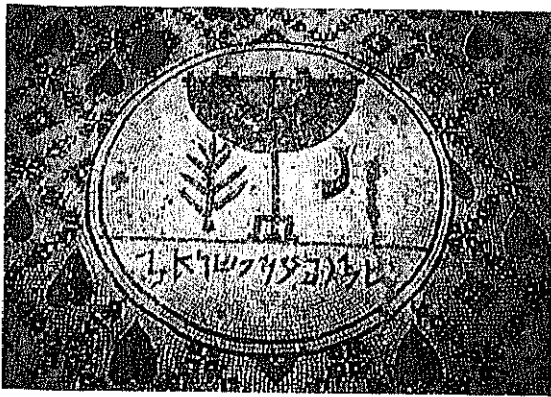


# The NEWSLETTER of the FERN & MANFRED STEINFELD Program in Judaic Studies

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE



Dear Friends of Judaic Studies at UT,

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

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

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

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

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

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

B'Shalom,

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

## Thank You to a True Friend of Judaic Studies

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

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

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

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

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

## A Word from the Interim Head of Religious Studies

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

—Jim Fitzgerald

## Judaic Studies Advisory Committee

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

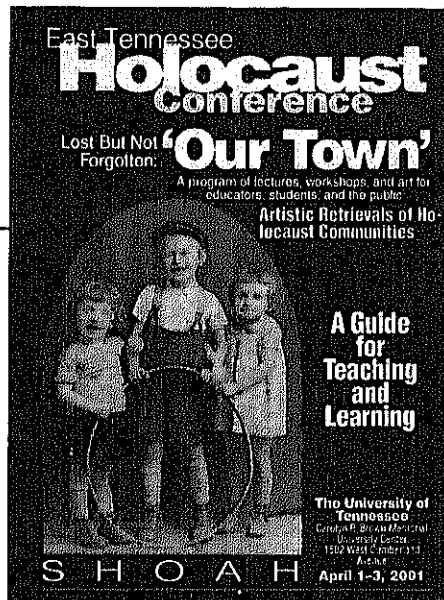
# 2001 East Tennessee Holocaust Conference

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

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

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

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



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



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



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



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

# 2001 East Tennessee Holocaust Conference



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



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



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



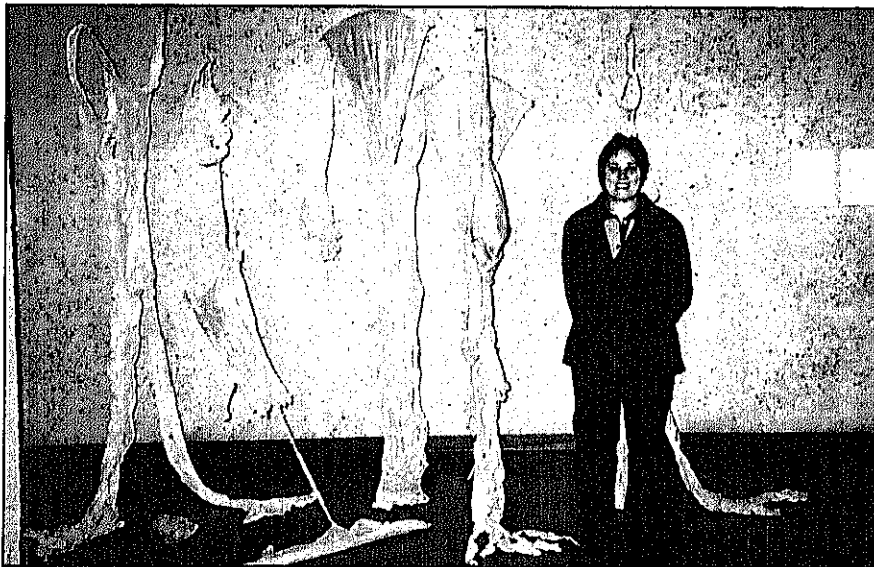
*Mr. Morris Dees, Esq., Southern Poverty Law Center, speaks to audience in UC Auditorium.*



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



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



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



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

Holocaust conference was held in the fall of 1995.

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

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

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

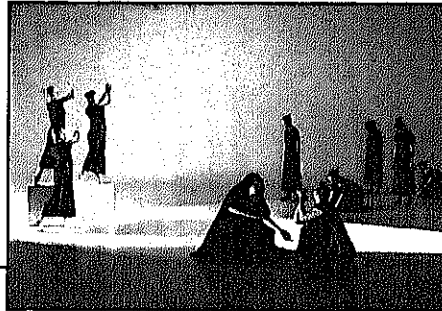
playing the "Terezin Quartet"; and Knoxville artist Arnold Schwarzbart told stories that brought us from degradation to redemption.

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

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

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

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



## 2001 East Tennessee Holocaust Conference



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

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



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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 2001 East Tennessee Holocaust Conference



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



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

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



