catholic-Jewish Relations**  
**February 7, 2012**

Rabbi James Rudin spoke about his latest book (Eerdmans, 2012), which explains how Cardinals Richard Cushing and Francis Spellman influenced the Second Vatican Council to adopt *Nostra Aetate* and how Cardinal John O'Connor transformed that document's sentiments into practical results a generation later. Rabbi Rudin is Distinguished Visiting Professor of Religion and Judaica at Saint Leo University and Senior Interreligious Advisor for the American Jewish Committee.

Rev. John T. Pawlikowski, OSM, Ph.D.  
**Pope John Paul II on Christian-Jewish Relations: His Legacy, Our Challenges**  
**March 1, 2012**

Rev. John T. Pawlikowski, OSM, Ph.D. delivered the Center's inaugural John Paul II Lecture in Christian-Jewish Relations. The annual lecture honors John Paul's many efforts to overcome the divisions between Christians and Jews. Rev. Pawlikowski’s lecture highlighted several areas in which John Paul II made a decisive contribution not only to a constructive theology of the Christian-Jewish relationship but also to a new sense of solidarity between the two faith communities. Rev. Pawlikowski is a Professor of Social Ethics at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago and Director of the Catholic-Jewish Studies Program at the CTU's Cardinal Joseph Bernardin Center. For the text of the lecture, please see www.bc.edu/cjlearning.

**Lights of the Past, Enlightening the Future**  
**April 18, 2012**

Boston Inter-Religious Dialogue Students (BIRDS) at Boston College, a student group supported by the Center for Christian-Jewish Learning, held a Christian-Jewish prayer service commemorating *Yom HaShoah*, Holocaust Remembrance Day. BIRDS members constructed the Star of David pictured here to hold six memorial candles, symbolizing the six million Jews murdered by the Nazis in the Holocaust. The service concluded by inviting participants to write prayers for the future and to place them in a model of the Western Wall in Jerusalem.
Katharina von Kellenbach
Absolved from the Guilt of the Past? Memory as Burden and as Grace in the Post-War Lives of Perpetrators of the Shoah
April 19, 2012
Prof. Katharina von Kellenbach, Professor of Religious Studies and former Chair of the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies at St. Mary’s College of Maryland - the Honors College of the State of Maryland, gave the Center’s 2012 Yom HaShaoh lecture. Her book *The Mark of Cain: Guilt and Denial in the Post-War Lives of Nazi Perpetrators* (Oxford University Press, 2013) is based on the historical records of prison chaplains’ pastoral work with Nazi perpetrators in post-war Germany and examines the political implications of the Christian theological emphasis on forgiveness.

Dr. Joseph Toltz
Musical Testimony and the Holocaust: Narratives of Personal Experience
November 8, 2012
Dr. Joseph Toltz from the University of Sydney, Australia presented a lecture based on his interviews with 85 Holocaust survivors in Australia, North America, Europe and Israel about their musical experiences from the Holocaust. His presentation was a survivor musical testimony that drew on three unique collections of musical testimony from survivors: the Displaced Persons camps in 1946; musical testimony from Terezin; and Toltz’s ethnographic research with numerous survivors living on different continents. The lecture was sponsored by the Center for Christian-Jewish Learning, the Institute for the Liberal Arts, the Music Department, and the Jesuit Institute.

Rabbi Michael J. Cook, Ph.D.
“Mind the Gap”: Bridging One Dozen Lacunae in Jewish-Catholic Dialogue
March 20, 2013
Rabbi Michael J. Cook, Ph.D., Bronstein Prof. of Judeo-Christian Studies at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, delivered the Second Annual John Paul II Lecture. His talk addressed the gaps present in Jewish-Catholic Dialogue, including differences in theological and historical discourse, pre- and post-Vatican II teachings, and challenges with the “sibling” metaphor. Rabbi Cook explained that the “gaps” that he offers are manifestly Jewish perspectives, and he hopes his ideas will spur Catholics to respond and suggest their own perceived “gaps” that Jews and Catholics, together, must work to narrow. For the text of the lecture, please see www.bc.edu/cjlearning.
ETTY: A Play “Sexuality, Spirituality : A Woman’s Discovery in Time of War”
April 4, 2013
The Center co-sponsored the play *Etty*, a one-woman play performed by Susan Stein drawn from the diaries of Esther “Etty” Hillesum, an intelligent and poetic young Dutch Jewish woman searching for the meaning of her life—and all life—during the terror of Nazi occupation. The program was also sponsored by the Capstone Program, Theology Department, Episcopal Chaplaincy, Women's Resource Center, and Campus Ministry.

John Connelly
How the Catholic Church Overcame its own Theology and Discovered that God Loves the Jews
April 7, 2013
Prof. John Connelly of the University of California at Berkeley delivered the Center’s 2013 Yom HaShoah lecture. His lecture was based on his latest book *From Enemy to Brother: The Revolution in Catholic Teaching on the Jews, 1933-1965* (Harvard University Press, 2012). In his book, Connelly explains that the radical shift of the Church’s teaching present in Vatican II grew out of a buried history, a theological struggle in Central Europe in the years just before the Holocaust, when a small group of Catholic converts—especially former Jew Johannes Oesterreicher and former Protestant Karl Thieme—fought to keep Nazi racism from entering their newfound church. Their success came not through appeals to morality but rather from a rediscovery of neglected portions of scripture. Dr. Victoria Barnett of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC and Prof. Philip A. Cunningham of Saint Joseph’s University in Philadelphia were lecture respondents.
Jewish-Christian Lecture Series

Through its Jewish-Christian Lecture Series, the Center invites Boston College professors teaching a course with connections to Jewish-Christian relations to apply for a sponsorship of a guest lecturer for his or her course, and many of the lectures are open to the public.

**Prof. Edward K. Kaplan**
*September 20, 2011*

Prof. Edward K. Kaplan of Brandeis University is the author of a two-volume biography of Heschel, *Abraham Joshua Heschel: Prophetic Witness* and *Spiritual Radical: Abraham Joshua Heschel in America, 1940-1972* (Yale University Press, 2007 & 2009). He spoke to Prof. Ruth Langer’s “Exploring the Theology of Abraham Joshua Heschel” class on the life and writings of Abraham Joshua Heschel, one of the most beloved and influential Jewish theologians of his day. He introduced Heschel’s method of “depth theology” and the specifically Jewish elements of Heschel’s method.

![Edward K. Kaplan](image1)

**Sharon Pucker Rivo**
*September 27, 2011*

Sharon Pucker Rivo, co-founder and Executive Director of the National Center for Jewish Film, spoke to Prof. John Michalcyk’s and Prof. Raymond Helmick, S.J.’s “Genocide and Film” class on issues of antisemitism shown in film. She addressed how film about the Holocaust can educate, and with respect to rescue, inspire others to have the courage to stand up against oppressive forces.

![Sharon Pucker Rivo](image2)

**Dr. Dori Laub**
*October 13, 2011*

Dr. Dori Laub, Associate Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at Yale University and a psychoanalyst in private practice, spoke to Prof. Vanessa Rumble’s “Freud and Philosophy” class and Prof. James Bernauer, S.J.’s “The Holocaust: A Moral History” class. Dr. Laub spoke on the creative narration that may emerge from and ameliorate trauma, highlighting the efforts of individual victims to distill a kind of “moral history” from trauma. Dr. Laub also discussed the nature of the therapeutic action of psychoanalysis, particularly how the simultaneous elusiveness and insistence of trauma, and the consequent distortion of experience (Nachtraglichkeit), affect a victim’s hard-won path to recollection. This event was cosponsored by the Center and the Psychoanalytic Studies Program.

![Dori Laub](image3)
Prof. Kevin Spicer, C.S.C.  
November 17, 2011

Prof. Kevin Spicer, C.S.C., the James J. Kenneally Distinguished Professor of History at Stonehill College, gave a lecture to Prof. James Bernauer’s “The Holocaust: A Moral History” class on the relationships between Christian churches—both the Roman Catholic and the Protestant churches—and the German state under National Socialism.

Prof. Marvin A. Sweeney  
March 21, 2012

Prof. Marvin A. Sweeney, Prof. of Hebrew Bible at Claremont School of Theology, presented a lecture to doctoral students in Prof. David Vanderhoof’s “Habakkuk and the Judean Prophetic Tradition” seminar on Israelite and Judean prophecy as well as matters of Jewish-Christian hermeneutics in the interpretation of prophecy.

Prof. Alfred L. Ivry  
November 1, 2012

Prof. Alfred L. Ivry, Professor Emeritus at New York University and Skirball Professor of Jewish Thought, gave a lecture on medieval Jewish philosophers Maimonides and Gersonides and their teachings on omniscience and free will to Prof. Stephen Brown’s “Medieval Religions & Thought” class. The event was co-sponsored by the Center and the Institute of Medieval Philosophy and Theology.
Peter Eisner
March 25, 2013

Award-winning reporter and author Peter Eisner spoke about his most recent book *The Pope's Last Crusade: How an American Jesuit Helped Pope Pius XI's Campaign to Stop Hitler* (William Morrow, 2013) to Prof. Charles Gallagher S.J.’s “Race, Religion, and the Struggle for Democracy” class. He relayed new evidence, released only recently from Vatican archives, and eyewitness testimony in his sharing of a little-known story of an American's partnership with the head of the Catholic Church. This lecture was co-sponsored by the History Department Core Program.

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**Annual Corcoran Chair Conferences**

**Levinas, Biblical Exegesis, and Literature**
**March 18-19, 2012**

The 2012 Corcoran Chair Conference was an interfaith and interdisciplinary gathering of philosophers, theologians, and literary scholars. Its purpose was to study how the newly expanded corpus of Emmanuel Levinas can help us be better readers of the Bible and literature in general. Keynote speakers were Prof. Catherine Chalier, Professor of Moral Philosophy and Jewish Thought at the University of Paris; Prof. Sean Hand, Professor of French at the University of Warwick; and Prof. Marvin A. Sweeney, Professor of Hebrew Bible at the Claremont Lincoln University and the Claremont School of Theology.

**Keynote Address**
Catherine Chalier (University of Paris), “The Voice and the Book”

**Panel I**
Jacob Meskin (Hebrew College), “On Seeing With Two Eyes: Universalism and Particularism in Levinas’ Philosophical Appropriation of The Hebrew Bible and Talmudic Tradition”
Annette Aronowicz (Franklin and Marshal College), “Metaphor in Levinas’s Unpublished Writings: Implications for a Biblical Hermeneutic”
Abigail Doukhan (Queens College), “Beyond Haverut: Towards an Inter-Faith Hermeneutics”
Panel II
Richard Sugarman (University of Vermont), “On Holiness - Through the Lens of Levinas: A Phenomenological Approach within the Context of the Jewish Commentary Tradition”
Jeffrey Bloechl (Boston College), “God, Metaphor and Trace”
Richard Kearney (Boston College), “Literary Levinas: Between Word and Image”

Keynote Address
Seán Hand (University of Warwick), “Salvation through Literature: Reading, Writing, and the Carnets de captivité”

Panel III
Olga Kuminova (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev), “Oral Discourse is the Plenitude of Discourse’: Emmanuel Levinas’ Philosophy of Language Applied to Reading”
Alan Udoff (St. Francis College), “On Levinas and the Question of Cardiology”
Martin Cohen (Boston College), “Ethical Modulations: Reconciling the Infinite Face with the Unique Face”

Keynote Address
Marvin A. Sweeney (Claremont School of Theology), “Moses’s Encounter with G-d and G-d’s Encounter with Moses: A Reading of the Moses Narratives in Dialogue with Emmanuel Levinas”

Forthcoming Publication
A selection of the papers from the conference will be published in Levinas Studies: An Annual Review, Volume 8 (Duquesne University Press, September 2013), edited by Prof. Jeffrey Bloechl of Boston College.
The Psalter in Words, Art, and Music
April 14, 2013

The 2013 Corcoran Chair Conference on the Psalms was an interdisciplinary and interfaith gathering of scholars, musicians, and artists. Its purpose was to expand the academic and confessional uses of the biblical Psalter as it is available both in times of need and searches for understanding. As such, it epitomized the goal of the Center for Christian-Jewish Learning to promote mutual respect and shared exploration. The specific endeavor here was to expand the basis of interpretation by enriching traditional exegetical verbal approaches with illustrations from medieval psalters, on the one hand, and live concerts of Gregorian and modern Jewish musical Psalm settings, on the other. Prof. Marc Brettler of Brandeis University delivered the Keynote Address.

Keynote Address
Marc Brettler (Brandeis University), “The Metaphorical World of God-Language in Psalms”

Session I: Interpretations of Psalm 19
Stuart Miller (University of Connecticut), “Psalm 19: Views from Talmudic Erets Israel”
Pamela Berger (Boston College), “The Utrecht Psalter Viewed Through Psalm 19”
Theodore A. Perry (Boston College), “From Words to Discourse: The Plot of Psalm 19, Hymn of Unification”

Session II: Musical Interpretations of Psalms
Members of the Monastic Community and Oblate Choir of the Abbey of Regina Laudis, Bethlehem, CT (R.M. Noëlla Marcellino and Prof. Ken Steen, Co-directors),
Gregorian Concert

Session III: Art and Rhetoric
Lawrence Nees (University of Delaware), “The Psalter in the Early Medieval Period as Personal Book and as Personal Gift”
Richard Clifford, S. J. (Boston College), “Psalm 89, an Update”
David Vanderhooft (Boston College), “A Prophet Reading the Psalms, or Vice Versa? Psalm 77 and Habakkuk”

© The British Library Board (Canterbury Psalter, folio 30v)
“The Tragic Couple”: Encounters Between Jews & Jesuits
An International Conference
July 9-13, 2012

Conference Rationale
The Society of Jesus has been a leader in the Church's efforts at dialogue with Jews, including the role the Jesuit Cardinal Augustin Bea played in hammering out the groundbreaking declaration *Nostra Aetate* during Vatican II. Yet, the history of the relationship of this “tragic couple” has been often filled with bias and animosity, even though the Jesuit founder, Ignatius of Loyola, declared that he would consider it God's special grace to be of the same Jewish lineage of Christ and even though Jesuits of Jewish ancestry had played a crucial role in the foundation and development of the Jesuit Order.

Driven by a desire for deepening the understanding and friendship between the Jewish people and the Society of Jesus, the Center for Christian-Jewish Learning at Boston College hosted this international conference on the history, nature, dynamics, and current status of the relation between Jews and Jesuits. This conference brought together scholars of different backgrounds to converse on this topic from an interdisciplinary perspective: biblical exegesis, history, literature, philosophy, theology, and spirituality.

Panel I: Jesuits and Jews in the Shadow of Twentieth-Century Catastrophe
Thérèse Andrevon (Institute Catholique, Paris), “Joseph Bonsirven: A Prototype Among the Theologians of Judaism in the Period Preceding Vatican II”
Peter J. Bernardi, S.J. (Loyola University, Chicago), “French Jesuits and Action Française”
Panel II: Racial Persecution in Fascist Italy
David I. Kertzer (Brown University), “Tacchi Venturi, Pius XI, Mussolini, and the Jews”
Robert A. Maryks (The City University of New York), “Tacchi Venturi and the Rescue of Italian Jews”
Raffaella Perin (Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa), “Vatican Radio and Anti-Semitism during World War II”

Panel III: “Religious Voices”: Enmity and Repair
Charles Gallagher, S.J. (Boston College), “‘Father Coughlin’s Program May Be Slightly Fascist’: American Jesuit Ambivalence in the Case of Fr. Charles Coughlin, 1935-1940”
Elena Mazzini (Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa), “Transforming Anti-Semitism: the Civiltà Cattolica after the Shoah (1945-1965)”

Panel IV: Hateful Visions, Hopeful Encounters.
Lou Charnon-Deutsch (Stony Brook University), “Visions of Hate: Jews and Jesuits in the European Feuilleton”
Audrey Doetzell (independent scholar), “Father Alphonse Ratisbonne and the Founding of the Congregation of Sion”
David Meyer and Jean-Pierre Sonnet, S.J. (Gregorian University, Rome), “The Messiah is Waiting Among the Beggars at the Gate of Rome”

Panel V: Exclusion and Emancipation
Paolo Luca Bernardini (Università dell'Insubria, Como), “The Rabbi and the Jesuit: The Pinamonti-Briel Controversy and Early Modern Christian Hebraism”
Cristiana Facchini (Università di Bologna), “Encounters and Conflicts in the Italian Baroque Age”
Gianfranco Miletto (Martin-Luther University, Halle-Wittenberg), “Jesuit Influence on Italian Jewish Culture in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries”

Panel VI: Myths and Polemics
Dean P. Bell (Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies, Chicago), “Polemics of Confessionalization: Depictions of Jews and Jesuits in Early Modern Germany”
Pawel Maciejko (Hebrew University, Jerusalem), “Rabbi Eibenschuetz and the Jesuits”
Natalya Kireeva (St. Thomas Institute of Philosophy, Theology and History, Moscow), “Jesuits and Jews of Lvov: Patterns of Interaction in 17th and 18th Centuries”

Panel VII: Jewishness and Conversion
Thomas Cohen (Catholic University of America), “António Vieira on Paul and the Jews”
Claude Stuczynski (Bar Ilan University, Ramat-Gan), “Negotiating Relationships: Jesuits and Portuguese Conversos: A Reassessment”

Panel VIII: Anxiety: Ethnic and National


J. David Lebovitch Dahl (Københavns Universitet, Copenhagen), “Did the Jesuits at La Civiltà Cattolica Develop an Anti-Semitic Culture in the Nineteenth century?”


Burns Library Exhibit

The John J. Burns Library at Boston College also hosted an exhibit in conjunction with “The Tragic Couple” Conference. The exhibition was divided into three parts that highlight some important aspects of the conference: 1. Diego Laínez and the converso question in the early Society of Jesus; 2. books by Jesuits of Jewish background; and 3. Jesuit Hebraists.

Forthcoming Publication

A selection of the papers from the conference will be published in “The Tragic Couple”: Encounters Between Jews and Jesuits (Brill, Fall 2013), edited by conference organizers Prof. James Bernauer, S.J. and Dr. Robert A. Maryks.
Encountering Afresh the Mystery of Good and Evil: New Documentary Films by Pierre Sauvage and Enduring Jewish, Christian, and Secular Perspectives
April 22-23, 2013

The Center for Christian-Jewish Learning, in conjunction with the Corcoran, Fitzgibbons and Kraft Chairs, and with the generous support of the Agoos Charity Fund, held a two-day conference on the themes of good and evil titled “Encountering Afresh the Mystery of Good and Evil: New Documentary Films by Pierre Sauvage and Enduring Jewish, Christian, and Secular Perspectives” April 22-23, 2013. An occasion for it was the 50th anniversary of the publication of Hannah Arendt's *Eichmann in Jerusalem* but the conference was by no means limited to her perspectives.

Filmmaker Pierre Sauvage, of the Chambon Foundation and Varian Fry Institute and creator of the acclaimed film *Weapons of the Spirit*, gave the Keynote Presentation which included his films *Three Righteous Christians* and selections from *And Crown Thy Good: Varian Fry in Marseille*. A panel of respondents to the film included Prof. Serena Parekh McGushin from Northeastern University, Prof. Micah Lott from Boston College, and Prof. Pamela Berger from Boston College.

The second day of the conference included three presentations: two comparing Jewish and Christian perspectives on evil and another applying Arendt's thought to contemporary forms of evil. Professor Emeritus of Jewish Studies Michael Morgan from Indiana University who compared Levinas and Fackenheim, Prof. Douglas Finn from Boston College dealt with Christian interpretations of evil, and Prof. Patricia Owens of the University of Sussex explored issues of contemporary evil from the perspective of Hannah Arendt.
Jewish-Christian Dialogue Group

The Center and the Boston College Jesuit Institute continued their co-sponsorship of the Jewish-Christian Dialogue Group. The group is composed of faculty and graduate students that meet throughout the year for a series of talks and discussions based on designated readings.

Prof. Theodore A. Perry
October 5, 2011
Prof. Theodore A. Perry, the Center’s 2011-2012 Corcoran Visiting Chair in Christian-Jewish Relations, led a discussion on the Book of Jonah, based in part on his book *The Honeymoon is Over: Jonah’s Arguments with God* (Hendrickson, 2006).

Prof. Maxim Shrayer
November 16, 2011
Prof. Maxim Shrayer, Professor of Russian, English, and Jewish Studies at Boston College, led a discussion on his collection of short stories *Yom Kippur in Amsterdam* (Syracuse University Press, 2009). The eight short stories trace the lives and relationships of Jewish-Russian immigrants, poignantly exploring Jewish-Christian relations and specifically focusing on Jewish-Catholic love, marriage, and conversion.

Prof. Charles Gallagher, S.J.
February 15, 2012
Prof. Charles Gallagher, S.J., an assistant history professor at Boston College, led a discussion about his research on the French Catholic philosopher Jacques Maritain and the efforts of some Catholics to articulate antisemitism as a violation of human rights.

Prof. Ruth Langer
April 18, 2012
Prof. Ruth Langer, Associate Director of the Center for Christian-Jewish Learning and Professor of Jewish Studies at Boston College, gave a presentation and led a discussion on her recent publication *Cursing the Christians? A History of the Birkat Haminim* (Oxford University Press, 2012).
Prof. James Bernauer, S.J.
October 3, 2012
Prof. James Bernauer, S.J., Center Director and Kraft Family Professor, spoke about the Center's July 2012 international conference on Jesuits and Jews and his own contribution to the conference, “A Jesuit Spiritual Insurrection.”

Prof. Stuart Hecht
November 7, 2012
Prof. Stuart Hecht, Associate Professor in the Boston College Theater Department, spoke on his recently published book *Transposing Broadway: Jews, Assimilation, and the American Musical* (Palgrave MacMillan, 2011).

Prof. Alan Wolfe
February 13, 2013
Prof. Alan Wolfe, Professor of Political Science and Director of the Boisi Center for Religion and American Public Life at Boston College, led a discussion on the draft of a chapter from the book on Jewish themes that he is currently writing.

Prof. Philip Endean, S.J.
March 13, 2013
Israeli-Palestinian Conflict Seminar

The Center continued its sponsorship of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict Seminar, a non-partisan interdisciplinary reading group and lecture series revolving around the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict offered throughout the academic year at Boston College. Its aim is to create a balanced forum in which a historically informed and morally productive discussion can take place. The seminar was led by Sarit Larry, a Boston College Philosophy Ph.D. student, and its participants were graduate students from across the university as well as other Boston-area universities. The reading group met twice a month to discuss texts illuminating the Israeli and Palestinian narratives and in preparation for encounters with leading academics whom the group welcomed as guest speakers. On April 12, 2012, the seminar hosted Prof. Nadia Latif, Professor of Anthropology and Human Rights at Bard College. Prof. Latif public talk was titled “Gender and the Lived Experience of Protracted Conflict: Observations from Bourj al-Barajneh Palestinian Refugee Camp.” On March 30, 2013, the seminar hosted Prof. James Gelvin, Professor of History, UCLA. Prof. Gelvin’s public lecture was titled “Reassessing the Israel-Palestine Conflict in the Wake of the Arab Uprisings.” The Center wishes to thank Sarit Larry for all that she has done to make the seminar a success. She is passing leadership for the seminar to other graduate students: Sean Driscoll from Boston College and Amber Taylor from Brandeis University. We look forward to working with both.

Junior Scholars Research Grants

The Center support Boston College junior scholars (undergraduate and graduate students) pursuing research that is of value to the field of Christian-Jewish relations through its Junior Scholars Research Grants. Grants may support recipients' production of articles, book sections or chapters, conference presentations, digital materials, translations, or other scholarly resources, under the guidance of a faculty member.

Peter Cajka, Boston College Ph.D. History Student
2013 Summer Recipient

Peter Cajka is writing a research paper focused on the role Christian-Jewish relations played in the post-World War II reconstruction of conscience. His research will explain “why the idea of conscience as a dignified force that obeyed external legal codes lost out to an interpretation of the conscience in the late 1960s as an internal guide individuals followed only after prolonged discernment.” His research will show that Christian and Jewish thinkers of the time were “recasting religion and morality in America.”
James Daryn Henry, Boston College Ph.D. Theology Student  
2012 Summer Recipient  
James Daryn Henry developed a publishable article and public presentation based on a constructive development from the Christian perspective of the theology of Israel, particularly through engagement with the work of the contemporary theologian Robert Jenson. He states, “The fundamental problem with which this study wrestles is: how can the Christian Community, and the intellectual reflection on its life—theology—understand itself in relation to the continuing Jewish Community in a way that both promotes ‘mutually enriching relationships’ in their self-understanding together as People of God, and that remains faithful to the distinctiveness of each confession?”

Cristina Richie, Boston College Th.M. Student and entering Ph.D. Theology Student  
2012 Summer Recipient  
Cristina Richie created resources for classroom or church lessons on Jewish-Christian bioethics that can be adopted and adapted for colleges and high schools, churches, and adult educational opportunities—including religion, bioethics, ethics, and health courses. She explains, “Recent Jewish-Christian ecumenical endeavors of collaboration have by and large sought to establish theologically consonant ground in order to facilitate peaceful dialogue and a fruitful alliance. In inter-religious dialogue, bioethics has been in the background as national and international political policies and reconciliation from the atrocities of World War II take the foreground.”

Susan Legere, Ph.D. (2012, Boston College, Sociology)  
2011-2012 Academic Year Recipient  
Susan Legere, Ph.D. presented her dissertation Narratives of Injustice: Measuring the Impact of Witness Testimony in the Classroom at “The Future of Holocaust Testimonies,” an international conference and workshop in Acre, Israel. Her research generates “much-needed empirical data on survivor testimony and its ability to shape attitudes, broaden world view, and possibly influence behavior.”

Susan Legere, Ph.D., ninth from the left in the photograph above, presented her dissertation research at “The Future of Holocaust Testimonies” conference in Acre, Israel.
Matthew Mohorovich, Boston College Philosophy Ph.D. Student  
2011-2012 Academic Year Recipient
Matthew Mohorovich traveled to Sarajevo and interviewed members of the Jewish community who were present during the siege of Sarajevo in the 1990s and played an active role in relief efforts. He explains that when we look at Bosnia's history, “we do not see the sort of history we might expect—one marked and stained by clashes, but instead see one that has been characterized by centuries of inter-religious solidarity, perseverance, and openness to ‘the other’—‘the stranger,’ ‘the foreigner.’”

Iulia Padeanu, 2012 Graduate in History and International Studies  
2011-2012 Academic Year Recipient
Iulia Padeanu traveled to Romania to interview and record the testimonies of Romanians, both Jewish and Christians, of their experience in the Holocaust. She explains, “Much of the history written during the Communist era ignored the anti-Semitic policies of WWII,” and so the “importance of living memory cannot be overestimated. Soon, students of history will not be able to get the opportunity to speak to those that were alive during WWII.” She presented her research on the Romanian Holocaust at the BC Talks lecture series.

Christian Scholars Group  
2012 and 2013 Spring Meetings
The Center hosted the Christian scholars Group’s annual 2012 and 2013 meetings at Boston College in April 2012 and April 2013. Formed in 1969, the group is composed of Christian scholars who are dedicated to studying the sensitive and significant issues related to the church's tragic legacy of anti-Judaism. They seek to use their scholarship to reclaim or reconceive elements of Christian theology and practice that offer a more adequate representation of its relationship to Judaism and the Jewish people. During annual meetings, members engage in scholarly working group sessions and share their own scholarship.

During the 2012 meeting, Prof. Catherine Cornille of Boston College discussed her book *Interreligious Hermeneutics* (Cascade Books, 2010) and its implications for Jewish-Christian dialogue; Prof. Katharina von Kellenbach presented a talk “Toward a Post-Holocaust Feminist

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