

# The NEWSLETTER of the FERN & MANFRED STEINFELD Program in Judaic Studies

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE



Dear Friends of Judaic Studies at UT,

*This certainly is not a year like all other years.* While the events of September 11 fortunately did not affect any of us directly, indirectly we are all affected and saddened. Our thoughts and best wishes are with those who suffered injuries and loss of life. We are equally concerned about the continuing violence in the Middle East, which may have relegated any hopes for a lasting peace to the distant future.

Problems also continue on the home front. The university is struggling to deal with a budget shortfall as the state is trying to cope with a large budgetary deficit for this year.

Despite these obstacles Judaic Studies faculty are continuing on their strong path of teaching, publishing, programming, and public service. In our Judaic Studies lecture series, we continue to bring exciting speakers to campus and to the community. Last spring we organized our second educational outreach conference on the Holocaust. Students have an ongoing need for courses that expose them to non-Western cultures, for credit and for interest. Despite the traditional lumping together of Judaism and Christianity in the field of Judeo-Christian traditions, students find the study of Judaism to be a challenging experience that differs greatly from their pre-conceptions of Judaism.

It is my fervent hope that our world will come to its senses so that we can once again put our energies into those things that increase the quality of our lives rather than into our self-defense and self-preservation.

We would like to thank all of you who in the past year gave so unselfishly of your counsel, time, money, and energy for our various projects, and look forward to continued cooperative ventures in this year as well.

With all good wishes and in hopes of peace for all humanity.

B'Shalom,

*Gilya G. Schmidt*

Gilya G. Schmidt, Ph.D.  
Professor and Chair of  
The Fern and Manfred Steinfeld  
Program in Judaic Studies

Thank You to  
a True Friend  
of Judaic Studies

The early contributions towards a scholar of Judaism were made more than a decade ago from individuals with a vision. They included Guilford and Diane Glazer, Manny and Fern Steinfeld, Ruben Robinson, and many other members of the Knoxville Jewish community who listened when Jack Williams, Larry Ratner, and Charlie Reynolds suggested that the time was right to establish endowments for Judaic Studies scholars at UT. For 21 years, Charles H. Reynolds headed the Department of Religious Studies and helped to make his dream of a scholar of Judaism a reality. He worked untiringly to establish a Judaic Studies Program, making sure that all the concrete pieces were put into place. Charlie's generous advice and solid support in the nine years of our existence has been above and beyond what I could have expected.

In July, Charlie decided to step down as head of the Department of Religious Studies to pursue teaching and research interests until his eventual retirement. With this change, an era has come to an end. Whatever I say to thank Charlie will be inadequate to convey our gratitude to Charlie for his work, support, and encouragement during his stewardship of Religious Studies. The best my

colleagues and I can do to honor Charlie's contribution is to continue as vigorously and as committedly as we have during his administration.

We thank you, Charlie, for your leadership, your inspiration, and your vision. May you enjoy your return to full-time teaching and scholarship in good health for many years to come.

Our interim department head is Professor Jim Fitzgerald, who is a scholar of Hinduism, and specifically of the *Mahabharata*. We thank Jim for his willingness to give of his time and energy for the good of the department.

## A Word from the Interim Head of Religious Studies

Let me simply express how pleased and proud the Department of Religious Studies was to provide the home for Judaic Studies' bringing Professor Richard Bernstein to the UT campus. Professor Bernstein's lectures and the symposium accompanying the morning session were among the finest academic presentations on campus in a long time. They were well attended; they pleased even the most discriminating listeners in the audience; and they have stimulated continuing discussion in the weeks after their delivery. Professor Gilya Schmidt has made many fine contributions to the intellectual life of the University of Tennessee over the years. The Bernstein visit was one of her best!

—Jim Fitzgerald

## Judaic Studies Advisory Committee

We are very grateful to Professor Nancy Lauckner from the German Program for her eight years of service to the Judaic Studies Program. Nancy taught the Holocaust through literature and film and participated in various ways in our two Holocaust conferences. We wish Nancy well in her retirement and hope that she enjoys many years of good health and productivity.

Amy Neff, Professor of Art History, has received a National Endowment Humanities Fellowship for a year's research in the field of medieval art, focusing on the imagery of the Virgin Mary suffering at the Crucifixion. Since, for medieval Christians, Mary was the ideal woman, the way Mary is depicted in Christian art reflects medieval society's concept of the norms of female virtue, character, and role in society. Professor Neff will study a new emphasis that emerged in the 12th and 13th centuries on Mary's suffering and how this new imagery reflects theological and historical developments of the period, including a current of anti-Semitism that seems to have developed in conjunction with the cult of Mary. Congratulations, Amy, we are proud of you!

Professor Marilyn Kallet was honored by the Judah L. Magnes Museum in Berkeley as was her sister, Elaine Zimmerman, in an international Jewish Poetry Contest. Congratulations to both of you.

Professor Peter Höyng from the German Program submitted the following report:

"Last year the German Program at UT once again contributed to the Judaic Studies Program by offering courses and by participating in events sponsored by the Jewish community in Knoxville.

In the fall, Dr. Peter Höyng introduced the movie *Harmonists* by Vilsmaier, which narrates the history of the famous male sextet from Berlin, at the first Jewish Film Festival in Knoxville. Because of its three Jewish members, the Nazi regime dissolved and prohibited this successful group in 1935. One of its members, Harry Frommer, later became a distinguished cantor in San Francisco.

In her last year at the University of Tennessee, recently retired Dr. Nancy Lauckner committed herself fully to the complexities of German-Jewish history. She taught the undergraduate course on "Holocaust Literature and Film" in the fall and she shared her profound knowledge in German literary and visual representations of the Holocaust with graduate students in the spring. Both courses were for Dr. Lauckner among the most meaningful and enriching of the many experiences she had during her long career at UT and made her move to Maine difficult. Her expertise as a member of the organizing committee for the second Holocaust conference at UT is also greatly appreciated. In addition to Dr. Lauckner, Dr. Carolyn Hodges, Head of the Department of Modern Foreign Languages & Literatures, and Dr. Peter Höyng, joined the conference committee.

At the Holocaust conference Peter Höyng was a co-presenter with Mira Kimmelman, who gave a lecture on the Jewish history of her hometown, Gdansk, Poland (formerly Danzig). In his presentation, Dr. Höyng demonstrated how Günter Grass—also from Danzig—remembers and cherishes this city in his epic novel *The Tin Drum* (1959), for which he received the Nobel Prize.

Peter Höyng, Matt Altwicker and Edgar Stach (the latter two from the School of Architecture) organized a premier mini-term

Knoxville Jewish Alliance  
Web site: <http://www.jewishknoxville.org/JKAhome.html>

course on the cultural history of Berlin in the 20th century. Twenty-three students enrolled—the majority of them from the School of Architecture. After a few days of introduction to and orientation within socio-historical and architectural aspects of Berlin, the group visited Berlin for ten days. There the students confronted directly and diversely the high and

low points of German-Jewish history. The American-born author Dr. Jeannette Lander shared her views of Jewish life in Germany today in the facilities of the Jewish Cultural Center next to the New Synagogue. In addition, the students saw and examined, among other sites, the Jewish Museum by Daniel Libeskind, although only from outside since it was closed for

the big opening of its permanent exhibit on September 9. On their last day, students visited the concentration camp Sachsenhausen, just outside Berlin. All students were deeply moved and expressed what a difference it makes not only to hear and read about but also to see in person to what extent the Nazi regime destroyed Jewish life in Germany."

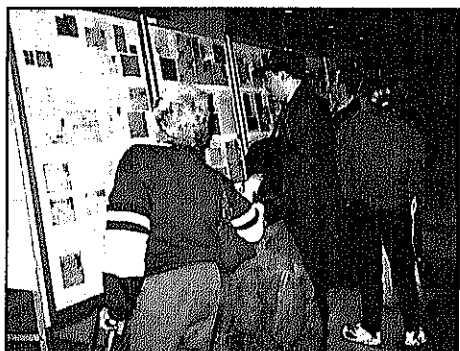
## 2001 East Tennessee Holocaust Conference

Although this is part of my public service work, a conference is sufficiently important to receive its own space.

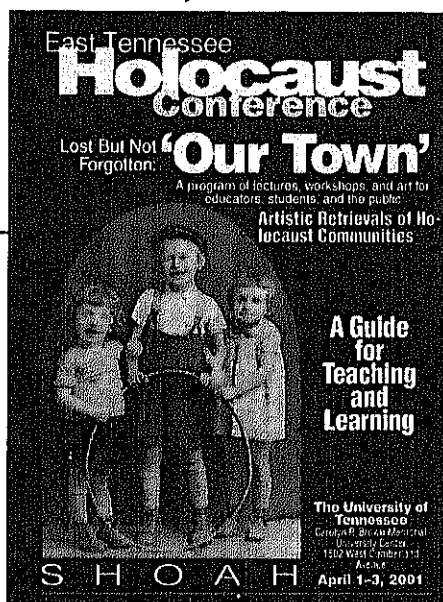
In the fall of 1999, five individuals who became the steering committee for the 2001 East Tennessee Holocaust Conference met to discuss purpose and strategy for this educational outreach program.

They were Bernard Bernstein, Esq.; Dr. Lynn Champion; Lynn Miller, Knox County Schools; Professor Charles H. Reynolds; and Profes-

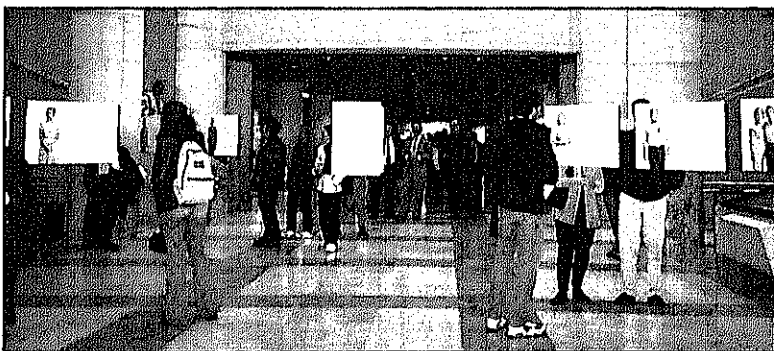
sor Gilya Schmidt, conference chair. The impetus for the conference was the commitment by the Tennessee Holocaust Commission to bring an exhibition, "Remembering Luboml: Images of a Jewish Community," to four cities in Tennessee in the Spring of 2001—Jackson, Chattanooga, Nashville, and Knoxville. Our previous



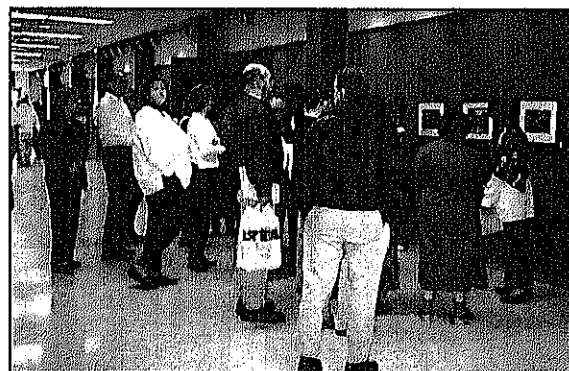
Professor Paul Phillips' Philatelic exhibition in Hodges Library March 7–April 30, 2001.



Professor Yaffa Eliach, Brooklyn College and Shtetl Foundation, New York, during Holocaust Conference April 1–3, 2001.



Visitors look at Professor Rob Heller's exhibition, "Portraits of Survivors," in Hodges Library March 7–April 30, 2001.



Teachers visit "Luboml Exhibition" in University Center Concourse with docent Dr. Annette Fromm from the Ziff Museum in Miami Beach, FL.

# 2001 East Tennessee Holocaust Conference



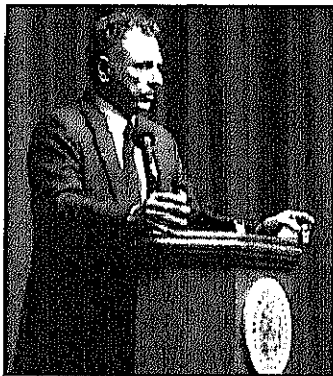
Dr. Lisa Plante (left), Shoah Foundation, Los Angeles, takes questions after her lecture on clandestine education during the Holocaust. Mrs. Mira Kimmelman chaired the session.



Audience in Shiloh Room of University Center listening to Dr. Lisa Plante during her presentation of lecture on clandestine education.



Mira Kimmelman autographs one more copy of her popular book, *Echoes from the Holocaust*, during Holocaust Conference.



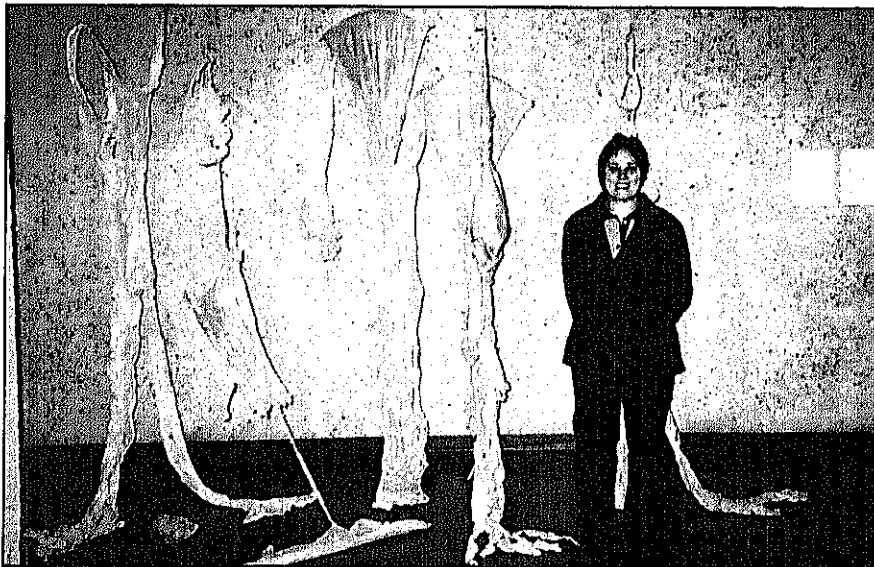
Mr. Morris Dees, Esq., Southern Poverty Law Center, speaks to audience in UC Auditorium.



Andrea Cartwright (left), Shelley Hanford, and Barbara Bernstein in front of "Knoxville Connection" to Lubomir exhibition in UC Concourse which Barbara Bernstein created with the help of Wendy Besmann.



Mira Kimmelman speaks about her city of birth, Danzig, and its portrayal in the writings of Günter Grass during Holocaust Conference. Professor Peter Höyng chaired the session.



Ms. Moema Furtado with exhibition she created in the City-County Building.



Wendy Besmann, author of *A Separate Circle*, signs copy of her book during Holocaust Conference.

Holocaust conference was held in the fall of 1995.

The steering committee assembled a 50-member community advisory committee who took a very active part in making the conference a reality and a success. We created a Web site to post the program, and printed a handsome brochure as well as a teachers' guide giving background on the Holocaust, Luboml, and the participants in the conference.

The conference itself consisted of three days of lectures and films for the general public and one-day workshops for teachers. The events varied in character:

- An inspiring dance/music/story-telling opening program was performed at Austin East High School with the Tennessee Children's Dance Ensemble, with numbers choreographed by Ze'eva Cohen (Princeton University), one of them specifically for this event; students from Vine Middle and Austin East

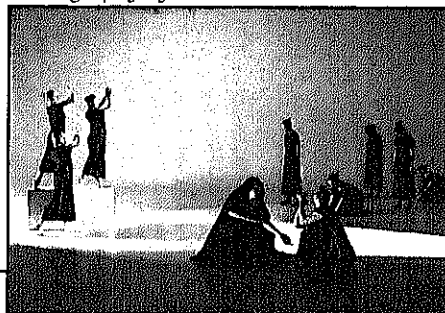
playing the "Terezin Quartet"; and Knoxville artist Arnold Schwarzbart told stories that brought us from degradation to redemption.

- Professor Stephen Feinstein set the scene for our understanding of the shtetl through visual images, and Professor Yaffa Eliach introduced her video, "There Once Was A Town," about Eishyshok as the opening of her program on her work to recreate her vanished shtetl in various ways.
- The audience learned about the Jews of Poland from a lecture by Professor Antony Polonsky, Brandeis University and the

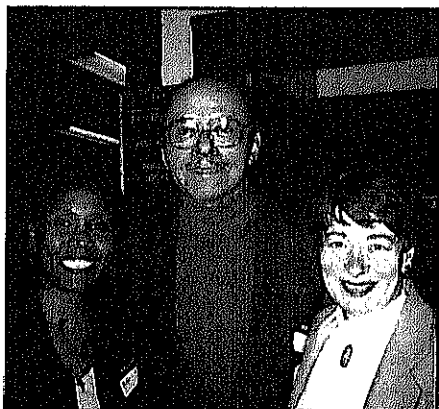
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum; about the city of Danzig from survivor and author Mira Kimmelman, and the Jews of Paris from Professor Karen Levy, while film producer Albert Barry introduced and discussed his film on the last wooden synagogues in Eastern Europe.

- Morris Dees, Southern Poverty Law Center, spoke about hope and tolerance in the new millennium.
- Another set of programs focused on "Remembering Our Lost Communities," with Knoxvilleans Professor Henry Fribourg, Mr. Art Pais, and Mr. Ernie Gross sharing their personal experiences in France, Poland, and Romania respectively.
- Mr. Manny Steinfeld and Mrs. Trudy Dreyer spoke about growing up in Germany.
- Dr. Leon Bass, who liberated Buchenwald concentration camp, spoke about his experi-

"Sharing of the Water,"  
choreography by Ze'eva Cohen



## 2001 East Tennessee Holocaust Conference



Ms. Donna Hardy, teacher and Belz Lipmann winner, Whittle Springs Middle School; Mr. Leon Bass; and Professor Gilya Schmidt.

UT Professor Marilyn Kallet (left) and sister Elaine Zimmerman, Commissioner for Children in Connecticut, at their joint poetry reading at the Knoxville Museum of Art.



Panel discussion about Holocaust experiences by Mr. Ernie Gross (left), Prof. Henry Fribourg, and Mr. Art Pais. Rabbi Beth Schwartz, Temple Beth El (second from right) moderated the discussion.



ence and about the racism in this country, and a panel consisting of Mrs. Barbara Bernstein, Mr. Norbert Slovis, and Dr. Harold Winston spoke about growing up as Jews in Knoxville.

- The closing program was a specially created and choreographed dance production by Professor Norman Magden with Circle Modern Dance and the University of Tennessee Dancers at the Bijou Theatre.

There also were a number of events that occurred around the conference:

- "Remembering Luboml: Images of a Jewish Community," exhibition at the University Center;
- Professor Rob Heller's photo exhibition of survivors' portraits at Hodges Library;
- Professor Paul Phillips' philatelic exhibition at Hodges Library;

- Poetry reading, "Tell Ye Your Children," by Professor Marilyn Kallet and her sister, Elaine Zimmerman, Commissioner for Children in Connecticut;
- Installation exhibition by artist Moema Furtado at the City-County Building; and
- Student design work by UT graduate students for a Holocaust memorial at the Dora Camp, under the direction of Professor Barbara Klinkhammer.

Members of the community advisory committee included Virginia Anagnost, Felicia Anchor, Ellen Bebb, Jeffrey Becker, Alfred Bell, Beverly Broyles, Palmira Brummett, Jeff Cathey, Asherah Cinnamon, Arnold Cohen, Charles Davenport, J.P. Dessel, Jim Dittrich, Trudy Dreyer, Mickey Foley, Moema Furtado, Jim Gehlhar, Shelley Hanford, Donna Hardy, Rob Heller, Nancy Jo Henry, Chris Hodge,

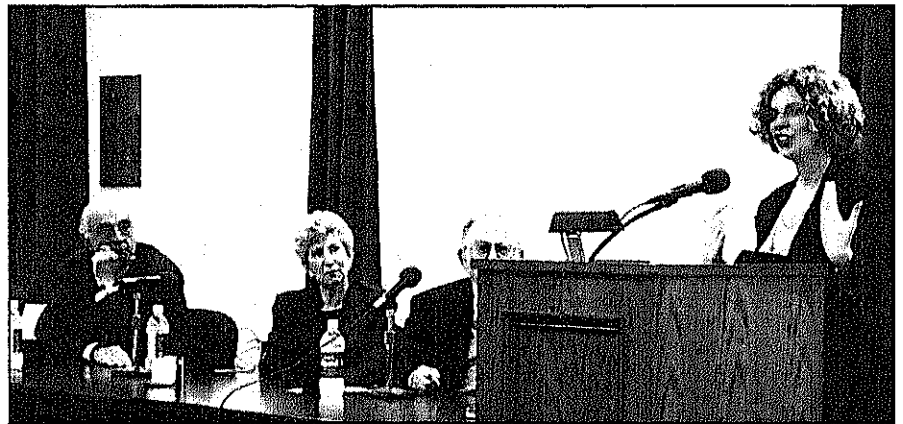
Carolyn Hodges, Peter Höyng, Marilyn Kallet, Mira Kimmelman, Nancy Lauckner, Rabbi Shlomo Levine, Karen Levy, Robert Levy, Vejas Liulevicius, Sue Ludwig, Mary Rhea Lyell, Norman Magden, Sgt. Warren K. McNutt, Tamara Miller, Aubrey Mitchell, Paul Phillips, Kurt Piehler, Lisa Plante, Rabbi Victor Rashkovsky, Judy Robinson, Mitchell Robinson, Natalie Robinson, Alexandra Rosen, Bernard Rosenblatt, Philip A. Scheurer, Rabbi Beth Schwartz, Arnold Schwarzbart, Mary Linda Schwarzbart, Rabbi Emeritus Howard A. Simon, Manny Steinfeld, Ruth Tanner, and Jinx Stapleton Watson.

I would like to thank **everyone** who contributed to the success of the East Tennessee Holocaust Conference. A special "thank you" to Bob Levy for his help with the Luboml exhibition, and to Nora Wilson and Michael Collier for being my right and left hands during the conference.

## 2001 East Tennessee Holocaust Conference



Reception at the Beck Cultural Center in honor of Mr. Leon Bass, retired high school principal and liberator. Left to right: Mr. William Powell, chairman, Beck Cultural Center; Mr. Avon Rollins, executive director, Beck Cultural Center; Mr. Leon Bass; and Professor Gilya Schmidt.



Panel discussion on Jewish Knoxville past and present. Panelists from left to right are Mr. Norbert Slovis, Mrs. Barbara Bernstein, and Dr. Harold Winston. Moderator is Mrs. Wendy Besmann.

Dr. Annette Fromm, Ziff Museum in Miami Beach, FL, and Mr. Arnold Cohen during teacher workshop at 2001 Holocaust Conference.



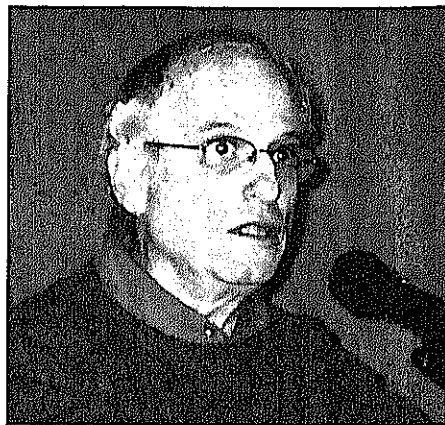
## Judaic Studies Lecture Series

**D**uring the 2000–2001 academic year, three very different and interesting speakers participated in our Judaic Studies lecture series.

On October 23, 2000, **Jeannette Lander**, an American Jewish author who has lived in Berlin for more than 40 years visited UT. Ms. Lander spoke about her experience as a Jew in Germany today. She also spoke more broadly about the contemporary Jewish community in Berlin and Germany. This lecture was sponsored by The Fern and Manfred Steinfeld Program in Judaic Studies, The Abraham and Rebecca Solomon and Ida Schwartz Distinguished Lecture Fund, the German Program, the Department of Modern Foreign Languages and Literatures, the Knoxville Jewish Federation, and the Department of Religious Studies.

On January 25, 2001, Religious Studies **Professor Eric Mazur** from Bucknell University gave a lecture to UT faculty and students on "Jews as a Test Case for Religious Minorities and the Constitution." Professor Mazur also served as scholar-in-residence at Heska Amuna Synagogue for the week-end. Sponsors included The Fern and Manfred Steinfeld Program in Judaic Studies, the Department of Religious Studies, the Knoxville Jewish Federation, and Heska Amuna Synagogue.

Every year, we are the beneficiaries of an Israeli scholar who visits both UT and Emory University in Atlanta. This year, on February 19, 2001, **Professor Yaron Ezrahi**, a world-famous political scientist from Hebrew University, visited our campus and community. This visit was made possible



*Professor Yaron Ezrahi explains Zionist history at a lecture at the Arnstein Jewish Community Center on February 19, 2001.*

through the generosity of A.J. Robinson and Mitchell and Natalie Robinson, and Ken Stein, director of the Middle East Research Program and the Institute for the Study of Modern Israel at Emory University, Atlanta.

This academic year, on October 28 and 29, 2001 **Professor Richard J. Bernstein** visited the UT campus. Faculty, students, and community members met for a discussion of Hannah Arendt's book, *Eichmann in Jerusalem*, on October 28. On Monday, October 29, a symposium on "Facing Radical Evil" took place, based on Professor Bernstein's paper, "Reflections on Radical Evil: Kant and Arendt." Respondents to the paper included Professor John Hardwig, Department of Philosophy; Professor Allen Dunn, Department of English and editor of *Soundings*, and Professor Owen Bradley, Department of History. The 2001 Judaic Studies Solomon/Schwartz Distinguished Lecture took place in the Hodges Library Auditorium on October 29, and focused on "Levinas: Evil and the Temptation of Theodicy." Sponsors for these events included the Abraham and Rebecca Solomon and Ida Schwartz Distinguished Lecture Fund, the Judaic Studies Support Fund, the Department of Religious

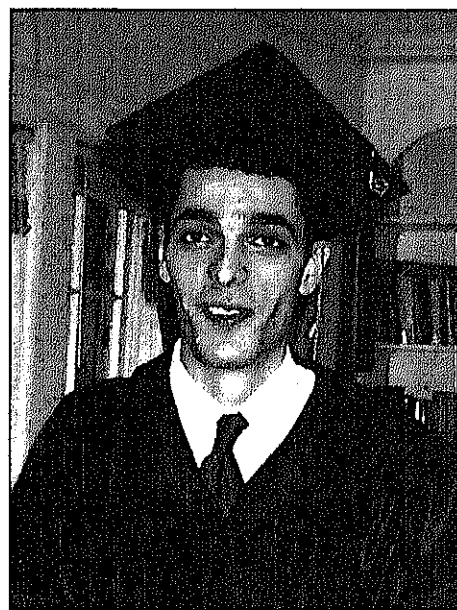


*Professor Eric Mazur speaks on religious diversity at the Arnstein Jewish Community Center.*

Studies, University Studies, the Department of Philosophy, *Soundings*, and the Knoxville Jewish Alliance.

## Students

Congratulations to **Avi Shem-Tov**, one of our Israeli students, who graduated with a degree in Logistics and Transportation in May 2001. Avi was a member of the Jewish Student Center, tutored Hebrew, and was a big help in all Jewish things around campus. Mazal tov, Avi, and best wishes for the future.



*Avi Shem-Tov at his graduation dinner in May 2001.*

**Dani Grey** graduated from UT in May 2001 and is now attending the William Davidson School of Jewish Education at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York.

**Nathan Soloman** has been admitted to the Ph.D. program at Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, VA. Nathan spent the summer in Israel to improve his Hebrew while his bride-to-be, Tonya, worked as a woman-in-ministry intern in Chicago. They have wedding plans for December.

**Wes Brandon**, who graduated in 2000, is now attending Columbia Theological Seminary in Georgia. He spent the summer in Scotland on a supervised ministry internship.

**Link Elmore** earned another degree from Virginia Commonwealth University, an M.S. in Patient Counseling. He works as a chaplain at Children's Hospital where his wife Karen has just finished her medical residency.

**Melissa Range**, poet and teacher, continues to teach at Perimeter College in Decatur, Georgia.

**Meg Pattison** is in her second year as a law student at the Vanderbilt University Law School.

**Lynn Elmore**, sister of Link, has been teaching kindergarten since obtaining her M.A., and has recently married.

**Ben Parker**, 2000 UT graduate, was accepted to the master's program in clinical psychology at West Virginia University.

Congratulations to everyone on your fine achievements! Keep up the good work and keep us informed of future developments.

## Gilya Schmidt Activities

### TEACHING

In the 2000–2001 academic year I taught RS 381, "Introduction to Judaism," with 50 students, and RS 320, "Women in Judaism," a new course in the Judaic Studies curriculum, with about 30 students, both in Fall 2000. In the Spring 2001 semester, I offered RS 386, "Voices of the Holocaust," with 50 students, and RS 405, a seminar on Modern Israel, with about 18 students.

This fall I am teaching RS 102, "Comparative World Religions," with about 100 students, and once again RS 381, "Introduction to Judaism." I am also contributing to the interdisciplinary course on Berlin, German 420, which my colleague Peter Höyng designed and is teaching as a one-year course.

### LECTURES

On October 3, 2000, Professor Peter Höyng organized a symposium, "Germany Today," which was well attended. I participated

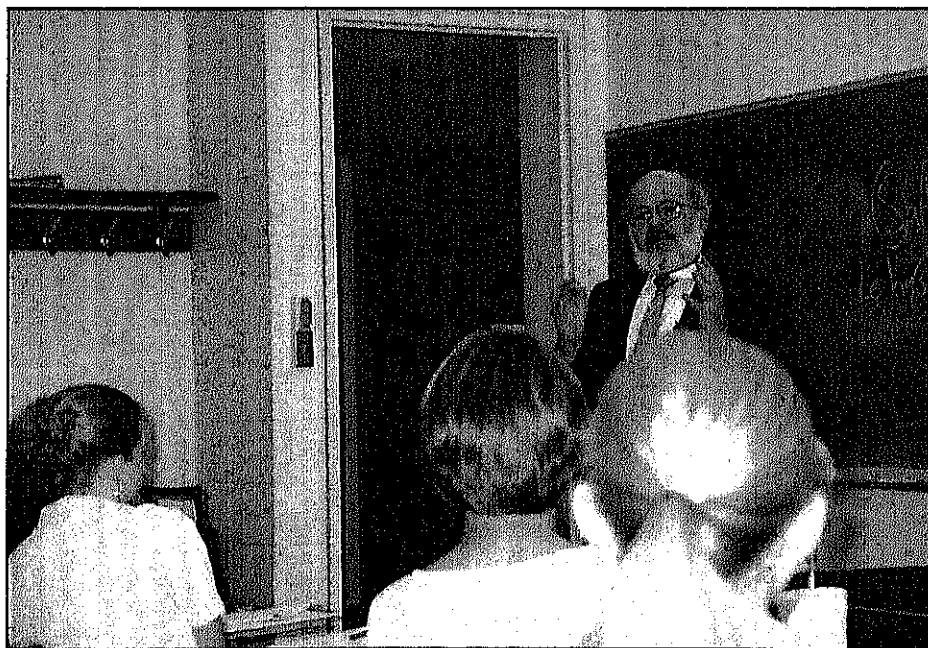
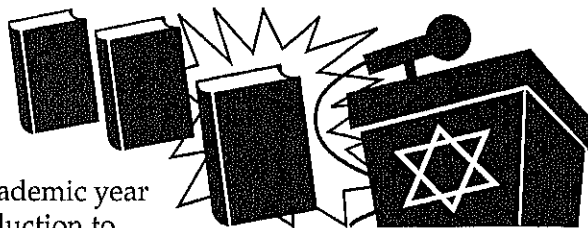
with a presentation on Jews in Germany today.

ORICL has been a popular avenue of continuing learning in Oak Ridge for some years. On February 5 and 12 I shared some of my work on the Roma and Sinti (Gypsies) in general and the Austrian Roma during the Holocaust with the student body.

### RESEARCH Articles

An article, "Multiculturalism—A Bridge Over Troubled Waters," was included in a *Festschrift* for Professor Lothar Hönnighausen, Director, North America Program, at the University of Bonn, on the occasion of his retirement this summer.

An article, "The Absolute and the Relative Life in the Thought of Martin Buber," appeared in *Shofar* (Winter 2000).



Rabbi Shlomo Levine speaks to RS 381, "Introduction to Judaism," class in Fall 2000.



A review essay of Diane Ashton's book, *Rebecca Gratz*, was published in the Winter 2000 issue of *Soundings*.

## Books

### *Schleiermacher Letters*

Much of the fall and winter 2000–2001 was spent translating six open letters by the German Christian theologian Friedrich Schleiermacher, written in 1799 in response to an open letter by the liberal Berlin Jew David Friedländer. The hot issue of the time was the Prussian requirement for Jews who wanted to become citizens to convert to Christianity. This exchange of letters discusses the pros and cons of this prerequisite for civil rights. I also researched and wrote an extensive introduction to the literary exchange and the political situation of the Jews in Berlin at the time. This material was originally going to be part of the current edition of *Neue Athenaeum/New Atheneum (NANA)*. As I prepare this newsletter, I am being told that the essay and translation will come out in time for the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion in November as a separate volume by Edwin Mellen Press. A very big "thank you" to my editor and big supporter and helper in this undertaking, Ruth Richardson Ragovin.

### *Heralds of A New Age— The Art and Artists of the Fifth Zionist Congress, 1901*

After having received extensive reader criticism for my manuscript on Jewish art last spring, I spent much of the summer researching additional material and making extensive revisions. It also took considerable effort and time to obtain suitable prints of 40 illustrations as well as the permissions for publication. I resubmitted the revised manuscript, which is under contract to Syracuse University



Professor Gilya Schmidt teaches about *Roma and Sinti* to ORICL in Oak Ridge, February 2001.

Press, in August. This semester we are undertaking yet another set of revisions, primarily of a technical nature. We are expecting publication of this labor-intensive project in 2002.

### *Landjudentum: Study of Rural Jewish Life in Germany*

Although the work for the art manuscript somewhat eclipsed the progress on this manuscript, I am continuing slowly to make progress. Having explored the genealogy of the Lang family, I will now turn my attention to the phenomenon of *Landjudentum*, or rural Judaism, as it developed in Southern Germany from 1800 on. Work will continue throughout 2002, with a completion of a first draft expected by the end of 2003. In the summer of 2002 I will return to Germany for additional research at the city archives in Süssen, where more material has been made available to the public.

### *Mira Kimmelman Sequel*

A year ago, Mira completed many individual segments for another book, a sequel to her popular *Echoes from the Holocaust*.

To date, *Echoes* is in its third printing; since 1995, UT Press has sold more than 5,300 copies. Mira has donated all of her royalties to the Judaic Studies Endowment in Religious Studies. Since last year I have edited the chapters twice and we have re-word-processed everything. This winter I will put the manuscript together and submit it to the publisher for a first reading.

### Research assignment 2002

I will be on research assignment in the spring of 2002 and will spend some time in Israel in pursuit of guidance for a book on Jewish music. As I am not a musicologist, I will have to become a student once more and learn how to analyze music, and learn the history of Jewish music. The second part of this time will be spent in Germany for additional research.

## SERVICE

### Professional Service

I continue to chair the History of Judaism section of the Regional American Academy of Religion, the Southeast Commission for the Study of Religion (SECSOR). This past spring I presented a paper on the Lang family in Süssen, Germany. I would like to thank Linda Bennett Elder from Valdosta State University for organizing the Judaism sessions for 2002 while I am in Israel.

The Association for Jewish Studies (AJS) will meet in Washington, DC, in December. At that conference I will read a paper on rural Judaism in Germany.

I also attended the AAR annual meeting in Denver in November, where I had responsibilities with the Nineteenth Century Theology Group and the Schleiermacher book.

In early November I traveled to the University of Iowa to participate in the School of Religion's seven-year review.

I am serving in a variety of capacities at the university. This is my first year of a three-year term on the Faculty Senate. In September we enjoyed a full-day retreat for brainstorming on a number of issues. In addition to regular Senate meetings, I also serve on two sub-committees, one dealing with faculty development and mentoring junior faculty, the other dealing with international education.

Because of my experience with outreach projects, I also serve on the College Outreach Council.

This year, I am serving as assistant department head for the Department of Religious Studies. In that capacity, I attend regular meetings for administrators as well as a series of faculty education lectures on university procedures.

This past spring, I served on the Alumni Association Outstanding Teacher Selection Committee

for the university. The committee selected the best candidates to receive the Outstanding Teaching Award for 2000-2001.

Pending college and university approval, I will also be heading a departmental search committee for a scholar in Hebrew and Christian Scriptures.

## Public Service

### Tennessee Holocaust Commission

I continue to serve as a commissioner on the Tennessee Holocaust Commission. The spring 2001 meeting took place during our East Tennessee Holocaust Conference in April in Knoxville so that the commissioners had a chance to attend some of the events. We appreciate the generosity of the Commission in its financial support of the conference.

On October 24, 2000, I traveled to Nashville to train teachers at the annual educational outreach conference in teaching about

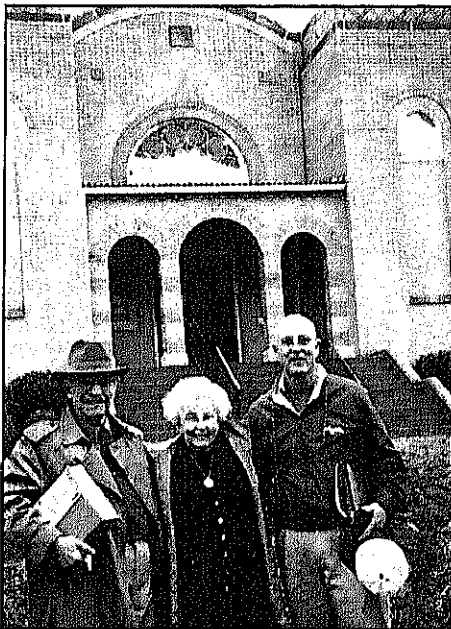
Luboml, Poland, in preparation for the "Luboml Exhibition" which was displayed in four Tennessee cities during the spring of 2001.

In November 2000 I traveled to Jackson and Nashville to train docents in anticipation of the "Luboml Exhibition" in those two cities in the spring of 2001.

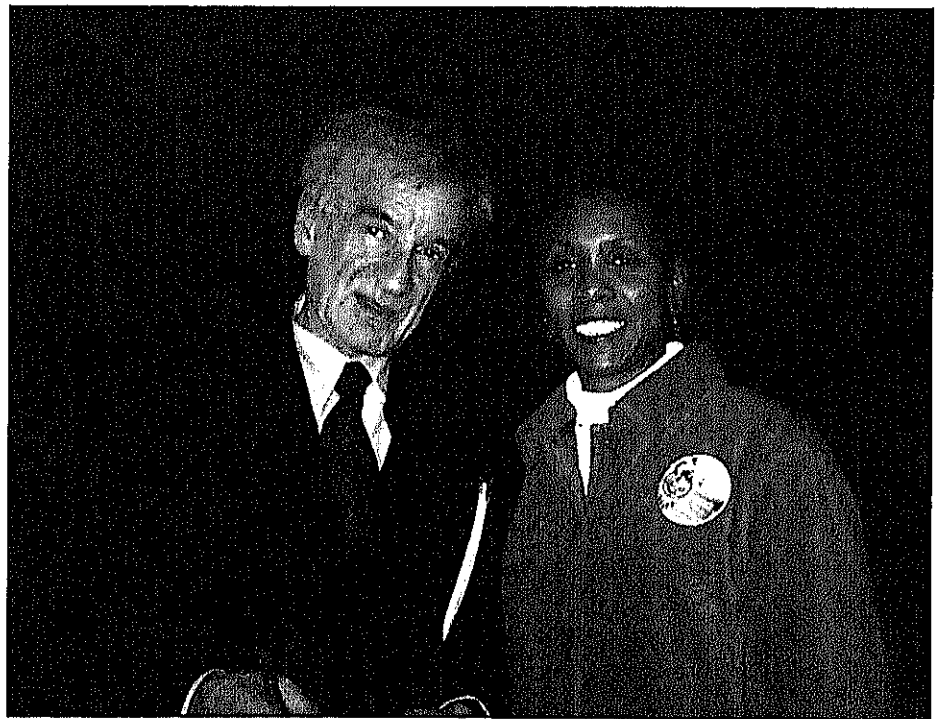
This past year, I continued to serve on the Jewish Student Center Advisory Committee and on the community Yom HaShoah Committee. I also serve on several Heska Amuna committees.

### "Celebrate Freedom" Event in Pigeon Forge

Professor Kurt Piehler organized a month-long "Celebrate Freedom" Program with and for the city of Pigeon Forge. I participated by presenting a program on the Holocaust with a focus on liberation. We invited two liberators, Mr. Jim Dorris from Chattanooga and Mr. Jim Gentry from Franklin, Tennessee. Both veterans told of their personal experiences



*Mr. Gene Davenport, Lambuth University, Jackson, TN; Mrs. Janis Riddler; and Mr. Joel Newman, synagogue president. Temple B'nai Israel building in background.*



*Professor and survivor Elie Wiesel with Ms. Donna Hardy at "Celebrate Freedom" event in Pigeon Forge.*

in liberating Dachau and Sachsenhausen respectively. The veterans' accounts were preceded by a dramatic reading of a Holocaust chronology by me and three UT theatre students, for which I wrote the script. The UT students read the parts of some of the victims in the Holocaust. Professor Bonnie Gould enhanced our verbal presentation with a visual Power Point presentation of appropriate images as background. Again, my thanks to all participants for a wonderful program.

## Speaking Engagements

September 17, 2000. A continuing education lecture on Israel at Westminster Presbyterian Church.

October 18 and 28. Study with Heska Amuna b'nai mitzvah group.

January 28, 2001. Mini-CAJE. The Knoxville Jewish Community organized an education day for local Jewish educators in which I partici-

pated by giving a presentation on different world religions.

February 18. The Lutheran Church in Farragut invited me to share with them my understanding of Luther's anti-Semitism and to answer some basic questions on Judaism.

March 1. I introduced the Holocaust to the NCCJ audience and profiled the upcoming Holocaust conference. I also introduced Trudy Dreyer who spoke about her childhood experiences in Nazi Germany.

April 24. I traveled to Pigeon Forge to speak to the Boys and Girls Club of the Smoky Mountains about the Holocaust.

May 20. I took a group of fellow travelers from the Jewish community on a slide tour of Jewish Germany today.

September 10. Slide presentation on Jewish art book to "Pomegranate" group.

September 28. Power Point presentation on the achievements of the Judaic Studies program and my research to the University Development Council.

November 8. Program on the Holocaust, specifically *Kristallnacht*, organized by Mr. Charles Davenport of Knox County Public Libraries for all middle and high school librarians. I gave the general introduction, spoke about events of *Kristallnacht*, and introduced Mira Kimmelman.

## Thank You

Michael Manning Collier, my two-year teaching assistant, completed his M.A. in Religious Studies in August 2001 and moved to California to attend Berkeley Law School. Michael was a tremendous help to me with administrative matters, manuscripts, and the Holocaust conference. Michael wrote his thesis on religion and law, examining some landmark cases in American history. I thank you very much for your cheerful and conscientious execution of your duties, in addition to teaching your own course and taking classes and writing a thesis. We wish you all the best in your future endeavors and in life.

## Welcome

Daniel Headrick, a second-year student in the Religious Studies Department's master's program, is my new graduate assistant. Daniel is already being baptized by fire with various manuscripts, although he will not have to suffer through a Holocaust conference! Daniel's area of interest is Neoplatonism, and he is also currently studying French, German, and Greek. His thesis will be on Origen of Alexandria and the influence of Greek philosophy in late antiquity.



Wiesenthal Center Holocaust poster display in Pigeon Forge Community Center during "Celebrate Freedom" event 2000.

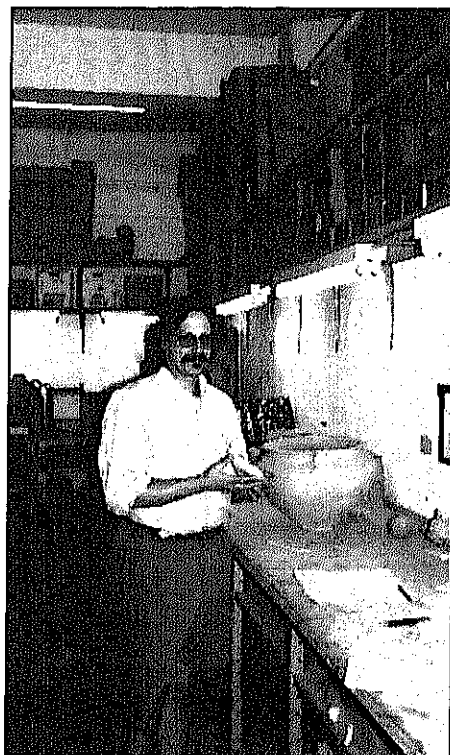
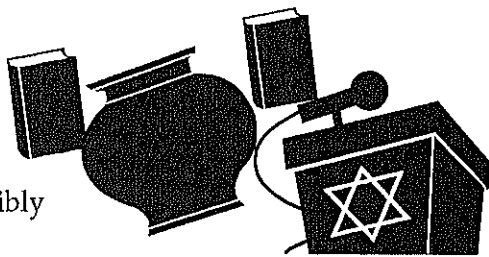
# J.P. Dessel Activities

## RESEARCH

**I**t has been another incredibly busy year. I published several articles and book reviews last year including one on how to approach the study of Early Bronze Age ceramics found in the Levant. This methodological consideration of ceramic analysis was an outgrowth of an international conference I attended, sponsored by the University of Durham in England. Much of my research program this year, however, focused on the material from my site of Tell 'Ein Zippori, located in the Lower Galilee of Israel.

## Tell 'Ein Zippori

Excavation is only half of archaeological research—the easy half. The other half consists of processing and analyzing the artifacts in order to publish the material and your conclusions. While archaeological fieldwork can be very exciting, the analysis phase is a much slower, even tedious, part of the overall project. Currently I am in the middle of the analysis phase. This past spring and summer I spent a total of seven weeks in an archaeology lab at the Albright Institute in Jerusalem. My work was generously supported by the Fern and Manfred Steinfeld Program in Judaic Studies and by the Department of History, to whom I am very grateful. The Albright lab serves as the headquarters in Israel for the Sepphoris Regional Project (a consortium of American universities, including the University of Tennessee) which excavates the sites of Tell 'Ein Zippori (Bronze and Iron Age) and Sepphoris (the Roman and Byzantine city and major Talmudic center). The Albright Institute serves as my



*J.P. Dessel*

home away from home.

## Life at the Albright Institute

The Albright Institute is a research center for American archaeologists working and studying in Israel. It is part of the American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR), a professional association of archaeologists, historians and Biblical scholars that recently celebrated its centennial. In addition to the Albright Institute, there are ASOR research centers in Nicosia, Cyprus and Amman, Jordan. ASOR itself is based at Boston University. The Albright Institute is the oldest of ASOR's overseas research institutes and is named after William Foxwell Albright, who established the modern practice of Biblical Archae-

ology in the 1920s and was also the leading American Biblical scholar of his day. Albright was an early director of the institute, which was built in 1919. The Institute is located just down the street from the American Colony Hotel and is a charming old building which includes a first-rate research library, a hostel for the institute's fellows, dining facilities, archaeology laboratories and workshops, a volleyball court and one of the most beautiful courtyards in Jerusalem. I was a fellow at the Albright for two and a half years in the mid 1980s and have spent many of my summers in that courtyard, especially in the late afternoon during tea time.

One of the real advantages of the Albright is being able to live and work in the same place. While the accommodations are comfortable, if not a bit spartan, the institute has an excellent cook and the food is fabulous. Another advantage is daily contact with the fellows (both graduate students and post-doctoral fellows) and participation in the educational program. In this environment I can learn about the latest forays in the field and stay current with all the research going on throughout the Levant. Because the Albright is such an important archaeological center in Israel, you never know who is going to stop by. Thus, another big advantage of working there is that I am able to show my material to the foremost experts in the field and get their opinions on it. It is this kind of scholarly exchange which is essential to archaeological research.

My own work is centered in my lab, which is really an old water cistern located under the kitchen and dining room at Albright. Five seasons of excavated artifacts from Tell 'Ein Zippori are stored in the lab (in addition to the material from Sepphoris and a few other digs) so it's a pretty tight fit

(see photograph on previous page). During the spring I processed and analyzed the pottery in preparation for publication. I was assisted by John Jorgensen, a graduate student in the Department of Religious Studies at Duke University, who has been working with me since 1993. John's dissertation is on the Late Bronze II and Iron Age pottery from the site.

When I returned alone in the summer, I continued processing artifacts. I spent a great deal of time working with the pottery drawer who is Russian (as are many of the pottery drawers in Israel). Selected sherds are first drawn in pencil. Once these drawings are checked for accuracy, they can then be inked. The whole process is cumbersome but we did manage to get through almost all of the pottery. I also worked with an Israeli pottery restorer who reassembled several very important vessels. Pottery restoration is a real art and much more than just piecing together a giant puzzle. A first rate restorer has to have a real "eye" for pottery. I spent many of my early mornings and late afternoons (when there is good natural light without too much harsh direct sunlight) photographing small objects and important pottery sherds. I also worked with a professional photographer who photographed three incised scarabs, which are very difficult to photograph properly. At one point I made a trip to Beer Sheva to drop off flint tools at Ben Gurion University, where the lithic analyst, Professor Steven Rosen, works.

Except for afternoon tea I spent the majority of my time underground. However, I did manage to slip out a few times to visit excavation projects in the field. I visited a few sites around Jerusalem including Tell Beth Shemesh, Tell es-Safi (Biblical Gat ?) and Tell Zeitah, all of which are important Iron Age sites. I also had to visit Tell 'Ein

Zippori to redeposit some of the non-diagnostic body sherds (we keep the diagnostic sherds), because pottery is virtually indestructible and not at all biodegradable. I took this opportunity to visit some very interesting sites up north and drive on some of the most beautiful roads in Israel. Around the Kinneret (Sea of Galilee) I visited the prehistoric sites of Ohalo, which has some the earliest remains of fruit found in the Near East (ca. 16,000 BP), and Sha'ar Hagolan, a Neolithic site (ca. 5,500 BCE) famous for its female figurines. I also visited Beth Saidah which has the largest Iron Age gate in the country. In the Jordan Valley I visited Tell Rehov, one of the largest sites in the area which has extremely well preserved mudbrick walls from the 8th century BCE. The day I was there they also established that a massive wall and glacis system dates to the Early Bronze II. This 'te-ule' (or fieldtrip) up north included attending a wedding of a fellow archaeologist at Degania Aleph, the oldest kibbutz in Israel. It was a wonderful celebration and the festivities provided needed relief during a very tense summer.

The only way to stay current with the wealth of material coming in from small, but important, excavations and surveys is to visit colleagues in their labs. While in Jerusalem I spent some time visiting old friends who work in the Israel Antiquities Authority. I had a chance to look at one of the earliest Egyptian serekhs (sherds inscribed with an Egyptian sign which includes a king's name) found in Israel. This particular serekh purportedly includes the name of Qa, a recently rediscovered king, now regarded as the earliest king in Egyptian history. This particular artifact is extremely important for my own research on Egypto-Canaanite relations.

## TEACHING

In the fall semester, in addition to the first part of World History, I taught a course on Biblical Archaeology which I always find especially rewarding. Though I have taught Biblical Archaeology many times I never teach it the same way twice. I begin "Biblical Archaeology" in the Late Bronze Age, roughly 1550 BCE, and end with the destruction of the Solomonic Temple in Jerusalem in 586 BCE. As the field is in a constant state of flux because of all of the new archaeological discoveries in Israel, the course content is always changing. These new discoveries make the class an exciting challenge for both myself and the students. I also always try to incorporate the results of my own fieldwork at Tell 'Ein Zippori into the course. Based on the results of the 2000 season, I had plenty of new material to add (see last year's newsletter). In the spring semester I taught the second part of Jewish Civilization survey which runs from the medieval period through the present. I also offered a new course on the history and archaeology of Mesopotamia, in which I devoted a great deal of attention to the emergence of social complexity in the ancient Near East and the rise of the state. All the courses on the ancient Near East were very well subscribed, and there seems to be a tremendous interest in ancient and Biblical history at the University of Tennessee.

## SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

I continued my service on the Board of Trustees of the Albright Institute of Archaeological Research, in Jerusalem (see above for life at the Albright Institute). I also serve on the Fellowship Committee for the AIAR and at the annual



meetings of the American Schools of Oriental Research we selected a very strong group of international fellows for the upcoming year. I delivered two papers on my work at Tell 'Ein Zippori at the ASOR and Society of Biblical Literature meetings, both of which were held in Nashville. At the ASOR meeting my paper dealt with the significance of public architecture in the Iron Age I, focusing on the large public building found at the site of Tell 'Ein Zippori. At the SBL meeting I gave a more general lecture on the results of the fifth season of excavation at Tell 'Ein Zippori. While in Nashville I found a fabulous kosher-style deli near Vanderbilt University, which I highly recommend, called Noshville. The knishes alone made the trip west worthwhile.

I gave several lectures on campus in a variety of programs. Mark Littmann from the School of Journalism invited me to speak to the University of Tennessee Science Forum where I discussed the most recent results of my work at Tell 'Ein Zippori. I also spoke to the College of Arts and Sciences Board of Visitors on the value of overseas academic programs.

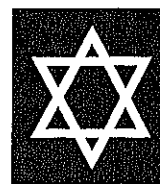
I was also invited to speak at several other universities last year. I lectured at the Michael C. Carlos Museum at Emory University in Atlanta on Egypto-Canaanite relations in the fourth millennium BCE. I participated in a public symposium on Biblical Archaeology sponsored by Florida International University in Miami. There I spoke about the Israelite settlement in Canaan from both the biblical and archaeological perspectives. Even though the symposium was held on "Super Sunday," over four hundred people attended! I also gave a lecture on social organization in the Iron Age I to the Department of Classical and Mediterranean Studies at the Pennsylvania State University in State College.

This was a follow-up to a symposium I had participated in several years ago on ruralism in the ancient Near East. In the fall I took part in a very interesting consultation which dealt with the integration of archaeology into Biblical Studies and was funded by the Wabash Foundation. The first part of this consultation was hosted by Duke University, where I delivered a paper entitled "A Critical Survey of Textbooks Relevant for Understanding the Material Culture of 'Biblical Archaeology.'" A follow-up consultation was held at the University of Oregon in Corvallis where we planned the publication of a volume designed to help instructors of religious studies incorporate archaeology into Biblical studies.

## PUBLIC SERVICE

I served as a founding member of the Knoxville Jewish Film Festival and am happy to report that the first festival was a great success. We screened five movies from around the world and the "The Life and Times of Hank Greenburg" was a smash hit. We also brought in Andy Abrahams Wilson, a native Knoxvillean and the director of the documentary "Bubbeh Lee and Me." I was also invited to give a two-part lecture on the origins of the Israelites at the First Presbyterian Church in Knoxville.

In closing... After two very busy years, my family and I are feeling very settled in Knoxville, which now really feels like home. Once again the support from the University and the Knoxville Jewish community has been outstanding. I am looking forward to another productive and enriching year.



## Jewish Student Center

The Jewish Student Center (Hillel) is located at 2100 Terrace Avenue. The director is Moema Furtado, who can be reached at (865) 546-5226 or by email at [mfurtado@utk.edu](mailto:mfurtado@utk.edu)

On October 27, 28, and 29 the Jewish Student Center organized and held a Jewish film festival that featured several international films on Jewish topics, including "Left Luggage" (Netherlands/Belgium/USA), "Inside Out" (South Africa), "Trembling Before G-d" (Israel/USA), "Louba's Ghots" (France), and "Kippur" (France/Israel).



## Shtetl News

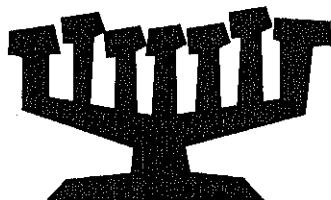
Congratulations to **Sara and Paul Steinfeld** on the adoption of their baby boy Jason. We wish the proud parents and their son all the best for a healthy and happy life.

Mazal tov to **Manny and Fern Steinfeld** who received the Scopus Award and The Guardian of Tomorrow Award from American Friends of The Hebrew University & Hadassah on November 8. Fern and Manny were honored for their unwavering generosity and dedication to the Jewish community.

**Rabbi Shlomo and Annabel Levine** left Knoxville after five years at Heska Amuna Synagogue. Rabbi Levine semi-retired

to Chicago, where he is the rabbi of a small congregation. We wish you all the best for life and work.

We extend a warm welcome to **Rabbi Joseph and Linda Mendelsohn**. Rabbi Mendelsohn is the new spiritual leader at Heska Amuna Synagogue. Linda Mendelsohn teaches at Farragut High School. The Mendelsohns are originally from California. It is our hope that you will enjoy many good years in Tennessee.



*Two special ladies: Donna Edwards and Mary Ann Hagler receive their UT degrees in May 2001.*

## Become a friend of Judaic Studies at UT

The 2001-2002 academic year marks the ninth year of The Fern and Manfred Steinfeld Program in Judaic Studies. Public lectures, in collaboration with other UT departments and the Knoxville Jewish Alliance, 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:

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501 McClung Tower.

you can also find us on the Web:  
<http://web.utk.edu/~judaic>

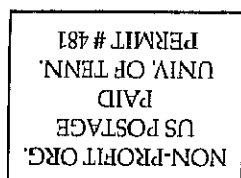
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The NEWSLETTER of the  
**FERN & MANFRED STEINFELD**  
Program in Judaic Studies

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE