



Gratz Insider, September 2016 - Story Continuation

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Faculty News

Dr. Joseph Davis, Professor of Jewish Studies

This summer, Prof. Davis published an article in eJewish Philanthropy, titled [Federationism and post-Federationism](#). This fall, he is anticipating the publication of a scholarly note in The Jewish Quarterly Review, a prestigious Jewish studies journal that was started in the late 19th century and is currently published by the University of Pennsylvania Press. Prof. Davis' note will focus on a Talmudic legend about King Solomon. We'll keep you posted on its publication.

Dr. Ruth Sandberg, Leonard and Ethel Landau Professor of Rabbinics and Director of the Graduate Certificate Program in Jewish-Christian Studies

Last year, Americans celebrated the pope's visit to the United States; this year, Gratz College celebrates a new partnership conceived during the papal visit. When the pope was in Philadelphia for the World Meeting of Families, Prof. Ruth Sandberg made contact with Prof. Carmina Chapp from Saint Joseph's College, a private Catholic liberal arts college founded in 1912 in Standish, Maine.

Over the course of a year, that initial contact blossomed into an articulation agreement, recently signed between Gratz and Saint Joseph's College, for a joint graduate certificate in Jewish-Christian Studies. This agreement will give Catholic and Jewish students the opportunity to study together online through both institutions in order to gain more knowledge about each other's religious traditions and beliefs and to enhance interfaith understanding.

Gratz students now have the option of pursuing either the original Gratz Jewish-Christian Studies curriculum or the joint program with Saint Joseph's College.

Dr. Sandberg has also continued her interfaith work in print with the publication of her article [The Shared Beliefs of Judaism and Islam: A Bridge to Interfaith Understanding](#). This article appeared in The Fountain magazine.

Dr. Michael Steinlauf, Director of the Gratz Holocaust and Genocide Studies Program

Prof. Steinlauf is heading off to Poland to [lecture](#) at the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw. On October 6, he will speak on "The Dybbuk," a famous Yiddish play that premiered in Warsaw a hundred years ago. He will trace the play's history and significance before and after the Holocaust, and will ponder the question posed in his lecture summary: "Why is it that while the word *dybbuk* means nothing today to Americans or American Jews or Israelis, it continues to resonate in Poland?"

While in Warsaw, Prof. Steinlauf will also be giving two talks on the famous Yiddish writer Y. L. Peretz: one to museum staff and one to doctoral students doing research at the museum.