TITLE OF PROJECT: A Profile of the LGBTQ Jews of Greater Boston (Undergraduate)

PROJECT INFORMATION
Dr. Matthew Boxer, principal investigator for the community studies research team at the Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies and Steinhardt Social Research Institute at Brandeis University, is looking for an intern to assist on the development of a profile of the demographic characteristics and Jewish behaviors, attitudes, and affiliations of LGBTQ Jews and their families in Greater Boston. The profile is expected to deepen knowledge of the Jewish LGBTQ population and to help make Jewish organizations more accessible to LGBTQ Jews and their families.

The 2015 Greater Boston Jewish Community Study is one of the few community demographic studies to collect enough data from LGBTQ respondents to be able to draw reliable inferences about their characteristics and Jewish behaviors, attitudes, and affiliations. The Cohen Center has already written the overall report for the Boston study (to be released this spring). This summer, the Center intends to develop more in-depth profiles of specific segments of the community. This project entails developing a profile of LGBTQ Jews and their households in the Greater Boston area and contextualizing the findings among existing literature about LGBTQ Jews in the United States. The objective is to produce either a research report or an academic journal article for publication. Although publication by necessity entails a time frame longer than the summer, the intent is to have all the preparatory work done by the end of the summer, including literature review and full review of the data.

The Gilda Slifka intern will review (40%) and summarize (25%) existing literature, both online and in the library. Depending on the intern’s experience, they may also have the opportunity to assist in the data analysis (20%) and discuss the findings with the project staff (15%).

PROFILE OF APPROPRIATE CANDIDATE
- Strong research skills on online academic literature databases
- Strong oral and written communication skills
- Competence with Microsoft Office products (e.g., Word, Excel, PowerPoint)
- Ability to multitask
- Ability to incorporate and act on constructive feedback
- Good organizational skills