

THE GROSS FAMILY CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF
ANTISEMITISM AND THE HOLOCAUST
2021-2022 SPEAKER SERIES



Special Program

WITNESS: LESSONS FROM ELIE WIESEL'S CLASSROOM

Speaker: Ariel Burger

Friday, January 21, 2022 - 2 p.m.

Eissey Campus Theater at
Palm Beach State College
11051 Campus Drive
Palm Beach Gardens, Florida 33410

In cooperation with Jewish Community
Synagogue and Palm Beach State College

Book sale and signing immediately
following the lecture.

"Elie Wiesel was a towering presence on the world stage – a Nobel Laureate, activist, advisor to world leaders, and the author of more than forty books. But when asked, Wiesel always said, "I am a teacher first." In fact, he taught at Boston University for nearly four decades, and with this book, "Witness", Ariel Burger – devoted protege, apprentice and friend – takes us into the sacred space of Wiesel's classroom."



ARIEL BURGER

Ariel Burger is the founding director and senior scholar of The Witness Institute, a project to empower emerging leaders, inspired by the life and legacy of Elie Wiesel. He is an author, artist and teacher whose work integrates spirituality, the arts

and strategies for social change. An Orthodox-trained Rabbi, Ariel received his Ph.D. in Jewish Studies and Conflict Resolution under Elie Wiesel. A lifelong student of Professor Wiesel, Ariel served as his Teaching Fellow from 2003-2008. His book "Witness" won the 2019 Jewish Book Award.

As the number of living Holocaust survivors diminishes daily and global antisemitism surges, The Gross Family Center for the Study of Antisemitism and the Holocaust is working to raise awareness of the Holocaust and prejudice faced by Jewish people around the world.

The Gross Family Center Speaker Series provides the Palm Beaches with powerful programming that explores the experiences and consequences of antisemitism and the Holocaust, the singular most catastrophic genocide in history.

This Distinguished Speaker Series – free and open to the public – features prominent and international experts, connecting community members to critical aspects of the Jewish experience.

THE GROSS FAMILY CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF
ANTISEMITISM AND THE HOLOCAUST

Presented by The Gross Family Center for the Study of Antisemitism and the Holocaust, a program of the Gayle and Paul Gross Family Foundation.

Venues

The Fountains Country Club

4476 Fountains Drive | Lake Worth

Indian Spring Country Club

11501 El Clair Ranch Road | Boynton Beach

Chabad of Palm Beach Gardens

6100 PGA Boulevard | Palm Beach Gardens

Eissey Campus Theater at Palm Beach State College

11051 Campus Drive | Palm Beach Gardens

Delray Beach Public Library

100 West Atlantic Avenue | Delray Beach

Program Schedule

The New York Times' Nazi Correspondent

Sunday, November 7, 2021 – 2 p.m.

Speaker: Laurel Leff

Delray Beach Public Library

In cooperation with the Delray Beach Public Library
and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Three Existential Threats Facing Jewish Civilization: How to Combat and Defeat Them

Sunday, November 21, 2021 – 11 a.m.

Speaker: Dr. Jason D. Hill

Indian Spring Country Club, Boynton Beach

Jerusalem: Who's City is it?

Sunday, December 5, 2021 – 11 a.m.

Speaker: Mort Klein

Indian Spring Country Club, Boynton Beach

Fellowships at Auschwitz for the Study of Professional Ethics (FASPE) and the Future of Holocaust Education

Sunday, December 19, 2021 – 11 a.m.

Speaker: Thorsten Wagner

Indian Spring Country Club, Boynton Beach

Iran's Goals, China's Goals and US Policy in the Middle East

Sunday, January 9, 2022 – 11 a.m.

Speaker: Shoshana Bryen

Indian Spring Country Club, Boynton Beach

Witness: Lessons from Elie Wiesel's Classroom

Friday, January 21, 2022 – 2 p.m.

Speaker: Ariel Burger

Book Sale and Signing

Eissey Campus Theatre at Palm Beach State College

In cooperation with Jewish Community Synagogue

and Palm Beach State College

Witness: Lessons from Elie Wiesel's Classroom

Sunday, January 23, 2022 – 11 a.m.

Speaker: Ariel Burger

Book Sale and Signing

The Fountains Country Club, Lake Worth

Never Forget: Remembering the Holocaust in Berlin and Germany

Sunday, February 13, 2022 – 11 a.m.

Speaker: Anette Isaacs

Indian Spring Country Club, Boynton Beach

A Kuwaiti Muslim's Journey to Judaism

Friday, February 25, 2022 – 6:15 p.m.

Speaker: Mark Halawa

Chabad of Palm Beach Gardens

The Conflict in Gaza and the Law of War

Sunday, February 27, 2022 – 11 a.m.

Speaker: Eugene Kontorovich

The Fountains Country Club, Lake Worth

The Downside of Universalizing the Holocaust

Sunday, March 13, 2022 – 11 a.m.

Speaker: Rabbi Aryeh Spero

Indian Spring Country Club, Boynton Beach

Eugenics, Euthanasia and the Asperger Autism Connection: Pseudoscience and Medicalized Mass Murder in the Third Reich

Sunday, March 27, 2022 – 11 a.m.

Speaker: Dr. Irving Berkowitz

Indian Spring Country Club, Boynton Beach

Debrief: What Lies Ahead For The Middle East In 2022

Sunday, April 3, 2022 – 11 a.m.

Speaker: Tal Heinrich

The Fountains Country Club, Lake Worth

All programs are free and open to the public. Registration is required and available at GrossFamilyCenter.org

About the Speakers



DR. IRVING BERKOWITZ

Eugenics, Euthanasia and the Asperger Autism Connection: Pseudoscience and Medicalized Mass Murder in the Third Reich

Sunday, March 27, 2022

The son of Holocaust survivors, Dr. Irving Berkowitz is a widely respected scholar and public speaker on the Holocaust and contemporary antisemitism. He has served as Dean of Academic Affairs at Palm Beach State College since 2013, and he recently completed a fellowship as Scholar in Residence at Oxford University's Institute for the Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy. Dr. Berkowitz has received numerous commendations, including the 2019 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Distinguished Leadership Award, for his lifetime of scholarship, advocacy, and service in relation to racism, antisemitism, hatred and discrimination.



SHOSHANA BRYEN

Iran's Goals, China's Goals and US Policy in the Middle East

Sunday, January 9, 2022

Shoshana Bryen is Senior Director of the Jewish Policy Center in Washington, DC and Editor of inFOCUS Quarterly. A specialist in U.S. defense policy and Middle East affairs, she has worked with the U.S. Army War College, the National Defense University, and the Institute for National Security Studies (Tel Aviv).

Mrs. Bryen created a program that allowed more than 450 American military officers to engage in professional discussions in Israel and Jordan, and one for the cadets and midshipmen of America's service academies that gave future officers a positive, in-depth work/study experience in Israel.



ARIEL BURGER

Witness: Lessons from Elie Wiesel's Classroom

Friday, January 21, 2022

Sunday, January 23, 2022

Ariel Burger is the founding director and senior scholar of The Witness Institute, a new project to empower emerging leaders, inspired by the life and legacy of Elie Wiesel. He is an accomplished scholar, author, artist and teacher whose work integrates spirituality, the arts, and strategies for social change. An Orthodox-trained Rabbi, Ariel received his Ph.D. in Jewish Studies and Conflict Resolution under Elie Wiesel, while serving as his Teaching Fellow from 2003-2008.



MARK HALAWA **A Kuwaiti Muslim's Journey to Judaism**

Friday, February 25, 2022

Mark “Mordechai” Halawa was born into a secular Muslim family in Kuwait. His father owned a successful construction business that provided a privileged life for him and his four siblings. Then the First Gulf War changed his life when he was 12 years old. His father’s business was destroyed and the family left Kuwait, moving first to Amman, Jordan, and eventually migrating to Canada. Although a non-observant Muslim, his father was “rabidly anti-Israel”. But Mark had heard family rumors, which proved to be true, that his maternal grandmother was Jewish. While studying at the University of Western Ontario, he met a rabbi who explained that based on Jewish law, he was a Jew. He then began to explore his religious roots, which ultimately led him to Israel to study at Yeshiva. He now balances work with business projects, promoting common values among countries in the Middle East, and sharing his remarkable story and hopes for peace.



TAL HEINRICH **Debrief: What Lies Ahead For The Middle East In 2022**

Sunday, April 3, 2022

Tal is an Israeli journalist and news anchor in New York. She is the host of “TIJ Talks” for the London-based Investigative Journal. She previously anchored the prime time show “Crossroads” on i24NEWS. In Israel, she produced for CNN International and hosted multiple major news shows there as one of the most prominent female broadcasters. She is fluent in Hebrew, English, German and Arabic. Tal holds a B.A. in Arabic Literature and General History, as well as a Master’s degree of Contemporary Middle East Studies.



JASON HILL **Three Existential Threats Facing Jewish Civilization: How to Combat and Defeat Them**

Sunday, November 21, 2021

Jason D. Hill is a professor of philosophy at DePaul University and the author of five books. He is a specialist in ethics and American politics and has been widely published in major print and online outlets, including Commentary Magazine and The Hill, where he writes on a wide range of topics that include American foreign and domestic policy, issues of culture and race, higher education and the Middle East. He is also interviewed regularly on various media outlets, including NBC’s Today Show and NPR. Dr. Hill is a devout advocate and supporter of Israel which he regards as an ethical state. He is a staunch supporter of Jewish civilization which he defends in his scholarship as an “International Treasure Trove.”

About the Speakers



ANETTE ISAACS

Never Forget: Remembering the Holocaust in Berlin and Germany

Sunday, February 13, 2022

Anette Isaacs, M.A. is a German Historian and Public Educator who was born and raised in the Rhine Valley near Frankfurt. Anette received two scholarships for academic excellence which allowed her to attend Emory University in Atlanta and the University of Vienna in Austria. She completed her graduate work at the Freie Universitaet in Berlin. Anette is an Adjunct Faculty Member of a multitude of Life Long Learning Departments at many colleges across the US, including our own FAU, Dartmouth, and Carnegie Melon.



MORTON A. KLEIN

Jerusalem: Whose City is it? Sunday, December 5, 2021

Morton A. Klein is National President of the Zionist Organization of America (ZOA), the oldest pro-Israel group in the U.S., and a member of the National Council of AIPAC. A child of Holocaust survivors, he has been lauded for his contributions to national and international affairs. Klein's successful campaigns against anti-Israel bias were the subject of thirty feature stories here and in Israel. He was an economist in the Nixon, Ford and Carter administrations, and a biostatistician at UCLA School of Public Health and the Linus Pauling Institute of Science and Medicine.



EUGENE KONTOROVICH

The Conflict in Gaza and the Law of War

Sunday, February 27, 2022

Eugene Kontorovich is a professor at the George Mason School of Law and the director of its Center for International Law in the Middle East. He is also the head of the International Law Department at the Kohelet Policy Forum, a Jerusalem-based think tank, and is recognized as one of the world's preeminent experts on international law and the Israel-Arab conflict.

Mr. Kontorovich has testified in Congress about the Arab-Israeli conflict. His writings have appeared in the Wall Street Journal, New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Politico and Haaretz.

All programs are free and open to the public. Registration is required and available at GrossFamilyCenter.org



LAUREL LEFF

The New York Times' Nazi Correspondent

Sunday, November 7, 2021

Laurel Leff is Professor of Journalism and Associate Director of Jewish Studies at Northeastern University in Boston. Her latest book, *Well Worth Saving: American Universities' Life and Death Decisions on Refugees from Nazi Europe* was a finalist for a 2020 National Jewish Book Award. Her previous book is *Buried by The Times: The Holocaust and America's Most Important Newspaper*. Leff has a master's in the study of law from Yale University and a master's in communications from the University of Miami. She received an A.B. from Princeton University. She was formerly a reporter for *The Wall Street Journal* and *The Miami Herald* and an editor with American Lawyer Media Inc. and *The Hartford Courant*.



RABBI AYRYEH SPERO

The Downside of Universalizing the Holocaust

Sunday, March 13, 2022

Rabbi Spero, the author of "Push Back: The Battle to Save America's Judeo-Christian Heritage" and "Why Israel Matters" is an influential theologian, powerful political thinker and spokesman. His op-eds have been widely published from the *Wall Street Journal* to the *Jerusalem Post*. He is also a columnist for the *Times of Israel* and many other publications. He is a frequent guest and commentator on a host of television outlets, and has also been interviewed on a multitude of radio programs including NPR and others across the nation. Rabbi Spero has testified in front of the House Judiciary Committee regarding religious liberty, a cause for which he was an early and outspoken advocate. He is President of Caucus for America, an organization dedicated to preserving America's unique civilization, and is spokesman for the Conference of Jewish Affairs. His advice is frequently sought by elected officials and national religious and civic leaders.



THORSTEN WAGNER

FASPE and the Future of Holocaust Education

Sunday, December 19, 2021

Thorsten Wagner is the Executive Director of Fellowships at Auschwitz for the Study of Professional Ethics, and an Associate Professor of Modern European History at the University of Copenhagen. He was the historical consultant for the acclaimed documentary *Germans and Jews* (2016), dealing with contemporary Germany, its relationship to its Nazi past and the reemergence of Jewish life.

Mr. Wagner has been a research fellow at the Danish Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, and written for numerous academic publications in the fields of Modern German and European Jewish history, antisemitism, Holocaust studies, cultures of memory and Israeli history and society.

THE GROSS CENTER FOR
HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE STUDIES

A selection of our **upcoming Fall events** through our Center at Ramapo College include:

A Single Photograph Reveals a Crime of the Holocaust

Wednesday, October 6 – 7 p.m.

Dr. Wendy Lower, The John K. Roth Professor of History and director of the Mgrublian Center for Human Rights at Claremont McKenna College and author of *The Ravine: A Family, a Photograph, a Holocaust Massacre Revealed* (New York: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2021).

Rethinking the Dilemma of Bombing Auschwitz: Support, Opposition, and Reservation

Wednesday, October 20 – 7 p.m.

Professor Zohar Segev, University of Haifa, Israel

The Resistance Network: The Armenian Genocide and Humanitarianism in Ottoman Syria, 1915-1918

Wednesday, October 27 – 7 p.m.

Dr. Khatchig Mouradian, lecturer in Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies (MESAAS) at Columbia University in conversation with Ani Tchaghlasian, Advisory Board member of the Gross Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies.

The Jewish Boxers Who Fought Back and for their Lives before and after the Shoah

Wednesday, November 10 – 7p.m.

Jeffery Sussman, author of *Holocaust Fighters: Boxers, Resisters, and Avengers* (New York: Rowan & Littlefield, Oct. 2021).

Francis' War: A True Story of Survival in Theresienstadt

Tuesday, November 16 – 7 p.m.

Helen Epstein, author of *Children of the Holocaust: Conversations with Sons and Daughters of Survivors*.

All of the above events are available on Zoom. To register for any of these lectures, please email Dr. Michael Riff, Director, The Gross Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at mriff@ramapo.edu

Special Program



Outsmarting Antisemitism

A Four Part Lesson Series:

LIVE AND IN PERSON

Tuesdays – 4-5:30 pm

November 2, 2021

November 9, 2021

November 16, 2021

November 23, 2021

Chabad of Palm Beach Gardens

6100 PGA Boulevard

Palm Beach Gardens, Florida

561.624.2223

RABBI DOVID VIGLER

Raised in South Africa and educated in some of the finest Yeshivas in Israel, England, New York, and Australia, Rabbi Dovid Vigler strives to share the beauty and depth of Judaism in a clear, conversational and down-to-earth manner.

Whether in private counseling, in his popular Torah classes or to his thousands of weekly listeners on five radio stations that syndicate Schmooze Radio, he reaches out to every Jew with unconditional love, patience, and compassion. His weekly podcasts are broadcast on the world's largest Jewish website Chabad.org.

The Gross Family Center for the Study of Antisemitism and the Holocaust is proud to co-sponsor a four-part lesson series with the Chabad of Palm Beach Gardens. The class, "Outsmarting Antisemitism" will be taught by Rabbi Dovid Vigler.

The Chabad of Palm Beach Gardens "searches out every Jew in love as they were once hunted down by the Nazis in hate." As a home of traditional Judaism for contemporary Jews, this Chabad is aligned with our mission at the Gross Family Center and we are thus honored to include this important four-part lecture series in our 2021-2022 season of events.

This class is being underwritten by the Gross Family Center. The only charge is the cost of your textbook.

Please register here for this live and in person outstanding new series:

JewishGardens.com/JLI

THE GROSS FAMILY CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF **ANTISEMITISM AND THE HOLOCAUST**

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