

## 2013-2015 Center Report



*The Garden of the Righteous Among the Nations at Yad Vashem*

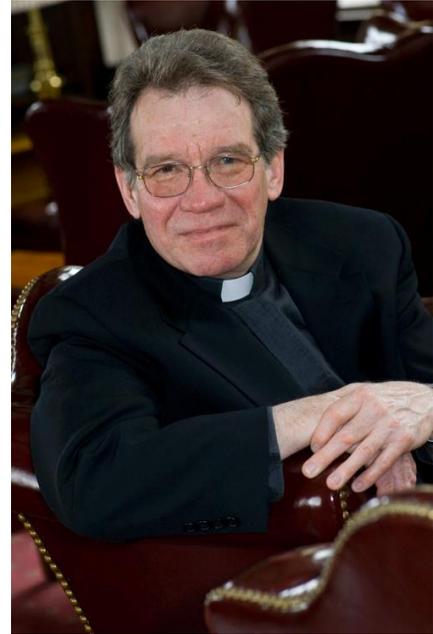
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## Director's Welcome

Once again it is my privilege to inform you of the continuing activities of the Center for Christian-Jewish Learning at Boston College. 2015 has been a very special year in Jewish-Christian memory because it was the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the promulgation of *Nostra Aetate* ("In Our Times") at the Second Vatican Council. It is this document that sparked the transformed relationship between Jews and Christians over the last five decades and its anniversary was celebrated at numerous conferences and lectures around the globe. Two moments from these celebrations stand out for me in particular. Dr. Susannah Heschel, the Eli Black Professor of Jewish Studies at Dartmouth College, and I made a joint presentation at the 2015 Louis J. Kuransky Annual Conference at the University of Connecticut in Stamford. That year's meeting was dedicated to the theme "From Enmity to Friendship: The Remarkable Transformation of Christian-Jewish Relations Since Vatican II" and the very large audience engaged in an outstanding discussion of that transformation. It was a very special honor for me to share the same platform with Dr. Heschel who is a distinguished historian and also the daughter of Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel with whom the Jesuit Cardinal Augustin Bea collaborated in drafting the Vatican Council's statement.

Photo by Lee Pellegrini



James Bernauer, S.J.

The second major event was the personal meeting with Pope Francis in a Vatican audience at the end of June, 2015 while Dr. Ruth Langer and I were attending the annual gathering of the International Conference of Christians and Jews. He spoke of the commemoration and how the



Ruth Langer and Pope Francis

document "represents a definitive 'yes' to the Jewish roots of Christianity and an irrevocable 'no' to anti-Semitism. In celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of *Nostra Aetate*, we are able to see the rich fruits which it has brought about and to gratefully appraise Jewish-Catholic dialogue." The Pope went on to express his personal gratitude for the friendship and understanding that have developed between Jews and Catholics. As the pages of this report indicate, our Center has contributed in numerous ways to that development: the Corcoran Visiting Chairs and the conferences

the Chair sponsors, the many lectures and dialogues which take place under the auspices of the Center; and, most importantly to my mind, the many courses that we offer at the College to our



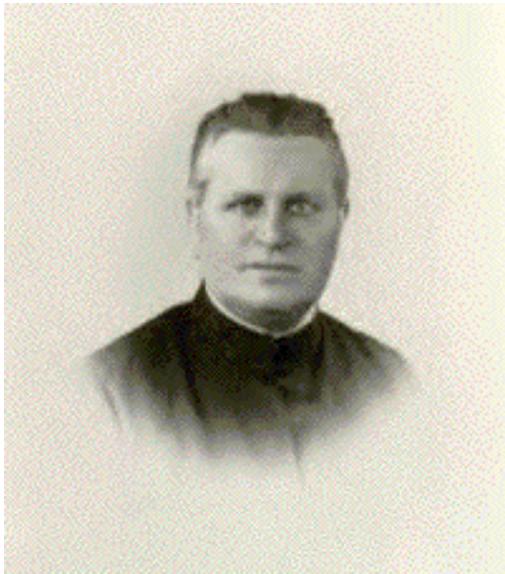
James Bernauer, S.J. and Pope Francis

talented students who come with such diverse interests and religious backgrounds. They should leave those courses with a deeper respect and understanding of both Judaism and Christianity.

Although these contributions are a source of pride for those of us engaged with the Center, we are also stimulated by the challenges that are ahead of us. These include our assistance to the continuing reforms of liturgy, and of religious education. There is also a need for recognition of and outreach to the diversity of Jewish and of Israeli communities. Martin Buber pointed out long ago that sharp distinctions between the religious and the secularized may very well be inappropriate because the Jew always continues in a relationship with God and perseveres in affirming the “power of atonement at work in an unatoned world.” We look back with satisfaction on the years we have been privileged to work at the Center and with gratitude for the benefactors who have made that involvement possible. I am particularly pleased by statements of Jewish support for the mission of the Center as, for example, in the December, 2015 declaration by Orthodox Rabbis entitled “To Do the Will of Our Father in Heaven: Toward a Partnership between Jews and Christians.” The rabbis declare that “Christianity is neither an accident nor an error, but the willed divine outcome and gift to the nations. In separating Judaism and Christianity, G-d willed a separation between partners with significant theological differences, not a separation between enemies.” This generous spirit of reconciliation was mirrored in a Catholic statement a few days later that was issued by the Vatican with the title “The Gifts and the Calling of God are Irrevocable” (Romans 11:29). Among the goals of Jewish-Catholic dialogue put forward by the Vatican is “jointly combatting all manifestations of racial discrimination against Jews and all forms of anti-Semitism, which have certainly not yet been eradicated and re-emerge in different ways in various contexts.”

My own scholarship continues to examine those Jesuits and Catholics who were far ahead of most in recognizing the vulnerability of Jews in the last century. As you will see in the report, the Center sponsored a conference on those Christians who have been honored by Israel’s Holocaust Memorial Center for having selflessly come to the rescue of Jews during the period of the Shoah. I am pleased that one of these “Righteous of the Nations” is buried in the Jesuit cemetery in the

Weston suburb of Boston and is one of the very few resting in American soil. This coming April the Center will dedicate a plaque of tribute on the grave of Father Jakob Raile, S.J., originally from Hungary but who died in a car crash in the States.



Fr. Jakob Raile, S.J.



Plaque at Fr. Raile's grave in the Jesuit cemetery in Weston, MA

Finally, I want to thank the two Associate Directors of the Center, Professor Ruth Langer and Dr. Camille Fitzpatrick Markey. They make it possible for the Center to accomplish what it does, with profound learning and even deeper grace.

James Bernauer, S.J.  
Kraft Family Professor  
Director, Center for Christian-Jewish Learning

## Report of Ruth Langer, Associate Director



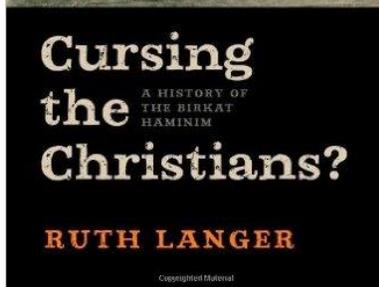
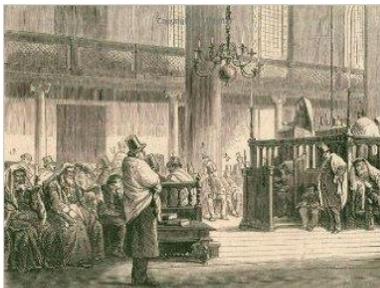
Ruth Langer

My work for the Center remains multifaceted. As a professor teaching Judaism in the Theology Department at a Jesuit and Catholic university, every course is either explicitly or implicitly an exercise in Christian-Jewish relations. This ranges from my annual, two-semester, comparative undergraduate core course, to courses on Jewish theologians or aspects of Jewish theology, to courses directly on the contemporary dialogue. Significant parts of my writing and lecturing also serves the goals of our Center. The primary intended audience for my book-length annotated bibliography, *Jewish Liturgy: A Guide to Research* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2015) is English-speaking Christian seminarians. I have lectured on my 2012 book, *Cursing the Christians?: A History of the Birkat HaMinim* (Oxford University

Press) in many settings, including abroad, and it has led

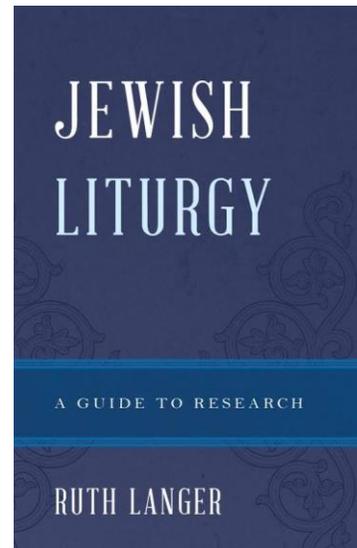
to requests for shorter, more popularly oriented publications that focus on the ways that Jews and Christians interacted around this prayer. The prayer was for centuries explicitly a curse of Christians. However, church-imposed censorship eventually changed it into a

curse of evil more generally, a transformation that functions well in our world of dialogue. Other lectures and articles have focused on other prayers about which Jews ought to be self-critical in our age of dialogue and rapprochement.



Much of my Center-related work involves representing the Center in national and international contexts. I serve as the chair of the Council of Centers in Jewish-Christian Relations, now in a second term until 2017. This council holds an annual conference at which participants share some of the best of new scholarship and thinking in the field and model best practices in dialogue. In 2013 we met at Manhattan College, in 2014 in Mobile, Alabama, hosted jointly by Spring Hill College and the Mobile Christian-Jewish Dialogue. In the fall of 2015, we

hosted the meeting at Boston College (see p. 17), giving us a chance to think together about the importance and implications of the fiftieth anniversary of *Nostra Aetate*. The Council also serves as a vehicle for regular communications among its members through its listserv, and as a public resource through its *Dialogika* website (<http://www.ccjr.us/dialogika-resources>). I also serve as the co-editor of its peer-reviewed academic journal, *Studies in Christian-Jewish Relations*, published by our Center (see p. 31).



Beyond this, I am also a regular participant in an Evangelical-Jewish dialogue that meets annually in Washington, DC. The growing impact of Evangelicals on the American and world scenes means that, from the Jewish perspective, these dialogues are critical. While many of the topics of dialogue are familiar, the dialogue itself is not nearly as mature as that with Catholics and mainline Protestants. The specifics of Evangelical approaches to Scripture especially mean that the paths to understanding and building a genuine, positive relationship are complex. I find that reflection on challenges like the scriptural mandate to mission helps me to appreciate both the progress made and the hurdles still facing us in the Catholic-Jewish relationship.

I have also participated regularly in the annual meeting of the International Conference of Christians and Jews. In 2013, I presented a keynote address in Aix-en-Provence at a pre-conference of their Abrahamic Forum, titled “Naming and Addressing Jewish Teachings of Contempt.” That meeting celebrated the work of Jules Isaac, a native of Provence and Holocaust survivor, who had collected Christian “teachings of contempt” and successfully brought them to the attention of Pope John XXIII, leading to his call for the formulation of a new teaching about Jews and Judaism at the Second Vatican Council. As of 2015, I am officially a “Jewish Consultor” to the Christian Scholars Group on Jewish-Christian Relations. I have also been a regular participant in and serve on the steering committee of an international group of university faculty supported by the ICCJ that is seeking to develop ways that Jews and Christians can dialogue constructively over issues tied to the contemporary Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This group has been meeting annually and shares its progress at the ICCJ meeting. It is now planning a book, for which I have agreed to serve on the editorial team as well as write an essay.

This topic has become increasingly important in my own work. I participated last summer in an Israel Studies Institute sponsored by the Schusterman Center for Israel Studies at Brandeis University. Much of the rest of the summer was dedicated to preparing a new course for this past fall on “Israel in Jewish Theologies,” ultimately an exploration of the complex relationships to “Israel” as people, land, and state in Jewish understandings from the Bible to today. As these three dimensions of Israel are areas where Jewish and Christian self-understandings substantially diverge, they are therefore critical areas for dialogue from the Jewish perspective.

If there is a theme running through my own contributions to dialogue, it is the value of self-critical stances. I seek to take one regarding my own Jewish tradition and to encourage others to join me in it.

Ruth Langer  
Professor of Jewish Studies  
Center Associate Director

## 2013-2014 Corcoran Visiting Chair: Marc Michael Epstein

Prof. Marc Michael Epstein, Professor of Religion at Vassar College, where he has been teaching for over two decades, was the 2013-2014 Corcoran Visiting Chair in Christian-Jewish Relations. 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 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.



Marc Michael Epstein

During Prof. Epstein's tenure at Boston College, he worked on his most recent book *Skies of Parchment, Seas of Ink: Jewish Illuminated Manuscripts* (Princeton, 2015), taught the course "Religion, Art and Politics," and offered public lectures. Additionally, Prof. Epstein organized the 2014 Corcoran Chair international conference titled "Jews, Christians, and Visuality" which brought together art historians, historians, and scholars of text and culture to consider image as text, iconography as exegesis, the book as material culture icon, and the possibilities for—and discontents of—historical localization and contextualization.

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## 2014-2015 Corcoran Visiting Chair: Mark Oppenheimer



Mark Oppenheimer

Dr. Mark Oppenheimer was the 2014-2015 Corcoran Visiting Chair in Christian-Jewish Relations. Dr. Oppenheimer's career has been devoted to the study of Jews, Christians, and their interaction in the United States. He received his Ph.D. in religious studies from Yale University and currently works as a professor and a journalist. Dr. Oppenheimer teaches in the Yale English department and at the Yale Divinity School. He has taught at Wesleyan University, New York University, and Wellesley College. He also writes the biweekly "Beliefs" column for *The New York Times* as well as about religion for *The New York Times Magazine*, *The Nation*, and *The Christian Century*, among other publications. He has written several books including *Knocking on Heaven's Door: American Religion in the Age of Counterculture* (Yale University Press) and *Thirteen and a Day: The Bar*

and *Bat Mitzvah Across America* (Macmillan). Dr. Oppenheimer's teaching and writing bridge the divide between scholarship and writing for popular audiences.

While he was the Corcoran Chair, Dr. Oppenheimer completed his research into differing Judeo-Christian interpretations of family law, specifically with regard to marriage and divorce. In addition to his research and writing, he organized the 2015 Corcoran Chair conference "Protestant, Catholic, Jew...Divorcing," taught a seminar titled "Writing about Religion," and offered public lectures.

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### 2015-2016 Corcoran Visiting Chair: Adele Reinhartz

Prof. Adele Reinhartz is the 2015-2016 Corcoran Visiting Chair in Christian-Jewish Relations. Prof. Reinhartz (Ph.D., McMaster University, 1983) is Professor in the Department of Classics and Religious Studies at the University of Ottawa, in Canada. Her main areas of research are New Testament, early Jewish-Christian relations, and the Bible and Film. She is the author of numerous articles and books, including *Befriending the Beloved Disciple: A Jewish Reading of the Gospel of John* (Continuum, 2001), *Scripture on the Silver Screen* (Westminster John Knox, 2003), *Jesus of Hollywood* (Oxford, 2007), *Caiaphas the High Priest* (University of South Carolina Press, 2011; Fortress 2012) and *Bible and Cinema: An Introduction* (Routledge, 2013). Prof. Reinhartz is the General Editor of *The Journal of Biblical Literature*. She was elected to the Royal Society of Canada in 2005 and to the American Academy of Jewish Research in 2014.



Adele Reinhartz

During Prof. Reinhartz's tenure as the Corcoran Chair, she will complete her book on the Gospel of John and the "parting of the ways" between Judaism and Christianity (Fortress Press), organize a conference "Fringe Benefits: Marginality and Identity in the Ancient Mediterranean World," and offer public lectures.

## Center Courses

### **Religious Quest: Judaism and Christianity**

This 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, Jillian Maxey, Emma O’Donnell, Rifat Sonsino)

### **Jewish and Christian Approaches to the Bible**

Although Jews and Christians share many scriptural texts (the Christian “Old Testament,” the Jewish Tannakh), 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 Israeli’s scriptures and studying methods of biblical interpretation from late antiquity to today. (Ruth Langer, David Vanderhooff)

### **The Holocaust: A Moral History**

The tragic event that ruptured modern western morality is examined from a variety of perspectives. The class studies the testimony of both its victims and its perpetrators. Special attention is given to consideration of the intellectual and moral factors which motivated resistance or excused indifference. The class concludes with interpretations of its meaning for contemporary morality and of its theological significance for Christians and Jews. (James Bernauer, S.J.)

### **Arendt and Foucault: A Dialogue**

This seminar brings together these two thinkers into conversation on such major themes as power, ethics, war and violence and philosophical spirituality. (James Bernauer, S.J.)

### **Arendt and Buber: Loving the World**

Hannah Arendt and Martin Buber articulated faiths for a love of the world and for those who inhabit it. Their thought is foundational for a philosophy and theology of politics and of the personal. (James Bernauer, S.J.)

### **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)

## **Fascisms**

This course explores the birth and development of fascisms as political cultures, with particular emphasis on their anti-Semitism. (James Bernauer, S.J.)

## **Religion, Art, and Politics**

Nowadays, we accept the idea that religion, like so much else, is political. It makes sense, then, that visual culture, which can be used, situated, manipulated, and exploited in the service of religion can serve to affirm and in some cases to subvert the political messages of religion. This class explores examples of the collusions of religion, art, and politics, as well as their collisions in the productions of majority and minority culture in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam in the West, from antiquity to postmodernity. (Marc Epstein)

## **Jewish Liturgy: Its 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)

## **Post World War I Spiritual Recovery in Fascism or Personalism**

World War I, which broke out a century ago in 1914, inflicted an atrocious wound on Western Culture. Although most of the war's physical destruction has been repaired, its psychic injury still festers. This course examines a corner stone in the spiritual history of the 20th century. The class looks at two major routes for recovery from the injuries of World War I: Fascism, which advocated permanent struggle as the meaning of life, and Personalism, which embraced intense human encounter as the road to healing. (James Bernauer, S.J.)

## **Paranoid Causality: On Anti-Judaism & Anti-Jesuitism**

This seminar explores a worldview that attributed to Jews and/or Jesuits a sort of diabolical causality that explained the twists and turns of history. Both were accused of conspiracies and a hostility toward spirit and both were demonized in infamous documents: “The Protocols of the Elders of Zion” for Jews and the “Monita secrets” for Jesuits. This course investigates the construction of negative views of Jews and Jesuits within modern western culture as well as the desire for and the allure of total explanations for history. (James Bernauer, S.J.)

## **Jews and Christians: Understanding the Other**

Interreligious dialogue requires interreligious understanding. This course builds a foundation for genuine dialogue between Jews and Christians by positing 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 of 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)

## **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 will introduce students to the rabbinic approach to Scripture and their means of making it relevant in their (and our) world. This understanding will be heightened by comparisons to early Christian modes of disclosure on the same themes. (Ruth Langer)

### **Writing about Religion**

This is a course in the history and practice of journalism and other popular nonfiction about religion. The class reads articles and books that translate religious ideas for a nonspecialized, often secular audience, and consider how they succeed or fail. Sources include *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, documentary films, and books about topics including Scientology, Orthodox Judaism, Roman Catholicism, etc. The course aims to give students a perspective on how the popular press has created the secular encounter with religion; to prepare students to think critically about their own faiths' presentations in the written media; and to prepare them to write well for an irreligious audience. That is, to explain religion to people who may be curious but ignorant, or who may be skeptics. (Mark Oppenheimer)

### **Israel in Jewish Theologies**

Israel, the people, the land, and the state, are central to Jewish theology as concrete manifestations of God's covenants. This course will explore the evolving meanings of these concepts from the Bible to today, looking at themes like peoplehood, life in the land, exile from it, and (messianic) return. The second part of the course will focus specifically on the theologies of a range of modern Jewish thinkers, with the goal of helping students to understand aspects of contemporary Israel and its meaning to world Jewry. (Ruth Langer)

## Center Programs

Presentations by Prof. James Bernauer, S.J., Kraft Family Professor and Center Director

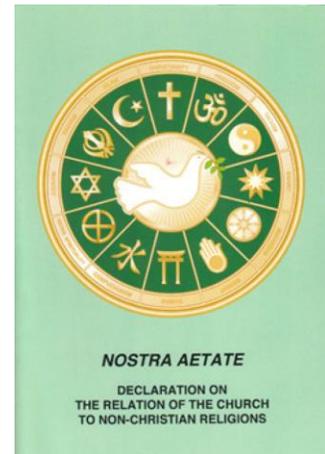


**J.S. Bach's *St. John Passion*:  
A Performance and Discussion on Anti-Semitism  
February 27, 2015**

Boston Baroque performed J.S. Bach's well-known and controversial oratorio *St. John Passion* for the first time ever. Prof. James Bernauer, S.J. spoke as part of the pre-concert panel discussion on anti-Semitism.

**"*Nostra Aetate*": A Catholic and Jewish Peace Treaty or a Spiritual Breakthrough?  
October 14, 2015**

Prof. James Bernauer, S.J. delivered a presentation at the Boisi Center for Religion and American Public Life as part of its fall luncheon colloquium series. His talk addressed the formation, issues, and challenges of the Second Vatican Council's document: Should it be regarded as a peace treaty between the two faiths or as spiritual breakthrough for humanity? How should the Catholic Church recognize and speak with the diverse Jewish communities? Should the religious community hold the privileged position as interlocutor with Catholics? How should religious fundamentalism be addressed, especially as it influences the politics of the Middle East? Finally, how should we continue the reform of Catholic liturgical speech about Jews?



**Jesuit Kaddish: Encounters Between Jesuits and Jews and Why These Might Matter to Us  
October 26, 2015**

Prof. James Bernauer, S.J. spoke at the College of the Holy Cross (Worcester, MA) and offered an overview of how Jesuits became a leader in dialogue with Jews. He focused on encounters in the 20th century, with special attention on the historical context of the Holocaust.

## Presentations by Ruth Langer, Professor of Jewish Studies and Center Associate Director



Ruth Langer

### **Naming and Addressing Jewish Teachings of Contempt June 27, 2013**

Prof. Ruth Langer delivered the keynote address for the International Abraham Forum of the International Conference of Christians and Jews in Aix en Provence, France. While Christians have been working hard to address their anti-Jewish teachings, much less has been done in the Jewish community to name problematic teachings and consider how they may no longer be appropriate. This lecture contributed to this process.

### **A Jewish Liturgical Curse of Christians? March 25, 2014**

Prof. Ruth Langer delivered the Rabbi Michael A. Signer Memorial Lecture, Driscoll Professorship in Jewish-Catholic Studies, at Iona College in New Rochelle, New York. Drawing on material from her studies of Jewish prayers that Christians found offensive, Prof. Langer reviewed not only the history of these texts and their Christian censorship, but also the ways that modern Jews address the text or its interpretations.

### **Overhearing Our Own Prayers: Jewish and Christian Worship in an Age of Religious Pluralism September 14, 2014**

Prof. Ruth Langer delivered the Wallenberg Tribute Lecture at the Institute for Jewish-Christian Understanding at Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pennsylvania, with Sr. Mary C. Boys, SNM. Prof. Langer reflected on the prayer known as “aleynu,” its anti-Christian elements, and the ways that this prayer appears in contemporary liturgies.

### **Worshipping in a Religiously Pluralist Age: Catholic and Jewish Reflections April 15, 2015**

Prof. Ruth Langer delivered the Shapiro Lecture at the Bernadin Center for Theology and Ministry at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, with Fr. Liam Tracey. Her lecture examined the particularist statements in the “aleynu” prayer, particularly its anti-Christian elements and its current role in Jewish liturgies. The text of the lecture has been published as an article in *Worship* 89, no. 5 (September 2015): 393-406.

### **Dealing with Difficult Prayers: Jewish Liturgy in an Age of Jewish-Christian Dialogue May 28, 2015**

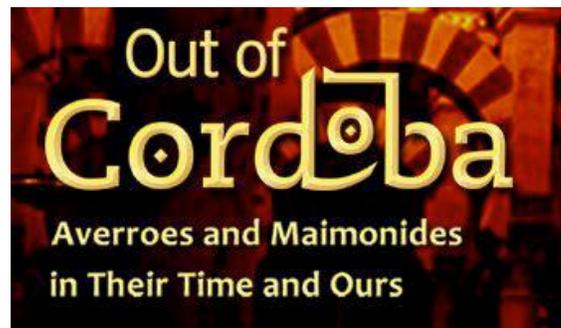
Prof. Ruth Langer delivered the Philip M. and Ethel Klutznick Lecture in Jewish Civilization at the Crown Family Center for Jewish and Israel Studies at Northwestern University. Her lecture examined both the history of these texts and their Christian censorship as well as the ways modern Jews address the text or its interpretations. (Video link of lecture: <http://tinyurl.com/jhks94k>)

## Center Events

### Out of Cordoba

September 18, 2013

The Center co-sponsored, with the Islamic Civilization & Societies Program, a viewing of *Out of Cordoba*, a documentary about Averroes the Muslim, and Maimonides the Jew, the two leading thinkers of Islamic Spain. The film explores the historical importance of these two “wise men of Cordoba,” as well as their contemporary impact on today’s Jews, Muslims, and Christians, and interfaith relations.



### Prof. Jayme Stayer, S.J.

T. S. Eliot, Anti-Semitism, and the Problem of Cumulative Effect

February 7, 2014



The Center hosted a luncheon lecture and discussion led by Prof. Jayme Stayer, S.J., assistant professor of English at John Carroll University, on the poet T. S. Eliot.

Jayme Stayer, S.J.

### *“The Tragic Couple”: Encounters Between Jews and Jesuits*

February 12, 2014

The Center for Christian-Jewish Learning hosted a reception on the occasion of this publication (Brill 2013), edited by Prof. James Bernauer, S.J., Kraft Family Professor and Director of the Center, and Dr. Robert Maryks, Associate Director of the Boston College Institute for Advanced Jesuit Studies. The volume derived from a selection of papers from the Center’s July 2012 international conference “The Tragic Couple”: Encounters Between Jews and Jesuits.



**Rev. Dr. Christian M. Rutishauser, S.J.**  
**The Jewishness of Jesus: Renewing Christian Appreciation**  
**February 16, 2014**



Christian M. Rutishauser, S.J.

Rev. Dr. Christian M. Rutishauser, S.J., Provincial of the Swiss Jesuits, delivered the Center's Third Annual John Paul II Lecture in Christian-Jewish Relations. Rev. Rutishauser, who lectures on Jewish studies at the Faculty of Philosophy of the Society of Jesus in Munich, is a member of the Commission for Jewish-Christian Relations of the Swiss and German Bishops Conference and Vatican delegate at the International Liason Committee for the Relations with the Jews.

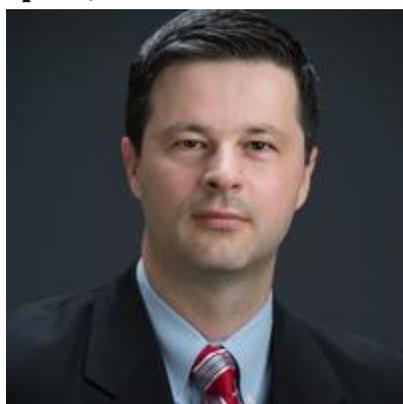
**Sr. Mary Christine Athans, B.V.M.**  
**In Quest of the Jewish Mary**  
**February 25, 2014**

The Center co-sponsored with the School of Theology and Ministry a lecture by Mary Christine Athans, B.V.M. which explored what Mary's experiences might have been as a Jewish woman, including her prayer life.



Mary Christine Athans, B.V.M.

**Prof. Gerald Beyer**  
**John XXIII and John Paul II: "The Human Rights Popes"**  
**April 2, 2014**



Gerald Beyer

Prof. Gerald Beyer, Associate Professor of Theology at Villanova University, delivered a lecture commemorating the canonization of John XXIII and John Paul II.

**Prof. Adele Reinhartz**

**The Gospel of John and the “Parting of the Ways”**

**April 8, 2014**

The Center co-sponsored with the School of Theology and Ministry a lecture by Prof. Adele Reinhartz, Professor in the Department of Classics and Religious Studies at the University of Ottawa, on the Gospel of John.



Adele Reinhartz

**Prof. Amy-Jill Levine**

**Agreeing to Disagree: How Jews and Christians Read Scripture Differently**

**March 19, 2015**

Although Jews and Christians share common books—the Jewish Tanakh and the Christian Old Testament—we read our shared stories in different ways. Differences in translation, punctuation, definitions, theology, emphasis, and even canonical order all lead to differences in community self-definition. Prof. Amy-Jill Levine addressed how we have a conversation if we see the world, and the text, through different lenses. The event was sponsored by the School of Theology and Ministry and the Center for Christian-Jewish Learning, and generously supported by the Kitz Family in honor of Richard J. Clifford, S.J.



Amy-Jill Levine

**Prof. Susannah Heschel**

***Nostra Aetate* and the Jews: The Relationship Between Augustin Cardinal Bea and Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel**

**October 18, 2015**

Prof. Susannah Heschel, the Eli Black Professor of Jewish Studies at Dartmouth College, delivered the Fourth Annual John Paul II Lecture in Christian-Jewish Relations. She spoke on the personal relationship between Augustin Cardinal Bea and her father, Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, and its role on the Second Vatican Council’s shaping of *Nostra Aetate*.



Susannah Heschel

**Prof. James O'Toole**  
**Boston and *Nostra Aetate***  
**November 1, 2015**

Prof. James O'Toole, Clough Millennium Chair in History at Boston College, delivered the keynote lecture, titled "Boston and *Nostra Aetate*" as part of the Center's "Celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of *Nostra Aetate*." Prof. James Bernauer, Kraft Family Professor and Director of the Center for Christian-Jewish Learning, provided introductory remarks. Prof. O'Toole's address was followed by a panel titled "Relations with Jews and the Diverse Christian Communities of Boston" with Rabbi Or Rose, Director of the Center for Global Judaism at Hebrew College; Rev. Michael McGarry of the Paulist Center; Dr. Jennifer Howe Peace, Associate Professor of Interfaith Studies at Andover-Newton Theological School; and Rev. Dr. Demetrios Tonia, Dean of Annunciation Cathedral of Boston. Ruth Langer, Professor of Jewish Studies and Associate Director of the Center for Christian-Jewish Learning, served as the panel's moderator.



James O'Toole

**Council of Centers on Jewish-Christian Relations**  
**Fourteenth Annual Meeting**  
**November 1-2, 2015**

The Center hosted the Fourteenth Annual Meeting of the Council of Centers on Jewish-Christian Relations (CCJR), which included four speaker panels open to the public.



**Understanding Interreligious "Fault Lines:" Insights from Post-Holocaust Conversations**

Dr. Victoria Barnett (U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum); Responses: Dr. Tim Crain (Seton Hill University), Ben Barer (Hebrew College); Moderator: Rev. Dr. Kevin Spicer (Stonehill College)

**On the Jewish Response to *Nostra Aetate***

Rabbi Dr. Irving Greenberg; Responses: Rabbi Dr. Eugene Korn (Center for Jewish-Christian Understanding and Collaboration), Sara Lee (emeritus director, Rhea Hirsch School of Education, HUC-Jewish Institute of Religion, Los Angeles)

**Implications of Current Research on Second Temple Judaism and Early Christianity for Christian-Jewish Relations Today**

Panelists: Dr. Angela Kim Harkins (Boston College), Dr. Adele Reinhartz (University of Ottawa), Dr. Thomas Stegman (Boston College); Moderator: Dr. Arthur Urbano (Providence College)

**Creating Intersections between Christian-Jewish Relations, Theologies of Religious Pluralism, and Comparative Theology**

Rabbi Dr. Alan Brill (Seton Hall University), Rev. Dr. Francis X. Clooney, SJ (Harvard Divinity School), Bethany Slater (Boston College); Moderator: Dr. Adam Gregerman (Saint Joseph's University)

## 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. Gavriel D. Rosenfeld

November 7, 2013

Prof. Gavriel Rosenfeld, Prof. of History and Director of the Undergraduate Program in Judaic Studies at Fairfield University, delivered a lecture to Prof. James Bernauer's "The Holocaust: A Moral History" class based on his book *Building after Auschwitz: Jewish Architecture and the Memory of the Holocaust* (Yale, 2011).



Gavriel D. Rosenfeld

### Prof. Susannah Heschel

January 30, 2014



Susannah Heschel

Prof. Susannah Heschel, Prof. of Jewish Studies at Dartmouth College, spoke to Prof. Ruth Langer's "Exploring the Theology of Abraham Joshua Heschel" class about her father's theological method in the context of Christian theology and philosophies of religion.

**Prof. Jonathan Decter**

**March 25, 2014**

Prof. Jonathan Decter, Prof. of Sephardic Studies at Brandeis University, delivered a talk to Prof. Pamela Berger's art history class on Jewish literature in the Islamic World during the medieval period titled "Jewish Thinking about Islam and Christianity in Medieval Spain."



Jonathan Decter

**Alan Rosen**

**November 4, 2014**

As part of its Jewish-Christian Lecture Series and in Commemoration of the 76th Anniversary of Kristallnacht, the Center hosted a public lecture by Alan Rosen in Prof. Ruth Langer's "Jewish Liturgy: Its History and Theology" class titled "Turning Disaster Inside Out: Commemorating the Holocaust to Transform the Future."



Alan Rosen

**Linda Gradstein**

**February 18, 2015**



Linda Gradstein

Jerusalem-based NPR reporter Linda Gradstein spoke to Prof. Mark Oppenheimer's "Writing About Religion" class to discuss the dilemmas of covering Jewish/Muslim/Christian ethnic and religious conflict for a secular news organization. She also has branched into documentary and video journalism, and discussed how new media are facilitating better religious and ethnic storytelling.

**Dr. Jay Michaelson**

**April 1, 2015**

Dr. Jay Michaelson, author of *Evolving Dharma: Meditation, Buddhism, and the Next Generation of Enlightenment*, spoke in Prof. Mark Oppenheimer's "Writing About Religion" Class, discussing the media's treatment of Buddhism in America.



Jay Michaelson

**Dr. Raphael Jospe**

**April 21, 2015**



Raphael Jospe

Dr. Raphael Jospe, professor of Jewish Philosophy at Ariel University in Israel, presented a lecture to Prof. Ruth Langer's "Jews and Christians: Understanding the Other" class titled "Zion and Zionism in Jewish and Christian Thought and History."

**Dr. Murray Schwartz**

**November 6, 2015**

Dr. Murray Schwartz, professor in the Department of Writing, Literature, and Publishing at Emerson College, spoke in Prof. Vanessa Rumble's "Freud and Philosophy" class, delivering a lecture titled "History, Trauma, and Testimony" which addressed the tensions between Holocaust history on the one hand and trauma and testimony on the other.



Murray Schwartz

**Dr. Kelley Coblentz Bautch**  
November 6, 2015



Kelley Coblentz Bautch

Dr. Kelley Coblentz Bautch, Associate Professor of Religious Studies at St. Edwards University, spoke in Prof. Angela Harkins' "Apocalypses and Apocalyptic Literature" class on "The Politics of Apocalypticism: Assigning Authorship and Jewish-Christian Relations."

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## Annual Corcoran Chair Conferences

**2014 Corcoran Chair Conference**  
**Jews, Christians, & Visuality: New Approaches**  
**March 9-10, 2014**

The 2014 Corcoran Chair Conference brought together art historians, historians, and scholars of text and culture to consider such topics as image as text, iconography as exegesis, the book as material culture icon, and the possibilities for (and discontents of) historical localization and contextualization. Its aim was to consolidate a significant shift in the field that had been felt but not yet marked.

### **Conference Rationale**

Over the past two decades, both the study of "Jewish Art" and of "Jews in Art" has been expanding from the antiquarian and philological (or phililonic) to comprehend theoretical perspectives familiar from the study of visual and material culture in the wider scholarly universe of art historical, historical, textual and cultural studies. The relationship between Jewish and Christian visual culture in the medieval Latin West is a signal element in this re-evaluation.

## Presenters

Prof. Pamela Berger, Boston College  
Prof. Zsafia Buda, Oxford University  
Prof. Aleksandra Buncic, University of Sarajevo  
Prof. Matilda Bruckner, Boston College  
Prof. Adam Cohen, University of Toronto  
Prof. Jonathan Elukin, Trinity College  
Prof. Marc Michael Epstein, Vassar College and Boston College  
Prof. Julie Harris, Spertus Institute  
Prof. Leor Jacobi, Bar Ilan University  
Prof. Abby Kornfeld, The City College of New York  
Prof. Hartley Lachter, Muhlenberg College  
Prof. Ruth Langer, Boston College  
Dr. Emma O'Donnell, Boston College  
Prof. Linda Safran, University of Toronto



The Codex Manesse, Manesse Codex, or Große Heidelberger Liederhandschrift (Heidelberg, University of Heidelberg Library, Codex Palatinus Germanicus 848) is a Liederhandschrift (medieval songbook), the single most comprehensive source of Middle High German Minnesang poetry, written and illustrated ca. 1304. Folio 355r depicts Susskind, the Jew of Trimberg, in a Jewish hat and beard, speaking before a bailiff in Constance.

**2015 Corcoran Chair Conference**  
**Protestant, Catholic, Jew ... Divorcing**  
**March 22-23, 2015**

The 2015 Corcoran Chair Conference addressed the shifting cultural picture of marriage in Catholic, Jewish and Protestant circles. The conference's three panels (Jewish, Catholic, and Protestant) provided perspectives from scholars, theologians, clergy, and sociologists.

**Conference Rationale**

Fifty years ago, it was nearly impossible for Catholics to get annulments. In Orthodox Judaism, only husbands could grant divorces. In evangelical Protestantism, divorced men and women were treated as damaged goods. Today, in all three traditions, times are changing. But how much, and how fast?



*The Trial of Catherine of Aragon* by Henry Nelson O'Neil. Catherine pleading her case against divorce from Henry VIII.

**Jewish Panel**

Prof. Susan Aranoff, AGUNAH International  
Prof. Lois Dubin, Smith College  
Rabbi Yona Reiss, Av Beth Din, Chicago Rabbinical Council; Rosh Yeshiva, RIETS  
Rabbi Jeremy Stern, Organization for the Resolution of Agunot  
Prof. Mark Oppenheimer (moderator)

**Catholic Panel**

Prof. Lisa S. Cahill, Boston College  
Rev. Mark O'Connell, Archdiocese of Boston  
Prof. Melissa Wilde, University of Pennsylvania  
Rev. Mark Massa (moderator)

**Protestant Panel**

Prof. Randall Balmer, Dartmouth College  
Prof. David P. Gushee, Mercer University  
Prof. Heather White, New College of Florida  
Prof. Mark Oppenheimer (moderator)

**Righteous Among the Nations:  
A Conference Exploring the Spiritual & Ethical Witness of Holocaust Rescuers  
March 12-13, 2015**

**Conference Rationale**

The Israeli Holocaust Memorial Center, Yad Vashem, has honored over 25,000 individuals with the title “Righteous Among the Nations” for having risked or lost their own lives in rescuing Jewish lives during the Shoah. How do their activities still question us spiritually and ethically? The Center for Christian-Jewish Learning at Boston College sponsored this conference in order to examine the implications of this extraordinary human achievement, accomplished in the midst of genocidal violence.



The Garden of the Righteous at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem



Susan Zuccotti

Dr. Susan Zuccotti, author of *Père Marie-Benoît and Jewish Rescue*, delivered the conference’s first keynote address, “Père Marie-Benoît, Rescuer of Jews in Marseille and Rome: His Character, Achievements, and Impact.”

A panel of respondents who spoke on the theme of “Christians & Jews in Conversation on the Righteous” included Dr. Victoria Barnett (United States Holocaust Memorial Museums), Prof. James Bernauer, S.J. (Boston College), Dr. Mark Oppenheimer (Corcoran Visiting Professor, Boston College), Mr. Hayyim Rothman, Ph. D. Candidate (Boston College), and Prof. Kevin Spicer, C.S.C. (Stonehill College).

Dr. Mordecai Paldiel of Yeshiva University, former Director of the Department of the Righteous Among the Nations at Yad Vashem, delivered the conference’s second keynote address, “Defying their Own Regime: German Rescuers of Jews.”

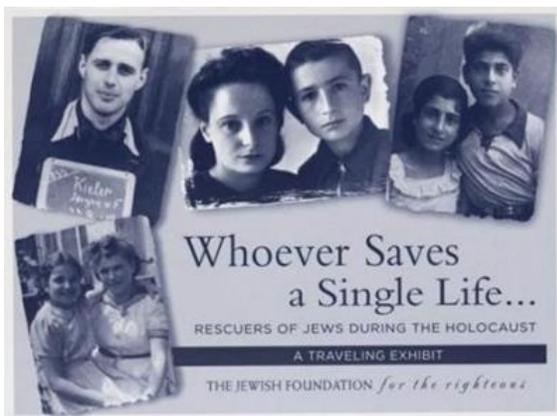
Respondents included Prof. Katharina von Kellenbach (St. Mary’s College, Maryland), Dr. Donna Perry (University of Massachusetts, Worcester), Prof. Stephen Pope (Boston College), Dr. Marian St. Onge (independent scholar), and Dr. Meghan Sweeney (Boston College).



Mordecai Paldiel

### **School of Theology and Ministry Library Exhibit: “Whoever Saves a Single Life”**

The School of Theology and Ministry Library at Boston College also displayed an exhibit in conjunction with the “Righteous Among the Nations” Conference. This exhibit was hosted by Head Librarian Esther Griswold and presented courtesy of The Jewish Foundation for the

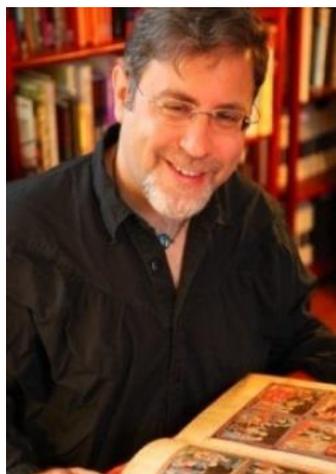


Righteous. The exhibit opening took place with a presentation by the Executive Director of the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous in New York, Ms. Stanley Stahl, and it showcased some of those rare--but exceedingly important--instances where people fought to safeguard their Jewish fellow citizens during the Holocaust. In a time of overwhelming death and destruction, rescuers did not stand by silently. They chose another way, and their bravery offers us a glimmer of hope. This exhibit was co-sponsored by the Center for Christian-Jewish Learning, the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry, and the Boston College Libraries.

## 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.

**Marc Michael Epstein**  
October 2, 2013



Marc Michael Epstein

Prof. Marc Michael Epstein, the 2013-2014 Corcoran Visiting Chair in Christian-Jewish Relations, led a talk based on his article “Jewish Visuality: Myths of Aniconism and Realities of Creativity.”

**Through a Lens Darkly**  
November 13, 2013

Prof. John Michalczyk and Prof. Raymond Helmick, S.J. led a discussion on their book *Through a Lens Darkly: Films of Genocide, Ethnic Cleansing, and Atrocities* (Peter Lang Publishers, 2013). Prof. Helmick introduced the notion of genocide, Prof. Rifat Sonsino spoke about the Armenian genocide, and Prof. Michalczyk elaborated on the growing consciousness of the Shoah through the visual image.



John Michalczyk and Raymond Helmick, S.J.



Mark Oppenheimer

**Dr. Mark Oppenheimer**  
September 17, 2014

The 2014-2015 Corcoran Visiting Professor, Dr. Mark Oppenheimer, led a discussion on the paper “Next Year in Jerusalem” by the late Jewish feminist critic and reporter Ellen Willis.

**Michael R. Simone, S.J.**  
November 5, 2014



Michael R. Simone, S.J., of the School of Theology and Ministry, led a talk on his paper “Whose Spirit? A Discussion of Divine Immanence.”

Michael Simone, S.J.

**Dr. Joshua Furnal**  
April 8, 2015

Dr. Joshua Furnal, Visiting Lecturer in the Department of Religion at Dartmouth College, led a discussion after delivering a talk titled “The Affinity of Strangers: Kierkegaard in Jewish-Catholic Perspective.”



Joshua Furnal

## Israeli-Palestinian Conflict Seminar

The Center continues its sponsorship of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict Seminar, an interdisciplinary forum where students can discuss issues related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. While other organizations on campus serve to advocate different political positions, the seminar opens a space for interested students to participate in a nonpartisan investigation of key issues. The seminar is committed to maintaining a non-confrontational and academically responsible environment while at the same time engaging sensitive and possibly controversial topics. The seminar was led by Sean Driscoll, a Boston College Philosophy Ph.D. student, during the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 academic years. It is now led by Bethany Slater, a Theology Ph.D. student. Its participants have been graduate students from across the university as well as other Boston-area universities. The group has been small but consistent, with students often attending across semesters and even across years.



Participants in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict Seminar

Under the direction of Sean Driscoll, participating students met bi-monthly to read and discuss both historical aspects and current events related to the conflict in an effort to understand the various narratives involved. Besides reading news articles, seminar participants read and discussed *The Israel-Palestine Conflict: One Hundred Years of War* (Cambridge University Press, 2014) by James Gelvin as well as *Arabs and Israelis: Conflict and Peacemaking in the Middle East* (Palgrave MacMillan, 2013) by Abdel Monem Said Aly, Shai Feldman, and Khalil Shikaki. The seminar also hosted speakers each semester—leading academics in their fields. Recent speakers included Khalil Shikaki, Director of the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research in Ramallah and a senior fellow at the Crown Center for Middle East Studies at Brandeis University; Shai Feldman, Director of the Crown Center for Middle East Studies and Professor of Politics at Brandeis University; Antony Lerman, a British writer who specializes in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; and Raymond Helmick, S.J., a professor of Theology at Boston College who has worked extensively in conflict resolution in Israel/Palestine.

## 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. Completed research projects are available online here: <http://tinyurl.com/pu9smbk>

### **Jeong Cheol Ha, Boston College Th.M. Student 2014 Recipient**

Jeong Cheol Ha's research project aims to "challenge the traditional, supersessionist readings of Luke-Acts" and demonstrate that Luke actually holds a "profound appreciation for Judaism." He hopes that such an understanding "can contribute to continued Jewish-Christian dialogue and aid Christians to better understand the origins of their faith."

### **Rev. Jeong Mun Heo, Boston College Th.M. Student 2014 Recipient**

Rev. Jeong Mun Heo developed a research paper examining the similarities among the images and activities of personified Wisdom in early Jewish sources and Jesus in the Gospels. He intends his scholarship to highlight convergent positions of the Jewish and Christian faiths and further understanding and respect between the two faiths. His research paper is available here: <http://tinyurl.com/ognjpkz>

### **Grainne McEvoy, Ph.D. (2014, Boston College, History) 2014 Recipient**

Dr. Grainne McEvoy expanded on her doctoral research which focused primarily on American Catholic social thought and immigration policy in the period referred to as the Restriction Era, 1917-1965. She examines more deeply the position taken by Protestant and Jewish organizations on immigration policy and reform. Her scholarship interrogates the interfaith nature of the religious critique of U.S. immigration policy in the 20th century. Her working paper is available here: <http://tinyurl.com/q5gaz6x>

### **David Clint Burnett, Boston College Ph.D. Theology Student 2015 Recipient**

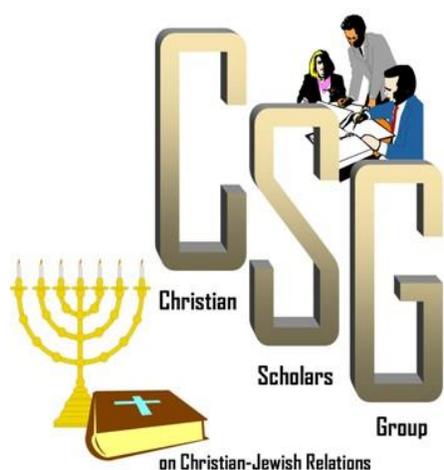
David Clint Burnett participated in an archaeological survey of cities in Greece and Turkey related to the Pauline mission as well as an archaeological dig on an ancient synagogue. He gained an archaeological perspective on Jewish and Christian relations in antiquity as well as hands-on experience at an excavation site, firsthand knowledge of how to interpret archaeological remains, and an understanding of how archaeology should shape our understanding of the testimony of literary sources. Through his experiences and research, Burnett better understands the Jewish roots of Christianity, the Apostle Paul, and the burgeoning Christian movement—"a necessity for developing the mutual respect and enrichment of Jewish and Christian relations that we so desire today." His research paper is available here: <http://tinyurl.com/qxdwj6h>

**Zachary Dehm, Boston College M.T.S. Student  
2015 Recipient**

Zachary Dehm undertook as part of his M.T.S. thesis a research project titled “The Role of Division in the Shaping of *Nostra Aetate*: A Study of how Local Politics Influence Universal Teaching.” His project examined how political questions outside of the Church influenced the Second Vatican Council through the individual bishops as heads of dioceses throughout the world, particularly in the Middle East and particularly in how they came into tension with desires to improve the relationship between Roman Catholicism and Judaism in the shaping of *Nostra Aetate*. He hopes his project “tries to understand the shaping of *Nostra Aetate* through the lens of how the bishops as heads of their churches taught as a college” as well as contributes “to the important discussion about what it means for the universal Church and how its hierarchy teaches when local churches disagree.” He hopes his project “will provide greater context for the growing relationship between the Roman Catholic Church and the Jewish community worldwide.”

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**Christian Scholars Group  
2014 and 2015 Spring Meetings**



The Center hosted the Christian Scholars Group’s annual 2014 and 2015 spring meetings at Boston College. 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. Center director, Prof. James Bernauer, S.J., is a member of the group. As of the spring of 2015, associate director, Prof. Ruth Langer, serves as one of two Jewish consultants regularly participating in the meetings.

During the 2014 meeting, Prof. Phil Cunningham and Dr. Mark Nanos delivered a talk titled “Implications of Paul’s Hopes for the End of Days for Jews and Christians Today”; Prof. Paul Knitter gave a presentation on “Christianity and the Religions: A Zero Sum Game?”; Prof. Karla Suomala delivered a talk titled “Jewish-Christian Dialogue as a Movement”; and Dr. Vicki Barnett led a discussion on post-Holocaust theologies.

During the 2015 meeting, Prof. Karla Soumala delivered a talk titled “Toward a Constructive Lutheran Engagement of Interfaith Marriage”; Dr. Heather Miller-Rubens gave a talk on “Jewish-Christian Relations in the Courtrooms of England and America”; Prof. Peter Pettit led a discussion on the fifty years since *Nostra Aetate*; and Prof. Phil Cunningham gave a talk titled “Putting the *Nos* in *Nostra Aetate*.”

## *Studies in Christian-Jewish Relations*



The Center for Christian-Jewish Learning publishes *Studies in Christian-Jewish Relations*, the electronic journal of the Council of Centers on Jewish-Christian Relations (CCJR). Prof. Ruth Langer and Dr. Camille Fitzpatrick Markey, Center Associate Directors, serve on the editorial board, as Co-Editor and Managing Editor respectively. This academic journal, the only one fully dedicated to Christian-Jewish relations, publishes peer-reviewed articles, major addresses from the Council of Center's conferences, and book reviews. It may be accessed freely on the internet at its website [www.bc.edu/scjr](http://www.bc.edu/scjr).

The Journal publishes peer-reviewed scholarship on the history, theology, and contemporary realities of Jewish-Christian relations and reviews new materials in the field. In 2013, volume 8 included four peer-reviewed articles, two proceedings of the CCJR annual meeting, and 24 reviews. In 2014, volume 9 published four peer-reviewed articles, a proceeding of the CCJR annual meeting, and 17 reviews. In 2015, volume 10 published four peer-reviewed articles, a proceeding of the CCJR annual meeting, and 18 reviews.

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### Contact the Center

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