



UNIVERSITY OF  
SAN FRANCISCO

Swig Program in Jewish Studies  
and Social Justice

## December Newsletter – 2019



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### JSSJ Student Spotlight

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#### Hugh Nicklason '19

Graduating senior (December 2019) and Swig JSSJ program student Hugh Nicklason was awarded the annual **Haas/Koshland Memorial Award**, a grant that funds a year of "personal exploration in Israel." Hugh is an international studies major and a triple minor in Jewish Studies and Social Justice, cultural anthropology, and Middle Eastern studies. His senior thesis focuses on the role of



Palestinians, a topic he plans to explore in greater depth during the upcoming year, when he will be based in Jerusalem. In addition to being a stellar student with a deep intellectual curiosity, Hugh is a highly regarded athlete on the **USF track and field team**.

Hugh is the third person affiliated with USF's Swig Program in Jewish Studies and Social Justice to earn the Haas/Koshland Award, joining USF alumnus Andrew Wilson (Haas/Koshland 2017) and Swig JSSJ program assistant director and faculty member Oren Kroll-Zeldin (Haas/Koshland 2012).



## Students Present Research at B.O.S.S. Showcase

Undergraduate student leaders Ella Quinn, Jamie Delgado (JSSJ minor), and Alyssa Tabucaao, all of whom took Rabbi-in-Residence Camille Angel's popular Queering Religion course, presented their work at USF's B.O.S.S. (Best of Student Scholarship) showcase in October. The students presented their final projects from the course while also representing Qmunity, a new co-curricular program co-sponsored by University Ministry and the Swig JSSJ program. In

Queering Religion, students create projects that deconstruct the preconceived ideas that Judaism, Christianity, Catholicism, and Islam exclude lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgender identified people. While historically these religions have cast out queer and gender non-conforming people, the course and the final presentations actively interrupt these teachings by lifting up compelling examples of instances where "queering religion" is making room for inclusion and participation of all people.

Alyssa Tabucaao, reflecting on her experience with the class and her work, said, "I am learning how to respectfully queer religion. As LGBTQ+ youth are the most at-risk youth, it's important that I use my privilege as a heterosexual, cisgender woman of color to listen, think, act, and fight for the justice of my friends, family, and peers."

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## Swig JSSJ YouTube Channel and Video Archive

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"Refugees in America" with Rabbi Lee Bycel

The Swig JSSJ program continues to load videos of our on-campus public events to our ADA compliant **YouTube channel**. If you missed an event that you wanted to attend, or if you want to re-watch one of the events to remember what a speaker said, you can see videos of our events online. The most recently added video is "**Refugees in America**" with Lee Bycel. By the end of 2019 we will also have uploaded three other events from this past semester: a performance by the Cosmic Diaspora Trio Band; "Climate Change, Disability, and the Politics of Survival" with Rabbi Julia Watts Belser; and "Jews of Uganda" with Rabbi Gershon Sizomu. This will bring our total of archived event recordings to 42.

We also invite you to subscribe to the YouTube channel and share it with others.

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## Opportunities to Meet New Rabbi-in-Residence Camille Shira Angel

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- **Bagels with the Rabbi - for Faculty and Staff**

Tuesday, Dec. 3 | 9–10 a.m. | University Ministry, Romero Room, Toler 122

Join University Ministry for a bagel breakfast with USF's new rabbi-in-residence. This event is open to all faculty and staff as an opportunity to meet Rabbi Camille



Angel. Bagels and coffee will be served.

- **Breaking Bread and the Binary**

Thursday, Dec. 5. | 11:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m. | University Ministry, Romero Room, Toler 122

Join **Rabbi Camille Shira Angel** to explore and affirm the intersections of religion and spirituality with sexuality and gender identity. This is a space to feel safe to learn, ask questions, and meet friends! Queer community members and allies are welcome.

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## Student Fellowship Opportunity

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## Bend the Arc: The Jeremiah Fellowship

Applications are open for the 2020 cohort of the **Jeremiah Fellowship**, **Bend the Arc: A Jewish Partnership for Justice**'s national leadership program for young adult Jews who want to mobilize their community to fight for progressive change.

In this moment, our country and our Jewish community stand at a crossroads. Will we stand by in silence as white nationalism, anti-immigrant xenophobia, and antisemitism tear us apart? Or will we rise up to fight for a future where we are all safe?

Fellows will travel twice a year for in-person training from skilled organizers and activists, learn together through online sessions, and receive individualized coaching tailored for their city. The program will run from April to August 2020, with two big in-person gatherings to start and end, as well as participation at Bend the Arc's 2020 conference.