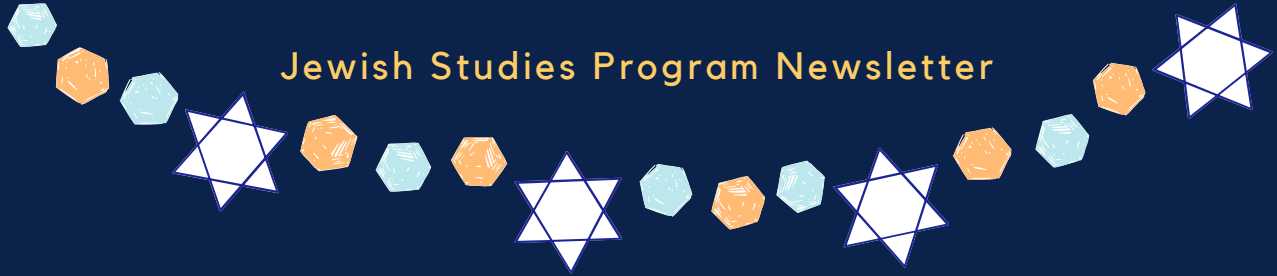


SUMMER 2021

# JEWISH STUDIES @ ROLLINS

Jewish Studies Program Newsletter



## Letter from the Director - April 27, 2021

As the 2020-2021 academic year is swiftly coming to an end, it is a delight to share that at our department end of year meeting this afternoon, four highly deserving students received academic excellence in Jewish Studies awards (for named awards and recipients, see below). This ray of sunshine comes while we continue to navigate through the myriad challenges of the pandemic.

We shifted to online teaching in March 2020, but despite our remote interactions with students, we have managed to keep our academic standards high, and our spirits filled with optimism for a brighter future. In spring 2020, we introduced a new course to our curriculum, team-taught with Dr. James McLaughlin from the Department of Education. This interdisciplinary course titled "Learning and Teaching About the Holocaust" will be taught annually, including a spring break field study to the Auschwitz Birkenau concentration camps and Krakow Poland (our 2020 field study was cancelled just two days prior to our planned departure). While all international field studies have been put on hold, we are optimistic that in spring 2022, our new group will be able to travel to Poland for this transformative immersion experience.

In summer 2020, I was selected as Scholar in Residence at the Oxford University Institute for The Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy. Due to Covid, the weeklong program was moved online, which did not minimize its impact on me and the other participants. The virtual program also provided a couple of spots for students, and upon my recommendation, Karen Gutensohn (22') joined this great learning opportunity. We had an incredible schedule of lectures by eminent scholars, and activities that challenged us to deepen and refine our understanding of this centuries-old virus and its newest forms and manifestations. It was a most rewarding intellectual and personal learning experience from which I continue to draw upon in my teaching.

In closing, on behalf of the Jewish Studies Program, a warm Mazel Tov to our graduating seniors! May you go from strength to strength!

Thank you to our supportive alumni and friends of the Jewish Studies Program at Rollins College. We hope to stay in touch in the coming academic year.

Shalom,

***Yudit Greenberg***

George D. and Harriet W. Cornell Professor of Religion

Director of the Jewish Studies Program  
Rollins College

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Telephone: 407-646-2176

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# Rabbi David Kay

## Jewish Life and Thought - Spring 2021

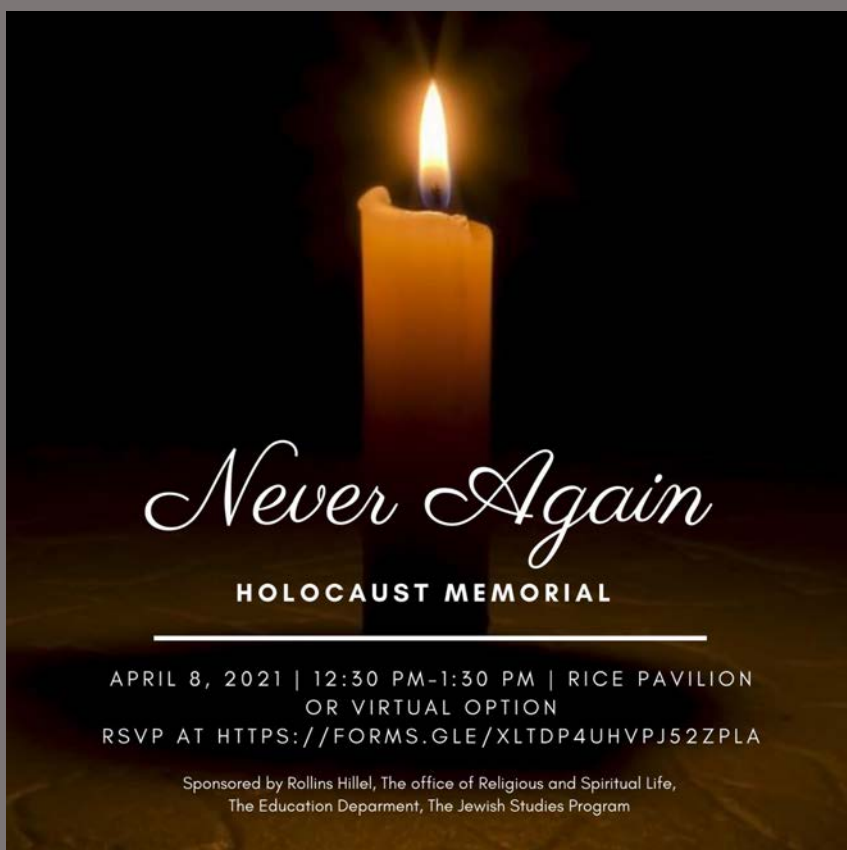
The opening session of REL 217 — Jewish Life and Thought set the tone for the semester. It focused on three foundational principles in Judaism: identity, community, and peoplehood. Of course, the irony of discussing the importance of community in an all-virtual setting wasn't lost on any of us. Still, engaging in challenging questions and issues — as well as learning core concepts — opened the door for lively and insightful conversation. This course draws students from a variety of backgrounds and faith traditions, bringing an equally rich variety of perspectives.



## Never Again: A Commemoration of the Holocaust (Yom HaShoah)

On April 8th, 2021, Rollins hosted a Holocaust memorial at the Rice Family Pavillion. Community members were also invited to attend virtually.

The event included student speakers, a reading by a published poet, the lighting of yahrzeit (memorial) candles, a recitation of the Kaddish and another Jewish prayer for mourning, the reading of children's names who were in Auschwitz-Birkenau, and a moment of silence. The event was sponsored by Rollins Hillel, the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life, the Education Department, and the Jewish Studies Program.



# About The Program

*Jewish studies is the investigation of the Religion, history, and culture of the Jewish people and the study of the interaction of this culture with the civilizations of the world.*

*This program in Jewish studies at Rollins College identifies and combines courses in the departments of Philosophy and Religion, English, Foreign Languages, Art, Music, and Anthropology. Time periods and geographical areas covered range from ancient Israel*

*to contemporary American Society. The multidisciplinary approach of the program includes biblical studies, art, music, archeology, literature, women's studies, and philosophy.*

## Who in particular would benefit from this Jewish Studies minor?

The Jewish Studies minor may be particularly beneficial for students interested in graduate studies in Religious Studies, International Politics, History, Comparative Literature, Foreign Languages, Classics and Ancient Mediterranean Studies.

In addition, the Jewish Studies Minor serves students who pursue the fields of education, social work, communal service, public administration, law, foreign service, the ministry and/or the rabbinate.

## What other benefits does the program have to offer students?

**Study Abroad** programs at the school for overseas students at Tel Aviv University; January and/or May Field Study Courses in Israel; Summer Archaeological digs in Israel; Jewish Studies Center in Prague.

**Service learning and internships** in such local institutions as the Hebrew Day School, Sunday Schools, The Holocaust Education and Resource Center; The Jewish Community Center; Jewish Family service, and Kinneret, a Jewish home for the aged. Students seeking advice about this interdisciplinary program may contact Dr. Yudit K. Greenberg, Director.

## What are the course requirements for this minor?

Six courses are required for a minor in Jewish Studies: 2 core courses, 3 electives, and a senior independent study research paper.



## Jewish Studies Courses 2021/22

### FALL 2021

#### Core Course

REL 125 | Hebrew Bible | Greenberg | TR 11:00-12:15

#### Electives

HBR 101 | Elementary Hebrew | Greenberg | TR 2:00-3:15  
ANT 255 | Middle East Culture | Newcomb | MW 1:00-2:15  
REL 219 | Islam: History and Beliefs | French | MW 1:00-2:15  
REL 395 | Topic: Religion & Food | Greenberg | W 4:00-6:30  
REL 295 | Comedy & Religion | French | TR 2:00-3:15  
POL 307 | Islam and Politics | Tatari | MWF 10:00-10:50

### SPRING 2022

#### Core Course

REL 217 | Jewish Life & Thought | Greenberg | W 4:00-6:30

#### Electives

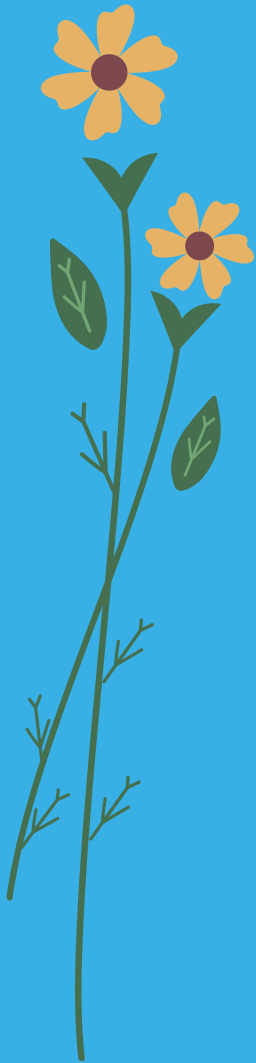
HBR 102 | Elementary Hebrew II | Greenberg | TR 11:00-12:15  
REL 218 | Christianity: Thought/Practice | French | MW 1:00-2:15  
RFLA 300 08 | Learn & Teach about Holocaust  
McLaughlin, Greenberg | TR 9:30-10:45  
POL 304 | Middle East Politics | Tatari | MWF 12:00-12:50



# Jewish Studies Award Recipients 2021

## *Gabrielle Heenan*

The Rita Bornstein  
Award for Outstanding  
Achievement by a Senior  
in Jewish Studies



"My journey through the Jewish Studies program has been the most rewarding aspect of my Rollins experience. First and foremost, Dr. Greenberg has inspired me and my path in so many ways. Her openness and bounty of experience has made my learning over the past four years fulfilling and transformative. My passion for religious studies and philosophy has made the Jewish Studies minor a perfect fit for me. In this minor, I have taken countless classes that have enriched my perspective regarding culture, religion, language, and politics. I love the interdisciplinary learning the minor has provided; each class has given me a different perspective and tool that can be applied in everyday life. I am so grateful for the opportunities and knowledge this program has awarded me and I plan to take this experience with me as I move on to the Master of Theological Studies program at Harvard!"



# *Allison Van Tilborgh*

The Harriet Lake Award for Outstanding  
Achievement by a Senior in Jewish  
Studies

Senior Outstanding Achievement Award  
in Religious Studies

*"Although I wasn't raised Jewish, the Jewish Studies minor took me on one of the more transformative journeys of my life, ultimately revealing I had Jewish ancestry. My experience gave me the tools to better write, speak, and teach about Jewish life and sowed in me a profound respect and love for Judaism. Rollins College Jewish Studies minor taught me to keep my heart open to the divine in everything and each person I encounter. The most profound themes I've gleaned are perhaps best exemplified in the words of my favorite Jewish poet, Primo Levi, "Each of us has been a slave in Egypt, / Soaked straw and clay with sweat, / And crossed the sea dry-footed. / You too, stranger. / This year in fear and shame, / Next year in virtue and in justice."*





*"Before I light candles every Friday night, I imagine that a golden rope connects me to my sister, to my mother, to my aunt, to my grandmother, to my great-grandmother, and finally to the matriarchs: Sarah, Rivkah, Leah, Rochel. These women through whom I can trace my heritage pave my past and future paths. I have connected deeply to the strength of women through my Jewish studies minor this semester. In my Teaching Assistant position in the course "Learning and Teaching About the Holocaust," I have researched some of the many women who desperately clung to their heritage and held their memories of mitzvot to their chests. I learned about the crucial role of faith in their survival. I learned about the strength of womanhood in the darkest of places and of its extraordinary role in resistance, mentorship, and rescue throughout the Shoah. "Learning and Teaching About the Holocaust" deepened my connection to my heritage. And this is exactly what the Jewish Studies program does: it proves that connection shines in all things. I am thankful for the Jewish Studies program for leading me to this conclusion, and I cannot wait until I embark on my last year in the program, in which I will complete an independent study with Dr. Greenberg."*



## *Hannah Butcher*

The Barbara Alfond Award for  
Outstanding Achievement by a  
Junior in Jewish Studies



# Karen Gutensohn

The Alan Ginsberg Award for  
Outstanding Social Activism and  
Academic Achievement in Jewish  
Studies



*"The Jewish Studies program has been one of the most meaningful and impactful parts of my Rollins experience. I am so grateful that I have had professors like Dr. Greenberg and Rabbi Kay for teaching these classes and always being open to conversations and meaningful discussions about Jewish life. I have learned so much about Jewish life, culture, history, theology, Israel, and more under Dr. Greenberg's expertise and she has always supported me and made me feel safe and welcomed on campus. I am so grateful we have a program like this and professors like her, lessons I have learned here I will carry with me throughout my life as a Jewish woman."*

# Thank You

## FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

### JEWISH STUDIES PLEDGE CARD

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_ Full gift enclosed  
\_\_\_\_\_ Partial payment of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed

\_\_\_\_\_ My or  
\_\_\_\_\_ My Spouse's employer will match all or  
some of this gift.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Completed form(s) \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ will be sent.  
Company \_\_\_\_\_

#### Designation

- \_\_\_\_\_ Please use by gift where it is most needed.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Please designate my gift for:  
\_\_\_\_\_ Student scholarship for study in Israel  
\_\_\_\_\_ Academic program support  
\_\_\_\_\_ Distinguished Scholar-in-Residence  
\_\_\_\_\_ Faculty/Staff Collaborative Research  
\_\_\_\_\_ Judaica Library Collection

#### Family & Friends Giving Circle

- **Friend** \$100 - 499
- **Supporter** \$500 - 999
- **Patron** \$1,000 - 4,999
- **Sponsor** \$5,000 - 9,999
- **Benefactor** \$10,000+

I/We would like to join with a leadership gift  
to the Jewish Studies Program for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks  
payable to:  
**Jewish Studies Program**  
Rollins College  
1000 Holt Ave. - 2773  
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