

CURRICULUM VITAE

ROBERT EISEN

PERSONAL INFORMATION

University:
Department of Religion
George Washington University
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Washington, D.C. 20052
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(202) 994-9379 - fax
e-mail: eisen@gwu.edu

EDUCATION

B.A., History (magna cum laude), Yale University, 1979-1983
Yeshivat Ha-Mivtar (Brovender's), Jerusalem, 1983-4
Ph.D., Jewish Philosophy, Brandeis University, 1984-1990

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Assistant Professor of Religion and Judaic Studies, George Washington University, 1990-
6
Associate Professor of Religion and Judaic Studies, George Washington University,
1996-2005
Professor of Religion and Judaic Studies, George Washington University, 2005-

SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS

Books

1. *Gersonides on Providence, Covenant and the Chosen People: A Study in Medieval Jewish Philosophy and Biblical Commentary* (State University of New York Press, 1995)
2. *The Book of Job in Medieval Jewish Philosophy* (Oxford University Press, 2004)
3. *Philosophers and the Jewish Bible*, co-edited with Charles Manekin (University of Maryland Press, 2008)
4. *The Peace and Violence of Judaism: From the Bible to Modern Zionism* (Oxford University Press, 2011)
5. *Religious Zionism, Jewish Law, and the Morality of War: How Five Rabbis Confronted One of Modern Judaism's Greatest Challenges* (Oxford University Press, 2017)
6. *Judaism and Violence: A Historical Analysis with Insights from Social Psychology* (Cambridge University Press, 2021)
7. *Jews, Judaism and Success: How Religion Paved the Way to Modern Jewish Achievement* (University of Toronto Press, 2023)

Articles, Chapters in Books (peer-reviewed)

1. "Reason, Revelation and the Fundamental Principles of the Torah in Gersonides' Thought," *Proceedings of the American Academy for Jewish Research* 58 (1991): 11-34
2. "The Problem of the King's Dream and Non-Jewish Prophecy in Judah Halevi's *Kuzari*," *Journal of Jewish Thought and Philosophy* 3 (1994): 231-47
3. "Job as a Symbol for Israel in the Thought of Saadiah Gaon," *Da'at* 41 (Summer, 1998): 5-25 (English section)
4. "The Revival of Jewish Mysticism and its Implications for the Future of Jewish Faith," *Creating the Jewish Future*, eds. Michael Brown and Bernard Lightman (Walnut Creek, Ca.: Altamira Press, 1998), pp. 27-44
5. "Gersonides," *The Columbia History of Western Philosophy*, ed. Richard Popkin (New York: Columbia University Press, 1998), pp. 200-3

6. "Lifnim Mi-Shurat Ha-Din in Maimonides' *Mishneh Torah*," *Jewish Quarterly Review* 89:3-4 (Winter, 1999): 291-317
7. "Samuel ibn Tibbon on the Book of Job," *AJS Review* 24:2 (Fall, 2000): 263-300
8. "Joseph ibn Kaspi on the Secret Meaning of the Scroll of Esther," *Revue des études juives* 160:3-4 (2001): 379-408
9. "Gersonides' *Commentary on the Book of Job*," *Journal of Jewish Thought and Philosophy* 10 (2001): 239-88
10. "Did Zerachiah Hen Compose Two Commentaries on the Book of Job?" *Da 'at* 48 (Winter, 2002): 5-26 (English section)
11. "Midrash in Emil Fackenheim's Holocaust Theology," *Harvard Theological Review* 96:3 (2003): 369-92
12. "A. J. Heschel's Rabbinic Theology as a Response to the Holocaust," *Modern Judaism* 23:3 (2003): 211-25
13. "New Horizons in the Study of Jewish Thought: A Response to Dov Schwartz," *Review of Rabbinic Judaism* 6:2-3 (2003): 309-16
14. "Kaspi on Allegory in the Book of Esther: A Rejoinder to H. Kasher," *Revue des études juives* 163 (2004): 289-93
15. "Joseph ibn Kaspi on the Book of Job," *Jewish Studies Quarterly* 13:1 (2006): 50-86
16. "Human Security in Jewish Philosophy and Ethics," *Globalization and Environmental Challenges: Reconceptualizing Security in the 21st Century*, eds. Hans Günter Brauch et al. (Berlin: Springer-Verlag, 2008), vol. 3, pp. 253-62
17. "The Hermeneutics of Order and Sequence in Medieval Jewish Philosophical Exegesis," *Philosophers and the Jewish Bible*, eds. Robert Eisen and Charles Manekin (University of Maryland Press, 2008)
18. "Jews and Muslims: Why They Have More in Common Than They Realize," *Religions / Adayan* 00 (2009): 104-117
19. "[Jewish Views on] Taking Independent Initiatives to Reduce Threats," *Interfaith Just Peacemaking*, ed. Susan Brooks Thistlethwaite (Palgrave-Macmillan, 2011), pp. 40-3

20. “[Jewish Views on] Working with Cooperative Forces in the International System,” *Interfaith Just Peacemaking*, ed. Susan Brooks Thistlethwaite (Palgrave-Macmillan, 2011), pp. 132-6
21. “[Jewish Views on] Strengthening the United Nations and International Efforts for Cooperation and Human Rights,” *Interfaith Just Peacemaking*, ed. Susan Brooks Thistlethwaite (Palgrave-Macmillan, 2011), pp. 151-5
22. “War, Revenge, and Jewish Ethics: Rabbi Shaul Yisraeli’s Essay on Kibiyeh Revisited,” *AJS Review* 36:1 (April 2012): 141-63
23. “R. Abraham Isaac Kook on War in Jewish Law” in *Modern Judaism* 33:1 (2013): 24-44
24. “Rabbi Elizer Yehudah Waldenberg on the Justification of War,” *Torah U-Madda Journal* 17 (2016-17): 46-64
25. “War and Religious Zionism,” *The Cambridge Companion to Religion and War*, ed. Margo Kitts (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2023), pp. 299-313

Book Reviews

1. Oliver Leaman, *Evil and Suffering in Jewish Philosophy* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995), *AJS Review* 22:2 (Fall 1997): 254-7
2. Yochanan Silman, *Philosopher and Prophet: Judah Halevi, the Kuzari, and the Evolution of His Thought* (Albany: State University of New York Press, 1995), *Speculum* 73:2 (April 1998): 596-8
3. Aviezer Ravitzky, *History and Faith: Studies in Jewish Philosophy* (Amsterdam: J.C. Gieben, 1996), *AJS Review* 24:1 (Fall 1999): 140-2
4. Zachary Braiterman, *(God) After Auschwitz* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1998), *AJS Review* 26:2 (2000), pp. 376-8.
5. Howard Kreisel, *Maimonides’ Political Thought* (Albany: State University of New York Press), *Shofar* 9:3 (2001): 182-4.
6. Josef Stern, *Problems and Parables of the Law: Maimonides and Nahmanides on Reasons for the Commandments (Ta’amei Ha-Mitzvot)* (Albany: State University of New York Press, 1998), *Speculum* 72:2 (2002): 50-1.
7. Daniel Frank and Oliver Leaman, eds., *The Cambridge Companion to Medieval Jewish Philosophy* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003), *Philosophy in Review* 24:5 (2004): 323-5.

8. Menachem Loberbaum, *Politics and the Limits of Law: Secularizing the Political in Medieval Jewish Thought* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2001), *Speculum* 79:4 (2004): 1113-5.
9. Herbert Davidson, *Maimonides: The Man and His Works* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2005), *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 74:4 (2006): 989-992
10. Yigal Levin and Amnon Shapira, eds., *War and Peace in the Jewish Tradition* (Milton Park / Abingdon: Routledge, 2012), H-Net (September 2012)
11. Katell Berthelot, Joseph E. David, and Marc Hirshman, eds., *The Gift of the Land and the Fate of the Canaanites in Jewish Thought* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2014), *AJS Review* 40:1 (April 2016), pp. 161-3
12. Alan L. Mittleman, *Does Judaism Condone Violence?: Holiness and Ethics in the Jewish Tradition* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2018), *Journal of Religion* 100:2 (2020), pp. 285-86.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

1. "Gersonides' *Wars of the Lord*," *The European Legacy* 1:5 (1996) (Festschrift dedicated to my father's retirement from academia): 1778-91.
2. "Jewish Mysticism: Seeking Inner Light," *Moment Magazine* 22:1 (February 1997): 38-42, 82.
3. "Jewish Studies and the Academic Teaching of Judaism," *Liberal Education* 87:4 (Fall 2001): 14-18.
4. "Jews and Muslims: Common Ground," Op-ed., *The Washington Post*, May 9, 2006.
5. Film Review: "Islam: What the West Needs to Know," *Washington Jewish Week*, July 12, 2006
6. "Israel's Wars: What is the Basis for the Draft in Jewish Law?" *TheTorah.com*, August, 2020

WORKS IN PROGRESS

A college-level introduction to Judaism entitled, *Judaism: A Comprehensive Introduction to Its History, Beliefs, Rituals, and Ethics*, under contract with the University of Toronto Press.

AWARDS, HONORS, AND GRANTS

Meyer Gasner Scholarship, Board of Jewish Education of Toronto, 1983-84
 Hemshekh Ha-Hinukh Scholarship, Board of Jewish Education of Toronto, 1983-84
 Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship in the Humanities, 1984-86
 Brandeis University, graduate fellowships, 1986-87, 1987-88, 1988-89
 Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture, graduate fellowships, 1986-7, 1987-88, 1988-89
 Fein-Pinanski Fellowship, Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Boston, 1986-87
 Junior Scholar Incentive Award, George Washington University, July-August, 1992
 TRIP Award, George Washington University, June-July, 1994
 Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture, 1999-2000
 Fulbright Senior Scholar Fellowship, for research in Israel, 1999-2000
 University Facilitating Fund Fellowship, George Washington University, July-August, 2001
 Morton A. Bender Teaching Award, George Washington University, May, 2005
 United States Institute of Peace, book-writing grant, 2007-08
 Appointed to the Academy of Distinguished Teachers, George Washington University, May, 2013

PAPERS AND CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

“Reason, Revelation, and the Fundamental Principles of the Torah in Gersonides’ Thought,” talk given at conference of Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, December, 1990
 “Providence and the Chosen People in Gersonides’ Thought,” talk given at conference for Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, December, 1991
 “The Problem of the King’s Dream in Halevi’s *Kuzari*: What Halevi Teaches Us and How We Teach Halevi,” talk given at International Center for the Teaching of Jewish Civilization, Hebrew University, Jerusalem, July, 1992
 “Gersonides on Esotericism,” talk given at conference of Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, December, 1993
 “The Place of Saadiah’s Philosophy in an Undergraduate Course in Medieval Jewish Philosophy,” talk given at International Center for the Teaching of Jewish Civilization, Hebrew University, Jerusalem, July, 1994
 “The Revival of Jewish Mysticism: Its Significance for the Future of Jewish Faith and Theology,” talk presented at conference entitled “Creating the Jewish Future,” York University, Toronto, October, 1996
 “Maimonides on *Lifnim Mi-Shurat Ha-Din*,” lecture at Library of Congress, Judaic Scholars Colloquium, Washington, D.C., June 1997
 “Gersonides on Creation: A Response to Norbert Samuelson,” talk given at conference entitled, “Judaism, Postmodernism, and Textual Reasoning,” Drew University, June 1997

- “Samuel ibn Tibbon on the Book of Job,” talk given at conference of Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, December, 1998
- “The Book of Job in Medieval Jewish Philosophy,” lecture series in Medieval Studies, Catholic University, Washington, DC, March, 1999
- “How to Teach an Introductory Course in Judaism,” talk given at one-day workshop and consultation on Judaic Studies, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., April, 1999
- “The Book of Job in Medieval Jewish Philosophy” (in Hebrew), lectures at Bar-Ilan University, March, 2000; Ben Gurion University, May, 2000; University of Haifa, June, 2000
- “Gersonides on the Book of Job,” talk given at conference of Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, December, 2000
- “Shimon ben Zemah Duran on the Book of Job,” talk given at conference of Association for Jewish Studies, Washington, D.C., December, 2001
- Participated in a four-day dialogue between Christian, Muslim, and Jewish scholars on the subject of religion, world peace, and conflict resolution, sponsored by the United States Institute of Peace, Washington, D.C., July and October 2002
- “Modern Biblical Interpretation in Medieval Jewish Philosophy: The Example of Job,” talk given at conference on “Philosophers and the Bible,” University of Maryland, College Park MD, November 2003
- “A. J. Heschel’s Rabbinic Theology as a Response to the Holocaust,” talk given at conference of Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, December, 2003
- Participated in a three-day dialogue between Christian, Muslim, and Jewish peace-activists, academics, and political leaders, on the subject of world peace, religion, and conflict resolution, sponsored by Initiatives of Change, the Center for World Religions, Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution, and the Center for Islam and Democracy, Fez, Morocco, April, 2004
- “Maimonides: A Model for Intercultural Dialogue,” lecture for Initiatives of Change, Washington, D.C., May, 2004
- Participated in a one-day consultation, “The Role of U.S. Regional and Local Religious Bodies in Supporting Peacebuilding Efforts in Other Countries,” sponsored by the United States Institute of Peace and the Churches’ Center for Theology and Public Policy, Washington, D.C., June, 2004
- Co-leader of workshop on the Geneva Accords between Israelis and Palestinians, sponsored by Initiatives of Change, Caux, Switzerland, August, 2004
- Co-organized and co-moderated day-long dialogue between Jewish communal leaders and Saudi Arabian scholars visiting the U.S., United States Institute of Peace, Washington D.C., December, 2004
- “The Hermeneutics of Order and Sequence in Medieval Jewish Philosophical Exegesis,” talk given at conference of Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, December, 2004
- Participated in a two-day consultation on “Teaching the Religious Other,” United States Institute of Peace, Washington, D.C., February, 2005
- Participated in a dialogue between Jewish scholars and Iranian clerics, Catholic University, Washington, D.C., April, 2005

- Taught a day-long seminar on “Jewish Perspectives on Conflict Resolution” for a week-long summer workshop on religion and conflict resolution at Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Pa., summers, 2005, 2006, 2009
- Played a leading role in planning, organizing, and moderating an event in which King Abdullah II of Jordan addressed 80 American rabbis, Washington, D.C., September, 2005
- “Judaism on Peace Service,” talk given at a conference on peace service in world religions, sponsored by Global Peace Services, Mary Washington University, Fredericksburg, Va., November, 2005
- Presentations given at the American Embassy in Tel Aviv and at a graduate seminar on religion and international conflict at Hebrew University; meetings with various peace groups; Israel, January, 2006
- Participated in a dialogue between American Jews and Christians, and Iranian clerics; gave presentation, “Just Cause for War in Judaism;” Rome, Italy, March, 2006
- Participated in a three-day consultation on Judaism and fundamentalism at the Esalen Institute, Big Sur, California; gave presentation “The Challenge of Modernity as a Source of Fundamentalism in Judaism and Islam,” September, 2006
- “Historical Contexts, Patterns, Triggers, and Exemplars of Tolerance and Reconciliation in Judaism,” talk given at a conference on “Visions of Peace and Reconciliation in Religious Traditions: Historical and Contemporary Patterns,” Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard University, Boston, Mass., May, 2007
- Organized a panel of Jewish scholars for a conference on “Alternatives to War in the Abrahamic Faiths,” sponsored by Churches’ Center for Theology and Public Policy and the United States Institute of Peace; delivered a paper on the subject of the conference, co-written with Reuven Kimelman, Stonypoint Conference Center, New York, June, 2007
- Presentation on “Alternatives to War” (see previous entry), and participation in panel discussion, United States Institute of Peace, Washington, D.C., November, 2008
- Presentation on “Jewish Academics and non-Academic Audiences,” and participation in panel discussion, Association for Jewish Studies, Washington, D.C., December, 2008
- Participated in a working group on religion and peacemaking, United States Institute of Peace, Washington, D.C., spring, 2009-
- “Jews and Muslims: Why They Have More in Common Than They Realize,” lecture at the Rumi Forum, Washington, D.C., May, 2009
- Served on a panel examining the role of religion and peacemaking, National Defense University, Washington, D.C., June 2009
- “The Pragmatism of Judaism,” talk given at a conference on Religion, Business, and Ethics, George Washington University, Washington, D.C., September, 2009
- “Human Solidarity in Response to Wars: The Case of Jews and Muslims,” talk given at a conference sponsored by the Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue, Doha, Qatar, October 2009
- “The Challenge of Peace: The Role of Religion in the Middle East Conflict,” talk given at GW Emeriti Luncheon, January, 2010
- Participated in round-table discussion on “Judaism and Peacebuilding,” Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, December 2010

- Participate in a panel discussion on “Judaism and Conflict Resolution,” Association for Jewish Studies, Washington, D.C., December 2011
- Gave presentation, participated in panel discussion in celebration of the publication of *Interfaith Just Peacemaking*, ed. Susan Brooks Thistlethwaite (Palgrave-Macmillan, 2011, see publications above), US Institute of Peace, Washington, D.C., January, 2012
- Invited to conduct a two-hour seminar and to give a lecture to students focusing on my book, *The Peace and Violence of Judaism: From the Bible to Modern Zionism* (see publications above), College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia, March, 2012
- “Reflections on the Noahide Laws as a Source for Pluralism,” talk given at a conference on religious pluralism, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., May, 2012
- Two talks given to a group of visiting Saudi Arabian academics: “Strategies for Jewish-Muslim Reconciliation: Reflections of American Jewish Academic,” and “Judaism: An Introduction for Muslims,” George Washington University, Washington, D.C., and Mikveh Israel Synagogue, Philadelphia, June, 2012
- Invited to participate in the annual Orthodox Forum at Yeshiva University, on the theme of Jewish extremism, New York, March, 2013
- “Discretionary War in Contemporary Jewish Law,” presentation in Hebrew in a session on “War in Jewish Law,” at the World Congress of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem, July, 2013
- Invited to give keynote address on “Relations Between the West and the Islamic World: The Role of Religion,” to a delegation of visiting Egyptian educators sponsored by the US State Department, August, 2013
- Invited to address visiting Saudi Arabian academics on the topic of “Historical Methods in Religious Studies in Western Academia,” George Washington University, October, 2013
- “The Role of Religion in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict,” talk delivered at the annual conference of the Political Studies Organization, Washington, D.C., February, 2014
- Invited to participate in a panel of academics at GW on the Gaza war in the summer of 2014, organized by several student groups at GW, Washington, D.C., September 2014
- Organized a symposium for academics at GW and Saudi Arabian universities to discuss the topic of “Attitudes to Other Religions;” gave two papers, “Western Methods in Religious Studies,” and “The Attitude of Judaism to Other Religions,” George Washington University, Washington, D.C., November 2014
- Invited to speak and participate on a panel focusing on “The Role of Religion in Combating Terrorism,” broadcast on C-Span, Potomac Institute for Policy Studies, Arlington, Virginia, December 2014
- Invited to the Liechtenstein Institute on Self-Determination at Princeton University to give two presentations, a undergraduate seminar on peace and violence in Judaism, Christianity and Islam, and a lecture to faculty entitled, “Justifying Israel’s Wars in Jewish Law: Challenges and Solutions,” Princeton, New Jersey, January 2015
- Organized a symposium for academics at GW and Saudi Arabian universities to discuss the topic of “Attitudes to Interfaith Dialogue;” gave two papers, “Western Methods in

Religious Studies,” and “The Attitude of Judaism to Interfaith Dialogue,” George Washington University, Washington, D.C., April, 2015
 Invited to give two endowed lectures at Florida International University, “The Ambiguity of the Sacred: How is it that Religion Can be so Tolerant and Intolerant at the Same Time?” for an introductory course on Religion; “War and Peace in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam,” for a graduate seminar, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, February, 2106

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Association for Jewish Studies
 American Academy of Religion
 World Union of Jewish Studies

COURSES TAUGHT

(at George Washington University unless otherwise specified)

Introduction to Judaism
 Rabbinic Thought and Literature
 Jewish Philosophy in the Medieval Period
 Jewish Mysticism
 Modern Jewish Thought (course also taught for GW’s joint M.A. program with the Board of Jewish Education of greater Washington)
 Issues in Modern Jewish Ethics
 Responses to the Holocaust in Jewish Philosophy and Literature
 Peace and Violence in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam
 Seminar: The Philosophical Thought of Maimonides
 Seminar: Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook: Mystical Theology and Political Zionism
 Seminar: The Philosophical and Jewish Writings of Emmanuel Levinas
 Seminar: A. J. Heschel and J.B. Soloveitchik: Two Traditional Jewish Responses to Modernity
 Seminar: The Jewish Thought of Martin Buber
 Seminar: Jewish Philosophy 1500-1800
 Seminar: Religion and International Conflict, sponsored by Hamline Law School, at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel, January 2007

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Judaic Studies Committee, George Washington University, 1990-
 Search committee, position in Biblical Studies, Department of Religion, George Washington University, spring, 1991
 Committee to introduce Arabic language into the GW curriculum, George Washington University, 1991-2

Joint Committee for Students and Faculty, George Washington University, 1995-97
 Search Committee, Director for Judaic Studies, George Washington University, fall, 1995
 Edward I. Kiev Library Collection: was instrumental in procuring the donation of a
 private library of 15,000 books of rare and out-of-print Judaica, valued at up to \$1
 million, to George Washington University, spring, 1996
 Curriculum Committee, George Washington University, 1998-9
 Committee for review of five year self-study of the Classics Department, George
 Washington University, 2001
 Search Committee, position in Hebrew Language and Literature, George Washington
 University, 2002
 Acting-Director, Program of Judaic Studies, George Washington University, 2002-03,
 spring 2005
 Search Committee, position in Hebrew language, George Washington University, 2004
 Peace Studies Committee, George Washington University, 2004-
 Advisory Board, Center for World Religions, Diplomacy, and Conflict Resolution, George
 Mason University, 2004-
 Search Committee, Hillel Director, George Washington University, spring, 2005
 Acting-Chair, Department of Religion, George Washington University, 2005-06
 Search Committee, position in modern Jewish history, George Washington University,
 2006-07
 Director, Program in Judaic Studies, George Washington University, 2006-10
 Search Committee, position in ethics and religion, George Washington University, 2008-09
 Chair, Department of Religion, George Washington University, 2011-2020
 Search Committee, position in Christianity, George Washington University, 2012-13
 Convener and chair of committee to establish an MA program in Islam at George
 Washington University, 2012-13
 Task Force on Globalization, George Washington University, 2014-15
 Search Committee, Chair in Israel Studies, 2015-6

FUNDRAISING

\$50,000 for courses in Shi'i Islam, Religion Department, George Washington University,
 2006
 \$50,000 endowment for the Fleischman Lecture, Judaic Studies Program, George
 Washington University, 2006
 \$15,000 for the Daniel and Natalie Barkan Scholarship, Judaic Studies Program, George
 Washington University, 2006
 \$15,000 in donations for conferences at George Washington University, 2006-09
 \$50,000 endowment for the Ann Borde Scholarship, Judaic Studies Program, George
 Washington University, 2007
 \$300,000 endowment for Judaic Studies, George Washington University, 2007
 \$440,000 for Islamic Studies, George Washington University

COMMUNITY SERVICE, POPULAR LECTURES AND COURSES, MEDIA INTERVIEWS

Organizations

Jewish Study Center, Steering Committee, Washington, D.C., 1991-6
 Foundation for Jewish Studies, Board of Directors, Washington, D.C., 1994-2009
 C-1 World Initiative (continuation of the C-100 of the World Economic Forum),
 Executive Board, London and Cairo, 2009-12
 Advisory Board for the Middle East and North Africa, Search for Common Ground,
 Washington, D.C., 2011-

Lectures and Courses

“Introduction to Jewish Mysticism,” one-day adult education workshop, Tifereth Israel Synagogue, Boston, March, 1988
 “Gersonides: Portrait of a Radical Medieval Jewish Philosopher,” lecture Keshet Israel Synagogue, Washington, D.C., December, 1990
 “Rabbinic Attitudes Towards Sexuality,” lecture at Jewish Community Center of Washington, D.C., April, 1991
 “Why Jewish Studies?,” lecture and discussion, George Washington University Hillel Foundation, Washington, D.C., October, 1991
 “The Basics of Judaism,” “Jewish Attitudes Towards Christianity and Islam,” lectures and panel discussion as part of an eight-part interfaith course, Messiah Methodist Church, Springfield, Va., October-November, 1991
 “The Philosophical Thought of Maimonides,” six-part mini-course, Keshet Israel Synagogue, Washington, D.C., May-June, 1991; Jewish Study Center, Washington, D.C., May-June, 1993
 “Prophecy and the Uniqueness of the Jewish People in the Thought of Yehudah Halevi,” Keshet Israel Synagogue, Washington, D.C., February, 1992
 “Introduction to Medieval Kabbalah,” six-part mini-course, Jewish Study Center, Washington, D.C., May-June, 1992
 “Radical Biblical Interpretation in the Middle Ages: the Example of Gersonides,” lecture for Biblical Heritage Series, Foundation for Jewish Studies, Temple Beth-El, Bethesda, Md., January, 1993
 “Early Rabbinic Mysticism,” four-part mini-course, Jewish Study Center, Washington, D.C., May-June, 1994
 “The Foundations of Judaism,” class at Messiah Methodist Church, Springfield Va., December, 1994
 “The Appeal of Jewish Mysticism Yesterday and Today” and “Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook: Mystical Theology and Political Zionism,” lectures as scholar-in-residence for the Twentieth Annual Rabbi Joseph M. Brandriss Memorial Weekend, Congregation Har Tzeon-Agudath Achim, Silver Spring, Md., December, 1996
 “Maimonides on Reward and Punishment: Is it Really as Bad as the Bible Says?” lecture at Ohr Kodesh Congregation, Silver Spring, Md., February, 1997

- “Maimonides on Leadership,” inaugural address for the Avi Chai Student Fellowship Program, Washington, D.C., February, 1998
- “Rabbi Shimon bar Yohai in the Cave: Torah Study and Worldly Occupation,” class at National Conference on Adult Jewish Education, Washington, D.C., March, 1998
- “Maimonides on Job: The Limits of Philosophy,” lecture for Foundation for Jewish Studies at B’nai Israel Congregation, Rockville, Md., March, 1998
- “Judaism,” lecture and discussion as part of lecture series on world religions, Christ Church, Alexandria, Va., two consecutive Sundays, January, 1999
- “A. J. Heschel on Biblical Prophecy and Revelation,” lecture for Biblical Heritage Lecture Series, The Foundation for Jewish Studies, Ohr Kodesh Synagogue, Silver Spring, Md., April, 1999
- “Jewish Tradition or Jewish Heresy? An Exploration in Medieval Jewish Philosophy,” weekend study-retreat, Foundation for Jewish Studies, Leesburg, Va., May, 1999
- “A. J. Heschel: Philosopher and Prophet,” lecture at the Yakar Institute, Jerusalem, May, 2000
- “Jewish Studies at GW,” speaker for GW Hillel Foundation for Parents’ Weekend, October, 2001
- “Medieval Jewish Philosophy,” ten-week course for the Open Academy for Jewish Studies, Rockville, Md., October-December, 2001
- “Moses and Elijah on the Mountain,” and “The Book of Job in the Prism of Medieval Jewish Thought,” lectures as scholar-in-residence, Martin Zlotnick Memorial Weekend, Keshet Israel Synagogue, Washington, D.C., March, 2001
- “The Challenge of Philosophy: What Can the Medievals Teach Us About Being Modern?” Edah Speakers Forum, New York, N.Y., Lincoln Square Synagogue, March, 2003
- “Jewish Perspectives on the *Matrix* Film Trilogy,” lecture for fund-raiser for the Beit Rabban school, New York, N.Y., May, 2004
- “Reflections on a Jewish-Christian-Muslim Dialogue in Morocco,” B’nai Torah Congregation, Toronto, Ontario, August, 2004
- “Interfaith Dialogue and International Peacemaking: Engaging the Heart, the Mind, and the Body,” keynote speaker for Jewish Awareness Week, Bergen County Community College, New Jersey, November, 2004
- “The Jewish Connection to the State of Israel,” lecture as part of a series on the controversy over the proposed Presbyterian divestment from Israel, Adat Reyim Synagogue, Fairfax, Va., February, 2005
- Participated in a panel discussion, “Coalition Building between Jews, Muslims, and Christians,” Kemp Mill Synagogue, Silver Spring, Md., March, 2005
- “The Holocaust in Jewish Theology,” scholar-in-residence for Sabbath at Temple Emmanuel Synagogue, Kensington, Md., May, 2005
- “Strategies for Jewish-Muslim Reconciliation,” lecture for Foundation for Jewish Studies, Ohr Kodesh Synagogue, Silver Spring, Md., March, 2006
- “Prospects for Jewish-Muslim Reconciliation,” lecture at Temple Rodef Shalom, Fairfax, Va., January, 2007

- Lectures on Martin Buber and A. J. Heschel, Beth Tefilloh Congregation, Baltimore, Maryland, April 2007
- “Gersonides as Biblical Interpreter,” two classes taught at three-day adult education retreat sponsored by Chovevei Torah Yeshivah, New York, N.Y., July, 2008
- “Judaism, Ethics, and Violence: Ancient Texts, Modern Dilemmas,” lecture for the Distinguished Scholars Series, The Foundation for Jewish Studies, the Sixth and I Historic Synagogue, Washington, D.C., November, 2008
- “Is There Hope for the Israeli Palestinian Conflict?” lecture for interfaith student group at George Washington University, covered by Al-Hurra TV, January 2009
- “Judaism: Basic Beliefs and Practices,” and “Jewish Extremism,” seminars for Centra Technology, Inc., Arlington, Virginia, January, 2010
- “Living According to Scripture: Jewish, Christian, and Muslim Perspectives,” gave presentation, participated in panel discussion, and taught two break-out sections as part of a four-hour event, Beth El Synagogue, Bethesda, Maryland, February, 2011
- “The Peace and Violence of Judaism,” presentation on and discussion about my book, Kemp Mill Synagogue, Silver Spring, Maryland, March, 2011
- Gave presentation on “Judaism and Peacebuilding” and participated in an interfaith panel on religion and peacebuilding for the Benjamin Franklin Summer Institute with South and Central Asia, a summer program for high school students from South and Central Asia, George Mason University, Virginia, July, 2011, and July 2012
- Gave presentation, “Religious Perspectives on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict,” with Dr. Mohammad Faghfoory, a specialist in Islam, for an event organized by Hillel about the state of Israel, George Washington University, September, 2011
- Invited to participate in a one-day conference on educating lay people in the Christian community about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Institute for Christian-Jewish Studies, Baltimore, Maryland, December, 2011
- Invited to participate in a day-long panel discussion between Iranian and Jewish academics, political leaders, and intellectuals about tensions between Israel and Iran, sponsored by the National Iranian Council, Washington, D.C., January, 2012
- Gave two presentations, participated in a panel discussion on “Peace and Violence in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam,” Beth El Synagogue, Bethesda, Maryland, February, 2012
- “The Peace and Violence of Judaism: Reflections on Rabbinic Ethics and Zionism,” for the Benard Manekin Memorial Lecture, Baltimore Hebrew Congregation, sponsored by the Institute for Christian-Jewish Studies, Baltimore, Maryland, April, 2012
- “Hawks and Doves: The Complexities of Religious Zionism,” lecture at the Jewish Community Center of Rockville, sponsored by the Foundation for Jewish Studies, Rockville, Maryland, April, 2012
- Invited to participate in a two-day workshop at the International Center for Jewish-Christian Relations to help formulate an adult education course on interfaith dialogue between Jews, Christians, and Muslims, Baltimore, October, 2012
- Invited to participate in a one-day conference on the Muslim experience in America, National Cathedral, Washington, D.C., October 2012

- Sabbath scholar-in-residence, “Peace and Violence in Judaism,” D.C. Minyan Synagogue, Washington, D.C., November, 2012
- Sabbath scholar-in-residence, “Peace and Violence in Judaism,” Anshei Hesed Synagogue, Tucson, Arizona, January, 2013
- Panelist and presenter for session on “Intefaitch Dialogue: Theory and Practice,” for conference “Faith and Reconciliation: What is the Future of Interfaith Dialogue?” sponsored by Interfaith Kosovo, Peja, Kosovo, May 2013
- Scholar-in-residence for Memorial Day weekend retreat sponsored by the Foundation for Jewish Studies, “The Peace and Violence of Judaism,” Baltimore, May 2014
- “Killing Civilians in War: Perspectives in Jewish Law,” lecture for Routes: A Day of Jewish Learning, for the Washington D.C. area, American University, Washington, D.C., November 2014
- “Civilian Casualties in War According to Jewish Law,” lecture for Veterans Day event, Temple Rodef Shalom, Fairfax, Virginia, November, 2014
- “Judaism,” two-hour presentation on the theology and practice of Judaism for a course on world religions, Smithsonian Institutions, Washington, D.C., February, 2015
- “The Ambiguity of the Sacred: How is it that Religion Can be so Tolerant and Intolerant at the Same Time?” Chaim and Ella Stern Memorial Lecture, Ohr Kodesh Synagogue, Chevy Chase, Maryland, March 2015
- “The Peace and Violence of Judaism,” lecture for Temple B’nai Israel, Easton, Maryland, May, 2015
- “War in Jewish Law,” lecture at Young Israel Synagogue, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, February 2106
- Panel discussion, “Radicalization and Reconciliation: An Interfaith Inquiry,” St. Anselm’s Abbey, Washington. D.C., 2016

Media Interviews

- Interview on Voice of America Television in Pakistan, regarding my op-ed in *The Washington Post* (see publications above), May, 2006
- Interview for ABC Radio in Australia, for a program dealing with the Book of Job and the theme of suffering, February, 2009
- Interview for Voice of America, web program dealing with the war in Gaza, March, 2009
- Interview for National Chinese TV (the English channel) on the UN bid for Palestinian statehood, September 25, 2011
- Interview for ABC Radio in Australia, for a program entitled, “Darkness and Enlightenment: Faith, Reason, and Judaism,” June, 2014
- Interview for “Finding Genius,” a podcast, about my work on religion and violence, December 2021
- Interview for “Talking History,” a radio show on Irish radio, as part of a panel on Maimonides, March, 2022
- Interview for “Equal Footing,” a radio show in New Jersey, on war in Jewish law, March 2022

June, 2021