



Gratz Insider, January 2017 - Story Continuation

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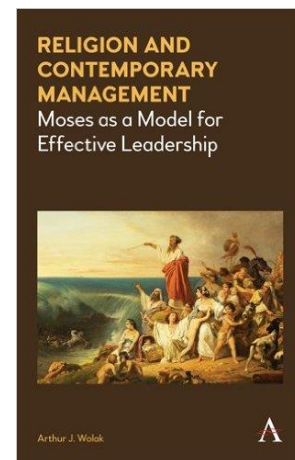
Faculty News

Prof. Ruth Sandberg

Gratz alumnus Dr. Arthur J. Wolak recently published a book called [Religion and Contemporary Management: Moses as a Model for Effective Leadership](#). The book expands on the thesis Wolak wrote as a student at Gratz College, where he earned a master's in Jewish studies and a graduate certificate in Jewish-Christian studies.

Prof. Ruth Sandberg, who was Wolak's thesis adviser at Gratz, was delighted to have the honor of writing a [foreword](#) to his book. Providing her take on the book's significance, Prof. Sandberg concludes her foreword with the following:

Dr. Wolak's most important contribution is his insistence that the biblical and rabbinic traditions of Judaism have an important place in Western society, and that the leadership concepts that are assumed to be contemporary discoveries are in fact part of an ancient culture that has much to teach the modern world.



Prof. Saul Wachs

As a recognized expert in the field of Jewish education, Prof. Saul Wachs has been invited by Towson University to help evaluate the Jewish education program there. The Towson evaluation will take place in March.

Gabrielle Kaplan-Mayer and Dr. Sandra Lilienthal

Gratz adjunct faculty members Gabrielle Kaplan-Mayer and Dr. Sandra Lilienthal share the prestigious honor of having been selected as ELI Talk presenters. Built on the model of the TED Talk, [ELI Talks](#) offer extraordinary people an online platform for communicating their ideas on different aspects of Jewish life so that they can share their inspiration and experience with the larger Jewish community.

ELI Talks are presented before live audiences and then released to the world as online videos. In December, Kaplan-Mayer and Lilienthal presented their talks live in Chicago, with the videos expected to be available online by mid-February.

The selection process for ELI Talk presenters is competitive. According to Miriam Brosseau, program director of ELI Talks, on average, only one in six applicants is accepted as a speaker in any given round.

Kaplan-Mayer is a longtime faculty member in the Gratz Jewish Community High School, who has recently been sharing her expertise with other teachers as a faculty member for [NEXT](#), the Gratz professional learning program for supplementary school teachers. In her ELI Talk, Kaplan-Mayer discusses inclusion for families of children with disabilities. The mother of an autistic child, she has made inclusion her life's work. As director of [Whole Community Inclusion](#) at Jewish Learning Venture, she works with congregations, schools, clergy and organizations to transform the Jewish community into a more inclusive place. She is an author and blogger, whose work focuses on Jewish and special needs subjects.

In her ELI Talk, Lilienthal reflects on miracles, particularly as a form of connection to God. She also wrestles with the question of how we are to see miracles in modern times when they don't seem to be occurring as they did in the past.

A two-time Gratz graduate, Lilienthal received both her master's in Jewish studies and her doctorate in Jewish education from Gratz. She has given back to her alma mater on many levels: as an adjunct professor, as a current member of the Gratz College Board of Governors and most recently, as an alumni ambassador to students in the Gratz doctoral program. Lilienthal is also a 2015 [winner of the prestigious Covenant Award](#), which is conferred upon exceptional educators who distinguish themselves in the field of Jewish education.

"Sandra and Gabby are perfect choices for ELI Talks," says Gratz President Joy Goldstein. "They are inspiring and innovative educators, passionate about the Jewish community, and creative and articulate storytellers. The Gratz College family is thrilled that they have been selected for this exciting honor."