

Dear reader,

I'm delighted that you've decided to peruse the Brandeis Judaic Studies Journal – Brandeis' first entirely student-led publication devoted to academic writing on Jewish studies.

In 1948, Brandeis was established as the only non-sectarian university founded by the American Jewish community – a singular origin story which, in the words of its inaugural president Abram Sachar, promised that Brandeis would be a “center of Jewish learning.”

Since then, it has been such a center, and then some. Our university boasts one of the richest Jewish studies faculties in terms of breadth of expertise, and it offers diverse Jewish studies offerings for undergraduate and graduate students alike. This issue of the Journal provides a unique look into the diversity of Jewish perspectives that exist on our campus, with topics ranging from the portrayal of Orthodox Jews in the media, to Israel-Russia relations, to Biblical translation.

I'm inspired by the impressive scholarship of our students reflected in these pages, and with our students' willingness to engage with some of the most difficult issues facing Jews today. Now, as much as ever, as the world faces a widely documented rise in antisemitism, it is critical that we continue to explore, and better understand, the richness of the Jewish experience, past and present, and in Israel and throughout the Diaspora, toward finding ways to improve a collective future.

Warmly,

Ron Liebowitz  
President