# THE GROSS FAMILY CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF

ANTISEMITISM AND THE HOLOCAUST 2024-2025 SPEAKER SERIES







**Itzhak Katzenelson** 

# Teacher, Poet, Author Playwright, Lyricist 1886 Born in Belarus, Russian Empire 1944 Murdered in Auschwitz

"Song of the Murdered Jewish People" 1943-1944

"So it went on: 10 a day, 10,000 Jews a day. But that didn't last long. Soon it was 15,000 they wanted from Warsaw, city of Jews, the closed-off, walled city dissolving before my eyes like snow.

Warsaw! Full of Jews like in a Yom Kippur shul, like in an open market, who davend and dealt, so sad and so happy, who looked for bread and looked for God. Walled city full only of the Jews.

Now you're deserted! You've become empty! You're a cemetery more desolate than a necropolis.

Your streets dead but even empty of corpses, your houses open but no-one goes in or out."

Reprinted with permission from the Ghetto Fighters' House, Itzhak Katzenelson Holocaust and Jewish Resistance Heritage Museum and Study Center, the world's first museum commemorating the Holocaust and Jewish heroism, and the only one founded by survivors, among them fighters of the Jewish underground in the ghettos of Poland and partisan units. The above poem is part of their 2,500,000 archival items.

# The Camp at Majdanek, Poland



Source: The State Museum at Majdanek. © Used with Permission

The mound with ashes of 78,000 Jewish victims of the German concentration camp, located in the Mausoleum. In 1969, the ashes of Majdanek's victims were placed in the Mausoleum. On the frieze of its dome, the creator of the monument, Wiktor Tołkin, engraved the message:

# "LET OUR FATE BE A WARNING TO YOU."

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

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, including the surge of antisemitism, the history of the Holocaust and, the safety and security of the State of Israel.

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

# **Program Schedule**

#### **One Year After October 7**

Sunday, November 10, 2024 - 11 a.m.

Speaker: Gregg Roman

Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Florida

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

## The Greatest Art Theft in Human History: A Discourse From a Pioneer of Nazi-Looted Art Recovery

Sunday, November 17, 2024 - 11 a.m.

Speaker: Howard Spiegler, Esq.

In Cooperation with YIVO

Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Florida

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

# Iran, Israel and the War That Will Define the Middle East

Sunday, December 8, 2024 - 11 a.m.

Speaker: Jonathan Schanzer

Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Florida

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

## Standing up for Israel: Challenges and Opportunities, with Veteran Israeli Diplomat Shahar Azani

Sunday, December 15, 2024 - 11 a.m.

Speaker: Shahar Azani

Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Florida

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

# Writing on the Wall: Antisemitism as a National Security Threat, Again

Sunday, January 5, 2025 - 11 a.m. Speaker: Michal Cotler - Wunsh

In Cooperation with FIDF

Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Florida

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

## Ignoring and Appeasing Evil has Failed Throughout History. And it's Failing Again

Sunday, January 12, 2025 - 11 a.m.

Speaker: Mort Klein

Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Florida

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

## Jerusalem is Not Holy to Muslims - and Other Shocking Truths

Monday, January 13, 2025 - 7 p.m.

**Speaker: Mort Klein** 

Chabad of Palm Beach Gardens

## From Holocaust Denial to Holocaust Distortion: New Threat to the Memory and Commemoration of the Shoah in Poland and Beyond

Sunday, January 26, 2025 - 11 a.m.

Speaker: Jan Grabowski
In Cooperation with

The Ghetto Fighters' House Museum

Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Florida

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

# Because it's Just and Right: The Untold Back-Story of the US Recognition of Jerusalem as the Capital of Israel and Moving the US Embassy to Jerusalem

Sunday, February 2, 2025 - 11 a.m.

**Speaker: Farley Weiss** 

Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Florida

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

#### From Vicious Antisemite to Ardent Zionist

Monday, February 10, 2025 - 7 p.m.

**Speaker: Kasim Hafeez** 

Chabad of Palm Beach Gardens

# Is There a Future for The Abraham Accords?

Sunday, February 23, 2025 - 11 a.m.

Speaker: Ilan Berman

Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Florida

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

# Woke Antisemitism: How a Progressive Ideology Harms Jews

Sunday, March 9, 2025 - 11 a.m.

**Speaker: David Bernstein** 

Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Florida

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

# From Pain to Victory: Securing the National Homeland for the Jewish People in the Land of Israel

Sunday, March 16, 2025 - 11 a.m.

Speaker: Brigadier General Res. Amir Avivi Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Florida

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

## From Washington to Jerusalem: Challenges and Opportunities in the US-Israel Relationship

Sunday, March 23, 2025 - 11a.m.

Speaker: William Daroff

B'nai Torah Congregation, Boca Raton

# **About** the **Speakers**



BRIGADIER GENERAL RES.
AMIR AVIVI
From Pain to Victory: Securing
the National Homeland for the
Jewish People in the Land
of Israel
Sunday, March 16, 2025

Amir Avivi is the Chairman of IDSF (Israel's Defense and Security Forum) which he founded in 2020. IDSF is comprised of more than 28,000 reserve and retired officers, commanders and operators from all branches of the Israeli Security Establishment. IDSF promotes the national security of the State of Israel to ensure its existence and prosperity for generations to come.



SHAHAR AZANI
Standing up for Israel:
Challenges and Opportunities,
with Veteran Israeli Diplomat
Shahar Azani

Sunday, December 15, 2024
Shahar Azani is a passionate advocate for Israel and a frequent contributor

on various media outlets focusing on Israel, Jewish issues and the Middle East. He is Senior Vice President at JBS, Jewish Broadcasting Service, Principal and Founder at Fourth Dimension Strategies, former Executive Director for StandWithUs in New York and a former Israeli diplomat at Israel's Foreign Ministry for over 16 years – including London, Los Angeles, Jerusalem, Nairobi and New York, focusing on media, advocacy and public diplomacy. Before embarking on this career path, he practiced Law at Haim Zadok and Company, based in Tel Aviv, focusing on litigation.



ILAN BERMAN
Is There a Future for
The Abraham Accords?
Sunday, February 23, 2025
Ilan Berman is Senior Vice President of
the American Foreign Policy Council in
Washington, DC. An expert on regional
security in the Middle East, Central Asia,
and the Russian Federation, he has

consulted for the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency as well as the U.S. Departments of State and Defense, and has also provided assistance on foreign policy and national security issues to a range of governmental agencies and congressional offices. He has been called one of America's "leading experts on the Middle East and Iran" by CNN.



# DAVID BERNSTEIN Woke Antisemitism: How a Progressive Ideology Harms Jews Sunday, March 9, 2025

A passionate advocate of the free expression of ideas and the state of Israel, David Bernstein is the founder of

the Jewish Institute for Liberal Values (JILV), which opposes illiberal ideologies and supports the liberal values in and out of the Jewish community. He is the author of Woke Antisemitism: How a Progressive Ideology Harms Jews. He is also a Co-Founder of the Institute for Liberal Values, the Past President and CEO of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, and the former Executive Director of the David Project.



MICHAL COTLER - WUNSH
Writing on the Wall:
Antisemitism as a National
Security Threat, Again
Sunday, January 5, 2025
Michal Cotler-Wunsh is an Israeli
politician and diplomat. She served as
a member of Israel's 23rd Knesset for
the Blue and White alliance from 2020

to 2021 and is currently a Special Envoy for Combating Antisemitism for Israel. While serving in the Knesset, Cotler-Wunsh chaired the Special Committee on Drug and Alcohol Use and the Subcommittee on Israel - Diaspora Relations. Her speech at the UN about the ever-mutating virus of antisemitism, delivered after the October 7 massacre, has been viewed almost 1 million times on social media.



WILLIAM DAROFF From Washington to Jerusalem: Challenges and Opportunities in the US-Israel Relationship Sunday, March 23, 2025

William Daroff became the Chief Executive Officer of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish

Organizations on February 1, 2020. In that capacity, he is the senior professional guiding the Conference's agenda on behalf of the 50 national member organizations, which represent the wide mosaic of American Jewish life. As CEO of the Conference, he builds consensus among all of its diverse membership to craft cohesive foreign policy goals for the American Jewish community. He advocates for a secure Israel, for strengthening the US-Israel relationship, and the protection and security of Jews worldwide. Daroff is an international leader fighting antisemitism in all its forms, both domestic and abroad.

# **About** the **Speakers**



JAN GRABOWSKI
From Holocaust Denial to
Holocaust Distortion: New
Threat to the Memory and
Commemoration of the Shoah
in Poland and Beyond
Sunday, January 26, 2025

Jan Grabowski is a Professor of History at the University of Ottawa and a Fellow

of the Royal Society of Canada. His interests focus on the Holocaust in Poland and, more specifically, on the relations between Jews and Poles during the war. He has authored/co-authored or edited twenty books and more than eighty articles published in learned journals in many languages. Professor Grabowski's book: Hunt for the Jews. Betrayal and Murder in German-Occupied Poland has been awarded the Yad Vashem International Book Prize for 2014. In 2018 he co-edited and co-authored Dalej jest noc [Night Without End] (a two-volume study of the fate of the Jews in selected counties of occupied Poland). Night Without End has been published in 2022 in English by Indiana University Press. Grabowski's most recent book On Duty. The Role of the Polish 'Blue' Police in the Holocaust has been published in May 2024 by Yad Vashem.



# KASIM HAFEEZ From Vicious Antisemite to Ardent Zionist Monday, February 10, 2025

Kasim Hafeez is a British citizen of Pakistani Muslim heritage who grew up being exposed to radical anti-Western, antisemitic, and anti-Israel ideas daily. During his teenage years,

Hafeez embraced a radical Islamist ideology and became very active in the anti-Israel movement. Thankfully, Alan Dershowitz's book *The Case for Israel* challenged Hafeez's fundamental beliefs and caused him to undertake a research and reflection period leading him to Israel in 2007. Witnessing the true nature of the Jewish state changed Hafeez's perception of Israel. He felt a moral obligation to publicly speak out for Israel and the dangers of radical Islam. He has spoken all over the world including the 2013 Global Forum on Combatting Antisemitism and before the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva. Hafeez has appeared on radio, television, and in print media. Hafeez also appears alongside Holocaust survivor Irving Roth in CUFI's full-length feature documentary *Never Again?* 



#### **MORT KLEIN**

Ignoring and Appeasing Evil has Failed Throughout History. And it's Failing Again Sunday, January 12, 2025 Jerusalem is Not Holy to Muslims and Other Shocking Truths Monday, January 13, 2025

Mr. Klein is the National President of the Zionist Organization of America (ZOA), the oldest Pro-Israel group in the U.S., founded in 1897. He is widely regarded as one of the leading Jewish activists in the United States, named as one of the most important of the century, fighting for the safety and security of Israel against antisemitism for the rights and interests of the Jewish people. Klein and ZOA spearheaded the battle to move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem. He is an economist who served in the Nixon, Ford and Carter administrations. More recently, he has been invited to testify before Congress and the Israeli Knesset, in addition to appearing on every major television network. The son of Holocaust survivors, Mort Klein was born in a displaced persons camp.



# GREGG ROMAN One Year After October 7 Sunday, November 10, 2024 Gregg Roman functions as the Chief Operations Officer for the Middle East Forum. Mr. Roman previously served as Director of the Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of

Greater Pittsburgh. In 2014, he was named one of the ten most inspiring global Jewish leaders by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. He previously served as the political advisor to the Deputy Foreign Minister of Israel and worked for the Israeli Ministry of Defense. He attended American University in Washington, D.C., and the Interdisciplinary Center (IDC) in Herzliya, Israel, where he studied national security and political communications.



# JONATHAN SCHANZER Iran, Israel and the War that will Define the Middle East Sunday, December 8, 2024

Jonathan Schanzer is Vice President of Research for the Foundation for Defense of Democracies and the author of the new book State of Failure: Yasser Arafat, Mahmoud Abbas and the Unmaking of the Palestinian State. His previous book,

Hamas vs. Fatah: The Struggle for Palestine, is still the only book on the market that chronicles the Palestinian civil war. Previously, Dr. Schanzer served as a counterterrorism analyst at the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

# About the Speakers



HOWARD SPIEGLER, ESQ.
The Greatest Art Theft in
Human History:
A Discourse From a Pioneer
of Nazi-Looted Art Recovery
Sunday, November 17, 2024
Howard Spiegler has been involved in
several of the most important litigations

brought on behalf of foreign governments and heirs of Holocaust victims to recover stolen artwork, including representing the Estate of Lea Bondi Jaray to recover a Schiele painting confiscated by a Nazi agent; the recovery by the heir of the famous Jewish art dealer Jacques Goudstikker of 200 Nazi-looted artworks from the Dutch Government; the recovery by the heirs of Kazimir Malevich, the world-renowned 20th Century Ukrainian artist, of five important Malevich paintings, one of which later sold at auction for \$60 million. He has published extensively on art law. His work has been widely recognized by legal and other professional organizations including a Band 1 ranking in Chambers High Net Worth for Art and Cultural Property Law - USA. Howard practices in New York City, providing the highest level of service to clients in the art market in matters involving complex art litigation, dispute resolution, notable restitution issues and general commercial art law. He is currently handling several major litigations to recover Nazi-looted art.



FARLEY WEISS
Because It's Just and Right:
The Untold Back-Story
of the US Recognition of
Jerusalem as the Capital
of Israel and Moving the US
Embassy to Jerusalem
Sunday, February 2, 2025

Farley Weiss is Past President of the National Council of Young Israel, Chairman of the Board of the Israel Heritage Foundation, President of the Intellectual Property Law Firm of Weiss & Moy in which one of his clients is Uncle Moishy. He was a former volunteer law clerk at the Israeli Supreme Court in the Summer of 1988 for Deputy President Justice Menachem Elon. He has published in the Jerusalem Post, JNS, the Algemeiner, The Times of Israel, and The Forward. Weiss was prominently thanked by Jonathan Pollard for his efforts to get him released from prison.

#### THE GROSS FAMILY CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF

### ANTISEMITISM AND THE HOLOCAUST

#### **ANNOUNCING A NEW PARTNERSHIP**

The Gross Family Center for the Study of Antisemitism and the Holocaust is proud to partner with the Chabad of Palm Beach Gardens to present thought provoking and meaningful dialogue on topics related to Judaism and the Jewish people. Chabad of Palm Beach Gardens is devoted to engaging with every Jew spiritually on whatever level they feel comfortable. They are a natural partner for the Gross Family Center in our shared passion to combat antisemitism through strengthening Jewish pride and practice. To that end, we are delighted and honored to present 2 programs at the Chabad during this 2024 - 2025 season.

January 13, 2025 (Monday) at 7 pm Mort Klein: "Jerusalem is Not Holy to Muslims - and Other Shocking Truths"

February 10, 2025 (Monday) at 7 pm Kasim Hafeez: "From Vicious Antisemite to Ardent Zionist"

Both programs are brought to you by the Gross Family Center for the Study of Antisemitism and the Holocaust in Collaboration with ZOA, the Zionist Organization of America.

# Chabad of Palm Beach Gardens Mission Statement

Motivated by a profound love for every Jew and spurred by a boundless optimism, Chabad of Palm Beach Gardens sets into motion a dazzling array of programs and services to educate, inspire, and uplift Jews from all walks of life with unconditional love and acceptance.



#### THE GROSS FAMILY CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF

#### ANTISEMITISM AND THE HOLOCAUST

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