

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

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE



## Dear Friends of Judaic Studies,



**A**s I write these greetings, the leaves are turning in East Tennessee. Before we ship off our yearly report with our accomplish-

ments, hopes and wishes to you, our beautiful Smoky Mountains will produce a dazzling display of colors, difficult to match anywhere in the world, only to lose it all overnight, and then we settle in for a long winter of teaching, writing, organizing, and planning.

This, our seventeenth year, has begun with less *Angst* about the economic uncertainty than last year did and next year will. Not that it has gone away, but with the stimulus money well allocated, academia as other industries will experience a two-year hiatus from the worries over budget reallocations. And a welcome hiatus it is, as we would rather forget last year and its challenges. The Department of Religious Studies, home department of the Fern and Manfred Steinfeld Program in Judaic Studies, experienced some serious challenges because of the budget cuts, which were partially overcome and partially put off for two years. The seriousness of the situation for not only our Department of Religious Studies, but that of many such departments throughout the U.S., motivated the American Academy of Religion to shine the spotlight on our concerns with an article for which they

interviewed me. In the meantime, the most productive plan of action is to put our best foot forward and to capitalize on the positives in our program, our department, and our institution.

And many positives there are. First, there is the regular faculty, from English, Art History, German, History, Religious Studies, and the College of Law, who join together as the Advisory Committee to the Judaic Studies program. They continue to garner prestigious national research awards and produce noteworthy scholarship, and hold offices in international professional associations. These colleagues carry the name of the Fern and Manfred Steinfeld Program in Judaic Studies and the University of Tennessee far beyond our region. And then there are the students, ever brighter and more accomplished, who often bite into the sour apple of the Foreign Culture Middle East requirement in their last year or even last semester of their undergraduate studies, only to find that they like it and wish they would have done it sooner. Better to send them out the door having studied the Holocaust or Israel or Women in Judaism than to have missed the opportunity to educate them altogether. And there is even the occasional Judaic Studies major, an interdisciplinary major that seems pretty useless in a world where making a living is prized above all. There is Amy, a double major in Religious Studies and Judaic Studies, who spent last year in Israel. And Richard will graduate and move to Utah where he hopes to put his knowledge of Judaism to good use for the Mormon Church. And Adam, a senior

in Psychology, will return to Israel after a December graduation to do volunteer service in the Israeli military. All three were partially supported in their studies by scholarships from our program. And then there is you, our friends in the community, who have lent a helping hand for two years in a row, matching financial support from the American Israeli Cooperative Enterprise (AICE) and the College of Arts and Sciences for a Schusterman Visiting Israel Professor. Professors Rivka Ribak (2008-09) and Igal Bursztyn (2009-10) have been valuable additions to our teaching resources, and we are much indebted to the gift from AICE towards their salaries and the College's and your matching funds. For the entire time of the program's existence we have struggled to find a way to teach Hebrew, Biblical and Modern, with a live teacher rather than a taped program. This year we finally succeeded, thanks to the generosity of Diane and Guilford Glazer, who provided the funding for a Teaching Fellow in Modern Hebrew for a year-and-a-half, the second year being a challenge grant. An angel came forward in the form of Lea and Allen Orwitz, who have provided the second half of the second year, so that we now have funding for Dr. Marco Di Giulio to teach Hebrew for two years at UT. We have numerous endowed funds for lectures, scholarships, program and research support, that have done well even in this discouraging economy.

Judaic Studies at UT has never been stronger or more promising. We are well positioned to grow the program over the next two years, by building on the momentum we currently have in Israel

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studies, with our Schusterman fellow and Modern Hebrew fellow. Should you wish to endow a position or contribute towards such an endowment, please let me know. Private funding is one way to ensure that dire economic times will not endanger a program that has to rely primarily on state money.

In July I completed seven years as Head of the Department of Religious Studies. I am very happy to have returned

to full-time faculty status, teaching and writing, and look forward to working with colleagues, donors and our development staff to grow Judaic Studies at UTK for the future. We would be honored to have your suggestions and your support. For all information on our faculty, students, and programming, please see our website at <http://web.utk.edu/~judaic/>.

With best wishes for a healthy and happy 5770. May we go from strength to strength.

B'Shalom,

Gilya G. Schmidt, Ph.D.  
Professor of Religious Studies  
Director, The Fern and Manfred Steinfeld Program in Judaic Studies  
Adjunct, German Section, MFLL



Altneuschul in Prague

(Courtesy of Tina Shepardson)



Holocaust Memorial in Berlin

(Courtesy of Tina Shepardson)



Phyllis Driver (left), Gilya Schmidt with Tribute to Women Award, and Phyllis Young Nicols

(Courtesy of YWCA)

### From the Head of Religious Studies



Dear Friends,

This newsletter is material evidence of the wonderful intellectual and cultural contributions being made by the Judaic Studies Program. The program is driven by the energy, vision, and fine organizational skills of its Director, Professor

Gilya Schmidt. The Department of Religious Studies, the UTK campus, the Jewish, as well as the wider Knoxville community, are all enriched by the resident and visiting scholars, and the compelling lectures and events organized under the auspices of the program. Our gratitude goes to both Professor Schmidt and the sponsors, not forgetting the welcome support of our Dean, Professor Bruce Bursten.

Rosalind E. J. Hackett, Ph.D.  
Interim Head, Department of Religious Studies

The Fern and Manfred Steinfeld Program in Judaic Studies offers two scholarships:

- THE FERN AND MANFRED STEINFELD SCHOLARSHIP FUND IN JUDAIC STUDIES
- DR. RUBEN ROBINSON MEMORIAL FUND

Students interested in the criteria should check the Judaic Studies website at <http://web.utk.edu/~judaic>, or contact any of the faculty affiliated with the Judaic Studies Program.

## DR. RUBEN ROBINSON SCHOLARSHIP AND FERN AND MANFRED STEINFELD SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

For the past three years, two scholarships have been in place for majors in Judaic Studies or students who strongly identify with Judaic Studies and Israel. To date, we have awarded 4 scholarships of \$1,000 each. Congratulations to the recipients, Adam Schwartz, Amy Canter, and Richard Adams.



Adam Hershel Schwartz

### ADAM HERSEL SCHWARTZ

Adam Hershel Schwartz is a psychology major at the University of Tennessee and spent fall 2008 at Hebrew University in Jerusalem with some financial support from the Dr. Ruben P. Robinson Judaic Studies Scholarship Fund. Adam reports,

"I had a fabulous time in my semester overseas. I got to know and love an ancient city, Jerusalem, as well as the land of Israel. In the beginning of August 2008 I got on a plane for Hebrew University, one of the world's top 100 universities. I spent 2 months in Ulpan, which is intensive Hebrew language development. My class was a real international experience, as the 10-person class came from 8 different countries. After this 200-hour course, we had a slight break for the High Holidays, during which I went to no less than 5 synagogues and afterwards went to Tiberias and Eilat. After the break school started again, this time for the real semester. I took Hebrew, Talmud, Cognitive Psychology, and my favorite course, Urban Tourism in Israeli Cities. For this last course we studied tourists, with a great focus on Jerusalem and Nazareth, culminating in field trips to these historic cities.

"Some of the main benefits for me were an enhanced link to the country of Israel, a much greater knowledge of Hebrew, and a real growing up experience. I had to navigate a strange city and country with little pre-knowledge. I had to feed myself without a meal plan (the shuk is awesome) and I had to make sure I was making the right choices in my day-to-day decisions. I also grew globally, as I made many non-American friends. My closest friends were from Holland and Finland, so I now know more, and care more about, some of these European countries that I was apathetic to before. I also care more about Israel. Whenever I hear the name on the news, I think about my friends there. My semester

in Israel was well spent, and I am grateful that I was able to go."



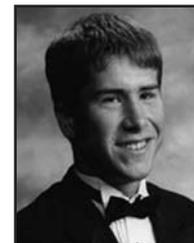
Amy Marlo Canter

### AMY CANTER

Amy Canter, a double major in Religious Studies and Judaic Studies, spent the academic year 2008-09 at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in Beer Sheva, partially supported by a Dr. Ruben Robinson Scholarship. Amy writes, "I had always wanted to study abroad and at the end of my sophomore year at UT I decided to spend the next semester in Israel. The desire to travel and experience life abroad was a large part in choosing to do this, but Israel meant more to me than that, I chose Israel because I have a personal connection to it. I am Jewish but was raised by a completely secular family and never experienced much of anything having to do with my religion or culture. When I was a young child I had no idea I was even a different religion or ethnicity than my peers. I was raised in an almost absolutely Christian town, I had Christian family members as well as Jewish and everything became conflated... doesn't everyone have matzah ball soup for Easter, or light a Hanukkah beside a Christmas tree? This realization hit me pretty hard, I had never even known I was Jewish, I never asked, we never talked about it. From this point on I learned everything about Judaism that I could and longed to be part of this culture and religion I had never known, which in part led me to become a Judaic Studies major. I felt left out for never having been to Hebrew school, for never being given the opportunity to develop a Jewish identity and no matter how much I learned I never truly felt a part of it until I went to Israel. I had imagined I would still feel somewhat out of place and not know as much about Jewish life as the others in my program but there were only a few religious students and most were about on my level or much more secular than myself.

I decided to attend Ben Gurion University of the Negev in Beer Sheva instead of Hebrew University in Jerusalem or Tel Aviv University, which the majority of study abroad students choose, but I still only lived about an hour away from them. I wanted to live in a place that was more Israeli and less Americanized as the other two cities have become. Beer Sheva is Israel's fourth largest city and

is tied to events of biblical times, and its history even predates Abraham, making it one of the oldest cities in the world. It is also a very diverse city with a large Arab and Bedouin population; in fact during my time in the dorms I had two Arab roommates and two Jewish ones. I loved living in a city with so much history and one of my first trips was to another, Jerusalem. I had dreamed about going to Jerusalem basically my whole life, to be where so many important events in history occurred, to be at the site of the Temple and the kingdom of David and Solomon, and to feel that personal connection so many had told me about. First we went on a tour of the city. I saw the ancient preserved market place from around the Roman period along with the new markets littering the streets. Throughout the day I saw most of Jerusalem and loved all of it, but our last spot was something more special than I knew it would be, the Kotel. Seeing the the Temple Mount, standing at its walls, being at a place filled with the hopes and also suffering of so many people, of my people, was one of the most amazing and indescribable feelings I've ever known. As usual the wall had many people around it praying as well as tourists, I made my way through them, touched the Kotel and prayed there. This was only my first trip to Jerusalem; I took many more throughout my time in Israel which soon turned into a year because I just couldn't leave. While I learned more about Judaism in a scholarly sense, when living here I also experienced life as a Jew among other Jews, not only did I meet new friends and have new experiences and see new places, but I finally found my identity within Judaism, as cliché as it may sound.



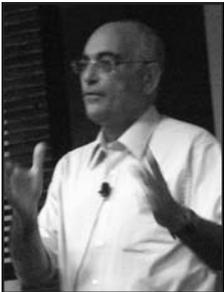
Richard Show Adams

### RICHARD SCHOW ADAMS

Rich Adams is a senior in Judaic Studies with a Spanish minor at the University of Tennessee. He is the 2009-10 Manfred and Fern Steinfeld Scholarship recipient. Rich is 25 years old and lives on Sutherland Avenue with his wife of three years, Natali. He speaks three languages fluently and is working on his fourth, Hebrew. Rich is applying for admission in the Middle-Eastern Studies program at the University of Utah where he plans on an emphasis in the Hebrew language, history and literature. He enjoys swimming, movies and the mountains, although there is not much time for these with his course-load of 21 hours and active service in his church, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

## SCHUSTERMANIA AT UT

### 2009-10 SCHUSTERMAN VISITING ISRAEL PROFESSOR IGAL BURSZTYN, UNIVERSITY OF TEL AVIV



Professor Igal Bursztyn

Professor Igal Bursztyn arrived in Knoxville on August 1. We are delighted to have him among us, as he much enriches our understanding of culture and film in Israel. In the short time that he

has been here, his charming accent and gentle demeanor have endeared him to colleagues and students alike. Following is the press release UT Communications posted on Professor Bursztyn when he arrived.

"Professor Igal Bursztyn is an Israeli filmmaker and an adjunct professor in Tel Aviv University's Faculty of Arts. He will teach and lecture at UT and in Knoxville's Jewish community during the 2009-2010 academic year, forging ties among community constituencies both on and off campus.

"Having directed dozens of full-length motion pictures, short films and documentaries, Bursztyn is known as one of Israel's foremost filmmakers. He has lectured about his films at New York University and at various film festivals in the U.S.A. and Israel as well as in France, Germany, The Netherlands, Spain, Portugal, Hungary, Russia and Taiwan.

"UT Knoxville was one of only 20 American universities chosen to host a visiting professor this year through the program. The American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise – with support of the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation – selects a small number of American universities each year to receive grants to appoint a visitor.

"This was the second year in a row that the program selected UT Knoxville to host a visiting professor from Israel. Last year, Professor Rivka Ribak of the University of Haifa taught classes at UT on communication technologies and cultural identity.

"We are so excited that Professor Bursztyn will be spending the next year with us," said Gilya Schmidt, professor of religious studies and director of the Fern and Manfred Steinfeld Program in Judaic Studies. "His insightful scholarship and fluid artistry in the craft of filmmaking are widely known amongst his colleagues, and Knoxville's Jewish community welcomes

him with open arms," Schmidt said.

"During the 2009-2010 academic year, Bursztyn will teach four courses on Israel, two per semester. They will include 'Israel's Self-Image Through Film' and 'Film Thinking in Israel.'

"Bursztyn's scholarly works on film include 'Face as Battlefield' (1990), 'Film, Language and Civil Wars of Culture' (1996), 'Intimate Gazes' (2009), and 'Documentation, Fiction, and Documentary' (2004), which is recognized by Israeli film scholars as an important contribution to the academic field.

"His films include several documentaries including 'Displaced Persons' (1979), 'Leibovitz in Maalot' (1979), 'Belated Talk' (1987), 'Smokescreen' (1999), and 'Guide for the Perplexed' (2005). His short dramas include 'Louise! Louise!' (1968), 'Ethics V' (1992) and 'Letters to Felice' (1993). His feature films are 'Belfer' (1976), 'Everlasting Joy' (1997), 'The Glow (Zimzum)' (2000), 'Out of the Blue (Etzbah Elohim)' (2008), and he is currently working on 'Return of Casanova.'

"Bursztyn was born in Manchester, England, and has lived in Israel since 1957."

We asked Professor Bursztyn how he liked living in Knoxville. He responded with an – appropriately – humorous reflection.

"Israelis are divided into two kinds of people: Jerusalemites and Tel Avivians. Jerusalemites who live close to God, next to the Government and near the Hebrew University are profound, tense and humorless. Tel-Avivians who live in a distance from God, far from the Government, but near the beach, are shallow, relaxed and easygoing. In Jerusalem they never show more than one good movie in a month. Sometimes in 3 months. Sometimes in a year. That must be because profound, tense and humorless people don't need good movies. While in Tel Aviv you can see at least 3 good movies every week. So whatever the flaws of Tel-Aviv, it is my town! How does Knoxville fit into this picture? In film screenings it's like Jerusalem: in the two months since my arrival they showed here only one good film ('Inglorious Basterds'). Should one conclude that its inhabitants are profound, serious and humorless? I doubt it. When a passerby in the street asks me 'How ya doin?' with a big smile though we never met before, I feel challenged to answer —

but when I find the proper reply, he/she's already gone. Still I am grateful for the smile and the interest. In Jerusalem people never smile at me in the streets (possibly for fear they might get fined by the magistrate for public offence) and in Tel-Aviv if they do – it is only those who don't know me. They are not many – in Tel Aviv almost everybody knows almost everybody else.

But is Knoxville really a town? To me a town is a place with pavements where you can get on foot to your grocer, greengrocer and dentist. I still need to figure out whether Knoxville is a lovely wood with houses planted between the bushes, a park for jogging, a set for a Western (as indicated by the one street of the Old Town) or a parking lot in nature for Tennessee football fans on Saturday? Whatever it is – it's a lovely place with cheerful, smiling people who ask questions without expecting answers. So who needs labels?!"

We would like to thank all those who made Professor Bursztyn's year in Knoxville financially possible as well as the faculty in the Department of Religious Studies at UT for supporting the appointment. Sponsors include the American Israeli Cooperative Enterprise (AICE) and the College of Arts and Sciences, Dean Bruce E. Bursten, at UT.

Community sponsors include

- Barry and Heidi Allen
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- Knoxville Jewish Alliance
- Larry and Kay Leibowitz
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- Steve and Evelyn Oberman
- Allen and Lea Orwitz
- Alexandra Rosen
- Stephen and Kim Rosen
- Gilya Schmidt
- Alan Solomon and Andrea Cartwright
- Mel Sturm
- Temple Beth El
- Barry and Annette Winston

On August 28, 2009 Judaic Studies thanked donors, faculty, and administrators with a reception at the home of Herb and Elise Jacobs. We are very grateful to the Jacobs for hosting us and to Marilyn Burnett for delicious and elegant hors d'oeuvres.



Herb Jacobs and Professor Igal Bursztyn

On October 1, Professor Bursztyn gave a university lecture on "Film and Zionism: Cinema in Jewish Cultural Renewal from 1896 to 2009," with a reception following. The lecture was co-sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences, Departments of Religious Studies and History, Rebecca Solomon and Ida Schwartz Distinguished Lecture Fund, Knoxville Jewish Alliance, and the Jewish Community of Knoxville. We are also grateful to the College of Law for the excellent venue.



Dean Bruce Bursten and Bernard Bernstein



Left to right: Moshe Siman Tov, Igal Bursztyn, Heather Hirschfeld, Tina Shepardson, Susan Contente

College of Arts and Sciences, Departments of Religious Studies and History, Rebecca Solomon and Ida Schwartz Distinguished Lecture Fund, Knoxville Jewish Alliance, and the Jewish Community of Knoxville. A reception followed.



Annette Winston and Dr. Rivka Ribak

We asked Dr. Ribak to send a few words about their year in Knoxville. Here is what she wrote,

"From my office on Mt. Carmel at the University of Haifa, the Smoky Mountains seem far away. Yet the beginning of the school year in Israel is a good time to reflect upon the year I spent in the Department of Religious Studies and the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

"As a Schusterman visiting scholar I taught four classes on Israeli media and culture, meeting over 100 students whose e-mail messages keep coming to my Haifa mailbox. The students I met were interested, open-minded people, eager to learn about other cultures and – no less important – warm and welcoming. From them, I learned about America – as much as I hope they learned about Israel.

"I am also grateful for the numerous opportunities I had to present my research in academic conferences and meetings as well as to the broader community of Knoxville. My research has been enriched by the wide variety of responses and questions I received.

"The highlight of our year in Knoxville was our daughter Tamar's Bat Mitzvah, which we celebrated at Heska Amuna Synagogue. Tamar's determination to chant her Torah portion was met by the community's support and good will, and culminated in an event that gave us much joy and pride.

"I would like to use this opportunity to thank all of those who allowed this year to happen: The Schusterman foundation, the donors and Knoxville Jewish community at large, the faculty members and staff in the department of Religious Studies, and last but certainly not least – Professor Gilya Schmidt, who welcomed us to Knoxville with open arms – helping us with both academic and mundane details. Thank you!

"Warm regards to one and all, and much success to Igal Bursztyn, the current Schusterman visiting scholar."

**2008-09 VISITING ISRAEL PROFESSOR RIVKA RIBAK,  
UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA**



Dr. Rivka Ribak

Last year we were equally fortunate to have another visiting professor from Israel with us. Dr. Rivka Ribak, Senior Lecturer at Haifa University, and her husband Yair, and daughters Shira,

Tamar, and Michal joined us in August of 2008. After checking out the house and car they had reserved via the Internet, they tackled the challenge of finding the right kinds of schools for the girls. This, too, was resolved to everyone's satisfaction, and the Ribak-Gil family settled in for a year full of interesting experiences and travel. We very much enjoyed having Rivka and family with us and would like to thank them for enriching our lives with their presence. Both they and we made new friends and Tamar even celebrated her Bat Mitzvah with us.

Todah, todah! We miss you and hope that your year in Knoxville was a year well spent! For further background information on Dr. Ribak, please see the JS website at <http://web.utk.edu/~judaic/>.

On September 11, the Knoxville Jewish Alliance, in their effort to foster Jewish faculty awareness, hosted a reception for Dr. Ribak at the Arnstein Jewish Community Center which was very well attended. Dr. Ribak made a presentation about her research to those present.



Moshe and Ilana Siman Tov

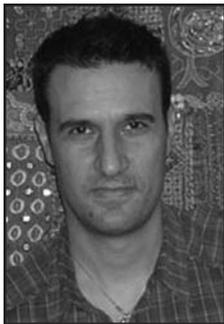
On October 27, 2008 the Fern and Manfred Steinfeld Program in Judaic Studies sponsored a reception to thank the donors who had made Dr. Ribak's visiting professorship possible. We would very much like to thank Moshe and Ilana Siman Tov for hosting us and Marilyn Burnett for spoiling us with her culinary treasures. Unfortunately the Ribaks missed the event because of car problems in Washington, D.C.



Dr. Rivka Ribak giving lecture

On November 6, the Department of Religious Studies and the Judaic Studies Program invited Dr. Ribak to give an academic inaugural lecture at the College of Law. Dr. Ribak spoke on "People of the Book: Resistances to the Media in Israel." The event was cosponsored by the

**DIANE AND GUILFORD GLAZER  
TEACHING FELLOW IN MODERN HEBREW  
DR. MARCO DI GIULIO**



Dr. Marco Di Giulio

After years of pleading that a Judaic Studies Program needed a strong foundation in the Hebrew language, we were finally able to bring some quality instruction to the University of Tennessee through the generosity

of long-time donors Diane and Guilford Glazer. The Glazers generously provided funding for a Teaching Fellow for a year-and-a-half. The funds for the second year were a challenge to the community to provide the additional amount needed. Fortunately for the program, friends of Judaic Studies, Allen and Lea Orwitz, who have family ties to Knoxville, have agreed to provide the additional funding for the second year. We are very grateful to the Glazers as well as the Orwitzes for their generosity and for setting an example of giving to a worthy cause.

We would also like to thank our colleagues in the Department of Religious Studies for supporting this position. After what turned out to be an international search, Dr. Marco Di Giulio, a young scholar from Florence, Italy, was chosen as the 2009-10 Diane and Guilford Glazer Teaching Fellow in Modern Hebrew. Dr. Di Giulio writes,

"I received my Ph. D. from the University of Florence in 2006, and attended graduate courses at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. I was an Adjunct Professor at the University of Florence and University of Perugia (Italy), and authored articles on ancient and modern Hebrew.

"My scholarly interests range from the linguistics of ancient and modern Hebrew to Israeli literature. My doctoral dissertation – which is currently under consideration for publication by Eisenbrauns – dealt with discourse markers in Biblical Hebrew in a pragmatic perspective, and explored the correlation between functional markers and types of speech acts. In the mean time, I have been pursuing my interest in Modern Hebrew linguistics devoting much attention to the syntactic component of the language. My ongoing research focuses on the ellipsis of structural elements of the sentence within a generative framework.

"While my research concentrates on Hebrew linguistics, my teaching experience has been broad and diverse, ranging from the ancient biblical period to the contemporary period, and covering a variety of topics, from history of Jewish religion and literature, to Modern Hebrew language and literature. I have also taught a variety of classes that reflect more closely on the influence of the Bible on literature and art.

"Teaching Modern Hebrew at UT is a great challenge for me. My Elementary Modern Hebrew class counts eighteen students, and most of them have an interest in Jewish and Israeli culture. We started by learning very simple dialogues, and later on approached the alphabet, reading and writing. After three months, they can have a basic conversation and write and read simple texts. The Intermediate Modern Hebrew class counts seven students with different study backgrounds and levels of proficiency. They have good comprehension skills, and can express themselves in fairly fluent Hebrew. My aim is to bring them all to the same level, and enhance both their knowledge of the Hebrew grammar and confidence in verbal communication.

"As for upcoming plans, I will participate in the National Middle East Language Resource Center Seminar for College and K-12 Teachers of Hebrew on October 31-Nov 1, 2009, hosted by the University of Arizona at Tucson and chaired by Shmuel Bolozky.

"I currently live in Knoxville with my wife Maya and two children, Galy and Noam. We have all found a warm and welcoming community, and hope that our stay in Knoxville will continue to be enjoyable and fruitful."

## HEBREW TABLE

With Dr. Marco Di Giulio

Tuesdays, 11AM-12Noon  
Starbucks in Hodges Library.

The meeting is open to the public. If you are interested in practicing your spoken Hebrew, please come!

## JUDAIC STUDIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Judaic Studies Advisory Committee is interdisciplinary in nature, and makes recommendations on academic matters such as curriculum and visiting speakers to the director. Faculty who teach cross-listed Judaic Studies courses are wholly paid by the participating departments which include History, English, Art, Modern Foreign Languages, Philosophy, Religious Studies and the College of Law. Our thanks to these departments and the College of Law for sharing their faculty with Judaic Studies and to the participating faculty for their interest and commitment to quality education in Judaic Studies.

### ● Robert Blitt

In addition to gladly taking up his responsibilities as a new member



Professor Robert Blitt

of UT's Judaic Studies Advisory Committee, Professor Robert Blitt of the College of Law enjoyed a busy year on a number of other fronts. On scholarship, Professor Blitt's articles on legal developments

in Russia related to NGO regulation and the breakdown in separation of church and state appeared in *The George Washington International Law Journal* and *Brigham Young University Law Review* respectively. Prof. Blitt also spoke at a number of international conferences, including Bar Ilan University in Israel, during a conference marking the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and in Australia, at an international symposium organized by Adelaide University addressing cultural and religious freedom under bills of rights. In 2008, the American Association of Law Schools' Section on International Human Rights Law appointed Robert to its executive committee, and in 2009, UT's new Center for the Study of Social Justice appointed Robert to serve on its Board of Directors.

### ● Palmira Brummett

Professor Brummett was awarded an American Council of Learned Societies fellowship for the 2009-2010 year for

her project on *The Ottoman Adriatic, 1500-1700*. She is in residence at Brown University for the year as a Visiting Scholar. Brummett's edited volume, *The 'Book' of Travels: Genre, Ethnology and Pilgrimage, 1250-1700*, Studies in Medieval and Reformation Traditions, no. 140, appeared this year from Brill including her article, entitled, "Genre, Witness, and Time in the 'Book' of Travels." Other recent publications include: "'Turks' and 'Christians': The Iconography of Possession in the Depiction of the Ottoman-Venetian-Hapsburg Frontiers, 1550-1689," 110-139, in Matthew Dimmock and Andrew Hadfield, eds., *The Religions of the Book: Christian Perceptions 1400-1660* (Houndmills: Palgrave Macmillan), 2008; and "The Fortress: Defining and Mapping the Ottoman Frontier in the 16th-17th Centuries," 31-55, in Andrew Peacock, ed., *Frontiers of the Ottoman World*, volume of Proceedings of the British Academy (Oxford: Oxford University Press), 2009.

● **Nancy Henry**

Last fall Dr. Henry joined the UT English Department as Professor of Victorian literature. Previously, she taught at the State University of New York at Binghamton. Her book, *The Cambridge Introduction to George Eliot*, was published in 2008, and her co-edited collection,



Professor Nancy Henry

*Victorian Investments: New Perspectives on Finance and Culture*, appeared in 2009. The volume contains her essay, "'Rushing into Eternity': Suicide and Finance in Victorian Fiction." Her recent conference presentations include: "Secrets, Lies and Marriage in George Eliot's *Life and Writing*" (Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies Association, Saratoga Springs, NY, April 2009); "Fictions of Business Life" (North American Victorian Studies Association, New Haven, CT, November 2008); and "'Ruffian Geniuses' in George Eliot's *Romola*" (Victorians Institute Conference, Columbia, SC, October 2008). She is currently working on a critical biography of George Eliot as well as a book on nineteenth-century women and finance. At UT, she has been teaching courses in the history of the nineteenth-century novel. She has also started a nineteenth-century British Reading Group, which has been funded by the Humanities Initiative as a Research Seminar. The

group welcomes new members interested in any and all aspects of nineteenth-century British literature and culture.

● **Heather Hirschfeld**

Professor Hirschfeld was thrilled to receive an NEH Fellowship for the 2009-2010 academic year to pursue her book project, "Tragedies of Satisfaction: Drama and Repentance in the Age of Shakespeare." She will be working in Knoxville as well as traveling to libraries in Washington, D.C. and London. One of the chapters will focus specifically on Shakespeare's *Merchant of Venice* and Marlowe's *Jew of Malta*.

Heather also published several articles in 2008 and 2009: a piece on *Dr. Faustus* in *Shakespeare Studies*; an essay for a *Blackwell Companion to Tudor Drama* on *The Spanish Tragedy*, and a discussion of early modern dramatic authorship for *The Oxford Handbook of Early Modern Theatre*. She is especially pleased to have a brief essay on *King Lear* forthcoming in the Winter 2009 volume of *Notes and Queries*.

● **Marilyn Kallet**

Happily, Dr. Kallet was on a John C. Hodges teaching leave in spring, 2009, and began writing new poems right away. She had the good fortune to have a writing residency in February at The Porches, an artist colony in Norwood, Virginia, and a week of writing in New Harmony, Indiana, in March. In May, she returned to beloved Auvillar, in Southwest France, for a three week writing residency. Her daughter joined her for a week in Barcelona, where they visited the oldest synagogue in Europe, with stones dating back to 200 AD. Poets from around the United States came to join her in Auvillar for a writing workshop in mid-June. The workshop was sponsored by the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts. She offered a public performance of poems in French for the villagers on August 12th. Dr. Kallet will be teaching another poetry workshop in Auvillar this May (May 17-24), and hopes that more UT faculty, students, and alums will be able to join her. This time they will have afternoon demonstrations on French cooking, and on photography as well.

During the Auvillar residency, Dr. Kallet continued her Holocaust research, and discovered that 400 fleeing German Jews—mostly young—were rescued by the Jewish underground in the Auvillar/Moissac area. She is sharing with us a poem about that research, entitled "Few Talk."

In late July, Professor Kallet traveled to the Big Island of Hawai'i for a two-week writing residency at Red Cinder Creativity

**FEW TALK**

by Marilyn Kallet

(*Mémoires et Espoirs de la Résistance*, [www.memoresist.org](http://www.memoresist.org))

Few here talk  
about the 400 young Jews saved.

1943, nine-year-old Jean Raphael Hirsch,  
alias "Nano," pedaled his bike

from Auvillar to Moissac,  
his satchel packed with "bifteck."

Beefsteak, they called the false  
papers and passports. Nano

was not home, October 18, 1943,  
when the Germans seized his parents.

Auschwitz. His mother, 37, was gassed.  
After the war, his father testified against  
Mengele.

Jean Raphael was hidden in the convent  
of Auvillar, and then by Dr. Daniel,

who cared for the wounded.  
That's why Nano became a doctor, he  
testified.

Today in Auvillar, no one speaks of these  
heroes.  
"Oh, everyone claims to have been in the  
Resistance!"

one villager scoffs. "Those who collaborated  
might get their feelings hurt," another says.

Jean Raphael remembered that local farmers  
hid the fleeing German Jews.

All four hundred escaped,  
he swore.

So every villager must have been complicit,  
for a moment, one of the Just.

Center. She lived in a mansion built by a drug dealer, who is currently "a guest of the state." She had the time of her life, and crafted poems that will be part of a new chapbook, "Flamboyans."

Publications: Three of the new poems from her teaching leave have just appeared in the Fall issue of *Prairie Schooner*. One of the poems from Norwood, about slave



Red Cinder Creativity Center, Big Island, Hawaii

graves and American racism appears right now at *Contrary*, an online literary magazine out of the University of Chicago.



Professors Robert Heller and Marilyn Kallet at Jewish Book Month event 2008

Dr. Kallet's new collection of poems, *Packing Light: New and Selected Poems*, Black Widow Press, 2009, has been nominated by the press for the Pulitzer, the National Book Award, the Kingsley Tufts Poetry Prize, and the William Carlos Williams Prize from the Poetry Society of America.

#### ● Vejas Liulevicius

Dr. Vejas Gabriel Liulevicius (History) was awarded a Lindsay Young Professorship for 2009-10 in the College of Arts and Sciences and is president-elect of the Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies. His second book, "The German Myth of the East: 1800 to the Present", was published by Oxford University Press in August 2009. This is a study of the way in which Germans have viewed the lands and peoples of Eastern Europe over the last two centuries and up to the present day. Their perceptions have been a complex mixture of attraction and repulsion, fascinations and fears, covering a spectrum from Romantic sympathies to the racial hatreds espoused by the Nazis. This book argues that this crucial international relationship has been vital to how Germans have defined their own national identity and position in the world. For more information, see: <http://www.oup.com/uk/catalogue/?ci=9780199546312>.

#### ● Daniel H. Magilow

Daniel Magilow's book *In Her Father's Eyes: A Childhood Extinguished by the Holocaust* appeared in November 2008 through Rutgers University Press and he has spent significant time this past year promoting it through his work on a companion exhibition. After it opened at the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Washington D.C. in the summer of 2008, the eight-panel exhibition "In Her Father's



Kitty Weichherz Exhibition

Eyes: A Slovak Childhood in the Shadow of the Holocaust" travelled to Knoxville and appeared in Hodges Library during the Fall 2008 semester. In 2009, it moved to West Hartford, Connecticut, where it was on display in August and September at the Greater Hartford Jewish Community Center and the University of Hartford. In October 2009, the exhibition traveled to Youngstown State University in Youngstown, Ohio, and Dr. Magilow introduced it with a lecture scheduled for the anniversary of Kristallnacht on November 9. On April 4, 2009, a leading Slovak newspaper, *Pravda*, featured a two-page spread about Dr. Magilow's work on this project titled "Vojnová senzácia: Slovensko má svoju Annu Frankovú" ("A Wartime Sensation: Slovakia has its own Anne Frank")



Slovak Newspaper *Pravda* Features Dr. Magilow's Work

Dr. Magilow has also continued to write and publish articles in the areas of Holocaust and Genocide Studies as well as on Jewish culture in interwar Germany. He contributed the essay "Children's Photos: Early Photos of Saddam Hussein and Adolf Hitler" to the collection *Evoking Genocide: Scholars and Activists Describe the Works that Shaped Their Lives*. The essay concerns the strange sensation one experiences upon viewing images of genocide's perpetrators when they were still children. His forthcoming article for the *New History of German Cinema* examines a 1927 film, now long-forgotten, called *Familientag im Hause Prellstein* ["Family Day at the Prellstein's"]. The essay examines how, amidst the rising antisemitism of late 1920s Germany, Jewish and gentile viewers and critics

alike debated this film's Jewish stereotypes and the still-relevant question: does being Jewish make it okay to tell Jewish jokes? Another article concerns the emergence and flowering of a curious new genre of book in Germany: deluxe, photographically illustrated volumes about small town Jewish cemeteries. This essay grew out of a 2008 summer seminar on Holocaust Memory at Cornell University, sponsored by the German Academic Exchange Service, in which Dr. Magilow participated. He also lectured on the subject at the 2008 Association for Jewish Studies Annual Convention in Washington, D.C.

Alongside his research, Dr. Magilow continues to teach the Judaic Studies 350 course (cross-listed with German 350) German-Jewish Topics in Literature and Culture. In Spring 2009, the topic for the course was "The Afterlife of the Holocaust." Through examinations of contemporary fiction, non-fiction, film, art, architecture, and memorials, students learned about the many rules, spoken or otherwise, that have conditioned what one can and cannot say about the Holocaust in contemporary culture.

#### ● Amy Neff

A highlight of the past year was a conference in Prague, where Professor Neff presented a paper at an international conference in which scholars presented research on the purposes and manufacture of manuscript miscellanies, books in which a number of apparently unrelated texts are bound together. The conference was very interesting, but best of all was visiting Prague, where she was able to leaf through the pages of several wonderful medieval manuscripts, including the prayer-book of Bohemia's fourteenth-century Queen Kunigunde. Another outstanding monument was the oldest functioning synagogue in Europe, the "Old-New Synagogue." This small 13<sup>th</sup>-century synagogue was built in a Gothic style that alters the structural system of vaulting found in contemporary churches, as if the architects were clearly saying, "This is not a church."

Honors last year were her selection as an alternate for membership at the Institute for Advanced Studies, Princeton, and a Lindsay Young Professorship at UTK. Professor Neff was also invited to present a lecture at Princeton University, for a symposium titled *Gothic: Art & Thought in the Middle Ages*. Her paper, "Compassion, Instruction, and Prayer: The Franciscan Wedding at Cana," will be published next year.

● **Charles H. Reynolds**

Charles Reynolds received his BA from Birmingham Southern College in 1961, his BD from Southern Methodist University in 1964, and his PhD in religious ethics from Harvard in 1968. He spent the 1968-69 academic year on a Harvard Travel Fellowship studying with H. E. Toedt at Heidelberg and with R.M. Hare at Oxford. Reynolds joined the Department of Religious Studies as an Assistant Professor in 1969, became Associate Professor in 1974, Professor in 1979, and Department Head from 1980-2000. In 1969 Dean Nielsen named Reynolds chair of the first Black Studies Committee charged with developing a minor and major in what is now Africana Studies, and in chairing a special committee to search for and appoint a Director for this program. In 1973 Reynolds was the founding editor of *The Journal of Religious Ethics*, now the preeminent international journal for this field of study. Reynolds co-chaired a Campus Institutional Review Task Force with Vice President John Prados from 1984-86 that restructured the Graduate School Administration and established the Office of the Provost. Reynolds worked with President Joe Johnson and leaders of the local Jewish Community in a successful fund raising effort that started in the mid-eighties and later enabled the department to hire Dr. Gilya Schmidt to begin developing Jewish Studies at UT in 1993. He has published articles in *The Journal of Religion*, *The Harvard Theological Review*, and *The Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, and a book with The University of California Berkeley Press. Reynolds was a visiting professor at The University of Bonn in 1991-92. He was UT Macebearer in 1993-94. In 1979 Reynolds arranged for UT to become the sponsor of the interdisciplinary journal, *Soundings*. Reynolds organized several major symposia at UT that were published in *Soundings*, including *The Challenges of Religious Pluralism in America* (1978), on Robert Bellah's *Habits of the Heart* (1985), on Martha Nussbaum's *The Fragility of Goodness* (1989), and on Jeffrey Stout's *Democracy and Tradition in America* (2004).

Last November 4, 2008, Professor Charles H. Reynolds celebrated his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. For last year's newsletter, Charlie wrote his final contribution, as he retired from the university in the spring of 2009. As director of the program, former department head of Religious Studies, and colleague and friend, it is my honor, this year, to recognize Charlie for everything he has done for the University of Tennessee, for the College of Arts and Sciences,



Professor Charles Reynolds' 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday

but above all for the Department of Religious Studies at UT. Charlie chaired the department for 21 years, something of a record. From the very beginning of his tenure as Head,

he and then Dean Larry Ratner explored the possibility of hiring someone to teach Judaism which was only taught in relation to Christianity by Professor Lee Humphreys and tangentially by Professor David Dungan, but not for its own merit. Tireless effort by Professor Reynolds, with the faculty, the administration, and the community led to brainstorming sessions to which the organizers invited scholars from other institutions, such as Kalman Bland from Duke, to learn what was required to bring a scholar of Judaism to UT. Fortunate for me, two of the major donors for Judaic Studies, Guilford Glazer and Manny Steinfeld, decided to support an endowment, as did many members of the Jewish community. Once that endowment was in place, and after a real scare when Charlie suffered a heart attack during the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion in 1992, the department embarked on a search for a scholar who would be suitable for this position at the University of Tennessee. Again fortunate for me, I was chosen over other worthy candidates. I have often told Charlie that I owe him everything professionally, and I really mean that. Without Charlie's perseverance, Dean Ratner's support, and the faculty's agreement, this endowment might not have come to be and I would not have been able to come to Knoxville. I am happy that it worked out the way it did. Charlie now enjoys reading, relaxing, spending more time with his children and grandchildren, and an occasional

(Courtesy of Charlie Reynolds)



Charlie with son Glenn and granddaughter Julia Reynolds



Department of Religious Studies faculty and staff



Anne McKinney sings Charlie's praises



Gilya Schmidt, Jim Fitzgerald, Palmira Brummett, and Ralph Norman



Charles Reynolds and Bernard Bernstein

lunch with the old timers. I, as a direct beneficiary of Charlie's hard work, and all of us connected with Judaic Studies, will be forever grateful to Charlie for his vision and for his toughness in pursuing it for the benefit of the larger community. Enjoy many years of good health and spirits, Charlie. You have earned it!

● **Christine (Tina) Shepardson**

The past twelve months have been very rewarding for Dr. Shepardson, since she has just received tenure and also a national research fellowship; they have also, though, been touched with sadness with the departure of some of her closest colleagues, including Judaic Studies colleague Johanna Stiebert. It has been a year of many changes on campus, and Professor Shepardson would like to acknowledge Gilya Schmidt's significant contributions as the Head of Religious Studies for the past seven years, a position that she relinquished this August. Faculty in the Department have been grateful for the extraordinary amount of time and energy that she gave to that position.

Although Dr. Shepardson loves teaching, she is currently enjoying a very productive year of research leave, thanks to an ACLS Fellowship (American Council of Learned Societies). Her goal this year is to finish the manuscript for her second book, tentatively titled *Controlling Contested Places: Fourth-Century Antioch and the Spatial Politics of Religious Controversy*. One significant element of this book is a chapter that focuses on the hostile rhetoric that the fourth-century Christian leader John Chrysostom preached against those in his community who would inappropriately, in his view, attend the local synagogue and participate in Jewish holiday celebrations and fasts. In 2009 Dr. Shepardson presented papers on this material in New York, Washington, D.C., and Chicago, and will present another paper in New Orleans in November. She feels honored also to have been invited to participate in an international project on the study of the fourth-century city of Antioch, with the opportunity to present her research to the world's leading scholars in the field in Paris this January. With luck she will find funding for a final research trip to southern Turkey and northern Syria this spring so that she will be able to complete the book manuscript.

Dr. Shepardson has continued to publish shorter projects in the past year, including two book reviews and her most recent article, "Rewriting Julian's Legacy: John Chrysostom's *On Babylas* and Libanius's *Oration 24*," *Journal of Late Antiquity* 2.1 (2009): 99-115. Her article "Burying Babylas: Meletius and the Christianization of Antioch" is forthcoming in 2010, and a brief encyclopedia article is also forthcoming on Aphrahat, a fourth-century Christian who lived in Persia and had interesting connections with Mesopotamian

Judaism. Another article that examines Mesopotamian Judaism and Christianity in Late Antiquity, "Interpreting the Ninevites' Repentance: Jewish and Christian Exegetes in Late Antique Mesopotamia," is currently under review.

Because she is on research leave, Dr. Shepardson has dramatically cut back on her service activities during the year, although she is happy to say that the faculty research seminar that she runs, "The Mediterranean World in Late Antiquity," is still active and continuing to foster local scholarship on Late Antiquity. She is pleased to report, in fact, that the core faculty's research has been going so well that most of the participants received research grants for this year. The seminar is smaller as a result, but still going strong, thanks in part to the participation of several new lecturers, graduate students, and the Marco Institute's post-doctoral fellow. Thanks to funding from the Humanities Initiative, the Marco Institute, and UT's Office of Research, this past April she expanded this seminar by hosting a successful Southeast Regional Workshop on "Roman Religion and Culture in Late Antiquity." She also remains involved with the Marco Institute, and with UT's Commission for LGBT People, which is hosting a film series about religion this semester.



(Courtesy of Tina Shepardson)

Professor Tina Shepardson in Berlin

Dr. Shepardson continues to enjoy hiking in the Smokies, and was able to spend ten days canoeing in northern Maine last spring. In June she visited Prague and Berlin for the first time and was overwhelmed by the long history that was still so visible in both cities. She visited the medieval Old-New Synagogue in Prague that claims to be Europe's oldest active synagogue, and many of the sites related to Jewish history in Berlin, including the Holocaust Memorial, the site of an old Jewish cemetery that has a memorial for Moses Mendelssohn, and the Jewish Museum, all of which she found

both educational and very moving. She looks forward to being able to share some of the stories, photographs, and history with her students when she returns to teaching next year.

● **Johanna Stiebert**

Professor Stiebert spent the fall of 2008 as Director of the Wales Semester in Swansea, South Wales, teaching a course on Judaism in America in the American Studies Programme. She returned in the spring to teach a course at the University of Tennessee on biblical literature and offered a summer school course on ancient Hebrew traditions. She had one article ("The African Holocaust: What's in a Name?") accepted by the South African journal *Missionalia* and is co-writing another one (a response to 'The Peoples' Bible') for consideration by *Biblical Interpretation*. She is also continuing her research on a monograph on the father-daughter relationship in the Hebrew Bible and is happy to know that she will have a writing-semester in fall of 2010 to complete this major project. In fall of 2009 Johanna Stiebert took one year's leave of absence to explore a lectureship offered her at the University of Leeds in England. So far this has proven a marvellous opportunity professionally, as well as a pleasant place to live and explore. The University has a Jewish Studies Centre, impressive library and the third largest Jewish community in England. Whatever transpires, she will maintain her connections with the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Tennessee where she spent six and a half happy and productive years.



Professor Johanna Stiebert and daughter Aphra

## J.P. DESSEL ACTIVITIES

### MANFRED AND FERN STEINFELD PROFESSOR OF ANCIENT JEWISH HISTORY

I returned to Tell Tayinat this summer with great anticipation. I was able to fly directly to the Hatay this year as there is a new airport, soon to be an international airport, located outside the city of Antakya. This new airport is a welcome addition as it cuts about four hours off the trip from Istanbul. We used the same dig-camp as last year in a state-run boys boarding school in the border town of Reyhanli. Because of our familiarity with the campus we were able to quickly settle in and get started. We had most of the same staff return with the exception of Kim Harrison from the Department of History – we all missed Kim and hopefully she will be back next summer. We started much later in the summer than usual (the end of June) and I was worried about the heat, but thankfully the weather was pleasant all summer. Of course there was one day when it topped out at about 114°F, and we began to slump worse than the 5000 year old mudbrick we were excavating.

There is an old saying in archaeology, “You find what you look for.” This usually refers to not the actual finds themselves, but rather how you interpret those finds, because really you never know what you are going to find. So for instance, the excavators of the huge Canaanite and Israelite city of Hazor in northern Israel have been searching for the city archives for over 15 years, always seemingly close but never finding the elusive tablets. The excavations of Kabri also located in northern Israel never expected to find Aegean style wall paintings in a Middle Bronze Age palace but that is precisely what they found. At Tell Tayinat, where I have been working for the last several years, we eagerly tromped out to the site every morning at 4:30 because, although we never knew what would turn up, we knew the site held tremendous potential. Last year we got an inkling of that potential when we found a very well preserved Iron Age II temple.



Professor J.P. Dessel sitting on the steps to the cella of the Tayinat Temple

This past summer the excavation in Field 1 focused on the Early Bronze Age IV (roughly 2300 BCE). We have been

excavating here for the better part of the four seasons and this year we reached clean Early Bronze IV levels. A large mudbrick building filled with whole and restorable pottery was excavated. In addition to lots of drinking cups and small bowls we also found internal piers or buttresses that may indicate it was a temple – if so this would be of tremendous importance for Early Bronze Age studies.



View of the Tayinat Temple (cella with raised platform in the foreground, entrance to temple to far left)

Last season in Field 5 the better part of a large building complex was unearthed (see the 2008 newsletter). The only missing part of the building was its southern wall and southeastern corner. We thought this would be a pretty easy goal to achieve but we were very wrong. The southern side of the building was not at all well preserved. After tracing innumerable mudbrick wall possibilities for the better part of four weeks we settled on a wall stub that seemed a likely but not certain candidate; in this case an example of NOT finding what we were looking for. We also continued to excavate within the actual building itself and found two *bullae* and two scarabs. A *bulla* is a small lump of clay that was used to seal things like doors, jars or bags to ensure their security. Once the door, jar or bag was closed, a string would be laced through the closure and a small lump of clay or *bulla* would encase the ends of the string. That lump of clay would then be impressed with a stamp seal or scarab of an official to indicate its certified closure. These are exciting finds as they support our interpretation of the Field 5 building as administrative in nature.

We also began to excavate a step trench down the eastern slope of the tell in order to isolate and identify elements from earlier strata (architectural levels) that might be sticking out on the edges of the site. We excavated a very narrow, three meters wide, and very deep trench, over two meters down, that gave us a good look at some of the complex and monumental mudbrick walls that were used to consolidate and possibly protect the eastern side of the Iron Age II city. Although only partially

excavated, these walls give every indication that they are monumental in scale – up to five meters in width with cross walls of 13 meters in length. Unlike the southern wall of the building complex, these mudbricks were extremely well preserved and gorgeous (did I really just call a mudbrick wall gorgeous?).

In Field 2 we completed the excavation of the small temple we found last season. This is the second Iron Age II (roughly 9<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> c. BCE) found at the site, located close to the first one found by the University of Chicago's Oriental Institute in the 1930s. We found the eastern and northern walls of the temple and then excavated its interior as well as the stone pavement to the south and north. A large limestone basin was found in the courtyard, but unfortunately it was empty. Although its function is enigmatic these kinds of things are frequently found in temple and palace courtyards. Inside the temple itself we excavated the back room or *cella* (aka “holy of holies”). The *cella* was reached by a short set of steps across which lay a burned beam. The steps led to a raised platform comprised of fired mudbrick tiles. Sitting on the mudbrick platform (*bima*?) were local and Assyrian style pottery, a stone pyxis, metal fittings (perhaps used to hold a curtain in place), a cylinder seal blank made from lapis lazuli, and a complete cuneiform tablet.

This last artifact is an example of finding something you hope to find but were not necessarily looking for. This was not the only tablet found, fragments of at least eight other tablets were also excavated within the temple.



Neo-Assyrian Tablet in situ in the cella of the Tayinat Temple

The tablets are made from clay and then incised with cuneiform characters in a language called Akkadian. These texts are from a period of time when the Neo-Assyrian Empire dominated the entire Near East (think the Assyrian conquest of the northern state of Israel and the deportation of Israelites who will become known as the “Ten Lost Tribes”). The tablets are probably from the Assyrian conquest of Tayinat,

ancient Patina/Unqi. The first tablet we found was fragmentary, relatively small, roughly 20 x 20 cm., and had grid lines on it. We immediately photographed it and sent the images to our epigrapher, Professor Jake Louenger at Cambridge University. He roughly identified it as a mathematical and possibly calendrical tablet. All in all we found parts of nine tablets, but the most interesting one was the abovementioned complete tablet found in the back room or *cella* of the temple. This was a very large tablet, 35 x 45 cm. and was written on both sides. Unfortunately this tablet needs a lot of restorative work but hopefully our epigrapher will visit the museum in Antakya where it is being stored and begin the translation work this winter. We are all very eager to see what this tablet has to say! Other finds from the temple include a beautiful soapstone or steatite pyxis or cosmetic box with a cultic scene incised on the exterior and an assortment of local and Assyrian style pottery. All in all it was a very exciting summer in which we found a lot of things we were not looking for and didn't always find what we were looking for.

### Teaching and University Service

In the fall term I taught World History Part I. My daughter, Talia, was also taking World History as a high school freshman and we compared notes on a regular basis.

Seeing Talia take World History gave me valuable insights into the exposure and preparation my students have in world history! I also taught Biblical Archaeology, however this time I was preparing to teach it to a much larger class size. Normally this upper division course is capped at 30 to 35 students. I used this opportunity to reconfigure the class for 90 students which I taught in the spring semester. While the course went relatively well I am not a big fan of straight lecture courses. I doubt I would offer this course again to such a large group. I also directed several independent studies on Biblical Archaeology and Egyptian Archaeology and oversaw a senior honors thesis in Classics by Sara Cole. Sara did an excellent job on her thesis that focused on the wall painting at the Hyksos capital of Avaris (Tell el-Daba). Sara graduated UT in Classics and I am very proud to announce she was accepted to the Egyptology program at Yale University. I also participated on one graduate oral examination in World History.

I also prepared several grant applications and was very fortunate to receive one of them, this fall (2009) I will be a Frankel Fellow at the Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan. My project, entitled, "In Search of Biblical Elders: Public Space and Rural Elites in Pre-Monarchic Israel" explores the relationship between archaeological material culture

and a social group known from the Hebrew Bible as "zaqen" or "elders." I look forward to having the time to work on a synthetic treatment of the finds from my site of Tell 'Ein Zippori in the Lower Galilee.

### Service to the Profession

This year I was reelected treasurer of the Albright Institute of Archaeological Research (AIAR) located in Jerusalem. The global economic crisis has made things very difficult for most non-profit research institutes and the Albright is no exception. But we have continued to support our fellowship program and undertake a major renovation on the one hundred year old main building that includes a hostel, first class research library, a common room, dining room and kitchen. We closed the institute in the summer in order to begin work on the hostel renovation (the kitchen, dining room and common room had been renovated several years ago). We look forward to finishing up this project and reopening the hostel to a new class of fellows in the spring.

### In Closing...

Again I want to thank my colleagues and friends at the University and especially the Department of History for their support. I hope every one has a sweet and healthy new year... Shanah Tovah!

## JUDAIC STUDIES LECTURE SERIES

- On September 5, 2008 Professor Andrew Bergerson from the University of Missouri, Kansas City, visited us in Knoxville to participate in the German Research Seminar by commenting on my manuscript on rural German Jews. In addition, Dr. Bergerson gave a public lecture on his work, entitled "Cultivating Impunity in Nazi Germany: How Ordinary People Tried to Get Away With Murder."
- On October 20, 2008 noted poet Charles Fishman read poems on the Holocaust and Israel at the Writers in the Library event. The event was sponsored by the Fern and Manfred Steinfeld Program in Judaic Studies, Writers in the Library, the Creative Writing Program, Religious Studies and History Departments, and the Knoxville Jewish Alliance. Fishman also participated in a conversation about poetry on the same day. A prolific poet whose searing lines on the Holocaust have earned him critical acclaim, Fishman has given over 350 readings throughout the U.S. and Israel.



Professors Marilyn Kallet, Charles Fishman, and Gilya Schmidt

- On November 6, 2008 The Fern and Manfred Steinfeld Program in Judaic Studies presented a lecture entitled "People of the Book: Resistances to the Media in Israel," by Dr. Rivka Ribak, the 2008-09 Schusterman Visiting Israel Professor and Senior Lecturer in the Department of Communication at the University of Haifa. The lecture was held at the University of Tennessee Law School and was cosponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences, Departments of Religious Studies and History, the Rebecca Solomon and Ida Schwartz Distinguished Lecture Fund, University of Tennessee; Knoxville

Jewish Alliance, and the Jewish Community of Knoxville.

- On February 9 Dr. David Tal, a Visiting Professor in the Department of History, Emory University, presented the 8<sup>th</sup>



Professor David Tal lecturing at the Black Cultural Center on the UT Campus

Annual Robinson Family Lecture on Modern Israel, entitled "The Making and Development of Israeli-American Relations." David, who had been with us previously, is an expert on the history of the Middle East as well as nuclear proliferation and disarmament, and we were delighted to have him visit again. He gave a second lecture at the AJCC on February 8, "What

# GILYA G. SCHMIDT ACTIVITIES



Professor David Tal lecturing at the AJCC



Captivated AJCC audience listens to Dr. Tal

President Obama Should Know about Israel and the Peace Process.” Although he came to give two lectures, he actually did three, because the Baker Center requested that someone speak to some of their students on Palestinian-Israeli relations. These presentations were co-sponsored by The Robinson Family Lecture on Modern Israel Fund, the Emory Institute for the Study of Modern Israel, the Knoxville Jewish Alliance, and the Departments of Religious Studies and History, University of Tennessee.

- Emory was well represented at the University of Tennessee last year. On February 17, 2009, the Fern and Manfred Steinfeld Program in Judaic Studies presented a lecture by Dr. Marina Rustow, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Emory University, on the Karaites entitled “Heresy, History and Power



Dr. Marina Rustow

in Medieval Judaism.” This event was co-sponsored by The Hodges Better English Fund, the Marco Institute for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, the Abraham and Rebecca Solomon and Ida Schwartz Distinguished Lecture Fund for Judaic Studies and the Departments of Religious Studies and History, University of Tennessee, and the Knoxville Jewish Alliance.

(Courtesy of Leadership Knoxville)



Leadership Knoxville Class of 2009

In 2008 I was honored to be selected as one of forty individuals from varied walks of life in Knoxville who joined the Leadership Knoxville Class of 2009. Leadership Knoxville has for the past 25 years introduced Knoxvilleians who are involved in our community to the workings of organizations and corporations, to the arts and education, health and legislative activities behind the scenes. In a very busy year, it was a challenge to find the time for day-long or even two-day long programs, but it was a great and worthwhile experience. My thanks to Jeannie Dulaney, who led this great organization for 25 years. We wish you all the best with your future endeavors. A warm welcome to Tammy White, who, together with Lorie Huff and her staff and Amy Cathey as Curriculum Committee chair, will lead Leadership Knoxville to continued heights. Congratulations to Lorie, who in 2008 also received the YWCA’s Tribute to Women award.

For two years, 2009-2011, I am serving on the LK Curriculum Committee, helping to plan the programs and participating in selected programs. It’s great fun!

## TEACHING

During this past year, 2008-2009, because I still served as Head of Religious Studies, I was teaching only one course per semester. In fall 2008 I taught RS/JS 381, Introduction to Judaism, and in spring 2009 I offered RS/JS 386, Voices of the Holocaust. This semester, having completed my term as department head, I am again teaching a full load, RS/JS 381 and, in line with the College’s wish for senior faculty to teach introductory courses, RS 101. Caps for RS/JS upper level courses are 40, and for RS 101 58. All courses are either fully enrolled or overenrolled. There is no lack of interest in or enthusiasm for Religious Studies as well as Judaic Studies classes. In spring 2010 I am on leave and will not teach. With our Schusterman Visiting Israel Professor in residence, students will have interesting courses to choose from.

## A Taste of China

In fall 2008, three of the graduate students who had worked on the 2007 and 2008 conferences in Shanghai, China, came for three weeks to conduct research for their master’s thesis in religion. Xie Xiaoxiao, Ding Lin, and Yo Haiyang from Shanghai University were very busy learning our system, conducting research and scanning the material onto their computers, as well as getting to know Nashville, Chattanooga, and Gatlinburg in addition to Knoxville. I wish them well and hope that their projects will come to fruition. A very big thank you to Professor Huifang Tu, who was kind enough to help me host the students. It was a very generous gesture right before her own wedding! Shie, shie.



Xie Xiaoxiao, Gilya Schmidt, Ding Lin, and Yo Haiyang at KMA



Ding Lin, Yo Haiyang, and Xie Xiaoxiao on Little River Road



Ding Lin, Gilya Schmidt, and Yo Haiyang in Gatlinburg

RS/JS 386 "VOICES OF THE HOLOCAUST" SPRING 2009

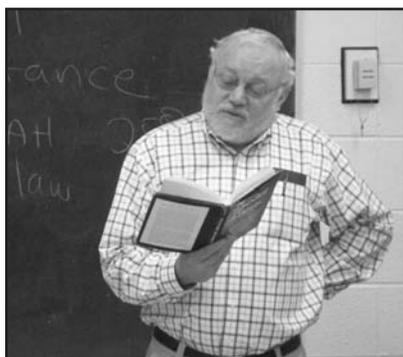
Our Holocaust course for the past two years has been especially meaningful to students and teacher alike, as we have been very fortunate to have several survivors and children of survivors who live in Knoxville and who are kind enough to share their personal experiences and apply their professional skills to their guest teaching experience. I would like to thank Mira Kimmelman, Trudy Dreyer, Rabbi

Louis Zivic, and Dr. Bill Berez for their generosity in sharing their time and their life with our students. Much more than learning from books, personal testimony is indelibly etched into the minds of those who are fortunate to hear first hand accounts. Through Leadership Knoxville I became acquainted with Jerry Shattuck and the work of the Green Macadoo Cultural Center in Clinton, Tennessee.

In order to give students a different perspective, I invited Mr. Shattuck to speak to the students and to comment on the information in a video on the Clinton 12 that we showed in class. The students were surprised at the strong message the integration experience in Clinton sent to the citizens of our country. Below are some pictures of our visitors' interactions with our UT students.



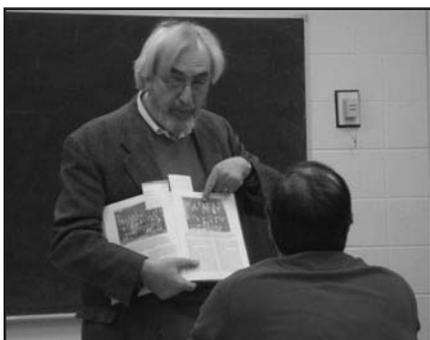
Jerry Shattuck from the Green Macadoo Cultural Center, Clinton, TN



Rabbi Louis Zivic, Heska Amuna Synagogue Second Generation



Mira Kimmelman, survivor and author



Dr. Bill Berez, psychologist Second Generation



Mira Kimmelman



Trudy Dreyer, survivor and educator



Trudy Dreyer



Dr. Bill Berez



Rabbi Louis Zivic



Student Jon Mears presents Mira Kimmelman with a bouquet of flowers

## SCHMIDT RESEARCH

### BOOK PROJECTS

#### RURAL JEWS IN SOUTHERN GERMANY

Between 2005-2008 I spent considerable time writing up the research from several trips to Germany since 1999 for a book on rural Judaism or *Landjudentum*, focusing on two Jewish families in the village of Süssen from 1902



Holocaust Memorial, "Geschundener Kopf,"  
Geislingen-Altenstadt



Holocaust Memorial in Süssen



Ottenheimer overseer house, Süssen

until either emigration or deportation in 1941. The book, whose working title is "Suezza – No Grazing Land for Jews," includes a history of Jews in Württemberg, an overview of the Jewish community of Göppingen to which the Süssen Jews belonged, and a history of Süssen, and events in the Third Reich in related towns of Kirchheim and Geislingen. The Jewish families in Kirchheim belonged to the Göppingen Jewish community as well, and Geislingen was the district

headquarters for Süssen until 1933, when it was integrated into District Göppingen. It continued, however, to serve as the central tax office for the village, so that it played a direct role in what happened to these families.

I was fortunate to have several colleagues read the manuscript with a critical eye, and would like to thank Drew Bergerson from the University of Missouri in Kansas City, David Lee and Dan Magilow from the German Section, MFL, here at UT, as well as friends Stephanie and Eric Bank and Joan Riedl for giving of their valuable time reading the large amount of material and for giving me valuable feedback and suggestions for improvement. I spent fall of 2008 integrating some of these suggestions into the manuscript, and spring 2009 completing the notes, translating texts, creating a glossary and bibliography. All of that is now done, and the main task remaining before its completion is to select some photographs from those I acquired over a ten-year period. I hope to send the manuscript off to the publisher by year's end.



Historical Fountain in Süssen

#### THE SWEET SINGER OF B'NAI ISRAEL

During the semester-long leave in spring 2010 I am planning to create a system for pursuing the production of a book-length manuscript on Jewish liturgy, or *hazzanut*. We do not have nearly enough literature on an art form that is both ancient and unique. *Hazzanim* or cantors are often colorful characters in a synagogue, and stories about them abound in the oral tradition. There are recordings by some of the most famous, but there is a dearth of music of the tradition as such. Especially the music of the Central European *hazzanim* who lived in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century is not well documented, as the medium of recording was not yet well developed, and many of these cantors lived in a religious environment where recording one's musical contributions to worship was not the custom. When recordings and radio became available to the average population, the Holocaust

occurred and many of these cantors were shipped off to concentration camps and perished. One of the cantors, though arrested and interned twice, was able to flee Nazi Europe and survived the Holocaust. Mordecai Gustav Heiser from Berlin eventually came to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he served as Cantor of B'nai Israel synagogue for nearly 50 years. His life and *hazzanut* will serve to both illustrate some of the music of German as well as Central European cantors, as he was trained in both, allowing me to place him within the history of *hazzanut* in West and Central Europe, and at the same time to spotlight the life of one *hazzan* by writing his biography. The plan will be to produce a sample CD of Cantor Heiser's rendition of specific prayers and hymns.

#### KADDISH FOR SWABIAN JEWS



Lilo Guggenheim, formerly Göppingen

Another book project, whose idea arose from the many materials I collected and photographs I took during my travels for the Suezza book, is also taking shape. For the past several years I have presented papers at conferences and in seminars on recurring themes in pre-Holocaust German Jewish communities. Themes that recur deal with buildings that were owned by Jews, prayer rooms or *shtiebls*, in German *Betsäle* in a Jewish community, often pre-synagogue; synagogues, cemeteries, and especially funerary art and its evolution; language, food, cultural adaptations, and others. Given the thousands of images I have at my disposal, it is possible to create a pre-Holocaust picture of Jewish life in rural southern German communities. As there is some research as yet to be conducted, I expect to work at archives simultaneously searching for materials on Jewish liturgy and Jewish families from these communities.

#### Research Seminar on Germany and Central Europe

A very rewarding experience has been the collaboration between UT faculty interested in things German and visiting

scholars with similar interests. The seminar is now in its fourth year, and has been financially supported by the College of Arts and Sciences' Humanities Initiative. Core members are Daniel Magilow, Denise Philips, Maria Stehle, and Gilya Schmidt. Additional faculty and graduate students from several disciplines participate in the seminar discussions and lectures. In 2008-09 I shared my book manuscript of the Jews of Süssen and led a discussion of Mimi Schwartz's book, *Good Neighbors, Bad Times: Echoes of My Father's German Village*. This year I contributed a discussion of a paper dealing with Jewish settlement patterns from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century to the Nazi period in south German villages and towns.

**Conference presentations**

It is always invigorating to meet scholars from other institutions worldwide who have the same or similar scholarly interests. For the past several years, I have been fortunate to be connected to a segment of four different professional groups who have a large constituency, the German Studies Association, the Association for Jewish Studies, the American Academy of Religion as well as the regional organization, the Southeast Commission for the Study of Religion, and the International Humanities and Arts Conference.

In fall 2008, I presented a paper, "O du mein kleines Dorf," at the German Studies Association and read a paper on the challenges of teaching the Holocaust for the Religion, Holocaust and Genocide Group of the American Academy of Religion. In spring 2009 I contributed a dramatic reading of the deportation of the Jews of Süssen, entitled, "Süssen is Now Free of Jews," to the International Arts and Humanities Conference, and for SECSOR's History of Judaism Section I presented a paper, "Friend or Foe: A Tale of One Family's Journey into the Holocaust."

A very special experience was a performance with Marilyn Kallet and Mimi Schwartz, "Return to the Black Forest," for the Association of Writers and Writing Programs. I was very honored to be included and thoroughly enjoyed this



Professors Marilyn Kallet and Gilya Schmidt during performance of "Return to the Black Forest"

gathering of creative individuals and their presentations.

This year, the GSA has already met in early October, the AAR will meet in early November, and I will participate in the Association for Jewish Studies annual meeting in December, in the Humanities and Arts Conference in January, and we already have an abundance of submissions for the SECSOR conference in March.

**Service**

For me, the big events for 2008-09 were the YWCA Tribute to Women Award and Leadership Knoxville experience, mentioned above. This year, the YWCA's Tribute to Women Award program celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a stunning presentation of eight remarkable women and their life-time achievements, not least among them our very own Pat Head Summitt.



Coach Pat Head Summitt and Provost Susan Martin

In June of this year, I was elected to the leadership of Heska Amuna synagogue. From 2009-11 I will serve as President-elect, with committee duties on the executive committee, the board of trustees, and continuing service on the Rabbi and Religious Services Committee. I will take on the presidency in June 2011.

**Service to the Profession** seems to continue growing, with my election to a three-year term on the steering committee of the American Academy of Religion's "Religion, Holocaust and Genocide Group" and my appointment to the Academy's International Connections Committee, also for a three-year term,



Kyle Cole, AAR; Professor Changgang Guo, Shanghai University; Professor Emilie Townes, Yale University; Gilya Schmidt

for whom I am chairing a Special Topics Forum on "Global Economics of the Sacred" in November.

**University service** includes my appointment for a three-year term to the UT Press Editorial Board, on which I had served several cycles ago. I am also serving on the Press' Executive Committee. In spring of 2009, I served as an internal reviewer on the committee for the Carolyn B. Brown University Center's full program review which was a great experience.

**College service**, in addition to the Headship for the Department of Religious Studies, included chairing a faculty Cumulative Performance Review Committee, starting in fall 2008. I also continue to serve as mentor for my colleagues, Dr. Rachele Scott in Religious Studies and for Dr. Daniel M. Magilow in the German section of Modern Foreign Languages and Literatures. I am adjunct faculty in German.

**Department service** received the lion's share of my time this past year. In July of 2009, my tenure as Head of the Department of Religious Studies which I took on in 2002 came to an end. It was a difficult year, although gratifying, especially because of the great support the department received from our departmental board of visitors, and I much appreciated the support and tremendous help of my colleagues in the department.



Associate Professor Rosalind W. Gwynne at her retirement party with Anissa Kelley and Professor Bob Cunningham

Our department experienced attrition through two retirements, Professor Charles Reynolds and Associate Professor Rosalind W. Gwynne, whose lines were lost.

Further, we lost Professor James Fitzgerald's line, who



Tina Shepardson, Rachele Scott, and Marco Di Giulio

has gone to Brown. This experience was not conducive to making progress on my research or fundraising for Judaic Studies, both of which are priorities for this year and forward. Our program is ready to grow and expand as we go into the future.



Professor Emeritus Charles Reynolds thanks Dr. Schmidt for her service and presents her with a bouquet of red roses



Assistant Professor Rachelle Scott, Debbie Binder, Professor Rosalind Hackett, and Gilya Schmidt with tapestry and scarf presented by the faculty for Dr. Schmidt's service as Head

## TENNESSEE HOLOCAUST COMMISSION

This year, the Tennessee Holocaust Commission celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The difficult economic situation is also bringing challenges to the Commission, and it will be the task of the Commissioners and Directors to work even harder to keep our momentum going in programming and private giving. For THC information, please see the website at [www.tennesseeholocaustcommission.org](http://www.tennesseeholocaustcommission.org).

## JEWISH STUDENT CENTER/HILLEL

The Jewish students at the University of Tennessee are an active and enterprising group, who not only organize holiday services and year-round programming, but regularly find a home for Shabbat meals

with families throughout the community. If you are interested in hosting the students for Shabbat, or if you are willing to help them in other ways, please contact their director, Deborah Oleshansky, at [doleshansky@jewishknoxville.org](mailto:doleshansky@jewishknoxville.org). For general information, please see their website at <http://www.utk.edu/~uthillel>.

## SHTETL NEWS

We are always happy to *kwell* over good things that happen to members of the Knoxville Jewish community, and likewise to extend an empathetic ear and hand to those experiencing *tzores*.



Professors Lou Gross and Marilyn Kallet during KJA faculty presentation 2009

This past year, several young people in our community have gotten married, among them Anna Gross, Beth Littmann, Sunny Gettinger, and Sam Winston. A *mazal tov* to all for much happiness in their lives ahead.



Beth Littmann, daughter of Drs. Mark and Peggy Littmann, during wedding to James W. McGinnis

On January 20, 2009 Arnold Cohen, a Knoxville lawyer and chair of the KJA's Community Relations Committee, was honored by the Knoxville Presidential Inauguration Celebration Committee. Mr. Cohen works tirelessly to improve relations among different groups in the

greater Knoxville community, and we extend heartiest congratulations to Arnold. *Mazal Tov* on a well deserved honor.



Sunny Gettinger being escorted to the chuppah by parents Drs. Barb Levin and Josh Gettinger

On October 28, 2009, longtime community activist Gene Rosenberg was awarded the FBI Director's Award of Excellence for Exceptional Public Service. Throughout his lifetime, Mr. Rosenberg has tirelessly devoted himself to the betterment of the Knoxville Community through education and direct involvement. *Mazal Tov* to Gene on this important recognition.

Among recent losses were two dear individuals whom we will miss tremendously, Bernie Shorr and Janet Krauss. Sadly, one of the surviving witnesses to Jewish life in rural southern Germany also died in December of 2008. Mr. Werner Ottenheimer lived in Havanna, Cuba, and I visited and interviewed him there in 2007. May their memory be for a blessing.

Congratulations to Professor Ken Levine on the birth of daughter Peri.



Peri Levine with proud papa Ken Levine and aunt Sally

We are also very proud of Matt Schafer-Powell, WUOT's News Director, who recently accepted the Radio-Television News Directors Association's Edward R. Murrow Award in Broadcast Journalism in the "Best Writing" category. Congratulations for a well deserved honor, Matt and WUOT!

(Courtesy Ken Levine)

For the past two years, Judaic Studies at UT has formally joined an ever-growing groups of Judaic Studies programs who support the Association for Jewish Studies, a professional organization for scholars of Judaic Studies. The following list is taken from the association's website at <http://ajsnet.org/institutions.htm>

## **Institutional Membership**

We are pleased to announce the AJS 2008-2009 Institutional Members.

Click on the names below to learn more about these programs.

American Jewish Historical Society  
American Jewish University  
Arizona State University, Jewish Studies Program  
The Center for Cultural Judaism  
Columbia University, Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies  
Cornell University, Jewish Studies Program  
Duke University, Jewish Studies Program  
Foundation for Jewish Culture  
Georgetown University, Program for Jewish Civilization  
Hebrew College  
Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion  
Indiana University, Robert A. and Sandra S. Borns Jewish Studies Program  
The Jewish Theological Seminary, The Graduate School  
Laura and Alvin Siegal College of Judaic Studies  
Northwestern University, The Crown Family Center for Jewish Studies  
Old Dominion University, Institute for Jewish Studies and Interfaith Understanding  
Pennsylvania State University, Jewish Studies Program  
Reconstructionist Rabbinical College  
Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies  
Stanford University, Taube Center for Jewish Studies  
Trinity College, Jewish Studies Program  
The University of Arizona, Arizona Center for Judaic Studies  
University of California, Los Angeles, Center for Jewish Studies  
University of California, San Diego, Judaic Studies Program  
University of Connecticut, Center for Judaic Studies and Contemporary Jewish Life  
University of Denver, Center for Judaic Studies  
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Program in Jewish Culture and Society  
University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Judaic and Near Eastern Studies Department  
University of Michigan, The Frankel Center for Judaic Studies  
University of North Carolina at Asheville, Center for Jewish Studies  
University of Oregon, Harold Schnitzer Family Program in Judaic Studies  
University of Pittsburgh, Jewish Studies Program  
**University of Tennessee, The Fern and Manfred Steinfeld Program in Judaic Studies**  
The University of Texas at Austin, Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies  
University of Virginia, Jewish Studies Program  
University of Washington, Jewish Studies Program, Jackson School of International Studies  
University of Wisconsin—Madison, Center for Jewish Studies  
Vanderbilt University, Program in Jewish Studies  
Washington University in St. Louis, Program in Jewish, Islamic, and Near Eastern Studies  
YIVO Institute for Jewish Research  
York University, Centre for Jewish Studies

Visit the Knoxville Jewish Alliance Web site:  
[www.jewishknoxville.org](http://www.jewishknoxville.org)

On September 14, 2009 the Knoxville Jewish Alliance welcomed the University of Tennessee's new Chancellor, Jimmy Cheek and introduced him to the Jewish community.



Stephen Rosen introduces Chancellor Jimmy Cheek to Knoxville Jewish community



Pace Robinson, Arnold Cohen, and Chancellor Jimmy Cheek at KJA reception welcoming him to Knoxville



Dean Bruce Bursten and Scott Hahn listen to Jewish students at reception for Chancellor Cheek

## Become a friend of Judaic Studies at UT

The Fern and Manfred Steinfeld Program in Judaic Studies is in its second decade. Public lectures, in collaboration with other UT departments and the Knoxville Jewish Alliance, Holocaust Conferences, book discussions, as well as cultural experiences such as trips to the U.S. 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 available:

- THE FERN AND MANFRED STEINFELD SCHOLARSHIP FUND IN JUDAIC STUDIES, RELIGIOUS STUDIES \_\_\_\_\_
- JUDAIC STUDIES LECTURE FUND, RELIGIOUS STUDIES \_\_\_\_\_
- JUDAIC STUDIES CHAIR ENDOWMENT, RELIGIOUS STUDIES \_\_\_\_\_
- JUDAIC STUDIES SUPPORT FUND, RELIGIOUS STUDIES \_\_\_\_\_
- ABRAHAM AND REBECCA SOLOMON AND IDA SCHWARTZ DISTINGUISHED LECTURE FUND FOR JUDAIC STUDIES, RELIGIOUS STUDIES \_\_\_\_\_
- DR. RUBEN ROBINSON MEMORIAL FUND, RELIGIOUS STUDIES \_\_\_\_\_
- MANFRED AND FERN STEINFELD PROFESSORSHIP ENDOWMENT IN JUDAIC HISTORY, HISTORY DEPARTMENT \_\_\_\_\_
- KAREN AND PACE ROBINSON ENRICHMENT FUND, RELIGIOUS STUDIES \_\_\_\_\_

## How to contact us

DEPARTMENT OF  
RELIGIOUS STUDIES  
501 McCLUNG TOWER  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37996-0450

TELEPHONE (865) 974-2466  
FAX (865) 974-0965

E-MAIL  
DR. GILYA GERDA SCHMIDT:  
GSCSMIDT@UTK.EDU  
DR. J. P. DESSEL:  
JDESSEL@UTK.EDU

**The Fern & Manfred Steinfeld  
Program in Judaic Studies**  
is located in  
501 McClung Tower

You can also find us on the Web:  
[web.utk.edu/~judaic](http://web.utk.edu/~judaic)

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**THE NEWSLETTER of the**  
**FERN & MANFRED STEINFELD**  
**Program in Judaic Studies**  
**THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE**



The Department of Religious Studies  
 501 McClung Tower  
 The University of Tennessee  
 Knoxville, TN 37996-0450  
 Telephone (865) 974-2466

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