



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE JUDAIC STUDIES PROGRAM UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE

VOLUME TWO • FALL 1995

Shabbat, Heska Amuna Synagogue

FOR GERDA SCHMIDT

Melissa H. Range, Fall 1994

PUBLISHED WITH
AUTHOR'S PERMISSION

SEE ALSO PHOENIX,
VOL. 36, ISSUE 3, 1995, P. 2

*Torah winds around us in heavy cords,
long strings of Hebrew
twine through the Sanctuary of the Six Million,
wrapping and braiding Jews
into the thick rope of God.
The Master of the Universe encircles me,
a tallit holy on shoulders, holds me close
my soul fringed with music,
purple velvet rhythm I touch and kiss.
ADONAI ADONAI ADONAI
sings from the page,
the one word I can identify
in this book that opens from left to right.
I form the name with a Gentile mouth,
shape praise with cracked lips
let tradition scroll around me
bask in the light of the chosen.
A rediscovered messiah
reclaims this child, daughter of redemption.
I sway to a kaddish in my mind,
bid good-bye to the dead part of me,
embrace this newness,
this awakened life.*

Melissa is one of approximately 160 students who discovered the beauty of the Jewish tradition this past year. A Southern Baptist, who majored in Creative Writing, Melissa belongs to an inspiring group of young people, like Link Elmore and Nathan Solomon (Baptist despite the name!), who are determined to make the world a better place to live. All three students graduated from UT, Link and Nathan last year, Melissa this year, to continue with their personal quest. Link went off to attend seminary in Virginia, Nathan to work and study in Jerusalem. This past year, Melissa brought Mira Kimmelman to the Baptist Student Union. After graduation she spent the summer in Africa and will now pursue graduate studies at Old Dominion in Virginia.

And then there is Donrue Hulsey, mother of four, so indignant at the injustices in the world. She proudly graduated in May with a B.A., to continue graduate studies in law school. Ben Mann spent last year studying at Haifa University. He came back to complete his senior year, aglow from his experience, conversing with me in Hebrew. Nora Wilson, a '94 graduate in Religious Studies, plans to pursue graduate studies in History, with a focus on the Holocaust. Suzy Garner and Sidney Williams and Courtney Baker honored me by a nomination for the Panhellenic and Interfraternity Council's Outstanding faculty award which I subsequently received.

I could go on and on. When I say that teaching has been the most enjoyable and challenging part of being at UT this past year, you can easily see why. In the Jewish tradition, education is highly valued. Continuity—passing on knowledge of religious law, customs, practices and stories from generation to generation is the secret of Jewish survival. It is all the more gratifying to be able to share the wealth of Jewish knowledge with individuals at the college level who might not otherwise have the opportunity to immerse themselves in the study of the Jewish tradition.

I thoroughly enjoy teaching and would like to thank the many students past and present, continuing and graduated, for your inspiration, enthusiasm and encouragement.



GILYA GERDA SCHMIDT, PH.D.

This past year, Fall '94 and Spring '95, we offered RS 381, Introduction to Judaism, RS 385, Contemporary Jewish Thinkers (Europe), RS 386, Voices of the Holocaust, and RS 102, Comparative World Religions. I also offered RS 381 in the summer session. The courses often become a family event for the students, who bring siblings, spouses, parents, and friends to their obligatory synagogue visit, and a community event for the members and staff of both congregations, who ease them into the new situation by a friendly reception. I would like to thank Rabbi Howard Simon of Temple Beth El and Rabbi Arthur Weiner as well as Debbie Johnson from Heska Amuna Synagogue, and the many congregants for your kindness and generosity in supporting our educational needs. Southern and Jewish hospitality go together nicely!

Special bonuses for students this past Spring term included visiting speakers and an outing.

As part of our Voices of the Holocaust course, we undertook a cultural enrichment trip to the U.S. Holocaust Memo-

rial Museum in Washington, D.C., in April. The event, which was open to students campus-wide, attracted 47 participants. The experience, though a marathon as far as traveling was concerned, was beautiful and bonding as well as stark and memorable for all of us. We would like to express our profound gratitude to our anonymous sponsor who made this cultural experience possible.

We are very fortunate to have among us Mira Kimmelman, a Holocaust survivor, who is an example of selfless devotion to teaching. In addition to her own classes at the Oak Ridge Synagogue, Mira speaks widely on her experiences in the concentration camps in the community. Every semester she also comes and speaks to my students. Mira's presentations make the horror of the camp experience very real, and students are deeply impressed. We thank, you, Mira, for your courage and strength and for the wonderful example of community service you set for our young people. During the summer, we invited a new group of DRI (Detoxification Rehabilitation Institute) students to join us for one of Mira's presentations.



MIRA KIMMELMAN

In February, Marga Randall, a longtime friend from Pittsburgh, Pa., stopped in Knoxville on her way back from Florida. Marga is a Holocaust survivor who fortunately was not in a camp. She has spoken to children and

adults about her experience as a child in Germany for at least a decade. I initially asked Marga to speak to my classes, who received her with enthusiasm. In addition, three more opportunities arose, at Temple Beth El, in a Normandy class, and at DRI where I occasionally teach a class on Judaism. Everyone was thrilled with Marga's lively and enlightening presentation and her warm personality. To Marga, many, many thanks for your selfless devotion to Holocaust education!



MIRA AND MARGA,
TWO SPECIAL LADIES

Course Offerings

Course offerings for this Fall include RS 381, Introduction to Judaism, and, for the first time, RS 385, Contemporary Jewish Thinkers, with a focus on Zionism. Both courses fulfill the foreign culture requirement in the College of Arts and Sciences and are well enrolled.

**Mazal Tov to
MR. MANNY STEINFELD**
for receiving UT's highest honor,
the Volunteer of the Year Award
on October 24, 1995

Voices of the Holocaust

STUDENT TRIP TO THE
U.S. HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D.C. • APRIL 1995



UT STUDENTS EN ROUTE

CATE SHAWN AND SHANNON HOLCOMB
VIEW THE TOWER OF LIFE



PAIGE TURNER AND NORA WILSON IN MUSEUM

GROUP PHOTO OF UT VISITORS TO THE
UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM



INTRODUCING...

Mr. Bradford Smith, who is working with me as a Teaching Assistant. Brad is a full-time graduate student in Philosophy. His field is medical ethics. Brad has been an invaluable addition, helping me not only with classes, but also with the technical aspects of papers, conference arrangements, and many other matters.



BRADFORD SMITH

JUDAIC LECTURE SERIES BLOSSOMS

A variety of eminent Judaic scholars of Russian Jewry, Israeli archaeology, art, film, and Jewish-Christian relations enriched campus and community life during the past academic year. Attendance averaged about 130 for the lectures in the Hodges Library Auditorium.

Russian Jewry

On October 11, 1994, Professor Alexander Orbach, a renowned scholar in Russian Jewish History, and chairman of the Religious Studies Department at the University of Pittsburgh — who also was my dissertation advisor — visited the campus. Professor Orbach's excellent presentation focused on the different Russian Jewish cultures at the turn of the century. His lucid and informative presentation was greatly valued by

the students who enjoyed a different perspective on materials they had already studied in class. The lecture was co-sponsored by the Knoxville Jewish Federation, the Department of German and Slavic Languages, the Department of History, and the Department of Religious Studies.

Archaeological Find

We were fortunate to have in our midst Avraham Biran, a giant among anthropologists, who was instrumental in the excavation of Tel Dan, where the first inscription linking a Jewish city with the House of David was found. In an exciting slide lecture on November 15, Professor Biran took the audience by storm with his witty and fast-paced presentation. Thank you to Professor Michael Zemel and Professor Alan Witten for facilitating Professor Biran's visit. This program was offered under the auspices of Hebrew Union College and was co-sponsored by the Knoxville Jewish Federation, the Judaic Studies Program, the Department of Religious Studies, and the Energy Division of Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

Art and the Holocaust

During last summer's stay in Jerusalem, I met Professor Ziva Amishai-Maisels, the head of the Robert and Clarice Smith Center for Art History at Hebrew University. Professor Amishai-Maisels has achieved a grand reputation for her work in secular as well as Jewish art, evidenced by her very weighty book, *Depiction and Interpretation*. On February 22, Professor Amishai-Maisels' provocative slide presentation on German and Israeli responses to the Holocaust in art raised many issues for those in attendance and introduced many students to a new way of viewing the Holocaust. Co-sponsors included the Knoxville Jewish Federation, Department of Religious Studies, Department of Art, and Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages.

Jewish-Christian Relations

The question of Jewish-Christian relations is forever new and forever trans-



PROFESSOR ZIVA AMISHAI-MAISELS

forming. On March 2, Professor Michael Kogan from Montclair State College, well known for his work in this area, presented a most thorough and informative lecture on the issues that bring us together and keep us apart. The reception which followed the lecture served as the forum for a lengthy discussion that lasted well into the night. This lecture was co-sponsored by the Knoxville Jewish Federation, The Department of Religious Studies, University Studies, and the College of Business Administration.

Jewish Males in Film

David Desser, a film scholar at the University of Illinois/Urbana-Champaign, visited the campus on March 30 and spoke on the changing image of Jewish males in both television and movies. The lecture was sponsored by The Cinema Studies Committee, The College of Arts and Sciences, and The Judaic Studies Program.

Mazal Tov to:

RABBI HOWARD SIMON
for receiving the
National Conference
Brotherhood-Sisterhood Award

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

E. MARCIA KATZ

for being chosen as
Chancellor's Teacher-Scholar

NANCY HAYES HENRY

for being voted the
Tennessee Holocaust Commission's
Belz-Lipman Holocaust Educator
of the Year-1995: Eastern Division

COMMUNITY OUTREACH — EAST TENNESSEE HOLOCAUST CONFERENCE

Educating on the Holocaust is a responsibility before us at all times. It is also a valuable way to build bridges between diverse segments of the community.

When we began planning this Fall's upcoming East Tennessee Holocaust Conference a year and a half ago, things quickly fell into place. The three-day conference has been scheduled for October 22-24 and will be held at the University Center. This outreach effort, entitled, "1945-1995 — The Holocaust Fifty Years Later: What Have We Learned?" is free and all events are open to the public.

Many well-known Holocaust scholars will participate in the conference:

- Professor Deborah Lipstadt from Emory University, whose book, *Denying the Holocaust*, has been highly acclaimed;
- Professor Yaffa Eliach from Brooklyn College is best known for the Tower of Life at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, which contains 2,000 of 3,000 photographs Professor Eliach collected from her Polish hometown of Eishishok.
- Mrs. Gerda Weissmann Klein was most recently seen in an HBO special regarding her experiences in the concentration camps of Nazi Germany on

the fiftieth anniversary of liberation. The documentary has been nominated for 4 Emmy awards. Mazal tov, Gerda!

- Dr. Leon Bass is a retired high school principal who, at the age of 18, saw suffering beyond that of his own people when he and the all-Black unit with which he served liberated a concentration camp.
- Dr. Karen Shawn, teacher of the Holocaust at the Moriah School in New Jersey and at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem in the summer, will advise teachers in choosing appropriate videos for teaching the Holocaust.
- Mrs. Nancy Henry, who took the course at Yad Vashem two years ago and teaches the Holocaust at Sevierville High School, will extend her usual purview and teach all of the students at the conference. Joining her will be Ms. Mary Lyell, teacher at Mountain View Youth Development Center in Dandridge.
- Reverend Beverly Asbury, who is the Chaplain at Vanderbilt University as well as the chairman of the Tennessee Holocaust Commission, has, for the past ten years, provided guidance and funding for Holocaust education in the State of Tennessee.

We are very fortunate that several individuals and groups have come for-

ward and offered additional cultural contributions. Berri Cross and the Student Programming Council are not only providing the space for the Kadar art exhibit, but the Student Activities Film Committee will be showing several films with Holocaust themes during this period (see schedule below). Professor Michael Ehrman from the UT Music Department is organizing a musical introduction for the Sunday night program in collaboration with Aaron Feldman, an attorney and member of the Knoxville Symphony. The Tennessee Children's Dance Ensemble is contributing their talent and time with a dance on a Holocaust poem that is part of their repertoire. Dean Marleen Kay Davis of the School of Architecture and Associate Dean Aubrey Mitchell of Hodges Library kindly contributed the space for two other exhibits, "Gentle Heroism: Women and the Holocaust" in the Art and Architecture Building and "A Portrait of Survival" in Hodges Library.

We anticipate that thousands of individuals will attend some or all of the events of the conference. The work involved in the preparations has been extensive, and there are many individuals, formally acknowledged as well as behind the scenes, who are making sure that this will be a successful educational experience.

ROBIN DISHNER IN RS 386 READS FROM DANIEL'S STORY



A warm thank you to Reverend Beverly Asbury and the Tennessee Holocaust Commission for their inspiration in Holocaust education as well as for their significant financial support of this event. Our steering committee worked untiringly in planning the conference and in forming the 35 member advisory committee from the community and university that contributed their thoughts, comments, and suggestions to the program in its formative stages. Working with this group and getting to know the individuals has been a truly exciting and inspiring experience and I would like to thank everyone for their selfless contribution of time and ideas.

A special thank you to Arnold Cohen, who agreed to serve as alternate director of the conference. There are many individuals who have worked and are working behind the scenes to help make this conference a reality, among them Dr. Lynn Champion, Director of Community Outreach in the College of Arts & Sciences, whose expertise in community relations and public events of this nature is invaluable. Joan Riedl and Debbie Meyers in the Religious Studies office, as well as our work study, Heather Dobbins, help in many unsung ways—patiently answering the many

phone queries and mailing out several thousand programs. Henrietta Grant from the Austin-East High School and Loretta Bradley, Community Action Committee, provided valuable community support. Brad Smith is involved in various ways, and Lisa Smith, a graduate student in Sociology, is the liaison for all of the secondary schools in our area. Jim Dittrich had the colossal job of figuring out the logistics of space for the Conference, and Shelly Gentry, Dr. Champion's secretary, facilitated contacts with and mailings to schools, churches, and civic groups. Conrad Koller is quietly orchestrating the Federation's contribution, with support from Harold Winston. Cynthia Caplan, the Jewish Student Center, AEP, and members of other student organizations have graciously offered to staff the registration table at the Conference and to provide hosts and hostesses for the individual events.

The University of Tennessee as well as the College of Arts and Sciences very generously donated facilities, staff, and important services to the Conference. It is obvious that an event of this magnitude could not succeed without the good will and personal sacrifice and commitment of many individuals, and I would like to thank each and every

person, named and unnamed, who is helping.

A copy of the program has been sent out to all UT Colleges and Departments as well as to the Jewish community, churches, libraries, secondary schools in Knox and all surrounding counties, as well as civic associations. If you have not received a program and would like to have one, please call Religious Studies at (423) 974-2466 or come to 501 McClung Tower on campus and pick one up.

A Reminder:

Please fill out the preregistration form and mail it back to us if you are planning to attend, so that we get a sense of the numbers!

One slight adjustment to the program concerns the exhibit, "Gentle Heroism: Women and the Holocaust." Please note that the revised dates will be October 22-29.

State Holocaust Commission Meeting

On September 10 and 11, the Tennessee Holocaust Commission met in Nashville to share with representatives from other Southern states our activities and plans in Holocaust education in Tennessee. I attended and reported on the upcoming Knoxville conference.

FACULTY RESEARCH

Buber Book

A number of you joined with me on August 20, when Davis Kidd book store held a book signing as well as a reception for my book, *Martin Buber's Formative Years—From German Culture to Jewish Renewal, 1897-1909*. I would like to thank Dr. Lynn Champion for making the arrangements, Judie Luna for the excellent display and publicity, and

STUDENTS FROM RS 102 VISIT HINDU TEMPLE IN LENOIR CITY, TN.





MARY LINDA SCHWARZBART
AT DAVIS KIDD BOOKSTORE

Mary Linda and Arnold Schwarzbart for a most eloquent and generous introduction. The event was well attended and all available books were sold.

During a visit to my "hometown" of Pittsburgh, PA, and my alma mater, the University of Pittsburgh, my dear friend, Marga Randall, arranged for a book signing as well as a reception at the South Hills store of Borders, a national chain. Most of those present were friends of many years. It was especially moving to speak before the chairwoman of the Israel Heritage Room Committee who had awarded me the scholarship in 1988 to conduct the initial research at the Buber Archives in Jerusalem. As Margie Weiner asked me to autograph



BOOKSIGNING

one of the books for the Committee, she commented, "how often does it happen that one of our recipients publishes a book." The book signing was preceded by a well-written review article in the *Jewish Chronicle*, also initiated by Marga. Many thanks to Erin Hill at Borders, to Marga Randall for all the work you did for this event, and to all my Pittsburgh friends for sharing this moment with me.

Gypsy book

To me, no phase of the publishing process is as nerve-wracking as the stage when one has finished a project and tries to find a home for the manuscript with a publisher. What will happen is



BARBARA BERNSTEIN, JANE COHEN,
AND BERNIE BERNSTEIN

an absolute unknown. During the past year, we have put the finishing touches to my expanded translation of Erika Thurner's book, *National Socialism and Gypsies in Austria*, on the fate of the Gypsies in the Holocaust. Erika very kindly read the entire manuscript, made corrections and offered suggestions, furnished me with illustrations for the book, wrote an introduction for the revised and updated English edition, as well as an entirely new chapter and supplementary bibliography. The manuscript has been submitted to The University of Alabama Press for circulation to readers.

Yehuda Halevi Poems

My contribution to this book was in the form of a translation of 95 Yehuda Halevi poems, submitted to the editor two years ago. The project has undergone some changes, and there have been no new developments regarding publication.

Articles

The article, "German Romanticism and Friedrich Schleiermacher in Relation to Martin Buber's Idea of Jewish Renewal," a written version of the paper that I presented in Italy in 1994, is in press and will appear later this Fall in the journal *New Athenaeum*.

Devekut, or "'Cleaving to God' Through the Ages," first presented as a paper at the 29th International Medieval Congress, has been accepted and will be published later this year in *Mystics Quarterly*.

LECTURE ON MARTIN BUBER AT BORDERS IN PITTSBURGH, PA





LECTURE ON MARTIN BUBER'S EARLY YEARS AT DAVIS KIDD

Another paper, on "God, the Soul and Zion in the Poetry of Yehuda Halevi," read at the 30th International Medieval Congress this year, has been submitted to *Mystics Quarterly* for consideration.

My contribution to a session on Nietzsche at the American Academy of Religion concerns Martin Buber and Friedrich Nietzsche. The session, organized by the Nineteenth Century Theology Group of which I have been a member for many years, publishes and predistributes the papers for discussion at the AAR's Annual Meeting.

Kadima! Book Manuscript

This manuscript contains translations of Martin Buber's early Zionist writings—poems and essays—which have so far not been available in English, as well as an introductory essay by me on cultural Zionism. Currently, I am completing a first draft and hope to submit it for review by the end of the year.

Research in Israel

In the Spring term '96 (January-April) I will not be teaching, but continue my research on Zionist art begun two years ago during my stay in New York. Since I am in an advanced stage where I try to document specific items I have not been able to locate before, I will spend

this time as well as the summer in Israel, where the rich resources as well as expert collegial support will yield additional results. In the summer of '96, I will also attend a week-long seminar at Hebrew University on "Jerusalem 3,000," and in July I plan to participate in a course for teachers of the Holocaust at Yad Vashem. I gratefully acknowledge the role of Dean Minkel and the Graduate School in granting me funds in support of this research, and to Dean Larry Ratner and Professor Charles Reynolds for supporting the project.

SCHOLARLY PAPERS

Mid-West Jewish Studies Association
October 16, 1994. Slide lecture on grass roots experience of peace process.

The University of Alabama
November 2, 1994. Slide lecture on Zionist art.

SECSOR

March 11, 1995. Slide lecture to South-eastern Commission for the Study of Religion on relationship between Jewish spirituality and art.

International Medieval Congress
May 5. Paper on "God, the Soul, and Zion in the Poetry of Yehuda Halevi,"

for 30th International Medieval Congress.

American Academy of Religion
November 19. Paper on "Nietzsche's Zarathustra and Martin Buber's Conception of the Jewish Renaissance," for Nineteenth Century Theology Group.

Association for Jewish Studies
December 17. This year is the 30th anniversary of Buber's death. In his memory, I organized a session entitled, "Shloshim for Martin Buber—Major Influences and Ideas." Participants will be Professor Rochelle Millen from Wittenberg University, Professor Lawrence Rosenwald from Wellesley College, and Professor Yudit Greenberg from Rollins College. My paper will be on the concept of the relative and the absolute life in the thought of Martin Buber.

Hebrew University, Jerusalem
In the Spring of 1996, I have been invited to give one or more lectures on my ongoing research in Zionist art at Hebrew University.

PUBLIC SERVICE PROGRAMS

Throughout the year, I receive requests to speak to groups in the community on a variety of topics. Last year, these included:

Temple Beth El Outreach workshop,
October 9, 1994, "Exploring the Spiritual Side of Judaism."

UT Pregame lecture on multiculturalism, November 19, 1994.

Norwood Kiwanis presentation on Hanukkah, December 8, 1994.

KJF Jewish Singles program on UT Judaic Studies Program on February 19, 1995.

DRI class on Judaism, February 20, 1995.

Normandy class presentation on women and other groups and the Holocaust, February 27, 1995.

National Conference presentation on the Holocaust half a century later and Fall Holocaust Conference, March 2, 1995.

The University of Alabama, presentation on my work, April 6, 1995.

KJF Leadership Development, comments on effective leadership, April 23, 1995.

KJF Physicians Group, presentation on spiritual foundation of Jewish ethics, April 24, 1995.

Hadassah Regional Spring Conference, slide lecture on Zionist art, May 1, 1995.

DRI class on Judaism, June 9, 1995.

Church Street Methodist Church, introduction to Judaism, June 11, 1995.

Y Service Club (formerly Men's Club), introduction to the Holocaust, June 19, 1995.

Heska Amuna Board of Directors, remarks on effective leadership, July 11, 1995.

Lincoln Park Elementary School, UT Speakers Bureau workshop on multiculturalism, August 17, 1995.

Foothills Council of Social Studies, lecture on different groups affected by the Holocaust, September 14, 1995.

Temple Beth El, another look at spirituality, November 12, 1995.

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Effective this Fall, I have been asked to serve in the following capacities:

- Chair of the History of Judaism section of SECSOR (3-year term). I would



AUTHOR RICHARD ELMAN

like to thank Professor David Williams of the University of Georgia for continuing as chair while I am in Israel.

- Constituency representative to the American Academy of Religion (3-year term).
- UT Press Board (3-year term).
- Editorial Board of Soundings.
- Advisor for Religious Studies Association.
- UT task force on multiculturalism.

Linkage with Israel

A faculty-student exchange program between UTK and an Israeli university is still being developed.

SHTETL NEWS

In addition to the formal offerings of courses and lectures at the university, Jewish life in Knoxville is enriched by individuals who pass through and events that occur. This past year, there were several unusual offerings.

Moema Furtado, adjunct professor in the Department of Art, created a moving installation show in commemoration of the Holocaust which received wide acclaim.

Last Spring, the English Department invited writer Richard Elman from New York as a visiting professor. His poetry and prose could be heard via WUOT as well as in a personal reading at the Laurel Theater.

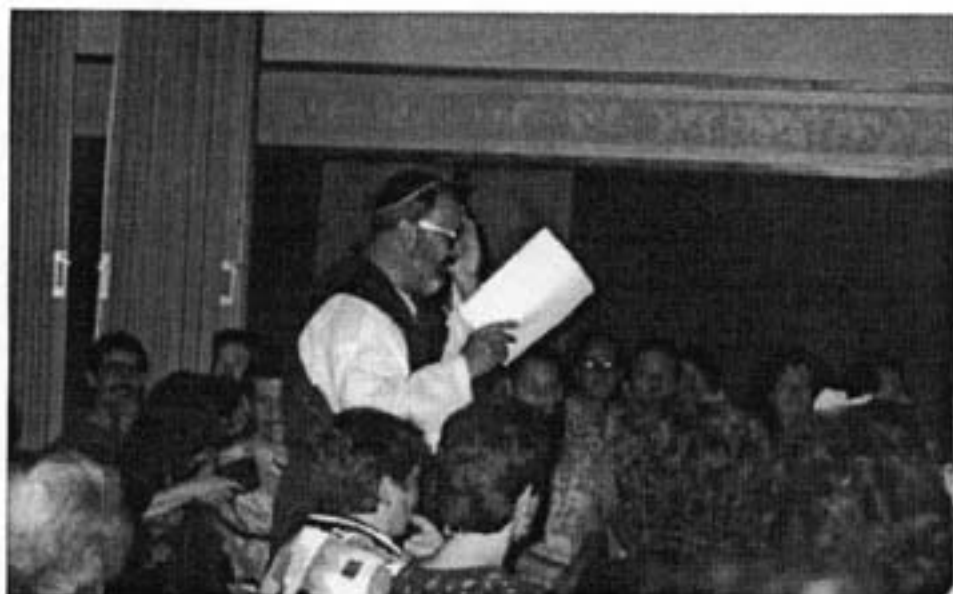
Under the very capable tutelage of Dr. Barbara Levin, Heska Amuna staged a Purim play, "Star Queen," written by a UT graduate in music, John Thomas Oaks. We would like to thank Dr. Levin for inviting the Judaic Studies Program to cosponsor one of the performances, at no cost to us.

In the Spring, the UT Issues Committee invited Mira Kimmelman and Helen and Kuba Beck from Schindler's List (not the movie, the real list) to speak. Both presentations were standing room only, and we were fortunate that Mr. and Mrs. Beck visited our Holocaust class for a more intimate presentation.

Other events, including a lecture by Dr. Amy Singer from Tel Aviv University on "Ottoman Jerusalem: Another City Revealed," the concert for peace in the Middle East, Jewish Student Center bagel brunch, community Yom Hashoah service, special visitors such as Dan Raviv, the television reporter,

ARTIST MOEMA FURTADO WITH HOLOCAUST INSTALLATION





DAVID LINWOOD AS MORDECAI IN "STAR QUEEN."

Rabbi Joseph Telushkin, Sam Glazer, and our very own cantor(ess) in the making, Jackie Marx, enriched and beautified shtetl life in Knoxville.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jewish Films on Campus

This Fall, the UT Student Activities Film Committee is sponsoring a Jewish Film Festival. This event is cosponsored by the Arnstein Jewish Community Center, the Jewish Student Center and the Judaic Studies Program. The film schedule at the University Center is as follows:

Wednesday, October 25

Night and Fog
The Last Klezmer

Thursday, October 26

Lies My Father Told Me

Saturday, October 28

Crimes and Misdemeanors

Wednesday, November 1

Enemies

For times please call 690-6343, 546-5226, or 974-2466.

Shabbaton

Rabbi Lawrence Kushner will be in Knoxville the weekend of February 10, 1996. This community-wide event will take place at Temple Beth El, Heska Amuna Synagogue, and the Arnstein Jewish Community Center. Previous to the event, Dr. Stephen Friedlander will hold a seminar at Heska Amuna Synagogue to introduce the community to Kushner's writings on spirituality. Watch your mail for further information or call one of the above organizations.

Comments from Dr. Charles Reynolds, Professor and Head of Religious Studies

Mazal Tov to Dr. Gilya Gerda Schmidt for her promotion to Associate Professor with Tenure in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. As you read this Newsletter and learn about the splendid accomplishments both of Dr. Schmidt and of the Judaic Studies Program at UTK, you have to beam with pride. The combination of University State funds and the private contributions that have been made by numerous supporters in Knoxville and across the country have made it possible for an outstanding scholar committed to her research program and to public service to achieve these remarkable results. As I have remarked on more than one occasion, I have never witnessed a single scholar make such a decisive contribution to the intellectual life of the University and the larger Knoxville community. Without the private contributions that so many of you have made, we would have lost Dr. Schmidt to a rival institution that offered her Associate Professor with Tenure this past

RAE, GENEVIEVE, DORA AND SARAH—PURIM FUN AT HESKA AMUNA



year. But by substantially raising Dr. Schmidt's salary with a combination of additional State funds and interest from the Judaic Studies Endowment (we now have over \$300,000 in the account and slightly over \$200,000 in additional pledges), we were able to retain Dr. Schmidt at UTK. We received very strong letters of support regarding her research accomplishments from scholars across the country as well as excellent letters of support regarding her public service in the greater Knoxville area. Your continuing support is needed to strengthen the Judaic Studies Program at the University of Tennessee. Our efforts continue to make appointments in the History of Judaism and in Judaic Literature. Please contact Dean Larry Ratner of the College of Arts and Sciences or Vice Chancellor Jack Williams in the Development Office if you can assist in supporting either of these appointments. Either Dr. Schmidt or I would also be happy to talk with you about the need for supporting these additional appointments. I just want to thank you for helping us get off to such a strong beginning in this new adventure. So, Mazal Tov to all of you who have helped in initiating a Judaic Studies Program at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Charles H. Reynolds

Charles H. Reynolds,
Religious Studies Department Head

TODAH RABAH

As you read from Professor Reynolds' comments, last Spring brought a very difficult time indeed. I cannot remember a time when I had to choose between two sets of friends as I did then. I was deeply saddened that I had to disappoint people who have been very good to me, but I was gratified and encouraged by the wonderful personal and professional support that I received from Dean Larry Ratner; my Department Head, Professor Charles Reynolds,



ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR GILYA GERDA SCHMIDT WITH MARGA RANDALL
AT BOOK SIGNING IN PITTSBURGH

and all of my colleagues in Religious Studies. A special thank you to my mentor, Professor Lee Humphreys, who provides the foundation in the history, literature and language of the Bible and is a tough act to follow. I would like to thank you all for the confidence you expressed in me, as a person and as an academic, and it is a good feeling to continue at UT with such strong support.

You will no doubt agree that the past year was and the present year is very good. We are able to do all these wonderful things because you in the academic, Jewish, and Knoxville communities support our efforts in many different ways. A special thank you to the Knoxville Jewish Federation for your continued support of my work and to Natalie and Mitchell Robinson for your generosity in supporting special projects.

On the Jewish calendar, we are about to begin the year 5756. LShanah tovah tikatevu—may you be inscribed for a good year. With all good wishes from my house to yours. May the new year bring peace to Israel and to all humanity.

Shalom,

Gilya Gerda Schmidt

Gilya Gerda Schmidt, Ph.D.
Scholar of Judaic Religion and
Assoc. Professor of Religious Studies



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has changed from 615 to 423*

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MANY THANKS TO IAN BLACKBURN
FOR THE DESIGN & LAYOUT
OF THIS NEWSLETTER

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, religion, national origin, age, handicap, or veteran status in provision of educational opportunities and benefits. UTR does not discriminate on the basis of sex or handicap in educational programs and activities which it operates, pursuant to requirement of Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Public Law 90-318, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Public Law 93-112, and the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, Public Law 101-336, respectively. This policy extends both the employment by, and admissions to, the University. Inquiries concerning Title IX and Section 504 and the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990 should be directed to the Office of Affirmative Action, 403-C Andy Reid Tower, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee 37996-0164, or telephone (615) 974-2498. Charges of violation of the above policy also should be directed to the Office of Affirmative Action.



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE JUDAIC STUDIES PROGRAM UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE

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