

For These Student Leaders, the Sky's the Limit

Introducing the Jewish Studies Student Committee

In 2012-13, over 700 students participated in thirty courses in Jewish Studies, coming from a wide variety of backgrounds and interests. Students have enjoyed these classes so much that over a dozen of them have come forward to form a brand new Jewish Studies Student Committee (JSSC). The JSSC will work closely with program staff and faculty to provide student input in program planning and reach out to their peers to build a vibrant Jewish Studies student community on the UW campus. We look forward to seeing what they have in store for us this year!

The following profiles provide just a snapshot of the incredibly talented and enthusiastic students who together established the JSSC. We asked each student to showcase an object related to a Jewish Studies experience that had a meaningful impact on them.



Griffin Taylor

Major
Speech & Hearing Sciences;
Linguistics

JSSC Role
Curriculum

Why JSSC?

I'm so thrilled to be working so closely with the undergraduate committee and such inspiring faculty to make sure that the entire campus community benefits from the Stroum Jewish Studies Program.

Why this object?

The hamsa, a symbol of power, strength, and protection from evil, embodies what is to be gained from knowledge and our work within academia.



Ha Do

Major
Economics

JSSC Role
Events

Why JSSC?

I am very excited to be a part of the JSSC. Everybody in the community is very enthusiastic and talented. I can learn much more about Jewish culture, which I am very interested in.

Why this object?

I took the Jewish Cultural History class this winter, and I came to a couple of Jewish cultural events. I enjoyed those events a lot and I hope I will have more opportunities to participate.



Haley Jane Gustafson

Major
Jewish Studies; Law, Societies
& Justice

JSSC Role
Outreach

Why JSSC?

I am a big fan of sharing the things I love, whether that be food, hockey or a passion for Jewish culture. I want to reach out to students, and show them another amazing facet of both our university's curriculum and of the world.

Why this object?

I chose the book I'm holding (*Zionism and the Roads Not Taken* by Noam Pianko) because it's what I'm currently reading. The book examines the roots of Zionism and looks into its past to broaden our understanding.



Shirin Lotfi

Major
Political Science and
International Security;
Minor: Middle East Studies

JSSC Role
Community Relations

Why JSSC?

JSSC is a non-religious, non-political, and new organization at UW, which seeks to bring students from all majors together to learn more about Jewish culture. I am excited to increase Jewish knowledge across campus by encouraging students from diverse backgrounds to take Jewish Studies courses.

Why this object?

Arguing The World is a book about four Jewish New York intellectuals who lived during the post-WWII era. Although they never became religiously observant, each of them found ways to express their Jewish identity.



Silvi Goldstein

Major
Comparative History of
Ideas; Psychology

JSSC Role
Outreach

Why JSSC?

I am excited to be a part of the JSSC because I think it is a great way for the student voice to have a say in Jewish Studies classes and programs.

Why this object?

I chose a book on Sephardic Studies (*The Beauty of Sephardic Life* by Sam Bension Maimon, ed. by Albert Maimon and Eugene Normand) because it is a huge part of my heritage, and I am enthusiastic about exploring this part of my culture. I love that the Jewish Studies Program provides me with an outlet to engage and learn about my ancestry in a meaningful way.



Lindsay Little

Major
History; Spanish

JSSC Role
Curriculum

Why JSSC?

It is my belief that history is best understood when you attempt to interpret it from as many angles as possible. I am excited to work with the committee and further my participation in Jewish Studies to make connections with American History and share my passion for history with the campus and community.

Why this object?

The Promised Land by Mary Antin (1912) is the personal memoir of a young lady's educational experiences in the Russian Pale of Settlement and her immigration to the United States. As a student of United States history with a focus on the nineteenth century, her experiences are interesting to compare to my other studies.



Rebecca Steelman

Major
Jewish Studies; Near Eastern
Languages & Civilizations;
Political Science

JSSC Role
Co-Coordinator

Why JSSC?

I'm excited to see how the JSSC can increase involvement in and excitement about the Jewish Studies Program. Through Jewish Studies, I've found a community that supports me academically and socially, and I hope to connect this wonderful community I've found to my peers.

Why this object?

The JewDub Talks showed me how important it is to get the student community involved in all of the great events the Stroum Jewish Studies Program puts on.