



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FERN AND MANFRED STEINFELD PROGRAM IN JUDAIC STUDIES

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE

VOLUME THREE • FALL 1996



halom, Yes, we have a name. Thanks to the generosity of Fern and Manfred Steinfeld, the Judaic Studies Program at The University of Tennessee has received an additional pledge of \$250,000 towards strengthening our educational undertaking. The Steinfelds are not only friends of the Judaic Studies Program, but of the University in general and of the community. It is for this broad support that Mr. Steinfeld received UT's Volunteer of the Year Award in the Fall of 1995. Thank you and mazal tov!

We are making progress in our efforts to formally incorporate the Fern and Manfred Steinfeld Program in Judaic Studies into the course curriculum. As a first step, in January of 1996, we convened a Judaic Studies Committee, consisting

of Nancy Lauckner, Amy Neff, Charles Reynolds, Palmyra Brummett, Linda Ehrlich, and Gilya Schmidt. Peter Hoeyng participated for Nancy Lauckner. The Committee elected Gilya Schmidt as chair of the Program, and Peter Hoeyng kindly agreed to serve as interim chair during my stay in Israel. Many thanks to all colleagues serving on our Committee, and thank you, Peter, for helping out. Our next step will be to submit our program for consideration to the Social Sciences and Humanities Divisions Councils.

We are delighted that Professor Lee Humphreys has returned full-time to the Department of Religious Studies. Professor Humphreys teaches courses on the Bible and Classical Hebrew.

A WORD FROM DR. CHARLES H. REYNOLDS, PROFESSOR AND HEAD OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES

I want to begin by joining the many other voices in this newsletter who have commended Associate Professor Gilya Gerda Schmidt for the truly outstanding job that she did in organizing and supervising the Holocaust Conference held on our campus last October. This was truly one of the most outstanding programs sponsored at UT during my 28 years at this institution. I also want to thank all the people and programs at the university and those from the community who assisted Professor Schmidt in planning this program.

It seems that almost monthly I receive a copy of another publication Professor Schmidt has just authored. She is making an outstanding contribution to the field of Judaic Studies nationally and internationally, not simply at the University of Tennessee or in the greater Knoxville area. Her teaching, research, and public service are all a credit to our department and the university, as well as to all who have contributed private funds to supplement her state salary and to

support many of her activities. I especially want to thank Guilford and Diane Glazer, Manfred and Fern Steinfeld, and Mitchell and Natalie Robinson for the substantial gifts they have made to support Judaic Studies at the University of Tennessee. The Steinfelds' recent pledge of \$250,000 to supplement the salary of a faculty member in the History Department to teach the History of Judaism is only the latest of many contributions Manny and Fern have made to our University. He certainly deserved to be selected for the award of UT's volunteer of the year for 1995. Even though I have singled out for special thanks the three families mentioned above, the numerous additional contributions from families in the Knoxville area have brought our total amount in the Judaic Studies fund in our department to \$418,000. Other pledges are outstanding that will put us over our \$500,000 minimum goal. Thanks to all of you (and especially Arnold Cohen and Bernie Bernstein for their leadership roles) who have assisted

us in this important work. I also want to thank the Knoxville Jewish Federation for their annual contribution to our program which makes it possible for us to bring outstanding speakers and programs to UTK that complement and enrich Professor Schmidt's own work.

Our Judaic Studies program continues to make major contributions to the University and the greater Knoxville community. Thanks to most of you who receive this newsletter for making this a reality.

Additional contributions to Judaic Studies are still needed to enrich our library holdings, to provide scholarships for students to study in Israel, and to support visiting scholars in Judaic Studies at UTK. I would be happy to meet with any of you who might be in a position to set up an endowment to support any of these important objectives.

CHARLES H. REYNOLDS
RELIGIOUS STUDIES DEPARTMENT HEAD



Public Service: HOLOCAUST CONFERENCE

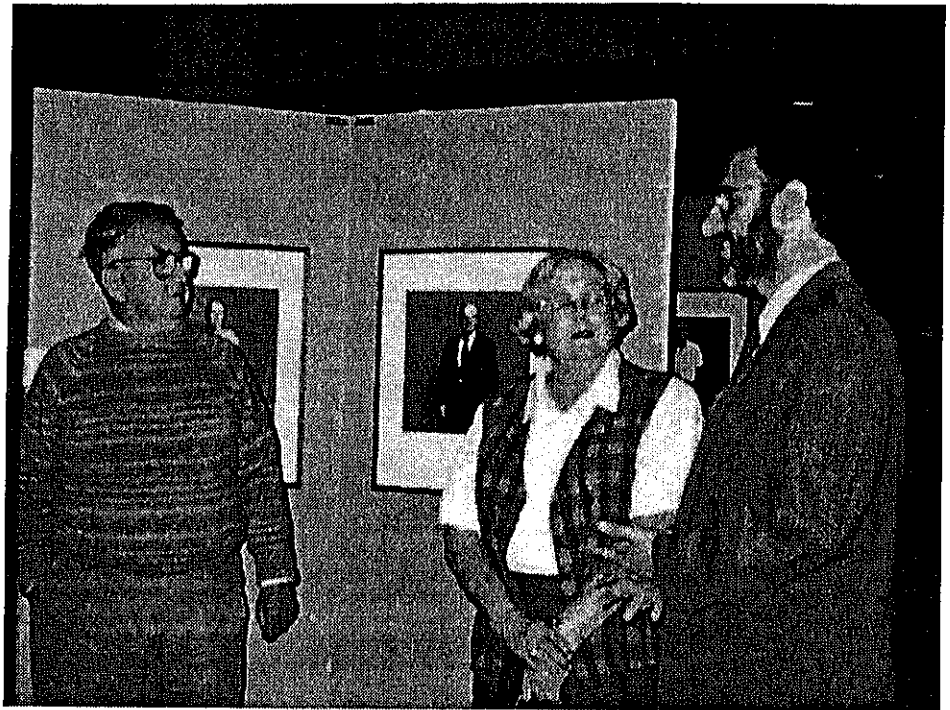
October 22 – 24, 1995

KUDOS FOR HOLOCAUST CONFERENCE, October 22-24, 1995 Knoxville experienced one of its finest moments during the Fall, 1995, Holocaust Conference which was organized and funded by The University of Tennessee in conjunction with the Tennessee Holocaust Commission and the Tennessee Humanities Council as well as the Knoxville Jewish Federation.

When all was said and done, the accolades wouldn't stop coming in. Approximately 6,000 people attended 16 sessions over the three-day period, with attendance at some sessions being near the 500 mark. Many individuals came for more than one session. From the registrations and evaluations we estimated that 2,000 different adults and young people participated in the conference. The media coverage of the event was great, helping with the high attendance. The response was overwhelmingly positive, both of the event and the programming. Many thanks to everyone who so graciously sent flowers, notes, and made contributions in our honor.

Following are some highlights from the notes we received:

"I want to extend my congratulations to you for the excellent Holocaust conference....The conference was extraordinarily successful, in my view, not only because of the meticulous attention to administrative detail but also because of the quality of the program participants. Rarely have I seen so many interested and enthusiastic people attending a conference. What was particularly impressive was the large number of public and private school teachers and their students, both at the intermediate and secondary level, who attended and who seemed to profit from the program....You certainly have the



PROFESSOR ROBERT HELLER AND VISITORS VIEW HIS PHOTO EXHIBIT AT HODGES LIBRARY

gratitude of the campus for bringing the conference, the first on the Holocaust, to the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. From the large number of individuals who attended...I know that you have reached the lay public, our academic colleagues, school teachers, and school children....Again, please accept my congratulations and my thanks."

MILTON M. KLEIN,
UNIVERSITY HISTORIAN

"I'm taking this means to express my sincere thanks and admiration to you for organizing the recently concluded conference on the Holocaust....The speakers were riveting, the topics superb and you managed to attract a startling mix of participants—both old and young, town and gown. I intended to sample the offering but couldn't pull myself away....Thanks so much for creating and presiding over

this important program. All of us are indebted to you for bringing this unprecedented cultural event to Knoxville."

PHILIP A. SCHEURER,
VICE CHANCELLOR

"Dear Dr. Ratner: Please accept my thanks and gratitude for the excellent opportunity provided for me and all who attended the excellent educational lectures, dance, photography exhibits, etc. during the Oct. 22-24 [Holocaust Conference]. What a wonderful [way] to reach the students and teach what we must remember to teach our grand-children. The quality of the speakers was superb. I feel privileged to live in an area that made such an event possible."

ROSE P. HOLZ, OAK RIDGE

"Many, many thanks for last week's splendid East Tennessee Holocaust



JOEL LOGIUDICE, VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY, LECTURES ON KADAR EXHIBIT AT THE UNIVERSITY CENTER

Conference, which you all hosted!...I was greatly impressed not only by the high quality of the speakers, and of their scholarship and sincerity, but also by the attentiveness and reactions of the audience, many of whose members were quite young in age. Once can hardly think of a conference that could do more in the vital, and terribly necessary, work of promoting an end to racial, religious, and ethnic prejudice, hostility, and strife....Again, many thanks to you and to all responsible for the conference. God's richest blessings on you and your colleagues there."

DWYN M. MOUNGER, M. DIV., PH.D.,
MINISTER
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
OAK RIDGE

"I cannot thank you enough for your work in organizing the Holocaust conference these past three days at UT. As a participant, the sessions were 'smooth sailing' in the sense of being comfortable with the facilities. Where to begin, in commenting on the speakers, presents a dilemma. They were excellent. I had the privilege to hear Yaffa Eliach, Leon Bass, Beverly Asbury, and the Panel Discussion on Tuesday evening."

LINK ELMORE,
STUDENT MINISTRY INTERN
THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
OF KNOXVILLE

We also received thank-yous from our speakers:

"Hope you're taking a well-deserved rest after that conference—such masterful planning deserves a special reward! You should be very pleased and proud. Thanks for letting me participate!"

KAREN SHAWN, THE MORIA SCHOOL,
ENGLEWOOD, N.J.

"I just wanted to let y'all know how much I enjoyed my stay in Knoxville and how impressed I was with the Holocaust Conference. I have been a speaker at numerous places and at several Holocaust conferences, but the quality of the speakers and organizers and the outstanding attendance made this one extraordinary."

LAURIE WOOD,
KLANWATCH, MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

"I was very impressed with the excellent conference 'The Holocaust Fifty Years Later' which you organized at the University of Tennessee. The program indeed reflected your insight to the Holocaust, your skills as an organizer, and best of all, a wonderful scholar and warm human being."

YAFFA ELIACH, BROOKLYN COLLEGE

"I received your letter yesterday; it is I who wishes to thank you. My participation in the conference was my gift to the memory of those who lost their lives in the Holocaust, and [it] was a pleasure to see so many participants. I gratefully appreciate the opportunity to speak on the subject, which has now become my passion. I am glad to know my studies in Poland and Israel will be useful here in Knoxville."

MARY LYELL, MOUNTAIN VIEW
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTER,
DANDRIDGE, TN

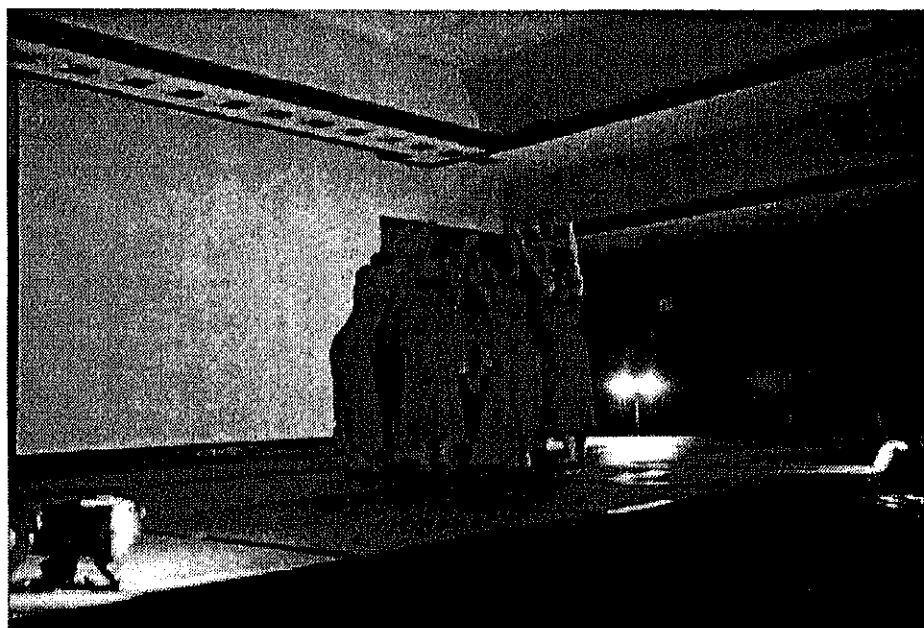
From the Knoxville community, we heard:

"The Holocaust Conference was one of the best things that happened in Knoxville. My coworkers and I appreciate the committee's hard work!"

DONNA HARDY, TEACHER,
BEARDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL

"I want to thank you and commend you on the Holocaust Conference this past weekend. It was truly a first class program, jam packed with quality speakers and sessions. You deserve many kudos for bringing all of this to our community..."

MARIAN JAY, PRESIDENT
KNOXVILLE HADASSAH CHAPTER



TENNESSEE CHILDREN'S DANCE ENSEMBLE

Holocaust Conference, October 22 – 24, 1995 (continued)

"Thank you for involving me in such a moving project. I was quite honored to be involved in both your advisory committee and your conference. Thank you also for bringing such an interesting group together. I believe many seeds were sown and good things will come from those contacts."

ELLEN BEBB,
ROBERTSVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL

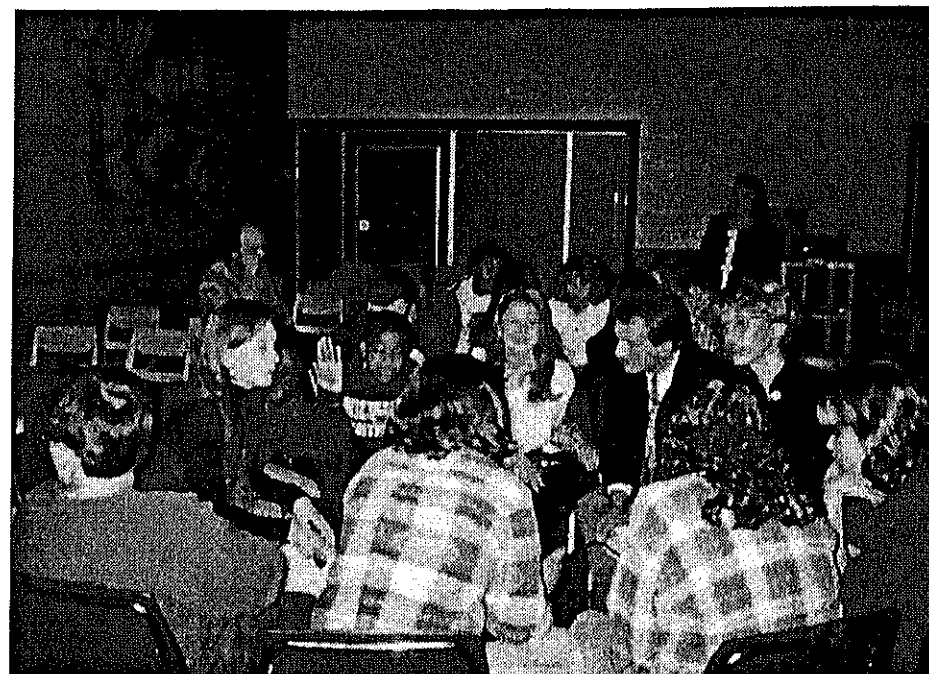
"You did it! With all your helpers. It was a great conference, you should have more of them."

ELAINE BROWN,
HESKA AMUNA LIBRARIAN

"Mazel Tov on the effective manner in which you planned and carried out the East Tennessee Holocaust Conference. We are proud of you."

KNOXVILLE CHAPTER OF HADASSAH

Your thanks and good wishes are accepted with humility and gratitude. Credit for the suggestion of the Holocaust Conference belongs to Dr. Robert Levy, Senior Vice President's Office, UT, who spoke with me about the possibil-



MARY LYELL (BACK RIGHT) LEADS WORKSHOP FOR
SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

ity of such a conference before I was even here!

It took an enthusiastic community-wide Advisory Committee, a committed and sacrificing Steering Committee, the endorsement and support of the University Administration, and the selfless sacrifice of innumerable individu-

als here at the University and in the community to bring this event off so well. I would like to single out Vice Chancellor Philip A. Scheurer; Professor Larry Ratner, then Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; Professor Charles H. Reynolds, Head, Department of Religious Studies; Lisa White Smith, who coordinated 250 teachers and students; Bradford Smith, my Teaching Assistant; Debbie Myers and Joan Riedl, secretaries in Religious Studies. These are the wonderful individuals who bore the brunt of the tensions involved with the organization of the Conference and who kept me sane. I thank you and all colleagues, students, and friends who helped and participated in the event. May the future be the brighter for it!



PROFESSOR YAFFA ELIACH SPEAKS TO CROWDED BALLROOM
AT THE UNIVERSITY CENTER





Reflections of the Holocaust Conference or Putting It All Together

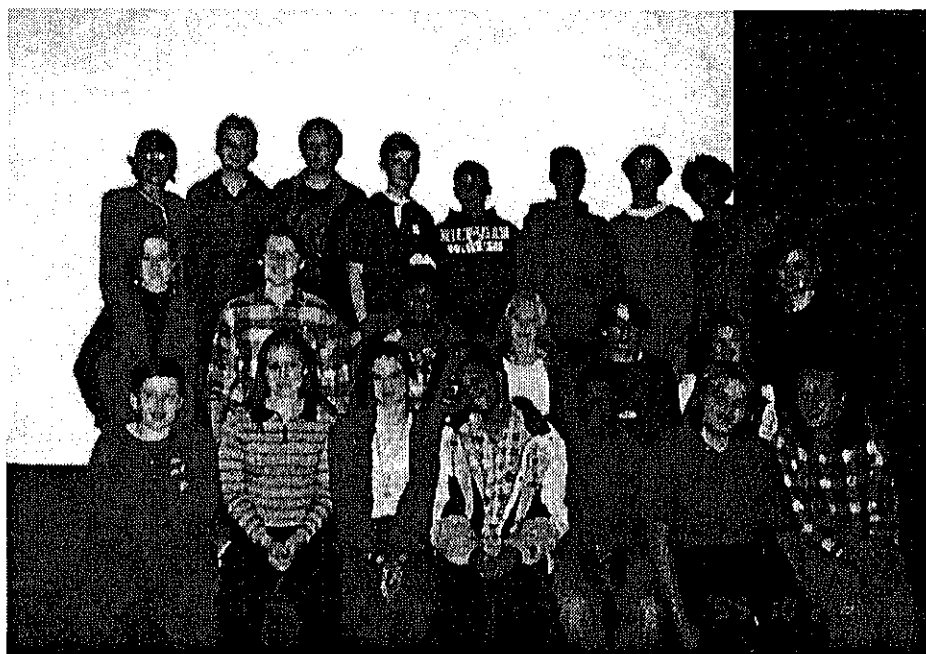
BY DONNA MARA HARDY

Black was not the dominant color in my housing project, even though most of us were called that. The colors ranged from vanilla white to ebony wood. The little boy next door wanted to know if my fair-skinned mother and little sister were white. He said he liked them better than me. So, from the time I could recognize images, color did make a difference. I had a hard time putting it all together. If my opponent got mad at me, a ginger brown skinned little girl, he called me BLACK. If he wanted to see fire in my eyes, he called me JEW. To be called BLACK was bad, and to be called JEW was bad bad. I had a hard time putting it all together. At LaRose Elementary school in Memphis, Tennessee, my teacher said that this man named Dr. Martin Luther King was coming to help Blacks and Jews get their acts together. Name-calling, she said, was tearing us all apart. It was 1968, and I wanted to hear this great man who was going to turn neighborhoods and nations around. My family lived next door to the temple where Dr. King was planning to speak. Mama said I couldn't go. She was afraid I would be shot. But, I wanted to be a part of history! There was no daddy, so mama always had the last word. She went to Mason Temple, and I stood at the window watching the silent feet slip solemnly into the sacred house. Tranquility ruled....One could hear King's voice if he sat still: I've been to the mountaintop and I've seen the promised land. The next day, the promised land was bleeding. The feet ran frantically, shouting. Death had killed all black hope.... For years Mama had Martin's funeral. Night after night, while I tried to sleep, she played his records. The words, like rolling mountains, moved into my memory and made hills of dreams: Perhaps I will be a writer and a teacher. I will teach black kids. I will

be QUEEN of the mountain. Nobody's gonna knock me off the mountain! In high school a white teacher questioned me, wanted to share MY mountain. "No, you can't share it," my conscious said. You are a Jew. Do you really care? What do you know about me?" His conscious answered, "Here, read Victor Frankl's

two stars stand together, I see my Jewish teacher and I working in the cotton fields and the concentration camps. We are one.... I am no longer having a hard time putting it all together. My mission is clear. I know what I must continue to do with others on the mountaintop.

★ ★ ★



EIGHTH GRADE ENGLISH, BEARDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL
TEACHERS: DONNA HARDY (UPPER RIGHT), MARIE RICHARDSON (UPPER LEFT),
VALERIE BREEDING (LOWER RIGHT).

Man's Search for Meaning. I read it twice and cried. I rethought: I will teach black kids, white kids, Jews, anybody who wants to learn. I must go back to the mountain and beyond.... The Holocaust Conference...1995 in Knoxville, Tennessee. I am a teacher, still struggling to write. My students—black, white, Jews, etc.—listen to the speakers and view the slides of happy families and then emaciated humans. The children take notes and squirm. My two white co-workers and I see learning faces. My moment comes the next day. Mira Kimmelman, a Holocaust survivor, introduces Leon Bass, a black eyewitness to the Holocaust atrocities. As the

MARA MEANS "BITTER" IN HEBREW. But Donna was able to turn the bitter memories of two participants in the Holocaust Conference (and her own!) into a sweet experience for students and colleagues at Bearden and Vine middle schools and Webb School. Applying and receiving a grant from WBIR-TV, Channel 10, Donna brought liberator Dr. Leon Bass back to Knoxville on February 23, 1996, where he was joined by survivor Mira Kimmelman, the two individuals who together made such a profound impression on Donna at the Conference. Congratulations, Donna Mara Hardy! We are proud of your work.



Faculty Research:

ASSIGNMENT IN ISRAEL

"IF I FORGET THEE, O JERUSALEM, MAY MY RIGHT HAND LOSE ITS CUNNING."

For centuries, these words from Psalm 137 were pronounced by poets and rabbis, singers and politicians. Before the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948, Jerusalem, symbolic of the Land of Israel, nourished the dreams and imagination of Jews for nearly 2,000 years. For those who have never been there, it still does.

But if one has been to Israel, it is impossible to ever forget Jerusalem with her ramparts and citadels, her parks and gardens, her fabulous architecture, her multi-ethnic population, houses of worship, museums, cultural programs, her joys and sorrows. Upon arrival in Jerusalem, I wrote this poem (with apologies to Marilyn Kallet):

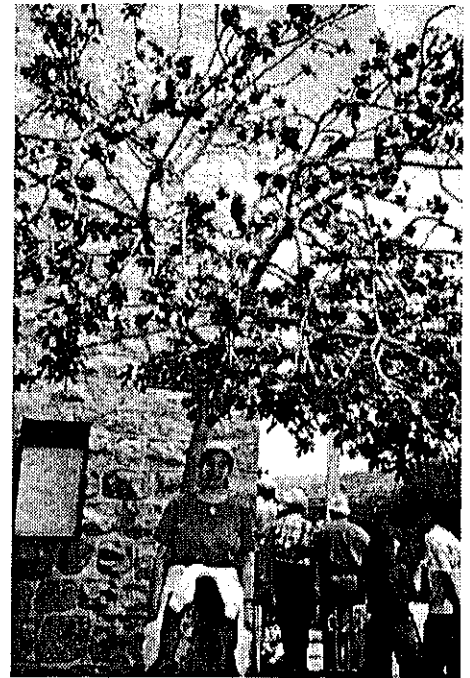
A Winter's Song

FEBRUARY 1, 1996

GENTLY THE WIND
BRUSHES AGAINST MY FACE—
FEBRUARY IN YERUSHALAIM.
I RUSH TO SEE
OLD FAMILIAR SITES,
THIS TIME DRESSED IN GREY.
YET THERE IS LIFE
AND BEAUTY
IN THE AIR AND HEARTS.
A YELLOW FLOWER
GUSHES O'ER THE WALL
IN MANIFOLD SPLENDOR,
AND A REGAL
FLAMING CACTUS
AMONG RUGGED JERUSALEM ROCK.
IN THE DISTANCE
THE TOWER OF DAVID
WITH A THREE-FOLD DEGEL ISRAEL
FLUTTERING BRISKLY
FROM ITS TOWER.
IT IS GOOD TO HAVE RETURNED—
A HOMECOMING
TO THE BELOVED LAND.

- This year, the celebration of "Jerusalem 3,000" provided an international cultural extravaganza that culminated in fabulous fireworks over the Old City on June 24. The event became an incentive for individuals and groups from around the world for a homecoming, even if temporary.

- One of the biggest decisions for any visitor to Israel is which ulpan (intensive language course) to attend. Because so many new immigrants and visitors come from all over the world—Jewish and non-Jewish—there is a great desire and need to learn the language of the land. However, two other languages dominate parts of Israel—English and Russian. Some speak of the Americanization of Israel, this is especially noticeable in Jerusalem, where Cafe Atara on Ben Yehuda Street was just recently bought by Pizza Hut. In Haifa and Netanya whole neighborhoods remind of little Russias. Only ten years after finally leaving the Soviet Union, the most famous refusenik, Nathan Sharansky, has been elected to the



PROFESSOR GILYA SCHMIDT,
YEMIN MOSHE, JERUSALEM

Knesset and appointed as Minister of Industry and Trade.

- Shabbat in Jerusalem. Peace and tranquility descend on the city as traffic comes to a near halt on Friday afternoon. At least the buses stop completely. A siren signals the beginning of Shabbat. A multitude of human beings criss-cross the various neighborhoods as they join family and friends for worship and Fri-



GILYA SCHMIDT IN KNESSET ROSE GARDEN, JERUSALEM

day night dinner. Walking, even at midnight, is safe in most areas. One of the most enjoyable experiences was to sample all the different synagogues within walking distance—Ashkenazi, Sephardi, Hasidic, Conservative, Reform—each one within these groups with a unique character. What a powerful experience!

- Jewish holidays in Israel. With the exception of the High Holy Days and Hanukkah, I had a chance to participate in all the Jewish holidays while in Israel. Tu B'Shvat with a tree planting ceremony at the Tower of David Museum. Passover, a week-long holiday with all public institutions closed and all the mom and pop stores as well. Supermarkets simply close off sections which are not kosher for Pesach. Of course, the guide is Sephardic which doesn't entirely solve the problem for the Ashkenazim. Yom HaShoah is a nationwide day of remembrance and of mourning, with memorial services, television programs, and films on the Holocaust. Yom Yerushalaim is closely followed by Israeli Memorial Day and Independence Day, a celebration of merry-making and outdoor activities. And who could ever forget Shavuot, the festival of first fruits, when we study all night and walk to the Kotel before sunrise to participate in services there.



ISRAELI INDEPENDENCE DAY, JERUSALEM

- And then there is the physical beauty of Eretz Israel—besides Jerusalem, places like Tel Aviv, Haifa, Herzeliya, Beit Shean, Beit Alpha, Mount Gilboa, Tiberias, Tel Gezer, Rachel's Tomb, Gush Etzion, Herodion—at least these are the places I visited this time. You have to experience Israel for yourself to really appreciate just how special it is.

- Two of my former students also were in Israel during this past year and I had a chance to visit with them—David Jason from Germantown and Nathan Solomon from Maryville, Tennessee.

- And then, of course, there was the excitement and the suspense of the Israeli elections! A new system of electing the Prime Minister and a changing political environment—what a combination.

- Not only good things happened, as you know. The tragedy of the bus bombings in February and the Dizengoff Center bombing in March jolted everyone out of our apparent sense of security. Cellular phones were ringing off the hook in the street, in the library, on buses—if we only suffered jittery nerves, we were lucky!

- In March, the katushya rockets which fell on the Israeli village of Kiryat Shmonah and the resulting escalation in the security zone in Southern Lebanon brought another reminder that Israel is not yet at peace with all her neighbors.

- Famous names rub elbows with ordinary human beings in the context of everyday life—Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert (of course, some of you got to meet him in Knoxville—quite a coup!), Leah Rabin, Benjamin Netanyahu, Benny Begin, Shulamit Aloni and many others.

- Culturally, Jerusalem can easily keep up with New York. But while New York culture is international, much of Jerusalem culture is Jewish—Moroccan, Greek, Ethiopian, French, South African, Russian, British, South American,



BARBARA PHELPS, HESKA AMMUNA RELIGIOUS SCHOOL TEACHER, CAME TO JERUSALEM FOR THE CAJE JEWISH EDUCATORS' CONFERENCE



JOE (LEFT) AND MARION (RIGHT) GOODSTEIN WITH GRANDNIECE ELISHEVA HURVICH (CENTER) AT HOME OF JACOB AND JO MILGROM, JERUSALEM

Iraqi, and Iranian. Song, theatre, film, and radio programs are presented in many different languages.

- Most amazing is the rich offering of lectures by well-known scholars such as Emil Fackenheim and rabbis like Adin Steinsaltz. One can easily attend a different educational event every night!

- Conferences on Jewish topics abound as well. Here is a sampling of what I attended:

February 4-7

A conference at Hebrew University, Jerusalem, on the topic, "One Hundred Years of Culture in the Land of Israel," in Hebrew. Participants included Member of Knesset Shulamit Aloni, Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein, Prof. Gershon Shaked, Hebrew University; Prof. Anita Shapira, Tel Aviv University; Nativ Ben-Yehuda, the daughter of Eliezer Ben-Yehuda; Prof. Bezalel Narkiss, HU; Dr. Ganit Ankori, HU, and many others. This conference was free and open to the public.

March 10-13

International Theology Conference at the Bernard and Barbro Osher Jerusalem Center for Religious Tolerance of The Shalom Hartman Institute, Jerusalem. The theme in connection with "Jerusalem 3,000" was "To Speak Be-

fore God," a theological study seminar on Psalms. Participants included many famous scholars such as Krister Stendahl from Harvard, who was the co-convenor; Francis Schuessler Fiorenza, Harvard Divinity School; Paul Mendes-Flohr, HU; Moshe Idel, HU; Tivka Frymer-Kensky, University of Chicago; Paula Fredriksen, Boston University, as well as many others. This conference was by invitation only, and I was greatly honored to participate as an invited guest. Many thanks to David

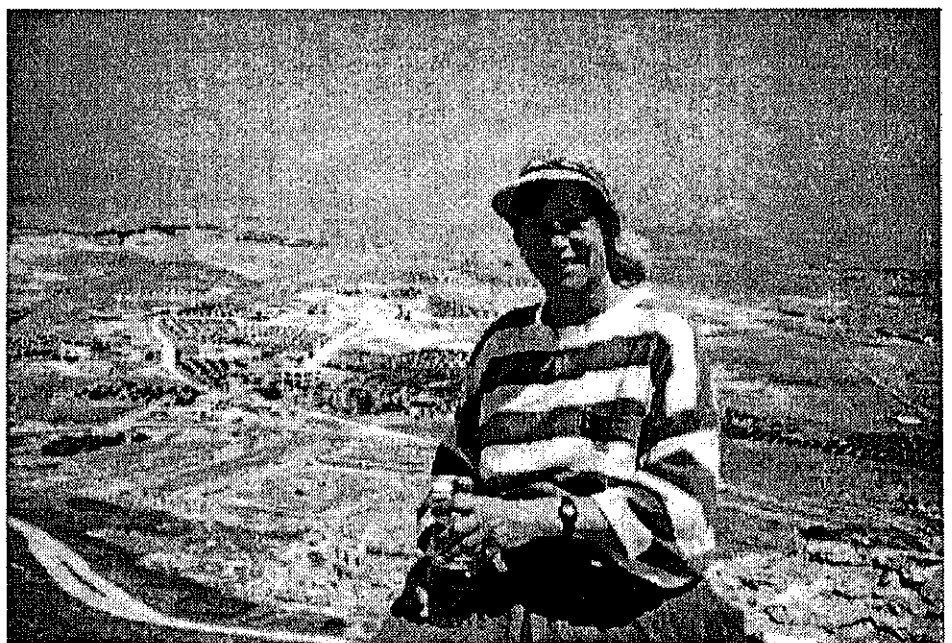
Hartman for making this unique experience possible.

March 25-27

An international conference, "From Dream to Reality: Herzl and Der Judenstaat," at Hebrew University and the University of Haifa. Again, the participants included scholars whom I know personally and whose books I use in both my scholarship and teaching, such as Robert Wistrich, Shlomo Avineri, and Julius Schoepps. This conference was also free and open to the public.

June 16-21

Fifth International Seminar on Jewish Art, The Center for Jewish Art of The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. This seminar takes place every three years. The theme this year focused on "The Real and Ideal Jerusalem in Jewish, Christian and Islamic Art." Again, scholars who participated came from all over the world and included individuals who have visited Knoxville, such as Bezalel Narkiss, Ziva Amishai-Maisels and Jo Milgrom, as well as the great historian Shmaryahu Talmon, HU; Gabrielle Sed-Rajna, CNRS, Paris; and literally hundreds of other scholars and artists. This art extravaganza included tours to unusual Jerusalem sites, a tour of and reception at the Israel Museum and the



GILYA SCHMIDT IN HERODION, JUDEA

Ticho House, and the premiere of a film on Jerusalem. I would like to express my gratitude to Dean Minkel and the Graduate School who made my participation in this conference possible as part of a research grant.

- While I was in Jerusalem, a research group on Jewish Art was organized by Professors Richard Cohen and Ezra Mendelsohn at Hebrew University. Members of the group presented public lectures once a week. I very much welcomed and enjoyed this unexpected opportunity to participate in discussions on Jewish art and to share my own research during a working luncheon. Many thanks to Professors Ziva Amishamaisels and Mili Heyd for bringing this group to my attention.

- Members of Kibbutz Gezer invited me to give a slide lecture on my research, and I would like to thank artist Hilde Engelmann for facilitating this wonderful weekend. I also read some of Martin Buber's poems in English translation at Cafe Tmol Shilshom in Jerusalem.

- No experience is complete without family and friends both here and in Israel. Thanks to Jo and David Morrison, Jacob and Jo Milgrom, Carol Kaplan, Mike Alter, Shaul and Tanya Feinberg, and Eliyahu and Aya Schleifer for being my extended family and for making the Shabbat experience unforgettable! Also many thanks to long-time friends Sarah and Uri Ron in Herzeliya and Avraham Shapira on Kibbutz Yizreel for their hospitality and support during my stay in Israel.

Here at UT, I would like to thank the College of Arts and Sciences, Professor Charles H. Reynolds and the Department of Religious Studies, and Dean Minkel of the Graduate School for supporting and funding this research assignment. I am also grateful to Debbie Myers, Joan Riedl and Brad Smith for making sure that I am still a member in good standing at the University and in the community, and to Debbie and Kyle Powell in Tuscaloosa for adopting my dog while I was away. ★



Research on Jewish Art

How many photocopies fit into 15 boxes?

I don't know the answer, but this is how much material I shipped back from my six months of research in Israel. My primary goal was the collection of information on Jewish art and

well as the Technion, to the vast holdings of Haifa University, Tel Aviv University, and Hebrew University National Library, nearly anything ever printed or even written can be located. To actually

take possession of the needed material is another matter and requires much patience and considerably more money than here. Did I find everything I wanted? No. But I consider my research experience in Israel as having been vastly successful, resulting in much food for thought for the next couple of years. I have already drafted some articles based on



HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS VIEW KADAR ART EXHIBIT AT THE UNIVERSITY CENTER

this material. The target date for completing the first draft of the book manuscript, with the working title, "Images of Old and New Spirituality in Modern Jewish Art," is August 1997. And for those Fernando Botero fans among you, I got to see his monumental sculptures every time I went to the Israel Museum for six months!

the artists who contributed to the first all-Jewish art exhibit in Basel in 1901. Working on this project reminded me of my first year as a doctoral student in Religious Studies. Having never taking a single course in Religious Studies, I spent a year reading and studying so I could figure out what Religious Studies was. In addition to collecting material on eleven artists, I also followed the ongoing discussion on the nature of Jewish art. Israel truly is a central repository of sources, old and new, in any language. From specialized resource centers such as the Zionist Archives, the Leo Baeck Institute, and the Buber Archives, the specialized libraries at the Israel Museum and the Tel Aviv Museum of Art as



TOBY SLABOSKY AND HER SON PESACH IN LATTER'S JERUSALEM STUDIO



Publications and Lectures

Books

Martin Buber's Formative Years (1995)

Two favorable reviews appeared on my Buber book. One in *The Jewish Chronicle*, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The reviewer, Ian Heiss, wrote, "Former Pittsburgher Dr. Schmidt divides Buber's development into three periods. The first was during his exposure to the University of Vienna and other great European cities and his absorption of Nietzsche, Goethe, and Cusa, and his intellectual response to this enriched academic atmosphere. The second period was his involvement in the Zionist Congresses of the early part of the century. There he was influenced by and broke lances with personages such as Achad Ha'am and Theodor Herzl. Finally, in the third period, he returned to his Jewish roots to find the Hasidic perspective to the problem of Jewish culture in the modern world. Dr. Schmidt does a careful analysis of his writings and musings during these critical periods to help us understand his growth."

The review in the January 19, 1996, *Jerusalem Post Magazine*, under the heading, "A Modern Man," was by Israeli poet Mike Scheidemann. He wrote, "Many people find it difficult to reconcile German and Jewish culture, even through the magnanimous eyes of Martin Buber. But modern idealism threads its way through both cultures, blossoming in avant-garde romanticism and Zionism, in the dark mystical tones of the German language, and later in the revival of Hebrew as a spoken tongue. Buber's earlier struggle with himself reflected his search for a new type of Jewish personality, and; later, a new, open Jewish community....Gilya Schmidt singles out the mental, spiritual and academic influences of Buber's formative years. He posited the relative in re-

lation to Zionism and the absolute in relation to Hassidism. She sees these concepts as akin to Kant's 'phenomenal and noumenal.' Buber chose to interpret Nietzsche's 'eternal return' in Zarathustra as the renaissance of Judaism, while resenting the influence Nietzsche had on him....The last third of the book is devoted to a perceptive analysis of Kabbala and Hassidism as Schmidt imagines Buber to have seen them. He never doubted that Jewish individuation and unity could only be achieved through spiritual development, and Hassidism was the source. Nevertheless, he was never tempted to commit himself wholly to the Hassidic way of life. For Buber, spirituality must ultimately be an individual affair. That is why, till his dying day, Buber remained a modern man—still rooted in his past, but free of the shackles of tradition."

Gypsy book

The translation of Erika Thurner's book, *National Socialism and Gypsies in Austria*, on the fate of the Gypsies in the Holocaust, has entered one of the final stages. Last year's readers reports came back overwhelmingly favorable. While in Israel, I once more edited the English for conciseness and clarity, requested more detailed photo captions from the author, and solicited and received an introduction by a major American scholar in this field. Shortly, I will re-submit the manuscript to The University of Alabama Press for what I hope will be the final round of reviews.

Kadima —Martin Buber's Zionist Writings

Before leaving for Israel, I had completed translating 42 of 50 essays and poems which Martin Buber wrote between 1898 and 1905 on cultural Zionism. This Fall, I will attempt to complete the remaining writings and find a home for the manuscript.

Shapira Buber Book

My long-time friend and colleague, Professor Avraham Shapira, Tel Aviv University, is in the process of publishing a book on Martin Buber in English through SUNY Press. Shapira is one of the foremost authorities on Buber and Scholem today. For the last year, I have been working with his editor, seeing to all the details needed to get the book to press.

Articles

"'Devekut,' or 'Cleaving to God' Through the Ages," was published in the December, 1995, issue of *Mystics Quarterly*.

"German Romanticism and Friedrich Schleiermacher in Relation to Martin Buber's Idea of Jewish Renewal" forthcoming in the journal *New Athenæum*.

"God, the Soul, and Zion in the Poetry of Yehuda Halevi," is scheduled for publication in the December, 1996, issue of *Mystics Quarterly*. This will be Elizabeth Armstrong's last issue, as she will be retiring. Many thanks, Elizabeth, for wonderful sessions at the International Medieval Congress and a great journal!

"Theology and Worship in Nineteenth-Century Judaism," for Nineteenth-Century Theology Group of American Academy of Religion. I researched and wrote this paper while in Israel. This group's papers are published and predistributed to members and vigorously discussed during sessions at AAR.

Papers and Lectures

KIBBUTZ GEZER, ISRAEL, MAY 18, 1996. Slide lecture on research project on Jewish art.

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF RELIGION, NOVEMBER 23-26, 1996. Paper on worship and theology in Judaism previously mentioned.

ASSOCIATION FOR JEWISH STUDIES, DECEMBER 15-17, 1996. Paper on Martin Buber.

SECSOR, IN MARCH 1997. Paper on artists in 1901 exhibit.



Teaching Judaic Studies Course Offerings

In the Fall of '95, I taught RS 381, Introduction to Judaism, and RS 385, Contemporary Jewish Thought which focused on Zionism. Fifty-five students enrolled in both courses.

This year, I am offering four courses, two in the Fall term and two in the Spring. Fall term courses include RS 381, Introduction to Judaism, and RS 385, Contemporary Jewish Thought, focusing on European Jewry. Total enrollment is approximately 65 students. In the Spring term, I will teach RS 386, Voices of the Holocaust, and, for the first time, RS 405, Modern Jewish Thinkers which will be a seminar on Modern Israel.

What do students say about Judaic Studies courses?

Several of you have asked why students take Judaic Studies courses and what they say about the experience. Following is a sampling of comments students wrote in the Fall of 1995:

- Before taking this class I had various stereotypes about Jews which I now realize are quite silly.
- The most important thing I have gained from this course is understanding of Jewish religion, culture, and history. If I had not taken this course I know I would probably have never experienced learning about the Jewish community. It is valuable to me because it is part of my history also.
- I hope to go to Israel someday and with me I will take all I have learned. For now I will take it home and share it with my friends and family.
- I feel I learned more than the meaning of Rosh Hashanah, I learned a culture. This class has made the world a smaller place.
- I understand the Jewish religion so much more....I feel now I have a much better understanding of the holidays,

the history of Israel and the Holocaust on a personal level. I really enjoyed sitting with you at the synagogue and to listen to you explain the service....I now pay more attention to the news about Israel and whenever I hear anything about Judaism because I feel I understand it better.

- By taking this course and being privileged to be a student during the time of UT's first Holocaust conference, I have gained a new sense of responsibility. I have always been aware of the role every human should play in helping preserve human life, but through this course and the conference I have been able to reevaluate my inner self....Thank you for opening my heart and my mind.
- Although I was raised in a Methodist and Baptist home, my mother and her family have always studied the Jewish faith closely and with tremendous respect. I never understood the power of my mother's experiences in visiting Israel. But now, I have grown to understand and even share many of her feelings. We have spent many long hours

discussing the issues raised in this class, and it has brought us very close....The opportunities I have been given to participate in Knoxville's Jewish community (Holocaust conference, Rabin's memorial service, synagogue visit) have been invaluable to me on a personal and spiritual level.

- Although I have a couple of friends who are Jewish, I never really understood their religion. This course has helped me to understand what they believe, and to understand the holidays which are so important to them. Learning about another religion helps put a perspective on my own religion—it showed me and inspired me to learn about my own holidays and customs.
- I...realized that with tolerance and humanity toward others more goals can be attained than with violence. I learned much more about Israel and its development and Jewish importance than I thought was available.... I can now understand and respect the Jewish holidays, rituals, and religion in a way that is tolerant and knowledgeable.



JERUSALEM TRAIN STATION. LEFT: DAVID MORRISON, FORMERLY FROM KNOXVILLE, GILYA SCHMIDT, HEIDI DAMSKI

Student Reactions to Judaic Studies courses (continued)

- I personally have gotten a better understanding of my own religion because of this course. There has been much debate recently in the leadership of my church as to whether or not the Holy Days of Lev. 23 should be kept....I have celebrated them my whole life and feel that they have a lot of meaning and tradition in my religion. This course only deepened my understanding of and appreciation for them.

- The traditions in Christianity have a much fuller meaning to me when seen from their Jewish roots.

- I have always wondered what the holidays meant to the Jewish people, but the meager information that I had gained just never satisfied my desire....Now I am moving on to the next question, "What do they mean to me, and how can I observe them, since many of them are in the Torah."

- I like two very specific things about Judaism. 1. The balance. There's good and bad, happy and sad emphasized. Just like in Ecclesiastes—"A time to live, a time to die...." 2. The Covenant. God is not seen as a manipulative power who is never pleased but as someone who is

in the Covenant with us and has to hold up his end of the bargain, too.

- I considered just getting a book on Judaism instead of taking a class but I would have missed out on knowing about the Holocaust conference, seeing the things you brought—shofar, challah, wedding pictures, tefillin, etc., going to the synagogue, eating latkes, getting to know another Jewish person....Also, as a Christian, I felt I didn't even know the roots of my own faith. I enrolled in this course simply to fulfill my World Studies distribution requirement. I anticipated a fact-filled, dry historical narrative with emphasis on Jewish tradition. What I received, however, was a course and a professor that were both dynamic, exciting, and oh so appetizing!

One of my favorite reports is by Botany major Mike Finley:

"I attended the 8 Heshvan (11/01/95) Heska Amuna Synagogue Shabbat services of Parshat Vayera. As I entered the Sanctuary of the Six Million on that cool and rainy morning and took a seat, I tried to carefully observe and mentally record as best I could the details of the

service. I must admit that I arrived with preconceived notions that I would understand very little and that I would be there strictly as an invited observer to fulfill a requirement for my Religious Studies course. As I sat down and began trying to absorb everything around me, my trivial preconceived notions immediately disappeared. I suddenly felt at ease, relaxed, and warm. The physical beauty of the sanctuary—the dark wood pews with comfortable cushions, the huge blue and green stained glass window, the golden curtained case of the scrolls, and the soft glow of light—affected my awareness from that of 'thinking' to 'feeling' and I remember being pleasantly surprised. Rabbi Weiner was reciting Hebrew in a low, chanting tone while he gently rocked his upper body back and forth in a rhythmic motion. Although I understood none of the Hebrew-spoken text I was hearing, I found myself wanting to hear more....Another beautiful custom involved the scroll of the Torah from which a portion of the service was read. The scroll was carefully wrapped and carried through the congregation so that all could touch it with their tallis or book. They then kissed their tallis or book. This practice symbolizes the Jewish goal — getting closer to the Torah. Everyone happily and enthusiastically participated....The Rabbi told the page number from which he was reading so I began to follow by reading the English translation (Genesis 18-19). I am familiar with the story of Abraham and Sodom and Gomorrah from my Church of Christ upbringing, but I had never experienced such emotion before when studying it. I felt a strong sense of unity....After a delicious luncheon, I left with a better appreciation and understanding of Shabbat. After I removed the kippah and returned it to its case, I stepped out into the chill of that rainy day and thought "What a wonderful day!"



TOBY SLABOSKY, CENTER FRONT, WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS IN JERUSALEM



Update on Our Students

As I already mentioned, two former students spent time in Jerusalem this past year, **David Jason** and **Nathan Solomon**.

Last I heard, David was applying to graduate school. While in Israel, David had good and bad experiences. About a trip to Egypt, he enthused: "The trip to Egypt was truly amazing. The Great Pyramids, giant statues of Ramses II at Abu Simbel, walking around 3,000-year-old temples and in almost perfectly-preserved tombs, floating down the Nile for two days on a small sailboat—as wonderful and incredible as these experiences were they almost pale in comparison to just being in a completely different culture and having to rid your mind of so many basic assumptions of the way society works....And we did succeed in reaching Mount Sinai, atop which I had my best night's sleep of the entire trip, and was rewarded by waking to a stunning sunrise."

But the assassination of Prime Minister Itzak Rabin brought him face to face with the personal pain this event caused many people. Here are selections of what he wrote for his hometown paper:

"It is now about 17 hours since Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was murdered in a cowardly act that defies explanation. I am still encased in sadness and shock, as are many in Israel....Today I arose upset, and have been in a melancholy, laconic state all day. I have been alternately on the verge of tears or on the verge of being sick to my stomach, as I am sure many here have been....After floating through class somewhat in a daze, I went to the university memorial service, held at an amphitheater with a view of the Jordan River and into Jordan. It is the same place where Rabin accepted his honorary doctorate as commander-in-chief

after leading Israel to victory in the Six-Day-War... As the speaker, who spoke in Hebrew, concluded his remarks, everyone in the audience arose, including those perched atop walls and other precarious positions. And then there was silence. It was a silence so complete I could not believe it was occurring in Jerusalem on a day other than Shabbat. It was a beautiful expression of sorrow and respect. I had until then honestly been unaware that so many Israelis could be so quiet at the same time."

This Fall, Nathan began graduate school at Old Dominion in Virginia, where he will join other former students **Link Elmore** and **Melissa Range**. After two years in Israel, Nathan responded strongly to the Southern Baptist Convention's decision to actively convert Jews to Christianity. Here is the article Nathan wrote for *The Knoxville News Sentinel* under the heading, "Southern Baptists may Negate Previous Good":

"The evangelical nature of the Southern Baptist denomination has often put

it at odds with the Jewish community, but the recent vote by the Southern Baptist Convention to actively seek Jewish converts to Christianity is a step too far. I fear that the methods Southern Baptists have used in the past to make converts will certainly not result in the Jewish community embracing Jesus as the Messiah but will become yet another wedge separating our closely related faith traditions. Apparently, the mistakes of the past have not been taken to heart. Dr. Robert L. Lindsey was a pioneer of the Baptist presence in Israel from 1939 to 1987, achieving legendary status in the Israeli-Jewish community—not by actively seeking converts from Judaism but by being an active and vital part of the community of faith. Dr. Lindsey built long-lasting bridges between the Christian and Jewish communities by starting orphanages, championing the rights of victims and working closely with Jewish-Israeli scholars to learn more about the teachings of Jesus. Dr. Lindsey did more to heal Jewish-Christian relations than any figure within Christendom in the last 200



CINDY SPANGLER OF EWING GALLERY WITH "GENTLE HEROISM" EXHIBIT

Update on Our Students (continued)

years; these relations may crumble because of the bad judgment of his co-religionists. Southern Baptists would do well to consider the life and times of someone like Robert Lindsey before they destroy his work."

Congratulations and best wishes to Link Elmore on his marriage to Karen Ourth, a medical student.

Melissa, who is in the Creative Writing Masters Program at Old Dominion, kept us updated on her many activities through monthly Range reports. One of Melissa's exciting poems, "Lot's Wife," is included in Marilyn Kallet and Patricia Clark's new book, *Worlds in Our Words: Contemporary American Women Writers* (Blair Press/Prentice Hall). Congratulations, Melissa. Mazal tov, Marilyn! A book signing will take place at Davis-Kidd on November 19.

Congratulations to **Diana Whaley** and her husband Chuck on Diana's graduation from UT with a double major in Nursing and Religious Studies.

Betsy Taylor, a French major, is spending her junior year in France.

Student **Laura Kendrix** invited me to make a presentation on Shabbat to students living in Melrose Hall. After my talk we all went to Temple Beth El for Friday night services. Subsequently, on November 27, 1995, I was honored as an outstanding faculty member by the Melrose Hall Residents Association at their Fall Semester Faculty Recognition Tea.

In the Spring of 1995, I was awarded the Panhellenic and Intrafraternity Council's Outstanding Faculty Award, thanks to **Suzy Garner**, who nominated me for this honor.

Another student honor I could not follow through on because of my leaving for Israel was as a Faculty Fellow at Hess Hall.

Thank You!

After ten years as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, **Professor Larry Ratner** retired on July 1, 1996. We would like to thank Professor Ratner for his untiring efforts on behalf of Judaic Studies during his years as our Dean. We wish you all the best for the future personally and much continued success in your research and teaching as Professor in the History Department.

I would also like to thank my Teaching Assistant, **Bradford Smith**, for all of his wonderful work in connection with the Holocaust Conference, my publications and classes. Brad also took care of a great many details while I was in Israel. We wish you all the best in your continued studies and in your new role as teacher.

Taking over as my new Teaching Assistant is **Barry Danilowitz**, also a graduate student in Philosophy. Barry hails from Toronto, Canada.

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

This year, I am serving in the following capacities:

Chair of the History of Judaism section at SECSOR. Many thanks to Professor David Williams from University of Georgia for taking over during my absence.

Constituency Representative for SECSOR to AAR.

Member, UT Press Editorial Board.

Member, Editorial Board of Soundings.

Member, Campus Cultural Life Committee, UTK.

Member, Arts, Culture, and Education Sub-Committee of the Tennessee-Israel Cooperation Committee.



Barry Danilowitz,
Teaching Assistant

JUDAIC LECTURE SERIES

In the Fall of 1995, lectures offered during the Holocaust Conference took the place of our usual lecture series.

We will again offer several public evening lectures during this academic year. Plans have not yet been completed, but we will let you know the details in good time.

Before leaving for Israel, on November 12, I spoke at Temple Beth El on spirituality.

On December 15, 1995, the Oak Ridge Congregation invited me to speak on "Putting God into our Lives."

Since returning, I spoke to the Methodist Church Men's Club on multiculturalism on September 12, 1996.

On September 16, the Foothills Council of Social Studies Teachers graciously invited me to report on the results of the Holocaust Conference and my Israel experience.



Shtetl News

While in Jerusalem, I was privileged to participate in the simchas of two Knoxville families: Bar Mitzvah of Yoshi Slabosky, grandson of **Toby Slabosky**, and of **Be'eri Goodstein-Hilbuch**, grandson of **Marion** and **Joe Goodstein**.

In the community, we look back gratefully on seven good years with Rabbi **Arthur Weiner** at Heska Amuna Synagogue. Arthur and **Shira** and their children moved to New Jersey to a new congregation. We wish them well.

At Heska Amuna, we are welcoming Rabbi **Shlomo** and **Annabel Levine**. We wish you success and many new friends in Knoxville.

Mazal tov to Rabbi **Howard Simon**, spiritual leader of Temple Beth El, upon being honored for ten years of outstanding service to the temple and to the community.

After 14 years as director of the Jewish Student Center, **Cynthia Caplan** is taking a well-deserved rest from cam-

pus life. We are grateful to Cynthia for her wonderful guidance and commitment to our young people all these years.

We would like to welcome **Dale Alpert Rubin** as the new director. We wish you success and much naches in your new position.

Thanks are also due to **Conrad Koller**, former executive director of the Knoxville Jewish Federation, who has left for new duties in Syracuse, New York. No one has replaced Conrad as yet.

Marilyn Kallet is the author of a volume of poetry, *How to Get Heat Without Fire* (New Millenium Women Poets), to come out this Fall. Marilyn will give a reading and have a booksigning on November 19. Go, Marilyn! Mazal tov on a double wammy!

The University of Tennessee Press' Fall/Winter catalogue contains an advance announcement of **Mira Ryzke Kimmelman's** memoirs, *Echoes from the Holocaust*, to be published before the end of this year. Professor John Bohstedt wrote, "A compelling and vivid tale which keeps the reader turning the pages....This book will be a lasting contribution to Holocaust literature and to the humane experience of its readers and, one can only hope, to some greater vigilance but also faith." Mazal tov, Mira. What a wonderful accomplishment!

International House Hebrew Table

NEW! For those of you who would like to practice your Hebrew, we have a Hebrew Table in the conference room of the International House, 1620 Melrose Avenue, on campus, every Thursday, 4:30-5:30PM. Conversation only, so come and enjoy!

A final word...

Despite the restrictions of the much lamented budget cuts here at the University of Tennessee, it is good to be back. We have much to be grateful for and have some wonderful ideas and plans for the next couple of years. We will carry on with the enthusiasm and determination that have brought us this far and, as always, thank you for your continued encouragement and support.

From my house to your house, Shanah Tovah. May the year 5757 be a sweet one for you, and may it bring lasting peace to Israel and to all humanity.

Shalom,

GILYA G. SCHMIDT, PH.D., SCHOLAR OF JUDAIC RELIGION AND ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES



GILYA SCHMIDT AT THEODOR HERZL'S TOMB, JERUSALEM



How to contact the Department

MAIL

The Department
of Religious Studies

501 McClung Tower
The University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN 37996-0450

TELEPHONE (423) 974-2466

FAX (423) 974-0965

ELECTRONIC MAIL

(DR. GILYA GERDA SCHMIDT)
GSCHMIDT@UTKUX.UTCC.UTK.EDU

OY, A GOY!
THANKS TO IAN BLACKBURN,
DEPARTMENTAL PRODIGAL SON,
FOR THE DESIGN & LAYOUT
OF THIS NEWSLETTER



The Department of Religious Studies
501 McClung Tower, The University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN 37996-0450
tel. (423) 974-2466

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FERN AND MANFRED STEINFELD PROGRAM IN JUDAIC STUDIES UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE



The University of Tennessee, Knoxville does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, religion, national origin, age, handicap, or veteran status in provision of educational opportunities and benefits. UTK does not discriminate on the basis of sex or handicap in educational programs and activities which it operates, pursuant to requirement of Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Public Law 92-318; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Public Law 93-112, and the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, Public Law 101-336, respectively. This policy extends both the employment by, and admissions to, the University. Inquiries concerning Title IX and Section 504 and the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990 should be directed to the Office of Affirmative Action, 403-C Andy Holt Tower, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee 37996-0144; or telephone (615) 974-2498. Charges of violation of the above policy also should be directed to the Office of Affirmative Action.