



## American Politics, the Holocaust and Racial Justice

**Speaker:** Julian E. Zelizer

Professor of History and Public Affairs, Princeton University  
and CNN Analyst

The 5<sup>th</sup> annual *Egon J. Salmon and Family Commemoration  
of Kristallnacht and the St. Louis*

**Monday, November 9, 2020**

**7pm zoom**



**Welcome by Joel Martin, President, Wagner College  
Followed by candle lighting ceremony**

This talk will examine the ways in which fighting anti-Semitism and the quest for racial justice intersect, drawing inspiration from the life and theology of Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel (1907-72). Educated in Vilna and Berlin, and witness to Nazi book burnings, Heschel escaped to the U.S. in 1940. His family was murdered in the Holocaust. A member of the Jewish Theological Seminary from 1946 to 1972, Heschel was instrumental in persuading the Roman Catholic Church to revise its anti-Semitic teachings and advocated on behalf of Soviet Jews. Heschel became an activist for civil rights, marching arm-in-arm with Martin Luther King Jr. and calling on President Kennedy to show “moral grandeur and spiritual audacity.”

Co-Host of the weekly podcast, Politics and Polls, **Julian Zelizer** is M.S. Forbes '41 Professor of History and Public Affairs at Princeton University. He has published 19 books and over 900 op-ed articles on American politics. His book on Lyndon B. Johnson won the D.B. Hardeman Prize for the Best Book on Congress. He has recently published *Burning Down the House: Newt Gingrich, the Fall of a Speaker, and the Rise of the New Republican Party* (2020) and is working on a biography of A.J. Heschel for Yale University's Jewish Lives Series. Zelizer's late grandfather Nathan was a military chaplain in World War II.

An eyewitness to Kristallnacht and passenger on the ill-fated St. Louis, **Egon Salmon** served with distinction in the U.S. military in World War II. Wagner College honors the courage, resourcefulness and determination of Egon and his family and their contribution to the Jewish community of New York and to America. The Q&A will be moderated by Scott Salmon, an attorney specializing in election law and civil rights and grandson of Egon Salmon.