



A CLASSROOM FOR ORPHANS IN THE JEWISH CHILDREN'S HOME IN PRE-WAR KOVNO, LITHUANIA

## Jewish Education during the Nazi Period and Holocaust Education Today

On March 5, 2020 more than 130 New Jersey educators gathered to participate in our annual Teachers Study Day. The theme for the study day was "Jewish Education during the Nazi Period and Holocaust Education Today." The educators were joined by two experts, Drs. Marion Kaplan and Thomas Fallace, to explore how the study of the Shoah (Holocaust) at age-appropriate levels can help address contemporary anti-Jewish bigotry in our day and to also learn about the historical development and current conditions of Holocaust and Genocide Education in the State of New Jersey.

The first expert to present was Dr. Marion Kaplan, who is the Skirball Professor of Modern Jewish History at New York University and author of *Hitler's Jewish Refugees: Hope and Anxiety in Portugal, 1940-45*. During her lecture and subsequent workshop, Dr. Kaplan gave the participants an overview of the ways that educators and parents worked with a variety of initiatives to overcome the isolation of Jewish children from the general culture. She also gave insight into how Jewish educational principles and values helped these groups to cope with difficult times.



Marion Kaplan, Ph.D.



Thomas Fallace, Ph.D.

Dr. Thomas Fallace, Professor of Education at William Paterson University and author of *The Emergence of Holocaust Education in American Schools*, followed with an outline of the history of Holocaust and Genocide Education in New Jersey, which has become a model for the nation. He also discussed the origins of the controversial Holocaust simulation games. Dr. Fallace has made the PowerPoint Presentations he shared during his presentation freely available to educators online: "Holocaust Education in NJ," and "Playing Holocaust: The Origins of the Controversial Gestapo Simulation Game."

Educators and others who are interested can also listen to an overview of the history of

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# JCST

## Graduate Program



## Annual Newsletter

# 2020

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#### *New Graduates and Students*

Learn who graduated and who matriculated into the JCST Graduate Program in 2020.

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#### *Save the Date - October 21*

Plan to join us virtually on October 21, 2021 for the 28th Msgr. Oesterreicher Memorial Lecture: "Sacred Scripture in a Reflection on the Holocaust."

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Despite the challenges of 2020, the JCST faculty accomplished a great deal.

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We mourn the loss of Rabbi Asher Finkel and Father John Morley, two professors who taught for many years and made significant contributions in the JCST program.

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#### *Fall 2021 Schedule*

Review and sign up for the JCST courses that are being offered next semester.

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# Congratulations, Class of 2020!

Despite the challenges of 2020, our graduates all stayed the course, pivoted with us in transitioning to online delivery of our classes and completed their studies to earn the Master of Arts in Jewish-Christian Studies. We are proud of their accomplishments and tenacity during the hardships that arose during the COVID-19 pandemic and look forward to witnessing the change they will make in our world! Hazard Zet Forward!

- **Sister Veronica Kayawe, M.A., Class of 2020**

Sister Veronica plans to share the knowledge she's gained in the JCST program with her fellow sisters, Postulants and Novitiates and those to whom she ministers in her parish.

- **Reverend Joseph Mainga, M.A., Class of 2020**

Father Joseph gained valuable skills in interreligious and multicultural relations that he has already begun to incorporate into his homilies for Mass and in his pastoral work as chaplain in a hospital where he serves a diverse group of Jewish, Christian and Muslim patients.

- **Sister Julietha Mduma, M.A., Class of 2020**

Sister Julietha will teach the lessons she learned in the JCST program to her fellow congregants in the Little Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi whose ministry focuses on teaching those in secondary schools, colleges and universities throughout Tanzania.

- **Sister Anna Nguyen, M.A., Class of 2020**

Sister Anna will be returning to Vietnam to teach members of the congregation of the Lovers of the Holy Cross whose pastoral work focuses on general and religious education.

- **Sister Francisca Osuchukwu, M.A., Class of 2020**

Sister Francisca will incorporate what she's learned in the JCST program into her pastoral and clinical work within many multicultural and interfaith settings she serves.

## Welcome, New Students!



**The Rev. Magnus Irele** is a Catholic priest from Emirikpo, Port Harcourt in Rivers State, Nigeria. He earned Bachelor's degrees in Philosophy from the University of Benin (Edo State, Nigeria) and in Theology from the Urbanian University (Rome, Italy). Father Magnus also holds a postgraduate diploma in Education. He is interested in eschatology and peace and reconciliation studies and has matriculated into the JCST graduate program to further develop his skills in interreligious dialogue.



**Sarina Drummond** is a Social Studies Teacher who holds a Bachelor's degree in Secondary Education and History from William Paterson University. She received a Sister Rose Scholarship while earning her JCST certificate and has received another scholarship from the Institute of Judaic-Christian Studies so that she can continue her academic work in the JCST Master's program. Sarina wants to use the knowledge she gains in the program to teach her students how to stand up for themselves and for others.

## SAVE THE DATE - October 21, 2021

### The 28th Msgr. JMO Memorial Lecture: Sacred Scripture in a Reflection on the Holocaust



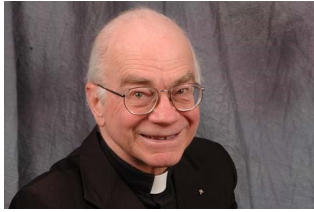
Gregory Glazov, D.Phil.

**Dr. Gregory Y. Glazov** (D.Phil. Oxon), Professor of Sacred Scripture at the Immaculate Conception School of Theology, has developed a database for the presentation of Biblical passages in theological, scholarly and popular writings on the *Shoah* (Holocaust).

The works of Msgr. John M. Oesterreicher are included in this research. Dr. Glazov will present a study of a selection of Msgr. Oesterreicher's confrontations with the vicious anti-Jewish bigotry of the Nazi period and its aftermath. The lecture will be presented via Zoom on **Thursday, October 21, 2021 from 7:30 – 9:30 (ET)**.

Please mark this date! More information regarding this event will be posted in early September.

# Faculty News



**THE REVEREND LAWRENCE E. FRIZZELL, D.PHIL.**  
 Director & Associate Professor, Jewish-Christian Studies Graduate Program  
 Director, Institute of Judaeo-Christian Studies  
 Seton Hall University

In addition to continuing his ongoing research on "Catholic Pioneers in Catholic-Jewish Relations," Father Frizzell participated in the following academic activities throughout 2020:

- Taught several traditional classroom and online JCST graduate courses in the areas of Jewish and Christian sacred texts and scriptural interpretative development, Seton Hall University, Spring and Fall semesters
- Planned and organized the Teachers Study Day, "Jewish Education during the Nazi Period and Holocaust Education Today," Seton Hall University, March 5, 2020
- Published "[Art at the Service of Prayer: The Immaculate Conception Chapel](#)," South Orange, New Jersey: Institute of Judaeo-Christian Studies, Summer 2020
- Presented "Role of the faith leaders in promoting peace & reconciliation," for Abrahamic Common Traditions: U.S.- Indonesia Interfaith Dialogue on Peace, American Jewish Committee, November 24, 2020
- Presented "Areas of Interreligious Dialogue," South Orange Public Library, December 18, 2020

You can follow Father Frizzell on his blog at <http://blogs.shu.edu/lawrencefrizzell/blog> and on Twitter [@FatherFrizzell](#).



**RABBI ALAN BRILL, PH.D.**  
 Cooperman/Ross Endowed Chair of Jewish-Christian Studies  
 Seton Hall University

Rabbi Dr. Alan Brill has been very busy during his sabbatical! Some of his most notable accomplishments include:

## New articles

- "Steven M. Cohen and Arnie M. Eisen, "The Jew Within: Self, Family, and Community in America" in *The New Jewish Canon* (Academic Studies Press, 2020)
- "Jewish Models of Revelation" in *Cambridge Guide to Jewish Theology* (Cambridge 2020)
- "[Graduate Teaching in Indonesia as a Means of Interreligious Engagement](#)" with Leonard Chrysostomos Epafra in *The Journal of Interreligious Studies* 31 (November 2020) 4-20

## Academic Speaking

- "Encounter Other Religions," 5-day seminar at Vancouver Theological Seminary, July 6-10, 2020
- "Leaving Orthodoxy in Historical Perspective" On the Margins of Orthodoxy Conference, Baruch College, October 29, 2020
- "[A Jewish Perspective on the Trinity](#)," Invited Shapiro Lecture Catholic Theological Union, November 2, 2020
- "A Jewish Perspective on the Trinity," American Academy of Religion, November 30, 2020
- Respondent to "Towards a Field of Jewish Theology" American Academy of Religion, December 6, 2020

## Non-Academic Speaking

- "The Bhagavad Gita and Interfaith Theology" Gita Symposium, Singapore, August 13, 2020
- "Rabbi on The Ganges: A Jewish Hindu Encounter," Young Israel of Brookline, November 17, 2020
- "Jewish Meditation" Interfaith Symposium, Sivananda Yoga Farm Grass Valley, November 26, 2020
- "Jewish Meditation," Symposium on Unity, Sivananda Retreat Center, Paradise Island December 28, 2020

Rabbi Brill also remained active on his blog, [The Book of Doctrines and Opinions: notes on Jewish theology and spirituality](#), which you can follow here.

## Faculty News - *continued from Page 3*



**MARK MOLESKY, PH.D.**  
Professor of History  
Seton Hall University

Dr. Molesky studies a wide range of subjects in modern and early modern European history, with a particular emphasis on intellectual and cultural history. He is also interested in the Lisbon Earthquake of 1755, the European and American Enlightenments, environmental history, the history of science, narrative history writing, the history of Franco-American relations, World War I and II, the Holocaust and the history of classical scholarship.

In 2020 Dr. Molesky taught **JCST 6029 Holocaust: History and Interpretation** and published the following:

- "George Grote and the 'open-hearted Herodotus,'" (Chapter 4 in Thomas Harrison and Joseph Skinner, eds., *Herodotus in the Long Nineteenth Century* (Cambridge University Press, 2020); and
- (Review) "Cake for the Commoner," *A New World Begins: A History of the French Revolution* by Jeremy D. Popkin, *The Wall Street Journal* (January 10, 2020).



**PETER SAVASTANO, PH.D.**  
Associate Professor of Anthropology  
Seton Hall University

Dr. Savastano teaches numerous courses in the Department of Religion and the Department of Sociology Anthropology Social Work and Criminal Justice on a variety of subjects including religion, gender, sexuality, race, mythology and the anthropological study of shamanic healing and mysticism in Buddhism, Christianity and Islam.

Some of Dr. Savastano's research and writing interests include the intersection/clash of religion and sexuality and the devotional and ritual practices associated with it; the cult of the Virgin Mary and the saints in both Roman Catholicism and Eastern Orthodox Christianity. Additionally, Dr. Savastano also studies social reformers and pioneers of inter-religious theology, dialogue and practice.

In 2020 Dr. Savastano taught **JCST 6014 Lessons from the Holocaust** and published:

- "Why Not Ten Sixty Foot Wells?" in *Theology Without Walls, The Transreligious Imperative*, Jerry L. Martin, ed. (London and New York: Routledge Press, 2020).

## Teachers Study Day - *continued from Page 1*

Holocaust education in the U.S. by Dr. Fallace [here](#): this podcast is an interview with JCST director, Father Lawrence Frizzell, on the radio program, *The Kinship of Catholics & Jews*.

The JCST program is grateful to the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust and Genocide Education and the Monsignor John M. Oesterreicher Endowment for sponsoring this Teachers Study Day. We also want to thank the 130+ educators who came from all over New Jersey to participate.



# Remembering and Honoring Rabbi Finkel

By Kathleen Dorry, M.A. in Jewish-Christian Studies



Rabbi Asher Finkel

It was 1983 when I first met Rabbi Asher Finkel. He was running to his class, and I was with Father Frizzell who introduced me. I had learned about the Department of Jewish-Christian Studies from a friend at church as he was studying there and raved about Father Frizzell and "our Rabbi" as he referred to him. I was intrigued.

My journey into the Department of Jewish-Christian Studies began from a desire, nay, a deep hunger for a greater understanding of the Scriptures. The journey towards my Master's degree was exciting as it was my first experience with the Socratic method employed by Rabbinical teaching. Most of my classes were with the Rabbi. As I begun, I believed that my understanding of the Christian scriptures was typical but Rabbi had a wonderful way of teaching and generating questions in his students. I began taking one class at a time, savoring each session. His teachings took me into the world of reading the texts not in a literal way but with multi-level perspective. As Rabbi quoted the Christian scriptures in class he often times quoted the Hebrew Scriptures or Jewish sources with complete understanding of both. My eyes were opened! How exciting my commutes were as I mentally reviewed the teaching of the night.

A story about the Rabbi comes to mind. I was at a retreat and the person told a Rabbinic story about two Jewish students asking their Rabbi a question. I had been studying with "my Rabbi" long enough to know the ending this person told was not Rabbinic. I came into class and asked the Rabbi about the two students and their Rabbi story. Rabbi then told us it was from tractate Berakhot (first tractate of Seder Zeraim of the Mishnah and of the Talmud) on the right side of the page and quoted the story and the ending from memory....WOW. It dealt with when to recite Sh'ma. There were many times when his knowledge was shared with us and each time it was awesome. How could a man have amassed such knowledge, one would wonder; but our Rabbi had.

I believe that because of his teachings, he built many bridges between Christians and Jews. Very often, I find myself sharing something he taught me. For myself, I have been out and having a casual conversation with a Jewish person and they ask where I learned something I have discussed with them. The Rabbi's teachings have been deeply embedded within me. Since graduation, from time to time we have stayed in touch and have spoken on many issues and his teachings continued even from a brief phone conversation. Rabbi Finkel touched many students in his career and we sadly will miss him. The world was a better, brighter place because of him. Rest in peace, my Rabbi.



Rabbi Finkel (center) with Msgr. John M. Osterreicher (left) and Fr. Lawrence Frizzell (right), circa mid-1970s.

## Father John F. Morley, R.I.P.

By Rev. Lawrence E. Frizzell, D.Phil.



Rev. John Morley

The Reverend John Francis Morley, who lived from October 4, 1936 – April 8, 2020, was an Associate Professor in the Religious Studies Department for several decades, with a special interest in Jewish-Christian Studies. His doctorate from New York University was completed with a dissertation on the Holy See during the early years of the Second World War., published as *Vatican Diplomacy and the Jews during the Holocaust, 1939-1943* by KTAV Publishing House in 1980.

Father Morley contributed to Catholic-Jewish Studies on the international level with presentations at several conferences, including the meeting with the major Jewish organizations in Prague (1990) and the intra-ecclesial meeting in the Vatican in 1997, as well as collaboration with five other scholars in a study of the eleven volumes of the Vatican Archives, *Actes et Documents du Saint Siège relatifs à la Seconde Guerre Mondiale*, assembled by Robert Graham and Pierre Blet (1965-1981).

Father Morley taught courses on Christian-Jewish Relations, Jewish Beliefs and Practices and the Holocaust for undergraduates and **The Holocaust: History and Interpretation** in the Master's Program.

Over the decades, he was a collaborator with Msgr. Oesterreicher and me in the work of the Institute of Judaeo-Christian Studies. He also served as minister of the priest community for many years.

May his soul rest in peace.

# The Dynamism of Rabbi Asher Finkel (1934-2020)

By Rev. Joseph Montes de Oca, M.A. in Jewish-Christian Studies

And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old" (Matthew 12:52).



Rabbi Asher Finkel, Ph.D.

The Gospel according to Luke (10:38-42) shows Jesus praising and affirming the apparent contemplative attitude of Mary who sits at the feet of the Master as opposed to the also apparent dynamism of Martha whose hectic worries pragmatically meet the needs arising from the hosting occasion.

For centuries the opposing attitudes vis à vis the Master have been interpreted in different ways: Mary is contemplative but impractical; Martha is pedestrian but effective. Mary's attitude is proper of consecrated people, Martha's of laypeople; both attitudes have a place in the church because they complete each other, and so on.

For those who listened and learned from Rabbi Asher Finkel, for those who "sat at the feet" of this Jewish Master, an alternative interpretation of the choices of Mary and Martha is possible.

Martha's attitude is somehow fake and stagnant, she does not really move. She keeps herself at the center of a performance aimed at pleasing everyone and no one. She who demands action, motion, dynamism, has already condemned herself to the stagnation of following her own will, her own project, her own mind.

Mary instead, moves. She travels far and beyond always propelled by each word of her Master. Taken by her Master's words she forgets the crowd and moves intensely and robustly towards new and yet ancient truth, she dwells dynamically around and towards her newly found spring of food for thought.

Mary cannot help herself. The richness of the Master's words, his teaching, his gesturing which opens new worlds of meaning right on her face constitute a dynamism of novelty that cannot and should not, otherwise risking lifeless stagnation, be resisted.

Those who sat at Rabbi Finkel's feet, those who attentively listened the teaching of such a contemporary scribe certainly understand the described experience of Mary.

Whether advancing the revelatory status of the Masoretic Text, or the de facto Jewish legal orthopraxis of Jesus of Nazareth, or the cosmic relevance of the temple of Jerusalem, or calling the attention to a possible antisemitic European Neo-fascism, Rabbi Finkel's magisterium made possible -right in front of our eyes- an imaginative dynamism that made the faith and fate of Israel a joyful and sacred reality.

As a Catholic priest myself I can witness such dynamism operating and enacting through each one of his words, each one of his meetings, each one of his lectures, each one of his convictions.

As I write these words a very graphic memory revisits me: I see Rabbi Asher Finkel teaching us with his singular and characteristic passion. Then I see myself -as the young priest I was at the time- thinking: "No one can find a man more in love with Torah and with Israel than this man!"

*zechuso yagen aleinu*



Rabbi Asher Finkel and his wife, Jane, at his retirement reception at Seton Hall University, April 22, 2013

Follow Us!



# Tentative 2021 JCST Fall Course Schedule

**JCST 6001 Encounter with Christian and Jews** — Lawrence E. Frizzell, D.Phil., Online

**JCST 6005 Readings in Hebrew Bible I** — Lawrence E. Frizzell, D.Phil., To Be Determined

**JCST 7030 Law and Ethics: Jewish and Christian Perspective** — Lawrence E. Frizzell, D.Phil., Wed., 6:15 p.m. - 8:25 p.m.

**JCST 7522 Jewish Beliefs and Practices** — Alan Brill, Ph.D., Mon., 3:00 p.m. - 5:10 p.m.

**JCST 7554 Judaism and Other Religions** — Alan Brill, Ph.D., Thurs., 5:00 p.m. - 7:10 p.m.

You can access the current schedule [here](#) and will find detailed course descriptions of these and all courses in the Master of Arts in Jewish Christian Studies Program in the [2020-2021 Graduate Catalogue](#).

For questions concerning enrollment, please contact the Assistant to the Director, Jay Wolferman, at (973) 761-9751 or [Jay.Wolferman@shu.edu](mailto:Jay.Wolferman@shu.edu).

To learn about full and partial scholarship opportunities, email the JCST Director, the Reverend Lawrence E. Frizzell, D.Phil. at [Lawrence.Frizzell@shu.edu](mailto:Lawrence.Frizzell@shu.edu).



## Jewish-Christian Studies Graduate Program



400 South Orange Avenue  
Fahy Hall, Suite 240  
South Orange, NJ 07079  
Phone: 973.761.9751  
Fax: 973.761.9596  
[www.shu.edu/go/jcst](http://www.shu.edu/go/jcst)

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