JRC Israel-Palestine Working Group

Perspectives on Jewish Identity, Democracy, and Antisemitism
JRC member education series

This series will spark dialogue among JRC members about the changing context for American Jews in view of the war in Israel-Palestine, threats to democracy in the US and Israel, growing antisemitism on the far right and far left, and the generational evolution of American Jewish identity. If you would like to learn more about these topics, see our *List of Resources on Antisemitism*.

The Israel-Palestine Working Group's programming presents a variety of offerings that over time will cover the breadth and depth of what has happened, what is happening, and how we can continue to learn and be in community together. We acknowledge that no program will suit everyone or cover every perspective. We value being part of a community that prides itself on respectful and open-hearted dialogue.

Upcoming Programs

Safety Through Solidarity: A Conversation with Author Ben Lorber, Sunday February 9, 2025, 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. In person and Zoom

Join the Israel-Palestine Working Group for a conversation between Ben Lorber, co-author of *Safety Through Solidarity: A Radical Guide to Fighting Antisemitism,* and Dr. Joshua Shanes, Professor of Jewish Studies at the College of Charleston.

Lorber studies contemporary antisemitism and white Christian nationalism at Political Research Associates, a social movement think tank. Professor Shanes's's research focuses on European Jewry in the 19th and 20th centuries and he has published widely on Jewish cultural and political history. *Safety Through Solidarity* begins with a history of antisemitism and then moves to today's growing far-right white nationalist movement. Lorber contends that Jews and other targets of far-right hate are best served by coming together, understanding each others' oppression, and protecting one another.

This event will take place in person and online and will include opportunities for audience Q&A. Copies of *Safety Through Solidarity* will be available for purchase. On February 11 at 7 p.m. JRC

members who attend or who have read the book may join a facilitated Zoom discussion to debrief.

A Conversation about Contemporary Antisemitism with Professor Pamela S. Nadell and Daniel Greene, Sunday May 18, 10 a.m. - 11:30 on Zoom

Join the Israel-Palestine Working Group for a conversation between Pamela S. Nadell, Director of the Jewish Studies Program American University, and JRC member Daniel Greene.

Pamela S. Nadell holds the Patrick Clendenen Chair in Women's and Gender History and is Director of the Jewish Studies Program at American University. Professor Nadell has testified before the US Congress multiple times about antisemitism on college campuses. Her new book, *Antisemitism: An American Tradition,* will be published by W.W. Norton in 2025.

Professor Nadell's previous books include *America's Jewish Women: A History from Colonial Times to Today* (W.W. Norton, 2019), named Jewish Book of the Year by the Jewish Book Council, and *Women Who Would Be Rabbis: A History of Women's Ordination, 1889–1985* (Beacon Press, 1998). Professor Nadell has written for, among others, the *Washington Post, The Conversation,* and *Hadassah Magazine.* Professor Nadell's written testimony before the United States House of Representatives Committee on Education and the Workforce on December 5, 2023, is accessible here.

This event will take place online and will include opportunities for audience Q&A. Please RSVP to let us know you'll be joining and we will send you the Zoom link.

Past Programs

Judaism and Democracy: Do we need one to sustain the other? January 12, 2025 10 a.m. - 12 noon in person at JRC and on Zoom.

We gathered together in person to view a panel, pre-recorded by The Mordecai Kaplan Center for Jewish Peoplehood, addressing how, and why, democracy is central to Reconstructionist Judaism; why it requires broad coalitions across difference, and how we grow and sustain these. Following the viewing we held a facilitated discussion, permitting space for each of us to share fears, hopes, and strategies. *Sunday, Jan 12, 2025, 10 am. In Person at JRC.*

For information on other programs sponsored by the JRC Israel-Palestine Working Group see Handout For Programs - Updated January 19, 2025