



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

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE

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halom to our Friends,

Every year, there is a new dimension to The Fern and Manfred Steinfeld Program in Judaic Studies.

Now in our fifth year, we have a number of students who have graduated and gone on to graduate school. They come back to report on their progress and often bring back ideas and suggestions or invitations to speak, or, in some instances, disturbing experiences they have had. Other graduates have joined the work force and get in touch either to ask me to speak to their classes or groups or offer to help in the community through their specific venues. Just as teaching generates a ripple effect while students are taking classes—they bring spouses and parents to synagogue, they share what they learn on the Holocaust with their families, and films and lectures with room mates and friends—so their study of Judaism educates a wider community.

Despite the sobering reality of financial cutbacks at UTK that directly affected the Department of Religious Studies, my own operating expenditures, and the resources for our students, we have been blessed in many ways and there is much for which to be thankful.

Most importantly, the Judaic Studies Major Concentration

as well as a Judaic Studies Minor have been approved by the College of Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee. We are now one of the Interdisciplinary Programs in the College of Art and Sciences. Core courses that will constitute the concentration include cross-listings from Art History; Religious Studies; Germanic, Slavic, and Asian Languages; History, and Philosophy.

We have also expanded the Judaic Studies Committee. New members include Marilyn Kallet, Professor of Creative Writing, and Vejas Liulevicius, Professor of History. Colleagues already serving include Professors Charles Reynolds, Department of Religious Studies; Amy Neff, Art History; Palmira Brummett, History; Nancy Lauckner and Peter Höyng, Germanic, Slavic, and Asian Languages. We would like to welcome the new members to the Committee and thank all of the Committee members for their service on behalf of Judaic Studies at UTK.

Student interest continues to be excellent, recent research has produced good results, and our public service activities continue to enhance the other efforts.

We are looking forward to an exciting year—Israel's Jubilee—in all three areas of teaching, research, and public service.

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

Excellent visiting scholars, carefully planned trips to the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C., the highly productive teaching, research, and service record of Associate Professor Gilya Schmidt, a new major and minor in Judaic Studies—all of this and much, much more characterize the success and development of Judaic Studies at UTK. Discussions are ongoing concerning the possibility of initiating a search for a faculty member with a specialization in Jewish history. I am still hopeful the History Department will be given approval to initiate that search this academic year, but if not, I certainly expect it to occur during the next academic year.

Your private gifts have been combined with appropriations from the State of Tennessee to make this progress we have experienced in Judaic Studies a reality, not simply a dream. Your continuing private contributions to the various funds we have in the Department to support Judaic Studies are very much needed. Please do not stop your private contributions because of the progress in Judaic Studies we have made to date. We still have a long way to go to have the well-rounded Program in Judaic Studies that Knoxville area citizens and students at UTK both deserve and need. I trust you will consider sending us an annual contribution now and that your Estate Plans will also in-

clude a contribution to Judaic Studies at UTK. Please call me at 423-974-4360 if you would like to discuss ways that you can support our Judaic Studies Program. And be sure to commend Dr. Gilya Schmidt for the excellent work she is doing as the Director of this vital and exciting program.

I am deeply thankful to all of you who have helped make our successes to date possible, and I look forward to working with you to make Judaic Studies at UTK even more of a success.

Charles H. Reynolds

CHARLES H. REYNOLDS

RELIGIOUS STUDIES DEPARTMENT HEAD



PUBLIC SERVICE

Commissioner, Tennessee Commission for Holocaust Education, and member of Arts, Culture, and Education Sub-Committee of the Tennessee-Israel Trade Committee.

COMMUNITY TALKS

- September 12, 1996, on multiculturalism to Methodist Church Men's Club.
- September 16, 1996, on Holocaust education to Foothills Council of Social Studies Teachers. Many thanks to Joe and Marion Goodstein for sponsoring the evening.
- November 7, 1996, on Judaism to DRI students.
- January 27, 1997, on Israel trip with Governor Sundquist to Religious Studies Association.
- January 29 and March 12, 1997, lectures on multiculturalism for continuing education at Heska Amuna Synagogue.
- February 7, 1997, on Israel trip with Governor Sundquist to Jewish Student Center.
- February 19, 1997, on Judaism to Baptist Student Union.
- February 23, 1997, interview on Holocaust for Channel 10.
- March 21, 1997, on seeds of antisemitism to Normandy scholars class.



DONNA HARDY (2ND FROM LEFT) AND GILYA SCHMIDT WITH TWO STUDENTS AT BEARDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL.

- March 30, 1997, on trip to Israel with Governor Sundquist to Jewish women's group at Heska Amuna.
- April 13, 1997, on Judaism to Church of the Savior.
- April 24, 1997, on Holocaust to Donna Hardy's class at Bearden Middle School.
- September 9, 1997, interview on Holocaust with West High School students.
- September 11, 1997, on Holocaust and Holocaust education preceding Mira Kimmelman remarks to Foothills Council of Social Studies Teachers.
- September 26, 1997, presentation to Tennessee Arts Council on Knoxville plans for Israel Jubilee.

JUDAIC LECTURE SERIES

On October 28, 1996, we organized a panel discussion on Daniel J. Goldhagen's book, *Hitler's Willing Executioners*. The panelists included Vejas Liulevicius, Milton Klein, Father Terry Ryan, Jenny Richter, and Charles Reynolds, with Gilya Schmidt serving as moderator. The presentations were interesting and the discussion lively, with panelists and audience engaged in a heated debate, especially over the role of Christianity in the Holocaust.

On November 11, Dr. Rami Arav, chief archaeologist of the Bethsaida Excavations Project, spoke on the 'lost' city. His slide presentation was cosponsored by the Arnstein Jewish Community Center, Milton Collins Fund, Knoxville Jewish Federation, McClung Museum, and the University of Tennessee Ancient Mediterranean Department.

On March 10, 1997, Professor Jacques Kornberg from the University of Toronto came to speak on Theodor Herzl in this year of the 100th anniversary of the Zionist movement. The lecture which was cosponsored by the De-



TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON HOLOCAUST EDUCATION, NASHVILLE, SPRING 1997

partment of Religious Studies and the Knoxville Jewish Federation was well attended by students, colleagues and members of the community.

When you receive this newsletter, we will already have had the privilege of listening to and dialoguing with Professor Emeritus Maurice Friedman from San Diego State University, who spoke on four different occasions: at Heska Amuna Synagogue on "The Hasidic Tales In Our Time," at UT on "Martin Buber: Israel and the Arab-Jewish Conflict," "Psychotherapy, Dialogue and the Hermeneutics of Healing," and held a dialogue with students.

Professor Friedman's visit to Knoxville was organized by Andrea Cartwright and co-sponsored by a number of groups including The Center for the Study of Personal Relations, The Counselor Educational and Counseling Psychology Program, The Fern and Manfred Steinfeld Program in Judaic Studies, Heska Amuna Synagogue, The Knoxville Jewish Federation, The Psychotherapy Trust, Inc., the Department of Religious Studies and the University Studies Program.

Service to the Profession

Continuing to serve as the chair of the History of Judaism section of SECSOR, and on the SECSOR Board as Constituency Representative to the AAR.

Also continuing to serve on the Editorial Boards of the University of Tennessee Press and Soundings.

Periodic guest appearances on Department of Religious Studies program, "Religion and the Human Prospect," hosted by Professor Charles Reynolds, during the football season, Sunday mornings at 9:30AM when there is no game, and at 11AM on football weekends. The station is WNOX, AM Talk Radio 990 and FM 99.1.

Member of Campus Cultural Life Committee.

In 1996-7, co-organizer with Professor Ralph Norman of Department of Religious Studies speakers and substantive sessions.

Member of or advisor to theses committees in German, Education, Psychology, and College Scholar.

UPCOMING!

On October 27, at 7:30PM, in Hodges Library Auditorium, Professor Steven Wasserstrom, Moe and Izetta Tonkon Associate Professor of Judaic Studies and The Humanities, Reed College, Portland, OR, will speak on "From Jewish Apocalypse to the Thousand and One Nights. The Tale of Buluqiyya Between Muslim and Jew." The lecture will be cosponsored by Religious Studies, the Department of History, and the Knoxville Jewish Federation.

October 31-November 15, Clarence Brown Theatre, "Mein Kampf," by George Tabori (see Peter Höyng's description).

Israel Jubilee Celebration

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Late last year, Dr. Lynn Champion and I met with Mrs. Sue Clancy, Director of the Office of Special Events for the City of Knoxville to brainstorm on the idea of Israel's Jubilee which starts with Rosh Hashanah 5758 (October 1, 1997). Subsequently, Mayor Ashe and Chancellor Snyder invited interested parties for a breakfast meeting on February 26, 1997, with Vice Chancellor Philip Scheurer representing the Chancellor.

With the exception of the Knoxville Museum of Art, we had few concrete ideas at the time, although my trip to Israel with Governor Sundquist in January, 1997, allowed me to make certain observations, such as that the State of Tennessee would officially celebrate Israel's Jubilee. In fact, on September 26, 1997, I participated in a panel discussion of the 1997 Governor's Conference on the Arts, organized by the Tennessee Arts Commission in Nashville, reporting on the activities that we are planning in the city and the community. The second observation I could offer was that the celebration might be cultural, modeled on previous ethnic festivals at UT, such as last year's highly successful Africa Week. We are hoping that the upcoming, rather elaborate "Israel Week" in honor of Israel's fiftieth birthday will be the first recurring annual event spotlighting Israel's multiethnic culture.

On May 14, Israeli Consul General Arye Mekel visited Knoxville, holding several meetings to discuss the plans for the celebration.

Over the summer, a number of programming possibilities presented themselves which we have pursued actively.

The planning committee for the city-wide celebration met on September 4 to discuss a proposed program for the Spring of 1998. We would like to thank Rabbi Howard Simon for hosting that meeting at Temple Beth El.

At this time, we are able to share with you some of the highlights for Israel's Jubilee:

March 3: Clarence Brown Theatre. Dance Program produced by Zeeva Cohn, Professor of Dance at Princeton University.

March 5-6: Tennessee Children's Dance Ensemble. Performance will include choreography by Israeli choreographer Ohad Naharin.

April 2, 4 and 5: Knoxville Museum of Art. Poetry readings by Marilyn Kallet and Rabbi Howard Simon, multimedia production by Norman Magden.

April 5: Downtown Outdoor Israeli Festival in conjunction with Dogwood Arts Festival.

April 5, 6 and 7: Hodges Library Auditorium. Israeli Film Festival.

April 8: McClung Museum. Lecture on the Bible by Professor Lee Humphreys, Department of Religious Studies, UTK.

April 9-May 2: Clarence Brown Theatre. UT Theatre Department production of "Fiddler on the Roof."

April 26-August 2: Knoxville Museum of Art. Holocaust exhibition, "Witness and Legacy."

May 3: AJCC Israelfest. Celebration with games, food, crafts, music, and much more. Come and enjoy!

Other cultural events are still in the planning stage.

When all details have been confirmed, we will print and distribute programs and posters listing all Knoxville events.



Thank You, Mira!

We have become accustomed to Mira's generosity with her time and contributions to the Fern and Manfred Steinfeld Program in Judaic Studies. Mira doesn't know how to say 'no.'

When Mira found out that her book, *Echoes from the Holocaust*, had been accepted for publication by the University of Tennessee Press, she informed me that any proceeds would go to the Judaic Studies Endowment. Since the time of publication, 2,500 paperback and 500 hardback copies have sold out, and the book has just gone through its second printing.

We are very grateful to Mira, and very happy for her. Mira's memoirs were #1 on the best seller list at Davis Kidd for weeks, and have been Davis Kidd's all-time #2 best seller. Mazal tov, Mira, and many, many thanks.

This past year, Mira spoke twice to my classes, on November 4, 1996 to RS 381, and to RS 386 on April 10, 1997. Students from Detoxification Rehabilitation Institute joined us for the second talk. Students always write movingly about Mira's visit and we'd like to share some of their comments with you.

"Mira Kimmelman's visit was truly a moving story. When she told of her average day in a camp I could not believe she was still standing to share her memories. I found it so amazing that she had some good memories during such a horrific ordeal....I see people like Mira...as heroes, but there were millions of heroes who did not make it to tell their stories. Through Mira telling her memories she carries with her a piece of all those left behind. I cannot explain what this class has taught me. I have learned not only about the Holocaust but also about myself. I see now how important it is to stand up for the things I believe in....When I talk to my family and friends I inform them of all I have learned about the Holocaust. The sad part is many never knew what I tell them, or grasp when I tell them stories, and some don't even know what the Holocaust is....

Thank you for this experience."

"I have seen many film clips and reenactments and have read books about the Holocaust....Seeing a victim of the Holocaust face-to-face and hearing her story had a very powerful impact on me. It was especially interesting how she relayed her story by saying we would be responsible for carrying her message to the next generation. I never thought about it from that perspective, but there will be another generation who won't be able to hear about the Holocaust from its survivors....Hearing Mira's experience allows you to understand from someone who actually felt the horror we watch and read about. I realize how fortunate I am to have food, soap, warmth and education. Mira had very little of the first three and education was done in secret with the fear of death if caught."

"In my life, not many people have made an impression on me. However, one has and she stands out among all of the others. Mira Kimmelman is the greatest, most courageous and strong woman that I have ever had the good fortune of meeting and every time I hear her speak tears come to my eyes as she shares her losses with all of us around her....Every time I hear Mira Kimmelman speak I wonder how she ever survived and how she goes on without hating people day in and day out. I can't imagine how she is not filled with hate. Yet she says, 'We cannot allow hatred and intolerance to take over our lives. We are on this planet earth only once and we have to share it. We don't have to like everybody we just have to tolerate them.'"

"I was very interested in her idea of restitution and of justice. I have an enormous amount of respect for Jewish people because they don't seek revenge regardless of the centuries of attack they have survived....I know this may sound silly, but I just wanted to hug her. I wanted to let her know everyone is not like that. I wanted to let her know that some people believe in peace and understanding. I wanted to thank her for hurting herself again and again by telling the story. It is very painful for her but she knows she must continue as long as she can. As painful as talking about



MIRA AND HER BOOK OF MEMOIRS

the Holocaust is, we must talk about it or be doomed to repeat it."

"As Mrs. Kimmelman was speaking, I could not help but reflect upon the fact that this very woman was at one point in time the victim of a concentration camp....Mrs. Kimmelman captivated me....I fought to keep back the tears. Her eloquent and charismatic mannerisms even while discussing the death of her family made me realize what an astonishing woman she is. The fact that she did keep her faith throughout the turmoil is an unintelligible phenomenon to me. But I do believe that that was all she had left during her desolation."

"Courage is like love; it must have hope for nourishment." (Napoleon).... Looking back at her sweet baby pictures and knowing that she was the same age as me when she was in the concentration camps makes me wonder how anyone survived the concentration camps, but she did. It makes me sad to think that soon there will be no living Holocaust survivors for old age is creeping up. Mira believes she is meant to spread the truth...but what happens when there is no one left as eyewitnesses?"

"Mira Kimmelman is a very brave, inspiring woman. For someone who has been through the Holocaust, watching her family die, not knowing if she was going to live from day to day, Mira has a great attitude. I noticed she smiled a lot while talking to our class....When asked how she was able to keep her head up

during the Holocaust, Mira simply said, "we have a natural wish to live." I don't think I would be able to stay so positive throughout such harsh treatment. I couldn't believe she told us that she has some happy memories.... Mira is considered a hero to me because she is sharing her experiences to the public and letting them know that the Holocaust DID happen."

"Mira's presentation really touched me....as I watched and listened to her relating her horrors of losing family, moving from camp to camp, working continually, being bitten by rats, and marching eternally, I was moved by something else. I was touched by her composure and the way she spoke of her experiences. She seemed to have to speak very matter-of-factly in order to remove herself somewhat from the emotions and memories that must flood her each time she speaks of them....Mira's story was amazing. I think she is amazing for her ability to even share it. I am grateful that some people have shared their experiences so that the world will remember. Her thoughts at the end of her presentation especially touched me....she shouldered us with the responsibility of remembering and sharing what we have learned so that when they are gone from this earth, they will not be forgotten."

"Mira is an amazing woman. To be in her presence was truly an honor, I only wish that we had more time with her. I was fascinated with the conviction that she tells her story. I don't know that had I lived to tell about the Holocaust that I would want to. I felt a great pain when she was talking about how long it took her to talk about her ordeal in Germany. When she said that one reason why she kept quiet so long was because no one wanted to know her story, I was saddened. I wonder how could people not want to know what happened?....It was a great pleasure to be in the presence of Mira, I am very thankful that I was able to experience her and witness her passion for life!"

Through the generosity of the Robinson Fund, we provided 55 copies of Mira's book to Mr. Al Bell for distribution to all of the Knox County teachers who currently teach the Holocaust.

Visit to U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

On March 4, 1997, 35 individuals interested in or studying the Holocaust boarded a bus to travel to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. This was our second study trip to the Museum. The first one took place in 1995. This campus-wide cultural experience enriched the textbook learning of those students enrolled in RS 386 and others in our campus community who would otherwise not be able to visit the Museum.

Upon our return, several students commented on the experience. Different aspects of the Museum affected different students. Libby Boyce wrote, "Our trip to Washington, D.C., was an unforgettable experience for me....The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum was unlike anything I've ever seen. I have read plenty about the Holocaust and have even visited the house where Anne Frank hid in Amsterdam. That does not show the big picture like the museum does, though. It is hard to imagine the magnitude of the Holocaust, but after seeing all of the shoes, utensils, seeing where they were kept and how they were transported, it really hits home. You become fully aware of the fact that these were real people, not fictional characters out of some novel. I would recommend the museum to anyone planning to be in Washington, D.C. and have every intention of going again, myself. It is impossible to absorb it all in one trip."

Stefanie Martin concurred and commented, "The trip to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum was an integral part of my gaining a full and deep understanding of the sheer magnitude of the Holocaust. The photos and drawings in the various texts were a good start towards understanding the events, but it was not until I was actually surrounded by massive piles of old, battered shoes that I was able to fully appreciate the 'real' nature of the suffering of so many people before, during, and after the Nazi reign of terror. Perhaps the most useful part of the Museum experience was the video on the development of anti-Judaism and anti-Semitism. Through the presentation, elements of my Holocaust, Politics and Opera, and Modern Political Thought classes came together to generate an incredible integrative learning experience that I have come to appreciate more and more as my educational career progresses."

Tamika Smiley wrote, "I was very excited about going to the National Holocaust Museum. I saw the trip as a visual source to accompany the lessons we learned in class. The designers of the museum did a very good job in making the visitor feel as if they, on a small scale, were witnesses to the events of the Holocaust. Since I had already learned a lot of the information exhibited I was not as pained inside as I would be if I had seen the images for the first time. That was until a lady next to me began to cry in earnest. After that it was as if I was seeing everything through her eyes, and it began to hurt all over again."

Stephanie Miller commented, "On April 4 and 5 was the weekend that opened my eyes and changed my life. This was the weekend when I went with my Religious Studies class to Washington, D.C., to attend the Holocaust Museum. I had heard many things about the Museum and the one most talked about were the hall of shoes. It seemed so real to think actual people wore and suffered in those shoes. This was when it began to get hard for me. The entire Museum was difficult for me to witness because it seemed to hit too close to home."

The most memorable part of the Museum which I still think about were the last two rooms. At the end of the exhibit they had actual survivors speaking of their time in the camps and liberation. The pictures in the Museum seemed real



Faculty Research

BOOKS

National Socialism and "Gypsies" in Austria

It was very exciting to receive notification from the University of Alabama Press that my translation and expanded version of Erika Thurner's book, *Nationalsozialismus und Zigeuner in Oesterreich*, was "enthusiastically" endorsed by their editorial board. I do have a contract and now need to see the manuscript through the final stages of copyediting and proofs. This nearly 400 page manuscript with 800 footnotes turned out to be much work for author Erika Thurner, and I am deeply grateful to her for cheerfully providing whatever materials and information we needed, and for answering our many questions.

This book, first published in 1983, was Erika's dissertation. It was a study of two concentration camps in Austria, one in Salzburg, the other in Lackenbach, Burgenland, for Gypsies. Sadly, from there most inmates were deported to Auschwitz, Lodz, or Natzweiler, where they were either murdered outright or subjected to medical experiments. The study, which used much original material that Erika literally dug up in the crumbling ruins of the camp's main building in Salzburg, is the only one dealing with these two camps, providing much needed information on the fate of the Sinti and Roma during the Holocaust. Hitherto none of this information had been accessible in English.

Kadima—Martin Buber's Zionist Writings

After returning from Israel last August, it was difficult to find a large enough block of time to complete translating, footnoting, and especially editing this 350-page manuscript. But we

finally succeeded, and in early June it went off to Syracuse University Press for an evaluation.

The over 40 poems, essays, and speeches by Martin Buber that make up this manuscript deal primarily with cultural Zionism between 1897 and 1905—the issues of Jewish spiritual renewal, Jewish education, and preparation for a return to the homeland of Eretz Israel. Buber himself collected many of the essays in two volumes between 1916 and 1920, but only parts of one essay are so far available in English, while the German version has been reprinted a number of times. This volume will provide a necessary reader in cultural Zionism, an aspect of Zionism which is today often drowned out by debates over political Zionism.

Rosenzweig Yehuda Halevi Poems

If I have been lucky in placing my own manuscripts with publishers, I am still waiting to get some positive information on the book of Franz Rosenzweig's *Yehuda Halevi Poems* to which I contributed a translation of 95 poems back in 1993.

Work in Progress

Although I made serious progress on my Jewish art book over the summer, it is not yet finished and I continue working on it.

ARTICLES

"The Soul, God, and Zion in the Poetry of Yehuda Halevi," appeared in *Mystics Quarterly*, Vol. XXII:4, December 1996.

"Theology and Worship in Nineteenth-Century Judaism," in *AAR's Nineteenth-Century Theology Group* 1996 volume of working papers.

"German Romanticism, Schleiermacher, and Martin Buber's Idea of Jewish Renewal," for *New Athenaeum V*, accepted by the Schleiermacher Group of the AAR in 1995 and announced last year is still in press and should be forthcoming shortly.

"An Anatomy of Evil," a book chapter on the origins of antisemitism and hatred in Germany was submitted to the editor of a book on the Holocaust in June.

In Progress

Last year's AAR and AJS papers for professional journals.

Several articles on Jewish art.

PAPERS AND LECTURES

American Academy of Religion, 1996. Presented paper on theology and worship previously mentioned.

Association for Jewish Studies, 1996. Presented paper, "The Absolute and the Relative Life in the Thought of Martin Buber."

SECSOR, 1997. "Busy Hands for Jewish Spiritual Renewal in the Visual Arts."

Lecture on multiculturalism at UTK, 1997. "Why Shouldn't Others Be Like Us?"

Lecture at Unitarian Church, Oak Ridge, 1997, on "Multiculturalism In Our Time."

Forthcoming

American Academy of Religion, San Francisco, November, 1997, "The Significance of Jewish Visual Art in Jewish Spiritual Renewal."

Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, December, 1997, "Hermann Stuck—Artist and Diplomat."

SECSOR, Knoxville, March, 1997

Teaching

Last year, student interest in Judaic Studies courses continued to rise. Last Fall, I taught RS 381, Introduction to Judaism, and RS 385, Contemporary Jewish Thought with a focus on Zionism. In the Spring, we offered RS 386, Voices of the Holocaust, and RS 405, Modern Jewish Thinkers, a seminar on Israel. A total of over 110 students enrolled in these courses.

During the second session this past summer, I taught RS 102, Comparative World Religions, as an evening course. With about 18 students it provided the antidote to this semester's large enrollment version of RS 102 with over 80 students. RS 381, Introduction to Judaism, is also well over capacity with more than 45 students enrolled.

In the Spring semester 1998 I will teach RS 386, Voices of the Holocaust, and RS 405, Modern Jewish Thinkers, a seminar on Modern Israel.

In February, 1997, my friend Marga Randall visited from Pittsburgh. Marga



MARGA RANDALL, SURVIVOR FROM PITTSBURGH, PA, SPEAKS TO UTK NORMANDY CLASS

Holocaust. To my knowledge, I think she was the first survivor that I have ever met. To put it bluntly, I was blown away.... I kept thinking, my God, this woman lived through Kristallnacht, she lived in Nazi Germany and somehow escaped the camps, and worst of all, she has lived with the knowledge that members of her family died in camps. I cannot imagine. How does a person find the strength within themselves to survive something like that?"

"Wow! Mrs. Randall shared so many personal and difficult experiences that my heart just went out to her. The impressions of a young girl are so poignant. What a difficult time, but how lucky she was to have had such a wonderful family and for some of them to have been spared. My heart breaks for any survivor because of the lost loved ones and loss of opportunity....Mrs. Randall was a wonderful person to

listen to. I'm grateful that, although I'm sure it is very painful, she chooses to share her experiences so that we can learn even more and hopefully help the world to 'always remember.'"

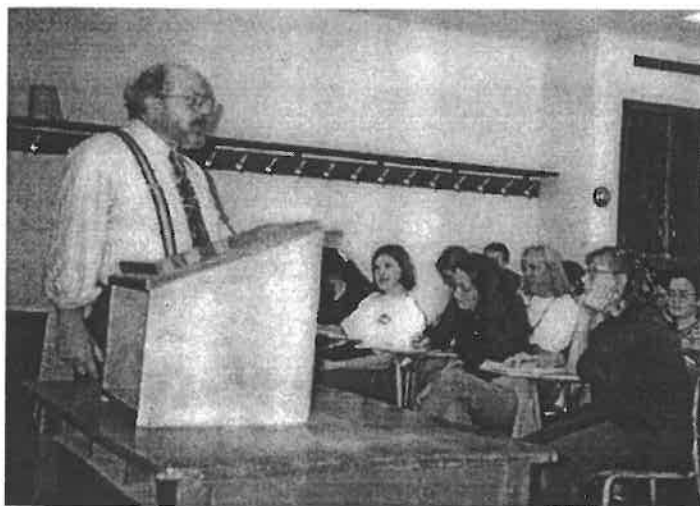
"It is a whole lot more interesting and understandable to hear about history

from a personal story than read about it in a book. Marga practically took me to her little town in Germany. As she described the pre-events of the Holocaust, I felt her pain, I felt her confusion. It really touched me when she talked about giving her best friend the sewing box before leaving for Berlin....When Marga explained how she felt when she saw the Statue of Liberty, I got chills. I felt as though I have been taking advantage of the freedom I have in this country."

"Marga's speech...in class was disturbing. All day I thought about the fact that the material and 'stuff' that I am reading for class actually happened to people and here is a person that it happened to....During Spring break I went to see 'Lady Liberty.' A thought that I kept having while there was what Marga said in class. I looked for that child sitting there eating ice cream laughing with her family, about to experience life in a new world for the very first time. The image of the child I could see! I now no longer take for granted that I was born here in the United States! I now look at the 'lady' in a whole new light! Thanks Marga! You opened my eyes!"

On September 5, 1996, Rabbi Shlomo Levine from Heska Amuna Synagogue visited Religious Studies 381 and spoke about monotheism.

On September 15, 1997, Rabbi Howard Simon from Temple Beth El spoke to this semester's Religious Studies 381 class on being a modern Jew.



RABBI SHLOMO LEVINE, HESKA AMUNA SYNAGOGUE, SPEAKS TO RS 381 STUDENTS

is a popular speaker on her experiences in Nazi Germany. On February 12 and 13 she spoke to my two classes as well as to the Normandy class. Following are some of our students' comments:

"Today a woman named Marga Randall came and talked to our class about her family's experiences in the



Trip to Israel with Governor Sundquist

In the Spring issue of our local Hadassah magazine, I reported in the "Zionist Affairs" column on the Tennessee-Israel Trade Committee mission to Israel Jan. 5-12, 1997, with Governor and Mrs. Sundquist. Following is a reprint of this column:

Tennessee Eyes on Israel

The founding fathers (unfortunately there are few recognized mothers) of Jewish cultural renewal at the turn of the century—Bialik, Motzkin, Struck, Israels, Peretz, Mendele Mocher Sforim—would shake their heads in amazement at the incredible development in Jewish culture over the last hundred years. Some of my favorite places in Israel are the kibbutzim, where I never tire of taking pictures of all the art, and the different kinds of art, that members produce. Whether it's photography, sculpture in many media, painting, silkscreening, pottery, or tapestry, the results are always breathtakingly beautiful. I have marveled at the wonderful kibbutz choirs and dance groups, the profusion of poetry, and at the creativity in organizing cultural events or life cycle events. And I always think back to the humble beginnings at the turn of the century which I spend so much time and effort analyzing in my research.



AT JOINT PROGRAM OF WOMEN'S GROUPS AT HESKA AMUNA SYNAGOGUE, PROFESSOR MARCIA KATZ WELCOMES COMMUNITY. PARTICIPANTS WERE REPORTING ON MISSION TO ISRAEL WITH GOVERNOR SUNDQUIST.

During the recent Tennessee Israel Trade Mission with Governor and Mrs. Sundquist, I was privileged to see the cream of the crop of Israeli cultural institutions and artists.

We were in Israel from January 5 to 12, 1997—not long enough. My roommate on the trip was Linda Maxson, former Associate Vice Chancellor for Undergraduate Programs at UT. Other Knoxville fellow travelers included Annette Winston, Marcia Katz, and Miriam Weinstein. Our home base was the King David Hotel in Jerusalem which greeted us with a scrumptious breakfast every morning.

On our first day there, we all accompanied Governor and Mrs. Sundquist on an insightful visit to the Knesset and a moving ceremony at Yad Vashem, where the Governor laid a wreath. The day culminated with dinner at the Israel Museum, a private viewing of the Shrine of the Book, and a poetry reading by Yehuda Amichai.

There were four main groups, but in actuality many different agendas, as people tried to squeeze in visits to places and individuals whom they already knew. What delegation to belong to was a problem for me, because here at home I belong to the Arts, Culture and Education Subcommittee. But for the trip, they split up Arts and Culture into one itinerary and Education into another. I started out with Education, but was re-

ally more interested in seeing Israel's cultural institutions, so I switched. The schedule which the Israeli Foreign Ministry had designed for us made for long days, chock full of interesting appointments with all sorts of cultural institutions.



ARTS AND CULTURE GROUP OF GOVERNOR'S MISSION IN TEL AVIV

What follows, in short vignettes, recounts just some of the experiences, impressions, and observations from the specialized Arts and Culture agenda.

Tuesday, January 7

The trim, dark-haired young woman sat, clad in sweater, jeans, and boots, with a perfectly straight back on a stool in her artist's studio and showed us slides of her work. The smell of fresh paint hung heavy in the air in this bare room in Talpiot, the industrial section of Jerusalem. Ariane Littman-Cohen, a young Swiss-born olah, won Israel's 1996 Young Artists' Award for her work. She creates her art in the shadow of death—that of her brother, who killed himself after having successfully



ARCHITECT JOE GOODSTEIN AND JUDGE JOHN KEINER, JOHNSON CITY, PARTICIPANT IN GOVERNOR'S MISSION, AT WOMEN'S GROUP PROGRAM

climbed Mt. Blanc in the French Alps at age 19—and her own, reflected variously in her art—a giant jigsaw puzzle of her happy childhood shows her safely snuggled in a laughing mother's arms, yet her happiness can be destroyed in seconds; or the limited edition—or is it limited supply?—of individually signed cans of air signifying her sense of claustrophobia, even, or perhaps especially, in Israel.

Wednesday, January 8

Her name is Leah. She is a renowned Israeli actress at the Habimah Theatre in Tel Aviv. We quietly slip into our seats as Leah rehearses her role for the current production. Alternately laughing and crying, she seems to embody the emotional rollercoaster that is today's Israel. Not all is smooth yet with the production. Leah waits patiently as the Canadian director explains at length a detail to a young actress. The actress nods her head, "ken, ken," and walks through the scene again. Not only the

immigration more than ever. The Habimah National Theatre was the first all Hebrew-speaking theatre, founded in Moscow in 1917. Since 1928, it has developed and flourishes in the land of Israel. Producing an international repertoire as well as Israeli and Jewish works, Habimah is a world-class theatre company. Recent productions included "The Good Soldier Sveik," "12 Angry Men," "Ghosts," "Three Sisters," and "West Side Story."

They were rehearsing as we walked in. Ilana Cohen, tall, regal, smiling yet all discipline, stopped her work to greet us, along with the director, Rafi Cohen, and Ze'eva Cohn, a professor of dance at Princeton University, who is creating a production of her own here. The name is almost mysterious—you pronounce it and it rolls off your

acting was impressive, communication as well. The director knew the Hebrew script and the actress' lines, but spoke to her in English. The actress responded to his English directions in Hebrew—a striking example of the multicultural environment that prevails in Israel, today after the Russian wave of

tongue melodiously as a bell—Inbal. Representing the ethnic minorities in Israeli culture, the Inbal Dance Theatre's repertoire includes Ethiopian, Bucharian, and Yemenite cultural events. Ilana treated us to Northafrican creations that grew out of the desert environment—harsh and vio-

lent, but also soft and circular. One work in progress, "On the road," consisted of a long, graceful, everchanging line of people singlefile. The only music was provided by a drum. Ze'eva shared her work in progress with us, "From Sand to Water," one a reality, the other a necessity. The concluding presentation was a delightful sketch about women and work, entitled, what else? "Nashim." It seemed that all of the arguments in the Talmudic tractate were rolled into this one performance—intensity, laughter, comedy, seriousness, and chatter. What a delight to be able to experience these wonderfully creative individuals! The Inbal Dance Company



GOVERNOR SUNDQUIST AND MEMBERS OF THE MISSION AT YAD VASHEM IN JERUSALEM

was founded in 1950 by Sara Levi-Tanai, born under Turkish rule and orphaned at an early age. She grew up in an orphanage near Zichron Ya'akov. This past year, the dance theatre company transformed into a full-fledged ethnic arts center which deals not only with dance, but with theatre, music, literature and poetry, cinema and television.

Having been told that Habimah strives to present classics with modern awareness, we went to see Shakespeare's "A Comedy of Errors" at Tel Aviv's Kameri Theatre. We entered the theatre a little late, in the dark, to a volley of gunfire. For a moment, my heart nearly stopped as I tried to decide whether this was serious or fun. Not knowing the context, and with the backdrop of a typical Arabic village, or what was left of it, I thought it was the West Bank,



CAROL KEINER, PARTICIPANT IN GOVERNOR'S MISSION, SYBIL JOFFE, AND GENEVIEVE KRAMER AT RECEPTION FOLLOWING WOMEN'S GROUP PROGRAM

and the Arab-Israeli conflict. The play was actually set in Beirut, Lebanon, exploring Christian-Muslim relations—a relevant, but lighthearted take-off on Israel's own problems. The Hebrew was amazingly easy to follow, although the Shakespearean English provided for simultaneous translation created a bizarre sense of *deja vue*.

Thursday, January 9

A beaming Stanley Sperber met with us at the Haifa Symphony Orchestra's home on Mount Carmel—happy, that is, to see former landmen. Sperber, who is serving his twelfth season as Music Director and Chief Conductor of the Haifa Symphony Orchestra, is a Brooklyn boy who has devoted his energies to providing beautiful music for Northern Israel. In his “spare time,” Sperber is an international tennis umpire, in addition to conducting the Rinat National Choir and guest conducting liberally throughout the world. We learned why there are no patrons or angels for cultural events in Israel as there are in the United States—the contributions are not tax-deductible! All cultural institutions are supported by the Ministry of Culture, the municipality, and ticket sales. Yuval Zaliouk, well-known Israeli conductor, was rehearsing that week's repertoire with the orchestra: Mozart, Shostakovich, Beethoven. He took time out to come over and meet with us, and told us that he has actually lived in Columbus, Ohio, for a number of years.

“Tarum-tum-tum, tarum-tum-tum, tarum-tum-tum,” a furious drum beat whips six male dancers, barechested, clad only in long white pants, across the stage. The deadly beat hammers away at audience and participants alike, unrelentingly, as a single frail female emerges from behind the dark hollows of the bare walls—reaching, recoiling, writhing in death throes, then crumples to the floor, spent. “Aide Memoire” is an 80-minute dance production, one of many created and choreographed by Rami Be’er, a modest kibbutznik of extraordinary talent. A member of Kibbutz

Ga’aton, near the Lebanese border, Rami shares the credit for this artistic masterpiece with Yehudit Arnon, founder of the Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company. Always radiant, Yehudit is a revered legend in the Israeli cultural world and a determined survivor of concentration camps in Nazi Europe. Yehudit vowed never to stop dancing if she survived. Not only has she not stopped dancing, but she has instilled love of dance into a group of young people whose technique is so refined and whose repertoire so sophisticated that they perform in and outside of Israel. In Spring of 1998, they will perform at the Kennedy Center in DC as part of their US tour.

We ended the day at Kibbutz Kfar Blum where we arrived in the dark, just in time for an Israeli dinner.

Friday, January 10

The next morning, the kibbutz had barely woken up when we met for a tour at the crack of dawn. With snow-capped Mt. Hermon shrouded in mist to the right and Kiryat Shmonah and the Lebanese border just an arm's length away to the left, we peered into the crisp morning air, before breakfast and a day of sightseeing in the Galilee and Golan Heights. Later in the day, people marveled at the beauty of the Galil and the diversity of the Golan Heights as well as its proximity to Syria. Actually standing next to one of the guns that used to pick off kibbutzniks in Ein Gev below made the urgency of Israeli security a reality without words. We arrived back in Jerusalem just in time for Shabbat and a festive dinner at the King David with the entire group.

My personal favorite was Shabbat, visiting with my friends in Jerusalem, from last summer and from many years ago, reminiscing, making future plans, and enjoying this fairest of cities among the nations. With bright blue skies and summery temperatures, Israel had put on its best face for the visitors from Tennessee.

Visit to the U.S. Holocaust Museum

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

but hearing survivors speak and see their emotions was horrifying. After listening to that exhibit we exited to a room with candles in it to represent the death camps and people who were murdered during the Holocaust. This room seemed to be so peaceful that I could have sat in there to remember what I had learned....”

Tory Jackson wrote, “I am really glad that I had the opportunity to visit the Holocaust Museum. I’ve heard how great it was over the years. True, it was highly emotional and exhausting. Seeing the Nazi SS uniform, cattle car, hair, and especially the surgical bed brought the Holocaust to a bigger reality. The part that really affected me the most was the video and pictures of what the Allied armies encountered when they liberated the camps. These exhibits, being films, were so real. The colored videos were even more effective. In some of the videos, bodies were pushed around or buried with huge tractors. It was as if they were not human bodies but broken dolls and doll parts. From there on I did not pay much attention to the rest of the exhibits. I had had all I could take.

Being an architectural student, I tend to notice the design or layout of a building. As we discussed somewhat in class, the building is designed for visitors to “feel” part of the implied exhibits. For example, all of us were crammed into a small elevator which was symbolic of the crowding into the cattle cars. Also the building's structural systems like that of the roof were representative of European structures relating to the Holocaust like the train depot. I enjoyed studying the design and purpose of the design as we made our way through the museum.”

We would like to thank the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs for his generous support of this worthwhile educational experience and Manfred Steinfeld for helping us with our tickets.

Abraham and Rebecca Solomon and Ida Schwartz Endowment in Judaic Studies Established

On October 8, 1996, the life of a great man with a big heart and an inspiring life history ended. Joseph Solomon (1904-1996) was the son of poor Russian immigrants who had settled on the lower East Side of Manhattan. Over time, Joseph Solomon obtained an education by going to night school and attended New York Law School while continuing to work during the day. He graduated in 1927 and was admitted to the New York Bar in 1928. Mr. Solomon rose from being a messenger in a law firm to becoming a partner and then a senior partner.

During his lifetime, Joseph Solomon was a great philanthropist. He endowed four professorships, established the Joseph Solomon Fellowship for young artists at Columbia, supported Public School 101 in East Harlem, and the Surprise Lake Camp for underprivileged children in upstate New York. He also served on the boards of a number of organizations such as Mount Sinai Medical Center, Columbia Law School, and New York Law School.

The University of Tennessee also benefitted from Joseph Solomon's generosity. Having made contributions during his lifetime, he left a generous donation for our Judaic Studies Program in his will. These and other funds donated by members of the Solomon family will endow a lecture fund that will be used to bring famous scholars in Judaic Studies to Knoxville. The fund is named in honor of his parents—Abraham and Rebecca Solomon—and his wife Rita's mother—Ida Schwartz.

We express our sincere condolences to Dr. Alan Solomon, and family members. We are grateful for everything Joseph Solomon has achieved in his lifetime. May his memory be for a blessing.

Oak Ridge Judaic Studies Scholarship Fund Established

On two separate occasions, Oak Ridgers met for the benefit of the Fern and Manfred Steinfeld Program in Judaic Studies at UTK. In the Fall of 1995, Mel and Fran Sturm graciously invited a number of individuals from the Oak Ridge Jewish Community including Rabbi Victor Rashkovsky for a dessert reception. Then Dean Larry Ratner, Professor Charles Reynolds and I made presentations on the activities and plans of the Judaic Studies Program. We are deeply grateful to the Sturms for their effort on behalf of Judaic Studies at UTK.

On October 24, 1996, Mrs. Shirley Trivelpiece of Oak Ridge organized a luncheon for individuals from the larger Oak Ridge community who have an interest in Judaic Studies at UT. Professor Reynolds and I made presentations on activities and future plans. We would like to express our gratitude to Mrs. Trivelpiece for her efforts on our behalf. How wonderful to have the entire community involved!

With the approval of the major sponsors, the monies from this second event have been designated as the Oak Ridge Scholarship Fund in Judaic Studies. Additional contributions are needed in order to reach the necessary goal of \$15,000. The interest will allow a student or students to study Judaism in Israel or at a university other than UTK.

THANK YOU!

Unfortunately, Barry Danilowitz, my graduate assistant for 1996-97, has returned to Toronto to pursue activities there. Barry was an incredibly lucky choice for what we needed to do this past year. His help with my book manuscripts was a major boon. I don't think I could have survived three manuscripts at three different stages at the same time without Barry's expertise and dedication. The other incredible project that Barry took on was the creation of a home page for Judaic Studies on the web. It is thanks to Barry's excellent grasp of computer language and his willingness to learn how to create a web page

Update On Our Students

- Congratulations to Melissa Range on passing her comps in English Literature with distinction last March!
- Former student Nathan Solomon, who is pursuing his masters, is interning for a year at First Baptist Church in Knoxville.
- Link Elmore is continuing his studies towards a masters.
- Heather Dobbins graduated and is taking post-bac courses at UTK.
- Anissa Hughes, faithful organizer of the Religious Studies Association, graduated and is working for a local apartment complex.
- Ben Mann has been working for AIPAC in Washington, DC, and plans to pursue graduate studies in public policy and the Middle East.
- Betsy Taylor has returned from her year abroad in France and is completing her studies.
- Suzy Garner is studying for her masters at York University.
- Michelle Warriner is spending the Fall in Sheffield, England, and plans to study at Hebrew University in the Spring. Michelle wrote her senior thesis on Esther in Jewish and Christian imagery and won first prize at the research fair. Congratulations, Michelle!
- Mary Joan Hamby is spending the Fall semester at Latrobe University in Melbourne, Australia.

that we are now on the Internet. Barry definitely brought us into the 21st century. Many thanks, Barry, for all of your help, but especially with these huge projects. Our best wishes to you for the future.

WELCOME BACK!

Fortunately for me, Bradford Smith, who is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Philosophy, was interested in returning to work with me while he is writing his dissertation. I am delighted to again have Brad's wonderful assistance, especially with the large courses that I am teaching and the many outreach projects.

Judaic Studies Committee Reports

NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF GERMANIC, SLAVIC, AND ASIAN LANGUAGES

In Fall 1998 the Department of Germanic, Slavic, and Asian Languages will offer the new course German 350 for the first time. This three-credit course, entitled German-Jewish Topics in Literature and Culture, should by then be cross-listed with Judaic Studies and, thus, available for Judaic Studies students. It will be taught in English, and the course readings will be in English. No knowledge of German will be required or assumed. Professor Peter Høyng will teach this inaugural offering of the course. Look for more details on German 350, including the topic Dr. Høyng will treat, in the Fall '98 catalogue or call the Department of Germanic, Slavic, and Asian Languages at 974-3421.

Yale University Press has recently (1997) published *The Yale Companion to Jewish Writing and Thought [in Germany]*, compiled and edited by Professors Sander Gilman (University of Chicago) and Jack Zipes (University of Minnesota). Professor Nancy A. Lauckner of the UT Department of Germanic, Slavic, and Asian Languages contributed the article on the contemporary German writer Stefan Heym.

The Theatre Department at the University of Tennessee will show at the Carousel Theatre the farce *Mein Kampf* (1987) by the playwright George Tabori (*1914). Henryk Baranowski (Cracow, Poland) who directed last year a compelling stage adaptation of Franz Kafka's *The Trial* returned to Knoxville in order to do a production of Tabori's most successful play: so far Tabori's *Mein Kampf* has been staged in seventeen different countries in over one hundred productions. The show will run from October 31 through November 15.

Born to Jewish parents in Budapest, Tabori emigrated to England in 1933 where he became a war correspondent and a spy for the British Army during World War II. His father was murdered

at Auschwitz, but his mother managed to escape. Both incidents informed many of Tabori's later dramatic works. Originally a novelist, Tabori became involved in theater in 1947 when the American film company MGM hired him to write screen plays. In California, he met Brecht and played later a major role in disseminating Brecht's works in the U.S. The year 1968 became another decisive turning point in his life when his Holocaust play *Cannibals* became more of a success in Berlin than in New York. Since 1971 Tabori has lived and worked in German speaking countries where he has become a preeminent theater figure and lately very popular. [Though his productions are performed these days at the major theaters in German speaking countries, he still writes his plays in English and has them translated into German].

Tabori's biography makes him a key witness of this painful century, and his major plays such as *Cannibals* (1968), *Mother's Courage* (1979), staged in Atlanta last year and a film version of it has just been released in the U.S., *Jubilee* (1983), *Mein Kampf* (1987), *Whiteman and Redface: A Jewish Western* (1990) deal directly or indirectly

with the Nazi regime and its execution of the Holocaust. Tabori's plays are provocative, and his perspectives on the Holocaust are unsettling. His gallows humor makes me laugh and yet it is a laughter of pain. Tabori ultimately shows us that we fall into a dangerous trap as soon as we create a fixed identity of the other instead of dealing with individuals.

Mein Kampf plays in an asylum for homeless people in Vienna in the twenties and there it happens that Shlomo Herzl meets the uneducated hillbilly Hitler who sees himself as an ambitious artist. Herzl tries to educate and help Hitler according to the biblical "love thy enemy as thyself". But Hitler only takes advantage of Herzl's goodness and torments him more and more aggressively. It is in the end Lady Death who picks up Hitler as her friend. [She sarcastically states the sad truth: "It is the beginning of a wonderful friendship."]

For further information, please contact the Theatre Department at 974-6011 or the Box Office at 974-5161.

PETER HØYNG
DEPARTMENT OF GERMANIC,
SLAVIC, AND ASIAN LANGUAGES

Become a friend of Judaic Studies at UTK

The 1997-98 academic year marks the fifth year of the Fern and Manfred Steinfeld Program in Judaic Studies. Public lectures, in collaboration with other UTK departments and the Knoxville Jewish Federation, the Holocaust Conference, book discussions, as well as cultural experiences such as trips to the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. have helped to educate on campus as well as in the Jewish community and the community at large. Your support can help to make our Program better and stronger. If you wish to make a contribution, the following funds are in existence:

Judaic Studies Endowment Fund, Religious Studies _____
Judaic Studies Support Fund, Religious Studies _____
Oak Ridge Scholarship Fund, Religious Studies _____
Abraham and Rebecca Solomon and Ida Schwartz Endowment for Judaic Studies, Religious Studies _____
Robinson Fund, Religious Studies _____



Shtetl News

UPCOMING:

Scholar-in-Resident Weekend

November 21-23, Rabbi David Wolpe will be scholar-in-residence in the Knoxville Jewish Community. On Friday night at 8PM, Rabbi Wolpe will participate in services at Temple Beth El, the topic will be, "Will the Real Crisis Please Stand Up?" On Saturday morning, starting at 9:30AM, Rabbi Wolpe will speak on "Mysticism Meets Modernity," during services at Heska Amuna Synagogue. At 8PM Saturday evening, Rabbi Wolpe will present an address, "Will My Kids' Kids Ask, Why Be Jewish?" at the Arnstein Jewish Community Center. A Sunday program for the Leadership Training Group of KJF is also being planned. For additional information, please contact the Knoxville Jewish Federation at 690-6343.

Welcome to Dr. Bernard Rosenblatt, new executive director of the Knoxville Jewish Federation and the Arnstein Jewish Community Center.

Our new director for the Jewish Stu-



MIRA KIMMELMAN SIGNING
HER BOOK AT DAVIS KIDD

dent Center is Moema Furtado. Moema is an artist and adjunct faculty in the Department of Art.

We look forward to working with both of these talented individuals.

Last year produced a wealth of new books by members of our community.

On November 19, 1996, Marilyn Kallet had a booksigning at Davis Kidd for not only one, but TWO books, *How to Get Heat Without Fire* (New Millenium Women Poets, 1996) and *Worlds in Our Words: Contemporary American Women Writers*, co-edited with Patricia Clark (Blair Press/Prentice Hall, 1996).

Mira Ryczke Kimmelman's eagerly awaited memoirs, *Echoes from the Holocaust* (University of Tennessee Press, 1996) came out earlier than expected, in October, 1996. Mira had two booksignings, one at Davis Kidd on December 4 and one at the public library in Oak Ridge, on December 29, 1996.

And just now, on September 13, 1997, David McNabb was able to launch his book, *The Dying Time: Practical Wisdom for the Dying and Their Caregivers*, at Davis Kidd. David co-authored this book with Joan Furman, M.S.N., R.N.

Mazal tov to Pesach Slabosky, son of Toby Slabosky, who had a one-man show at the Tel Aviv Museum of Art, "Never Did Anything Hard," in June. Pesach and his family live in Jerusalem.

On February 10, Gene Bocknek unveiled his sculptures to the public at the Norris Community Center.

Mazal Tov to Matilda Goodfriend on being honored by the National Conference [of Christians and Jews] in the Fall of '96.

Toby Slabosky and I are coauthors of a column on Zionist Affairs for the local Hadassah magazine.



MATILDA GOODFRIEND, TEMPE BETH EL,
WITH DWIGHT KESSEL, AND RABBI HOWARD
SIMON, TEMPLE BETH, BEING HONORED BY
THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE

DID YOU KNOW?

In April, 1996, Fern and Manfred Steinfeld visited Minsk, Vilnius, Kaunas, and Riga with General Dagan, director of UJA Mission Projects, and his wife.

Upon their return, Manny wrote a very detailed and painful, but also hopeful report for *JUF News*, from which we are quoting some highlights:

"Our mission tour began in Minsk, Belarus, formerly referred to as White Russia, now an independent state of the former Soviet Union (FSU). As the seat of Jewish learning, Belarus gave birth to artists and statesmen including Marc Chagall, Jascha Heifetz, Golda Meir, Yitzhak Shamir, Shimon Peres, and Chaim Weizmann—a state where Jews numbered one-third of the population and, in Minsk alone, 86 synagogues flourished at the beginning of the century. During the black years of Stalinism, Jewish life was suppressed, and by 1939 only three synagogues were allowed to operate. The Germans overran most of Belarus during the first week of the invasion in June 1941. Shortly thereafter, the systematic killing of Jews commenced...."

"The next morning we went to a school where about a hundred students were taking their exam for NA ALE 16, a three-year program for Jewish youth in Israel. We met several parents who were being interviewed as to their children's ability to be away from them during this study

in Israel. The program has had tremendous success, with 97 percent of those participating making aliyah upon graduation, and the parents making aliyah shortly thereafter...."

"The next visit was to the Khatyn Memorial, about 30 miles from Minsk. The village of Khatyn was burned, with all



JUDY AND GENE BOCKNEK PRESENT GENE'S SCULPTURES AT THE COMMUNITY ARTS CENTER IN NORRIS

inhabitants locked in their houses and church, in reprisal for a partisan attack on German positions....On the site of each house burned, there is erected a bell tower, with a bell on top of each one that rings with the movement of the wind, creating a somber reminder of the brutality. At the memorial entrance stands a statue of the one person who survived and found his grandson alive and breathing, only to have the child die in his arms.

Our next stop was a visit to the only synagogue in Minsk, which is located in a small, converted two-story building.... Professor Meltzer, head of the 20,000-strong Jewish community... briefed us in Yiddish and told us, with great dismay, that only 40 Jews attend Sabbath services, and that there has not been a Jewish wedding or funeral in many years.... The mohel comes from Moscow twice a year and conducts 15 to 20 circumcisions. A kosher kitchen, supported by JDC, is located in the synagogue, with about 50 persons being fed a hot meal once a day."

"The next stop on the study mission was Vilnius, also known as the Jerusalem de Lita, once the heartbeat of Jewish life and the home of one of the greatest 18th-century Talmudic scholars, the 'Gaon of Vilna.' Vilnius was part of Poland from

1919 to 1939, when it was annexed to the Soviet Union. In 1941 it was overrun by the Germans on the third day of the invasion. Approximately 80,000 Jews resided in Vilnius, and 70,000 were killed in the Vilna Ghetto or in the pits of Ponar, 20 miles from the city...."

"Our next stop was the Jewish Day school—the highlight of our visit. It teaches 240 students, from kindergarten to eighth grade, in a facility returned to the Jewish community under the Lithuanian restitution program. The school is furnished to Western standards, complete with computers, mostly supplied by the Swedish Committee for Baltic Jewry. The children are picked up by bus.... They are taught six hours of Hebrew and five hours of English, and they are segregated by Lithuanian or Russian language...."

"Kaunas, located about one hour by car from Vilnius, is today a Jewish community of 700 people, with half over age 65. Pre-war, the Jewish population numbered 40,000, and Kaunas had 36 synagogues; today there are two—one Chasidic in the old Lithuanian Orthodox tradition, and one Reform. Due to the liberal policy of the Kaunas City Council, a number of formerly-owned Jewish activity properties are being restored to the community's ownership...."

"Some of the worst atrocities of World War II were perpetrated in Kaunas, both by the Lithuanian guards and by Nazi troops. A memorial adjacent to the synagogue has been erected in memory of the 40,000 Jewish children killed at the 9th Fort in Kaunas. Community leaders are trying to reestablish a semblance of Jewish life, but long-term survival of the community is questionable."

"Our next stop on our Baltic fact-finding mission was Riga, Latvia, about 3 hours by car from Vilnius.... When Latvia was occupied by the Soviet Union in 1939, the Jewish population numbered about 100,000. Stalin deported 14,000 Jews to Siberia in 1940 and early 1941,

with only about one-third returning after the war and during the Krushchev era. The Jewish population in June 1941 numbered 80,000. Only about 9,000 survived the Nazi terror.... During the period 1945-1988, there were no Jewish activities, although the synagogue was open. The Jewish population today is approximately 16,000, with the majority residing in Riga. Over half of the total population is of Russian origin and does not speak Latvian; therefore, they are unable to obtain Latvian citizenship."

"In the afternoon we visited the Riga Ghetto and Rumbula Forest, where 29,602 were killed in one vicious, murderous act. Nothing remains of the Kaiserwald concentration camp. Of more than 60,000 Jews in the ghetto, only about 3,000 were still alive in the fall of 1944, when they were transported to the Stutthof concentration camp near Gdansk (then Danzig)."

"Riga has honored many righteous gentiles who saved Jews during the Nazi occupation. The Zanis Lipke family saved 53 Jews in farm communities surround-



TWO YOUNG ADMIRERS WATCH MIRA SIGN HER BOOK FOR THEM

ing Riga. The ghetto stands today pretty much as it was in the 1940s, but the cries of those whose final days were in this murderous place echo through the destroyed Jewish cemetery, which is marked only with a granite Mogen David."

"The Swedish Committee for Jews from the Former Soviet Union has been very active, giving monetary support, medical equipment, clothing, school furnishing, and ambulances to the four Baltic states—Kalinograd, Lithuania, Latvia, and



PROFESSOR MARILYN KALLET SIGNS BOOK FOR COLLEAGUE PROFESSOR JOHN HODGES

Estonia. While most of their funds are obtained from the Jewish community, a significant portion of the monies comes from non-Jewish institutions and foundations."

"Overall, our trip enabled us to experience first-hand the rebirth of Jewish life, to know first-hand what is needed, and to see how our dollars are being spent to save Jewish lives."

Professor Emeritus Morris I. Stein, formerly with the Psychology Department of New York University, has recently donated a large portion of his personal library to the University Libraries. The connection to UT originated when Rosa Kennedy, Ph.D., then a graduate student who was familiar with Professor Stein's work, met him at a professional conference on creativity. Back in 1949, Professor Stein traveled to the newly created state of Israel because, as he says, he wanted to "avoid the growing frustration and disenchantment with academic politics." Hebrew University's Psychology Department encouraged him to come there and teach Clinical Psychology. Here are some of the highlights of this trip:

"The trip over—It took 14 days, in the lowest bunk bed on the lowest passenger level on a converted troop ship, to get to Israel.

The ride to Jerusalem—The view of the Judaeen mountains sent shivers up and

down my spine. They were as old as I expected them to be and, as we approached them, they 'talked' to me louder and louder.

Teaching and the Hebrew University—Through the kind cooperation of the Church, I lectured at Terra Sancta in Jerusalem [now one of the offices of the Center for Jewish Art] to a very eager and bright group of students. The road to Mt. Scopus and the Hebrew University was cut off by the Arabs. Eventually, I was able to get a ride up to the University in a UN jeep. Part way up we stopped, were inspected by armed Arabs and, after an unnecessarily anxious few moments we were waved on to the rubble of deteriorating buildings....

A suburb called 'Mea Shearim'—One day I received a letter from my mother asking me to learn what I could about her great-uncle, whom she knew only as 'Sholem Hillel der t'hilim zawger' (Solomon Hillel the Psalm-Sayer). When I asked friends to accompany me to what my mother called a suburb near Jerusalem, and after my friends picked themselves off the floor laughing at that description, we started on the trip....Who would still be alive to know of "Sholem Hillel?" The first we asked did! The shock was overwhelming when he said, 'Of course. Come with me.' We followed him to a shtiebl near the Yeshivah. Standing inside and looking out the door was a strip on which was written the name of Sholem Hillel Friedman....Later, I learned from people in the community that Sholem Hillel stayed up all night...guarded by dogs who disappeared at early morning when Sholem Hillel, he of the beautiful voice...called everyone to shacharit....When I visited the hevrah kadishah to locate his grave, the rabbi was so amazed when he found Sholem Hillel's name in the burial register that he waved me to come forward. 'Look,' he said, 'for most people you find only one line—their name and burial information. For Sholem Hillel there is half a page—full of all the mitzvoth he fulfilled in his lifetime.'"

What wonderful experiences to share with us. Thank you very much!

A final word...

Again, the safety of our brothers and sisters in Israel is of foremost concern to us. As we begin a new year, we hope fervently that the peace process in the Middle East will advance to the point where all peoples in the region can live together in peace and harmony. From my house to your house, Shanah Tovah. May you have a sweet year.

Shalom,

Gilya G. Schmidt

GILYA G. SCHMIDT, PH.D., CHAIR
THE FERN AND MANFRED STEINFELD
PROGRAM IN JUDAIC STUDIES,
AND ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES



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THANKS TO IAN BLACKBURN,
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