



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

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

Dear Friends of Judaic Studies,



When this newsletter reaches you, the year 5767 will be well under way. We will be satiated with celebration and will have begun implementing the resolutions we wrought in a

clear-headed moment.

In last year's newsletter I expressed the hope that the thirteenth year of the Fern and Manfred Steinfeld Program in Judaic Studies would be a lucky one for us, and I was not disappointed. These are exciting times for our program. In addition to many bright students taking our classes, exciting research projects for our faculty, and honors and accolades for our colleagues, we are actively pursuing the expansion of our program, primarily through development as part of the university's Capital Campaign, but also through external grants. We owe a great debt of gratitude to our "zaddikim," families who helped found the Judaic Studies program and who have supported us since then. Fern and Manny Steinfeld, Diane and Guilford Glazer, Dr. Alan Solomon, Natalie Robinson and her late husband Mitchell z"l, and Mitchell's brother Ruben Robinson z"l take the lead in ongoing major contributions, enriched by many friends and contributors who support our work. We are deeply grateful to all of you for making Judaic Studies at the University of Tennessee one of your ongoing priorities.

In addition to chairing the Fern and Manfred Steinfeld Program in Judaic Studies, I continue as Head of the Department of Religious Studies. Preceding the American Academy of Religion annual meeting last fall I attended

a workshop for heads of religious studies departments. These workshops are very interesting, as we get to discuss issues that many of us struggle with in our jobs. It is also a great way to network. As I am writing this, the technicians are rewiring our building, McClung Tower, for the internet. Their work brings huge strands of multiple cables hanging from the ceiling. I often feel that my days are made up of such multiple strands of diverse and eclectic tasks, including activities to do with teaching, administration, scholarship and service. The department, like the program, is actively involved in growth, and for that purpose new ways of seeking outside funding are necessary. One of our dreams is to establish a Center for Middle Eastern Studies, building on the considerable expertise in Judaism, Islam, Arabic, and Hebrew in our department and beyond. This dream may have a chance of becoming real because the Chancellor is committed to an intercultural and international diversity initiative called "Ready for the World." What better way to contribute to this initiative than by properly teaching Hebrew and Arabic, as well as other Middle Eastern languages. To this end I am currently learning the ropes of filing an electronic application for a federal grant with the Department of Education, not something I have done before.

It has been a great joy to work with the departmental Board of Visitors this past year, especially the Arabic subcommittee which is very active and deeply involved in making the quality teaching of Arabic a reality. Similarly, our development officer in the college is aggressively pursuing funding opportunities for Modern Hebrew. Private gifts for either goal or major contributions to endowed professorships would be most welcome and would provide a tremendous boost to our effort.

We have been truly blessed this past year in being able to welcome new colleagues to the university and friends into the community. Of course Coach Bruce Pearl does not need an introduction anymore, and after last year's reception, he knows he and his family are welcome. We, in turn, are grateful to him for giving of his time to inspire the Jewish students on campus. We are also delighted with the strong leadership in pursuit of excellence that Dr. Bruce Bursten, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, has brought to the college. It is an honor and pleasure to welcome Dr. Robert Holub, Provost and Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs. Provost Holub's academic home is the German Program in Modern Foreign Languages and Literatures, also the home of our new colleague, Assistant Professor Dr. Daniel Magilow. Although hired in 2005, Dr. Magilow completed a year's fellowship at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. and has joined us in Knoxville. I hope you all will introduce yourselves to these new friends as they get to know the community.

Many times during the year someone will tell me how much you enjoy receiving the newsletter. I hope that you will enjoy reading this one as well. We would love to hear from you.

With best wishes for a sweet year, hopefully a year of peace for all humanity.

B'Shalom,

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

Judaic Studies Advisory Committee

■ Palmira Brummett

One of the highlights of Professor Brummett's work this past year included participation in three international conferences:

- "The Ottoman Adriatic," Symposium on Shakespeare and the Eastern Mediterranean, Interuniversity Centre, Dubrovnik, Croatia, October 2006.
- Keynote Address, "The Lepanto Paradigm Revisited: Knowing the Ottomans in the Sixteenth Century," Symposium: "The Renaissance and the Ottoman World," Warburg Institute and The School of African and Oriental Studies, London April 2006; held in conjunction with the opening of the "Bellini in the World" exhibit at the National Gallery.
- Discussant (invited), "Sources of Exoticism and Imperialism," Symposium on Ottoman and Atlantic Empires in the Early Modern World, Omohondro Institute of Early American History and Bogazici University, Istanbul, October 2005.

■ Heather Hirschfeld

Heather Hirschfeld had a busy year teaching, serving as book review editor of the annual journal *Medieval and Renaissance Drama in England*, and working on her next book project, a study of English Renaissance revenge tragedy and Reformation theology. Three of her articles appeared over the course of the year: "We all expect a gentle answer, Jew': *The Merchant of Venice* and the Psychotheology of Conversion," *ELH* (73): 2006, 61-81; "Compulsions of the Renaissance," *Shakespeare Studies* 23 (2005): 109-114, and "Psychoanalysis and Its Contemporary Engagements," *Shakespearean International Yearbook* (2005). She presented at the annual Shakespeare Association of America conference (April, 2006) and was an invited speaker at the Yale Conference on Rethinking Historicism (May, 2006). She also gave guest lectures to Heska Amuna's Prozdor class and at the Church of the Ascension in Knoxville.

■ Peter Höyng

It is with considerable sadness that we bade farewell last July to our cherished colleague, Dr. Peter Höyng, who had been a founding member of the Judaic Studies Advisory Committee. Peter was a loyal participant in and contributor to all of our academic activities, curricular as well as programmatic. Peter, who served as

chair of the German Program here, has moved to Emory University where he has become the Chair of the German Studies Department. We wish him well in all of his endeavors.

■ Marilyn Kallet

Through a Professional Development Grant and a Hodges Research/Travel grant, Professor Marilyn Kallet, Lindsay Young Professor in English, was able to travel to Poland this past July, accompanied by Rabbi Beth Schwartz of Temple Beth El, where Professor Kallet gave poetry readings on "Poetry and Jewish Identity" in Warsaw and Krakow. The United States embassy sponsored the readings as part of their "America Presents" series. In Warsaw, she read at Beit Warszawa, a Reform Jewish congregation; the Jewish Historical Institute, the Schorr Foundation for Jewish Culture; in Krakow at the Galicia Gallery of Jewish Life in Poland. Rabbi Schwartz gave presentations on the history of women in the rabbinate, and on Jewish poetry in our liturgy. She led services at Beit Warszawa, which has 300 members on its rolls. On July 19, they were guests of Ambassador Victor Ashe, former mayor of Knoxville, at a luncheon in their honor, held at the residence. David Peleg, the Israeli Ambassador to Poland, was present at the lunch, as was Jerzy Halbersztadt, the director of the new Museum of Jewish Life in Poland. They then traveled to Riga, Latvia, for Holocaust research. Professor Kallet read the poems about her research at the "Living On" exhibit at the East Tennessee History Center on October 9. The event was cosponsored by the Fern and Manfred Steinfeld Program in Judaic Studies of the University of Tennessee and the Tennessee Holocaust Commission, as were the other eight programs held between August 28 and October 22.

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The poem below, "Passport Control, Riga," was composed after a research trip to Poland and Latvia, in July of 2006. I was accompanied by Rabbi Beth Schwartz of Temple Beth El of Knoxville. My goal was to continue Holocaust research. In addition to Holocaust research, I wanted to say *Kaddish* for my relatives who were transported from Germany to Riga, to be murdered there.

In Warsaw and Krakow, Rabbi Schwartz and I gave readings and presentations, sponsored by the United States Embassy's "America Presents" cultural series. While in Poland, Rabbi Schwartz and I were treated like visiting royalty, offered magnificent hospitality by the Jewish community at Beit Warszawa

as well as by Ambassador Ashe, his wife Joan, and by his staff. We were introduced to the foremost Jewish intellectuals in Poland today, among them Eleanor Bergman, who directs the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw, a Holocaust museum and museum of Eastern European Jewish life. The museum is a treasure trove of recovered Jewish artifacts and documents, and a must for any scholar of Jewish European history.

Once we left Poland for Latvia, we entered a more ominous zone, one without ambassadorial protection. At the border, Rabbi Schwartz passed through passport control ahead of me, no problem. But I was stopped. A young uniformed Latvian officer told me dispassionately, "I cannot let you enter my country." My passport had a few days short of three months left on it. I had no clue about that three months rule. I asked to see someone higher up; the commander read my passport, saw my plane ticket to Paris, (our next destination), and waved me through.

Jennifer, our Latvian guide, said this kind of red tape and arbitrary yes-or-no stamp, was very typical. Rabbi Schwartz and I exhaled and proceeded on an intense tour of sites of Jewish interest in Riga and surrounding areas. Jennifer had schooled herself in Jewish history and Hebrew. She became our friend and ally. With her help, we arranged to meet with Margers Vestermanis, a Shoah survivor and director of the Jewish Museum in Riga. He was a sweet, spiritual man in his eighties, who has documented every available scrap on information about Jewry in Latvia that he could find. And we visited Sasha Bergman, filmmaker and author at his apartment. Mr. Bergman has made sixty trips to Germany on behalf of Jewish survivors and their reparation rights.

We spent time at the extraordinary monument to German Jews in the forest at Bikernieki, where there is a field of sculptured markers resembling gravestones. Each stone has the name of a city on it. "Stuttgart" was the very first stone we encountered. Most likely, my family was on that Stuttgarter transport. Unlike the records of Western European camps kept by the Germans, the records of the Latvian genocide are virtually nonexistent. Numbers are inconsistent.

We do know that 25,000 Jews were shot in two days in the forest at Rumbala. We visited the monuments there. The sculpture of a dragon built in metal resembling barbed wire guards the entrance to the forest; a barbed wire menorah is at the center of the monument.

Other monuments were less impressive. There's a tall light-infused

stalk that marks the thousands who died in Kaiserwald concentration camp. This monument is at the corner of a bustling suburban square and garners little attention. In Latvia, unlike Poland, most monuments do indict local collaborators along with Nazi perpetrators.

The plaque at the ruins of the Old Choral Synagogue is a disgrace. This monument marks the beginning of the end for Jews in Latvia. On Kristallnacht, 300 Jews were rounded up, locked in the synagogue and burned alive. The historical site of that horror is now littered with beer bottles.

Salaspils, a former concentration camp, is better maintained. The Soviets built a huge, impressive memorial suite of sculptures there, as Soviets were imprisoned there by the Nazis, along with thousands of Jews. For many years after the war, the Soviets required schoolchildren to visit Salaspils. Now it is not even mentioned in most tourist guides. But it is an extraordinary sight; those traveling to Latvia should make a point of visiting the vast memorial.

We attended services at the one remaining synagogue in Riga, an Orthodox site. We sat upstairs with the women. There we talked with a Jewish woman from Florida who was on a similar quest to mine. And we were feted at the home of the Chabad rabbi and his wife at a lovely Shabbat luncheon.

We traveled to the Baltic Sea resort of Jurmala, to meet with a Jewish gulag survivor Gita Salovina, who had spent more than twenty years at hard labor in northern Siberia. She was shipped there by the Soviets in 1941, before the Nazi occupation. People have said to her, "You were lucky to avoid the Nazis and certain death." She responds, "None of us were lucky."

The last name in my poem, Wolf Kappel, was sent to me by a woman in New York. Two years ago, an article appeared in the travel section of the *New York Times*, touting Riga a pretty place to visit for loganberry tarts and museum exhibits of hardy Latvian patriots. In a letter to the *New York Times*, I pointed out that at least 50,000 Jews had been murdered in Riga, and that some of those hardy Latvians had helped in the killings. After my letter appeared, I received an e-mail from a woman of Latvian descent saying that the Jews just wanted publicity, and that some Latvians had helped the Jews. (Only a handful of "righteous" people are noted at the Jewish Museum in Latvia). Another lady wrote to me about her grandfather from Riga, Wolf Kappel, who was forced to dig his own grave by

his next door neighbor, then shot and pushed in. At his granddaughter's request, Rabbi Schwartz and I said Kaddish for Mr. Kappel as well as for more than a dozen of my relatives, Schwarzes and Lembergers, who were on the list of martyrs.

Passport Control, Riga

"*Schraibt, idn, schraibt*"
("Write, Jews, Write")

Last words of Yiddish historian
Simon Dubnow, murdered in Riga,
12/8/1941

Five thousand miles from Tennessee.
A young passport officer
stops me: "I can't let you into Latvia.
Your passport expires in three months.
Nothing I can do."

December, 1941, my family was shipped
here by Nazis,
herded with whips
into Bikerniek Forest
and Rumbala.
Now I can't say *Kaddish*.

A "superior" waves me through.
My friend the rabbi has been waiting.
"You can't predict in Riga,
it's hit or miss," our guide says.
We'll tour memorials for 70,000 Jews,

for my great-aunt Hilde Lemberger
and her son Freddie.
"What would have happened to a six-year-
old?"
I asked the director of the Jewish Museum.
"They killed him."

"Rumbala" means "rapids," our guide
says,
"like a river."
25,000 machine-gunned in two days.
"Faster! Faster!"
Nazis streamlined

the local fascist program,
"a definite plan to deprive
non-Latvians of the possibility
of existing."
In basements, forests,

mass graves,
German and Latvian police
carried out secret order Number One:
"The efforts of anti-Semite
circles aimed at self-purification

should not be hindered.
They should be provoked, intensified,
and directed,
in such a way that
no traces [of German orders] are left."

No traces of Jews.

As the Russian army drew closer
Kaiserwald inmates were forced
to unbury the dead at Hochwald
and burn them.

Then the diggers were shot.
Erased from camp records.
The rabbi and I have come for them,
too. We stride the city sidewalks
Jews were forbidden.

In the woods we'll chant *Kaddish*
for Freddie and Hilde Lemberger,
the Schwarzes from Horb,
Hilde and Max Kahn,
Jetchen Strauss,

and Wolf Kappel,
whose neighbor forced him
at gunpoint
to dig his own grave
in his own backyard.

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■ Vejas Liulevicius

Dr. Vejas Gabriel Liulevicius (associate professor, History) spent the last year on research, funded by a fellowship of the National Endowment for the Humanities, working on his next book, on German views of Eastern Europe from 1800 to 2000. The Teaching Company of Chantilly, Virginia, produced a taped lecture course by Dr. Liulevicius in its "Great Courses Series." His 36-lecture course is entitled "World War I: The Great War," and covers the military, social, and cultural history of this first "total war" (for more information, see www.teach12.com).

He also published two articles:
"Von 'Ober-Ost' nach 'Ostland'?" in
Die vergessene Front. Der Osten 1914/15: Ereignis, Wirkung, Nachwirkung, ed. Gerhard P. Groß (Paderborn: Ferdinand Schöningh, 2006) and "Les dimensions sociales de l'occupation militaire: la domination allemande en Europe du Nord-Est pendant la Première Guerre mondiale," in *Histoire et Sociétés: Revue Européenne D'Histoire Sociale*, No. 17 (January 2006).

■ Daniel Magilow

Dr. Magilow spent the academic year 2005-2006 as the Pearl Resnick Postdoctoral Fellow at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. to research a project about *yizkor* books. *Yizkor* books are the compendia that survivors created to memorialize their destroyed communities. Many were written in Yiddish shortly after the war. Although long stigmatized as overly subjective and sometimes historically

inaccurate, *yizkor* books have in the last decade become the objects of renewed scholarly interest. In that many of them contain family photographs, they provided Dr. Magilow an opportunity to examine photography's role in the memory of trauma and in the representation of Jewish identity.

During his year in D.C., Dr. Magilow also did outreach for the Holocaust Memorial Museum. He presented lectures about various Holocaust related topics, including *yizkor* books, Holocaust films, and Holocaust memorials to high school and college students and to Jewish community groups in Tennessee, Georgia, Indiana, California, and Washington D.C. One lecture that he presented to several groups, including UT students, concerns the "Paper Clip Memorial", the project for which students at Whitwell Middle School in Whitwell, Tennessee successfully collected more than 6,000,000 paper clips to symbolize the six million Jews murdered in the Holocaust. His research on that memorial and similar "memorial collections" forms the basis of a forthcoming article in the journal *Jewish Social Studies*.

Although Dr. Magilow's fellowship ended in May 2006, his time at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum also exposed him to resources that he hopes to implement in his teaching at UT. In the spring 2007 semester he will be teaching two courses with significant Jewish studies components: an undergraduate survey about German-Jewish culture since the late 18th century and a course about the experience of childhood during the Third Reich.



Professor Daniel Magilow and his collie Rifke

■ Amy Neff

Professor Neff's article, "Lesser Brothers: Franciscan Identity and Minority at Assisi," will appear in the December 2006 issue of *Art Bulletin*. The article focuses on thirteenth-century Old Testament frescoes in the church of San Francesco, Assisi. Her new interpretation of these famous paintings from late medieval Italy has interested

several audiences: Professor Neff was invited to speak on the Assisi frescoes at the Courtauld Institute of Art History in London and at the Franciscan Institute of Saint Bonaventure University, New York. She will also be speaking this fall at a conference at the Vatican Film Library, Saint Louis, Mo., on the texts and images of a beautifully illuminated late thirteenth-century manuscript.

Professor Neff is grateful for a research leave this fall semester and for support as a Dale Cleaver Professor of Art History during the academic year, 2006-2007. The released time and financial support will be used to finish the editing on two articles on Assisi and to work toward completion of a book on the manuscript called the *Supplicationes variae*, painted in northern Italy in 1293.

■ Charles H. Reynolds

Professor Reynolds has been working with John Hodges, Bernard Bernstein and Arnold Cohen, among others, to assist the Department of Religious Studies and its Board of Visitors in establishing a memorial fund named after the late James Washington. Dr. Washington, a major in Religious Studies at UT who graduated in 1970, earned a master's degree at Harvard and a doctorate from Yale (1979) before joining the faculty at Union Theological Seminary and Columbia University. Professor Washington authored *Frustrated Fellowship: The Black Baptist Quest For Social Power* (1986), *A Testament Of Hope: The Essential Writings Of Martin Luther King, Jr.* (1986), and *Conversations With God: Two Centuries Of Prayer By African Americans* (1994). His early and untimely death was on May 3, 1997. The sub-committee's goal is to honor the person and academic achievements of Dr. Washington with a memorial fund that will assist faculty and graduate students at UT to pursue scholarship in African American religion.

The Symposium "Democracy and Tradition" organized by Professor Reynolds at the University of Tennessee in the fall of 2004 has now resulted in two special journal issues which he edited: *Soundings*, Vol. 87, No. 3-4 and the *Journal Of Religious Ethics*, Vol. 33.4. Professor Reynolds wishes to thank all who helped to make this symposium such a successful community and university event.

■ Tina Shepardson

Dr. Shepardson is teaching again this fall after being on leave last spring. While she misses having more time to research and write, she also enjoys the excitement and immediate rewards of the classroom. The new course on Christianity in Late Antiquity (RS 322) that she taught for the first time last fall went very well, and she will be refining it for this coming spring semester. Meanwhile, the introductory New Testament class (RS 321) and the 200-person World Religions class (RS 101)

which she is co-teaching with Professor Rosalind Hackett, are keeping her on her toes this semester.

The recent spring and summer proved to be very productive for Dr. Shepardson's new research project on the spatial politics of religious controversy in fourth-century Antioch. Thanks to a Professional Development Award from the University of Tennessee, this research included her first research abroad, a wonderful trip to Antakya (Antioch), Turkey, near the Syrian border, where she spent time at a museum of Roman mosaics, searching out local Roman ruins, and studying the topography of the city and its suburb Harbiye (Daphne). The trip proved to be much more than a lesson in Roman and early Christian history, and the interaction with the people she met and the places she visited have proved useful for teaching the introductory World Religions class. Her recent research on Antioch has already produced two conference papers and a large article that she is currently under revision for submission to the leading journal in her field. This article will, in turn, become a chapter in her new book project on Antioch, to which she will return as soon as the revision of her first book manuscript on the anti-Jewish rhetoric of Ephrem, the Syrian's fourth-century writings is complete. This work continues to inch through the acceptance process at Catholic University of America Press, and an article on Syria in *Late Antiquity* should come out this year. As the semester gets into full swing on campus, the faculty research seminar on "The Mediterranean World in Late Antiquity" that Dr. Shepardson started through the Humanities Initiative with Professor Michael Kulikowski (History) and Professor Thomas Heffernan (English, adjunct in Religious Studies) is beginning its second year, and continues to provide a valuable opportunity to engage with local scholars in the field.

Likewise, Marco and Judaic Studies help her to stay connected with other colleagues whose work and interests overlap with her own. As always, Dr. Shepardson continues to lecture around the Knoxville area, and finds it rewarding to provide opportunities for those not



Dr. Tina Shepardson on the Hippodrome Wall in Antakya, Turkey.

otherwise connected with the university to think in historical terms about the origins of Christianity, and in particular its complex relationship with second-Temple Judaism and the larger Roman world in which it developed.

■ Johanna Stiebert

This past year has been an eventful one for Dr. Stiebert. Her second book, *The Exile and the Prophet's Wife: Historic Events and Marginal Perspectives*, was published in 2005. This is an accessible text on the events surrounding the exile in Babylon and also two methods of scholarly interpretation (psychoanalytic and ideological-critical interpretation). The book is designed for college students and interested laypeople and includes both discursive sections, intended to be descriptive and informative, and creative sections, imagining events from the perspective of the prophet Ezekiel's wife, which are intended to make the historical

event more vivid. Another project, which kept her busy during her spring semester off, was writing a chapter for a teaching text aimed at college students on the continent of Africa. The main event of the spring semester for Dr. Stiebert, however, was the birth of her first child, Gustav Tandy. He is already a well-traveled boy, as he accompanied his parents on a trip to Auckland, New Zealand, where they attended the Orality and Literacy in the Ancient World Conference. Here Dr. Stiebert presented a paper on oral and literary transmission



Carl Gustav Ezekiel Tandy

with particular focus on two figures from the Hebrew Bible: Esau and the prophet Balaam. While in New Zealand, they also visited Wellington, where she gave two presentations: one on AIDS and biblical interpretation and another on the Dead Sea Scrolls. Now back in Knoxville, she is this fall teaching one of her regular courses, RS 311, on Ancient Hebraic Traditions, as well as, for the first time, Hebrew language (RS 309). Her aim is to teach Biblical Hebrew for four consecutive semesters. So far, things are looking good: the course is full. It is Dr. Stiebert's hope that in the future there will indeed be a Center for Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Tennessee, where languages such as Hebrew and Arabic will be offered regularly. Given the dynamics of contemporary conflicts and politics and the desire to live in a more peaceful world, this has never been as important as it is now.

DEVELOPMENT -- JUDAIC STUDIES ON THE MOVE! PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS CREATE NEW ENDOWMENTS

A Major Gift from Manny and Fern Steinfeld

In line with our vision of expanding the Judaic Studies Program during the period of the University's Capital Campaign, in May 2006 a delegation from the University of Tennessee visited with Fern and Manny Steinfeld in Chicago to introduce Dean Bruce Bursten and to ask the Steinfelds for their help in our future plans. Mr. and Mrs. Steinfeld are long-time major donors to various programs at the university and to Judaic Studies, contributing to the chair endowment held by Gilya Schmidt and to the endowed professorship held by J.P. Dessel. Manny and Fern graciously made an additional major commitment to Judaic Studies to be used towards an additional endowed professorship. They also endowed a scholarship fund for students studying in the Judaic Studies Program, which will go into effect for next academic year 2007-8 (see Student section). We are most grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Steinfeld for their continued support of our work at the University of Tennessee.



Left to Right: Dean Bruce Bursten and Mr. Manfred Steinfeld discuss Chicago's Jewish history at the Standard Club.

Dr. Ruben P. Robinson Memorial Fund

Ruben Robinson z"l was a pillar of the Knoxville Jewish community for his entire life. He was instrumental in the creation of the endowment that helped fund the chair in Judaic Studies held by Gilya Schmidt. We very much appreciated Ruben's generosity during his lifetime and were not surprised to learn that he had also remembered us in his will. Because of the generous estate gift from Ruben, we are creating an endowed memorial fund in his name. The fund will be used for student and faculty support to study or conduct research in Israel or at Jewish institutions in Europe or elsewhere. Natalie Robinson and family are very pleased that this fund has come into being. We would like to thank Natalie Robinson for her and her family's ongoing strong financial support and encouragement of all of our endeavors.

Guilford and Diane Glazer Major Gift

Guilford and Diane Glazer were perhaps the first major donors to contribute to the nascent chair in Judaic Studies occupied since 1993 by Gilya Schmidt. They have over the years continued to be strong financial contributors. Their most recent pledge to the chair endowment is most welcome. We are deeply grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Glazer for their continued interest in and support of Judaic Studies at UT.

DORS Board of Visitors

Although not only a body of community leaders who are committed to supporting Judaic Studies, but all

academic areas in the Department of Religious Studies, the departmental Board of Visitors which is in its third year of operation, has taken an active interest in establishing a Center for Middle Eastern Studies in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Tennessee. A year ago the sub-committee on Arabic developed a vision statement which calls for our well-established Judaic Studies Program to be the foundation for the center, along with permanent improved faculty-taught courses in Modern Hebrew and Arabic at the beginning and intermediate levels. The sub-committee on Arabic has taken a strong lead in helping the Head secure seed money for a two-year visiting professor position through a federal grant with the Department of Education. This is the first time we have attempted to secure funds to improve instruction in this way, and we will see if we succeed. Our thanks to the members of the sub-committee on Arabic for their diligence and time: Dr. Rosalind Gwynne, Jim Harb, Anne McKinney, and Valarie Budayr. Also many thanks to Aldon Knight, Development officer for the College of Arts and Sciences, who has participated in our ongoing deliberations and efforts. Aldon's office was also instrumental in submitting a proposal for a sizeable grant for Modern Hebrew to a philanthropic organization. The full Board of Visitors meets once a year. Last year's meeting took place on March 15 at the Faculty Club, this year's meeting has been scheduled for December 4.

J.P. DESSEL ACTIVITIES
FERN AND MANFRED STEINFELD
PROFESSOR OF ANCIENT
JEWISH HISTORY

It's hard to believe another year has passed! While I taught in the Fall, I had no teaching responsibilities in the Spring which allowed me to get a lot of work done on the publication of Tell 'Ein Zippori and Tell el-Wawiyat.

Research

The Dever Festschrift should be out within another month and I continue to work on the two volumes dedicated to Dr. Sy Gitin, the first of which is nearing completion. In the Spring I was able to get a considerable amount of work done on the final publication of Tell 'Ein Zippori and Tell el-Wawiyat. Much time was spent finalizing the drawings of the pottery and soon I will begin making the final pottery plates for the excavation report. Once the plates are finished they will be submitted to the Israel Antiquities Authority along with the pottery itself. This summer I will spend a few weeks in Israel handing over the ceramic materials (boxes and boxes of pottery) and cleaning out the lab I have used for the last seven years.

I was awarded a Professional Development Fund grant from the University to prospect for archaeological sites. I am preparing to either join a new archaeology project or start my own and am interested in several sites in northern Israel and southeastern Turkey. Much of this summer was spent exploring sites and projects that would be suitable for my research needs.

In June I spent three weeks in Israel. First I was in Jerusalem working in my lab trying to tie up innumerable loose ends. Things were very quiet in Jerusalem, except for the number of tourists. For the first time since the summer of 2000 restaurants and cafes were full, tourist buses clogged the roads and archaeology sites were jam-packed. This would

change of course, but in June Israel was very calm and spirits were high. While in Jerusalem I visited the tunnel which runs alongside the Western Wall and the City of David Excavations (where I worked in the summer of 1982). Both sites are marvelous from an archaeological perspective and well worth a visit. They are also fascinating from a more political perspective, and both sites exemplify how the past and present are welded together in the Middle East.

I left Jerusalem to join the excavation team at Tell Kedesh. Tell Kedesh is a very large and beautiful site that sits right on the Lebanese border in the eastern part of the Upper Galilee. The lower city of the site is currently being excavated by Professors Sharon Herbert (University of Michigan) and Andrea Berlin (University of Minnesota). They are interested in the Hellenistic levels there and have already uncovered an incredible administrative center that housed an archive from which over 2,000 clay bullae were recovered. My interest in the site is on the earlier Early Bronze and Iron Age levels and I am considering tying into the existing project. While at Kedesh I also visited other sites in the area such as Tell Dan, Tell Abel Beth Ma'acah, Baniyas, Meona and others. While I was there things were very calm and peaceful. The Galilee was filled with tourists from Israel and abroad. I drove along the border road with Lebanon as it is one of most picturesque in Israel. Everyone in the north remarked how things were "normal" for the first time in a long while. I left the Galilee very excited about the prospect of setting up a Bronze/Iron Age component to the ongoing work at the Tell Kedesh. Of course due to the war between Israel and Hezbollah that erupted in northern Israel shortly after I left things look somewhat different now.

After leaving Kedesh and on my way to the airport I stopped at Tell Gezer, which again is being excavated. My advisor Professor William Dever headed the excavation project at Gezer in the 1960s and early 70s and I worked at the site in 1984. While at Gezer I spent a day at the site explaining to the current directors

where we dug in 1984 and how those results might factor into the current project. Bill Dever and Sy Gitin also came down that day for a tour of the site which made for a very nice reunion. I also gave a lecture while at Gezer on the origins of the Israelites.

I then embarked for Turkey. My ultimate destination was the site of Tell Tayinat, located outside the modern city of Antakya in the Hatay Province which is wedged between the northeast corner of the Mediterranean Sea and Syria. Of course it would have been much faster if I could have driven from Tell Kedesh north into Lebanon and then through Syria and into Turkey – I figure it would have taken maybe 8 hours or so. But that option disappeared with the last Ottoman sultan, so I flew instead, leaving Tel Aviv for Istanbul at 6:30 a.m. (2 hours) and then flying to Adana (3 hours). In Adana I took a bus to Antakya (another three hours) and then my colleague, Professor Tim Harrison (University of Toronto) who directs the Tayinat project picked me up. I arrived at the site around 6:30 p.m. – some ten hours later.

Tell Tayinat (<http://www.utoronto.ca/tap>) is an incredible site. It was first excavated by the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago in the 1930s. They uncovered a beautiful Iron Age II temple (thought to be very similar to the Solomonic Temple described in the Hebrew Bible), an Assyrian palace and a wide array of Luwian (Neo-Hittite) Aramaic, and Akkadian inscriptions. They also found extensive Early Bronze Age remains. Tim Harrison renewed the excavations at Tayinat two years ago and this was to be the second full season of excavation. I was visiting the site in hopes of finding a niche on the team as well as identifying some areas of research that would fit into my own interests. I spent a few days getting acclimated to the site and meeting all the team members. I spent about a full week actually excavating and directing the work of a small trench. The site is both huge, about 35 hectare (one ha. = 2.4 acres) and very rich. In addition to Early Bronze III material, much

of this season's material dated to the Iron Age I which was somewhat unexpected. As I am actively working in both the Early Bronze Age and Iron Age I, Tayinat is a good fit for my own research. I had an excellent time at Tayinat and came away very impressed by the project. It is very well organized and staffed and seems to have a good future ahead of it.

Teaching and Departmental Service

In the Fall semester I taught a graduate seminar on the rise of complex society. I always find teaching graduate seminars both challenging and stimulating. This gives me an opportunity to work with the History graduate students and expose them to some of the theoretical literature on issues such as the domestication of plants and animals and concurrent dramatic changes in the social, cultural and economic aspects of society, emergence of urbanism and the state, and the eventual formation of empire. Much of the seminar is spent examining pre and protohistoric case studies. As there are always new discoveries being made, both the data on these issues and thus the theory relating to those data are always changing. The recent reports of an entirely new script found in the Olmec heartland in Mesoamerica is an example of how new discoveries impact on our understanding of the rise of complex societies.

I also taught the first part of Jewish History which includes the biblical and rabbinic periods. This gives me an opportunity to integrate my own work and interests in the archaeology of these periods into a historical perspective. My recent forays to Turkey and my interests in the Roman and Byzantine synagogues found there have added a new dimension to this course.

In August of this year the MA Program in Mediterranean Archaeology had its first graduate, Meagan Ayer. Meagan's thesis was on the Roman and Byzantine pottery from the Kerak Plateau in Jordan, and I served as her advisor. My colleagues, Professors Alyedis Van de Moortal (Classics), Merle Langdon

(Classics) and David Anderson (Anthropology) are very excited about building this new program and broadening the interest in Old World Archaeology at the University.

In the Winter I served on a search committee for a historian of Japan. While I do work in Asia, it's the farthest corner of western Asia, so needless to say this was an illuminating experience. We hired Dr. Robert Stolz who earned his PhD. from the University of Chicago and works on the Meiji Period. Robert will be an excellent addition to the Department of History.

Service to the Profession

I continue to serve on the Board of Trustees and Executive Board of the Albright Institute of Archaeological Research (located in Jerusalem) as the secretary. This past year we had Board meetings in Boston and Philadelphia. I also continue to work on the Fellowship Committee, and this past fall we distributed over \$250,000 in fellowships. It was another record year for the number of applications for fellowships. At the May meeting I was elected treasurer of the Institute; obviously they have never seen my check book. It is certainly interesting to see the inside views of the finances of an international non-profit academic institution. The municipal tax situation of running such an institute in Jerusalem is mind-boggling and involves a thorough understanding of the political changes in Jerusalem over the last forty years.

I am also on the steering committee of the Archaeology Section of the Society of Biblical Studies. We select the topics and review the presentations which will be given at the annual meetings, this year they are in Washington D.C. This year's topics included the archaeology of religion in the Roman World and archaeological excavations and discoveries.

Service to the Community

Last fall (2005) I became the faculty advisor to UT Hillel. This has been a very easy and enjoyable position to fill, thanks to the efforts of the UT Hillel director Deborah Oleshansky. In September I gave a

lecture to the KJA Mission to Israel on the archaeology of Nysa-Scythopolis (the Greco-Roman name for the Iron Age and modern city of Beth Shean) and the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. The group was very enthusiastic and I heard they had a great time. Later in that same month I gave a lecture on Jewish scripture and sources as well as modern American Jewry to an Interfaith Dialogue group at St. John's Cathedral in Knoxville. This was a very lively group and the question and answer period continued for a long while and even out in the parking lot of the church.

In February of 2006 I gave a lecture to the Knoxville Jewish Leadership Forum out in Oak Ridge entitled "The Biggest Issues Facing Israel Today." This was a really nice opportunity for me to visit the Oak Ridge Jewish Congregation.

In Closing...

Another exciting year has passed. New opportunities, like the MA Program in Mediterranean Archaeology and Tayinat Archaeological Project are a welcome addition to both the Fern and Manfred Steinfeld Program in Judaic Studies and the University. Through these kinds of programs we hope to attract more students interested in ancient Israel and the Near East. Again, I would like to thank the Fern and Manfred Steinfeld Program in Judaic Studies and Department of History for their generous support. **Shanah Tovah Umetukah!**



Associate Professor J.P. Dessel (center) at Gezer with Professors Sy Gitin (left) and William G. Dever (right).

JUDIAC STUDIES LECTURE SERIES

Although lectures occurring in this academic year technically belong in next year's newsletter, I cannot help but mention what a wonderful beginning we had this year with the visit by Professor Peter Machinist from Harvard University. On October 6, he gave a riveting lecture on Genesis. Thanks to an endowment from Dr. Alan Solomon, the Abraham and Rebecca Solomon and Ida Schwartz Distinguished Lecture in Judaic Studies occurs every other year. We were delighted that Professor Machinist, who was J.P. Dessel's teacher at the University of Arizona, was able to accept that honor this year. The Hodges Library Auditorium was filled to capacity, with standing room only. Thank you very much, Peter! The lecture was followed by a very special reception, thanks to the generosity of an anonymous friend of Judaic Studies. It was an inspiring highlight for faculty, students, and community alike.



Professor Peter Machinist from Harvard University in Tokyo, Japan, in 2005

Collaboration between departments and programs across the campus to bring renowned national and international speakers to UT is one of the great joys of scholarly interaction. I would again like to thank our colleagues

for inviting Judaic Studies to cosponsor their speakers when appropriate and for supporting speakers whom we are inviting to campus. This past year we had a very rich and diverse offering of programming, comprising Israeli politics, history, Sephardic poetry, the Holocaust, and Jewish music. Our thanks to our speakers and sponsors.

Reginetta Haboucha

Dr. Reginetta Haboucha, Acting Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs as well as Acting Dean of the School of Graduate Studies at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City presented a reading from her latest book, *King Solomon and the Golden Fish*, to a community audience at the Arnstein Jewish Community Center on September 25, 2005. This was followed by a September 26 lecture on "Oral Narratives in the Sephardic Tradition" to the University community. Co-sponsored by the Departments of Religious Studies, History and English, Marco, the Spanish Education Fund in Modern Foreign Languages, and the Knoxville Jewish Alliance, the two-day event was very well received by the entire community of learners.



Arnold and Mary Linda Schwarzbart host Professor Reginetta Haboucha (Center) from the New York Fashion Institute.

Daniel Magilow

Dr. Daniel Magilow spent the academic year 2005-06 as the Pearl Resnick Postdoctoral Fellow at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. On November 15, as part of the Museum's outreach effort, he gave a lecture on the Whitwell paperclips project, entitled "Counting to Six Million: Collecting Projects and Holocaust Memorialization." The lecture was sponsored by the Department of Modern Foreign Languages and Literatures, the German Studies Program, Academic

Outreach of the College of Arts and Sciences, the Fern and Manfred Steinfeld Program in Judaic Studies, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies.

David Tal

On November 2 and 3, Dr. David Tal, Fellow at the Jaffee Center of Strategic Studies, and lecturer at Tel Aviv University, visited Knoxville, courtesy of Emory University and the Robinson Family's Modern Israeli History Fund. Dr. Tal spoke at the university about "The U.S. in Israel's Thinking," and to the Jewish community on "The Other's Other: Entangled Jews and Arabs." Both lectures, cosponsored by the Knoxville Jewish Alliance, were well received.

Lucas Richman

On April 4, Maestro Lucas Richman, director of the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra, gave a well-attended lecture on "Classical Music and the Jewish Spirit: the spiritual inspiration of the Jewish musical legacy" at the University of Tennessee. Maestro Richman and his wife Debbie have endeared themselves to the Knoxville Jewish community through their generosity in sharing their considerable musical knowledge and talent with the community in various ways. A number of Maestro Richman's fans from the larger community came to the lecture, and our students thoroughly enjoyed the presentation on a topic that should be more broadly covered in academia. This lecture was cosponsored by the Departments of Religious Studies, History, the School of Music, and the Office of Academic Outreach of the College of Arts and Sciences.



Maestro Lucas Richman during University of Tennessee lecture on classical music and the Jewish spirit.

GILYA G. SCHMIDT ACTIVITIES

Teaching

While I serve as Head of the Department of Religious Studies, I only teach one course a semester. Most of my students are not Jewish and do not major in Judaic Studies either, although a number of them minor in Judaic Studies. The classes never experience a shortage of enrollment. A number of students fulfill their upper level distribution requirement with the courses I teach, particularly in the area of non-Western culture.

In Fall 2005 I taught RS 385/JS 385, "Contemporary Jewish Thinkers," with a focus on Zionism, to 40 students. As always, in studying the history of Zionism, students are surprised that Israel didn't just appear as a result of the world's guilty conscience following the Holocaust, but that there was an active political movement and diplomatic effort going back to the nineteenth century.

In Spring 2006 I taught RS 405/JS 405, a seminar on Israel, under the title "Modern Jewish Thought," with 20 students. It is natural to follow the development of the modern state of Israel with a look at and discussion of modern Israel until the present. That course can never be the same because of the fluid situation, and even the focus on the history changes depending on current political issues.

I also continue to present two lectures in the German Special Topics Program's Berlin class (German 415). On January 25 I spoke on Jewish Berlin artists in the early 20th century, and on March 8 on the Holocaust.

This semester I am teaching RS 381/JS 381, "Introduction to Judaism," which I always enjoy because it coincides with the holidays, and I can prepare myself while teaching the students about the holidays. We also look at Biblical history, life cycle events, the Holocaust, women's spirituality and rituals, and finish up with a brief look at Israel.

In spring 2007 I will not teach as I will be on research leave to advance and perhaps complete a first draft of my manuscript on rural Jewish life in Süssen, Germany.

Research

Not through any effort of my own have I had the good fortune to be included in two initiatives to do with German studies. In Spring 2006, my colleague, Dr. David Tompkins, in the History Department, worked up a proposal for a lecture series on "German Identities and Encounters" for presentation to the College of Arts and Sciences' Humanities Institute. The rationale for the German Studies Colloquium and this inaugural lecture series was the vexing question in German culture and history "of how to define German identity and relations with the neighboring world." The goal of the Colloquium was to investigate "different aspects of this problem, from a multidisciplinary perspective in the humanities." Other colleagues who have a primary interest in the topic are Vejas Liulevicius, Daniel Magilow, Denise Phillips, and Stefanie Ohnesorg. On March 8, I presented a lecture on the influence of Swabian customs on Swabian rural Jews in the nineteenth and twentieth century, entitled "Culture is Not a One-Way Street: The Contribution of Local German Customs to Rural Jewish Life in Southern Germany." This is an off-shoot of the research I have been conducting for the book project. I would like to thank David for including me; it was very enjoyable.

Because we wanted to have more time to interact with each other and learn from each other, David submitted a proposal to the Colleges Humanities Initiative to fund a year-long seminar in which we share the findings of our research, read and discuss books, and bring in outside speakers. Again, I am grateful to David for including me. On September 28 my colleague Dr. Daniel Magilow and I participated in a roundtable discussion on the presentations we had given for the "Living On" exhibition at the East Tennessee History Center. My thanks to Daniel for creating and maintaining a website for the seminar and for posting my presentation as well as our discussion and all the other presentations on the website. If you wish to follow what we are discussing, you can access our videocast presentations by going to the website at http://web.utk.edu/~mfl1/languages/german/research_seminar/

On this site you can also find Provost Holub's Inaugural Address from October 3rd on Nietzsche and Eugenics, a very interesting lecture indeed.

■ Mira's Book Memories and Realities:

Mira's second book, *Memories and Realities*, which I edited, was published a year ago, and the first copy was ready for Mira's 82nd birthday. Since then, Mira has had numerous book signings around the Oak Ridge-Knoxville area -- at the Oak Ridge Public Library, the UT bookstore, Borders for Jewish Book Month, and Carpe Librum. Her speaking engagements continue undiminished. If she didn't pace herself, she could speak several times a week, a pace she wisely rejects.

■ THANK YOU, MIRA!

When Mira Kimmelman published her first book, *Echoes from the Holocaust*, with UT Press, she dedicated the royalties to the endowed chair in Judaic Studies. That was in 1997. As of this year, the proceeds from the sales netted Judaic Studies \$4,336.14. Mira likewise has dedicated the royalties from her second book to the endowed chair as well. Thank you so much, Mira. We are deeply grateful for your generosity and for everything you do for Judaic Studies at the University of Tennessee.

■ Research on Rural Jewry in Southern Germany

By last summer, with Mira's book safely at the printer's, I was able to begin work full speed ahead on the book project on rural Jewry in Southern Germany that I had been working on periodically. This is a study of two Jewish families who lived in the village of Süssen, near Stuttgart. There was not much time during the academic year to advance this work, as writing takes a critical amount of quality time, but



Left to Right: Mira Kimmelman and Dr. Gilya Schmidt at the UT Bookstore

during the summer I was able to go to Germany for five weeks and work on chapters that I needed to discuss with my collaborators on location, Werner and Bärbel Runschke. We were able to make considerable progress, and it was a shame I had to drop it again when the semester started. However, with a semester off in Spring 2007 I am confident I will be able to work through



Jewish Author's Day at Borders Books and Music. Left to right: Gilya Schmidt, Mira Kimmelman; standing: Glenn Bernstein and Marilyn Kallet

the material that still needs analyzing and make additional progress on the manuscript.



Dr. Gilya Schmidt at Castle Staufeneck, Germany

My team and I also traveled to other rural Jewish communities, notably to Laupheim and Baisingen, as well as Ernsbach and Göppingen, to supplement

materials previously obtained there, and to rephotograph some of the former Jewish structures. We also traveled to a new community not previously included in our documentation, Freudental, near Heilbronn, on the border between Württemberg and Baden. I would like to thank Mr. Ludwig Bez, Director of the Pädagogisch-Kulturelle Centrum Ehemalige Synagoge Freudental, who was most generous with his time and who gave us a very informative tour of "Jewish Freudental" and directed us to a very well preserved and well kept Jewish cemetery. Once the book on Süssen is complete, I will continue



Former Lang Family Home in Süssen, Germany



Ottenheimer Company Workers Home in Süssen, Germany

collecting material, primarily on the families who lived in these other Jewish communities, for a second book more generally on rural Judaism in southern Germany.

There are not words enough to thank my colleague, Mr. Werner Runschke, Director of the Süssen City Archive, and his wife Bärbel, for their generosity in every way in connection with this research project. They share their home, their communications system, their contacts, their time, and their knowledge with me to advance this project, and I will never be able to repay them for their kindness and friendship. I hope the results will not be disappointing.

■ **Jewish Music Project**

There is a reason why scholars often work on more than one project at the same time. As the previous description shows, there are stages to the development of a research project -- information gathering, evaluation of the sources, writing, and eventually publication. For the Süssen project, I am in the evaluation and writing stages; they often go hand-in-hand. The project on rural Judaism in southern Germany is in the information gathering and evaluation stages, the writing has not yet begun. For the project on Jewish liturgical music, or *hazzanut*, we are in the preservation of the sources stage. As all of my sources, cassette tapes and LPs, are in danger of disintegrating because of their age, the primary job is to transfer the sources to more permanent and up-to-date technology, namely CDs. To be sure, CDs will probably be outdated by the time I complete this project, but at least for the next ten years, the



Bärbel and Werner Runschke at Ernsbach Jewish cemetery



"Reissle" Rosa Lang's headstone in Ernsbach Jewish cemetery (1849-1919). Reissle was the wife of Schraga Seligman Lang, who preceded her in death in 1915.

music of Cantor Mordecai G. Heiser z"l should be safe on CDs. My thanks to Erika Magnuson, who, for the past year, has been working painstakingly on digitizing the music, and is nearing completion of the project. Once this process is complete, I will continue collecting the biographical data needed for the project, including interviews with individuals who still knew Cantor Heiser.

Service

Last year, with a good deal of development for Judaic Studies as well as Religious Studies on the horizon, I thought it might be beneficial to learn more about greater Knoxville, beyond the university and the Jewish community. "Introduction Knoxville," a program of "Leadership Knoxville," offered an interesting five-week series. I enjoyed meeting individuals from different walks of life and learning about everything from charitable organizations to the TVA and ORNL. Actually, the tour of the new neutron spallation facility at Oak Ridge was my favorite.

■ Profession

In spring 2005, while traveling halfway around the globe, I also organized a panel on Martin Buber for the Association for Jewish Studies Annual Meeting last December in Washington, D.C. I was so glad we did it, as it led to some great collaboration and another program for this year.

For the second time last January I traveled to the International Humanities and Arts Conference in Honolulu, Hawaii. I had traveled there in 2004 and enjoyed it thoroughly. This past January I read a paper that explored the contribution of local German customs to Jewish life in southern Germany.

I continue to chair the History of Judaism Section for SECSOR, the Southeast Commission for the Study of Religion. This past year I again organized a session which I chaired, and I also read a paper, "Shalom Y'all: Teaching Judaism at a Southern State University." This coming spring's paper proposals have already arrived, and we are in the process of organizing two sessions, one on a variety of topics in Judaism; the other, cosponsored with the Hebrew Bible Section, will focus on the Second Temple Period. The March 2007 meeting will be in Nashville. As I will be on leave, the responsibilities will be delegated to a colleague.

Currently I am getting ready to attend the American Academy of Religion annual meeting in Washington D.C., including a day-long session for department heads/chairs dealing with conflict resolution preceding the conference. I will also work on building consensus among colleagues for a new section focusing on Martin Buber. In December, at the annual meeting of the Association for Jewish Studies, I will participate in a panel on Martin Buber and Israel by reading a paper on Buber's ideas on and realization of Israel in his own life, and in January I will again attend the Humanities Conference in Hawaii with a paper presentation on the diverse settlement patterns of southern German Jews, entitled "Oh Little Village Mine: A Historical Study of Jewish Settlement Patterns in Rural Germany, 1772-1933." I am also a member of the GSA, German Studies Association, but the timing of this year's conference was unfortunate as it occurred on the weekend of Yom Kippur. So I chose not to attend. I hope that next year's timing will be better for me.

■ Middle East Literary Colloquy

It had been a few years since we did a Middle East semester, so I was pleased when my friend Phil Scheurer, freshly retired, approached Rosalind Gwynne and me to participate in a Middle East Literary Colloquy. The books we chose were an interesting collection of Palestinian and Israeli views on the "matzav" or situation. Mary Papke led the discussion on Joe Sacco's comic book *Palestine*. I had chosen Savyon Liebrecht's "A Man, A Woman, and a Man" (2001) which was everything but political. Liebrecht is the female Thomas Mann of modern Israel. Rosalind Gwynne concluded our discussions with Raja Shehadeh's *When the Birds Stopped Singing*. Participation was excellent, as was the food. It was a thoroughly enjoyable and enlightening experience.

■ University

My primary service to the College of Arts and Sciences consists of serving as Head of the Department of Religious Studies and as Chair of the Fern and Manfred Steinfeld Program in Judaic Studies. There are two committees on which I serve by virtue of my position as department head: the Space Committee which deals with the scarce resources of offices in McClung Tower, and the Humanities Initiative which seeks to

help groups of faculty obtain funding from the college for semester or year-long seminars, workshops, and lecture series or lecturers.



Gilya at Pali Lookout, Honolulu Hawaii, January 2006



Conch ceremony at the Ilileai, Honolulu, Hawaii

■ Public service

On August 14, 2005 my colleague Professor Miriam Levering, invited me to speak to the West Side Unitarian Church on Martin Buber and Israel. Two of the ideas had to do with Buber's notion of love of God. In one instance, in *I and Thou*, Buber admonishes that "the encounter with God does not come to man in order that he may henceforth attend to God but in order that he may prove its meaning in action in the world. All revelation is a calling and a mission. But again and

again man shuns actualization and bends back towards the revealer: he would rather attend to God than to the world.” (Walter Kaufmann, ed., Charles Scribner’s Sons, New York 1970, p. 164). The second passage is from a chapter in Buber’s book *Hasidism*. Here Buber states that “There is...yet another category of people whom we find it particularly hard to love: they are our enemies.” Buber continues that Rabbi Yehiel-Michal of Zloczov, a great zaddik, “ordered his sons to pray for the well-being of their enemies. ‘And do you think’ he [the Rabbi] added, ‘that this is not divine service? It is a service greater than all prayer.’ Here the integration of the ethical into the religious has reached its climax.” (Hasidism, Philosophical Library, New York, 1948, p. 182).

August 28, 2005. The Hopewell Presbyterian Church in Dandridge requested that I speak to their adult education group on the peace process.

December 1, 2005. Jewish Leadership Knoxville had a lively group of individuals who are interested in helping with the affairs of the Jewish community. They asked me to speak on the qualities that make up a Jewish leader.

April 3, 2006. The SGA Committee on Diversity Affairs invited me to address the group on Judaism. This panel discussion was chaired by my department colleague Professor Mark Hulsether.

April 18, 2006. A very long time ago Sharon Stevens was my student. This year she helped facilitate my addressing the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Queer and Transgendered Task Force Against Domestic Violence training session on the fate of Gays during the Holocaust.

April 26, 2006. The Religious Studies Association showed the video “Fiddler on the Roof” and asked me to lead a discussion afterwards.

For Simchat Torah 2005 Heska Amuna Synagogue decided to honor me for my contributions to Jewish life and to the Jewish community in Knoxville. I was very touched and grateful for this great honor. It also gave me an extra opportunity to see my daughter and granddaughter for a few days. Dr. Bernard Rosenblatt, outgoing executive director of the Knoxville Jewish Alliance, was also being honored. Mazal tov to Bernie for the honor and a hearty *yashar koach* for his service during the time he served as director.

■ YOM HASHOAH focuses on Darfur

On April 24, 2006 the Jewish community commemorated the Holocaust, as we do every year. The Committee on which I serve this year decided to focus on the suffering in Darfur, Sudan. The theme was “Your Voice is Important. Do Not Be Silent.” Rabbi Zivic made powerful and moving remarks during the memorial service at Temple Beth El. The evening also included handouts of booklets with poetry lamenting the sad circumstance of genocide in Darfur, drawing comparisons to the events of the Holocaust. Marilyn Kallet secured bracelets and dolls for the participants to take away and together with Rabbi Schwartz presented petitions for signatures. Debbie Richman helped with the program, and Sandy Parsons, as always, made it all happen. Yom HaShoah is a very important annual community event, and we feel strongly that it is the right time to show our concern for the suffering of other groups in our time.

TENNESSEE HOLOCAUST COMMISSION

(www.tennesseeholocaustcommission.org)

Congratulations to the newest Commissioner on the Tennessee Holocaust Commission – Larry Leibowitz of Knoxville. Larry is a lawyer with the law firm of Leibowitz and Cohen. We look forward to your full participation in the educational work of the Commission.

Last year Governor Bredesen reappointed me to a fourth term as a Commissioner on the Tennessee Holocaust Commission. This is my 11th year on the Commission.

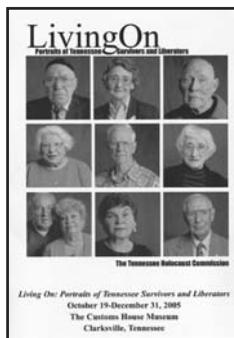
For the past two years I have been privileged to see unfold an exhibition that has taken Knoxville by storm. When the Commission began discussing the idea of photographing Tennessee Holocaust survivors and World War II liberators, there was only one person fit for the job, and that was our colleague Rob Heller in the College of Communications. Rob

had previously photographed survivors in the Miami area. Twice, during the 1995 and 2001 Holocaust Conferences here at UT, we invited Rob to show these photos, always to great acclaim. The exhibition, with the able collaboration of Dawn Weiss Smith, who interviewed the survivors and liberators, and Susan Knowles, who served as the curator at all the venues, has now been traveling throughout Tennessee and Kentucky for a year and a half. After Nashville, Chattanooga, Clarksville, Memphis, and Kentucky, “Living On: Portraits of Tennessee Survivors and Liberators,” has been at the East Tennessee History Center from July 17 – October 22.

From our first meeting with members of the East Tennessee Historical Society in December of 2005, the vision for Knoxville unfolded. On August 27, we held a major fundraiser for the Tennessee Holocaust Commission at the East Tennessee History Center which was a rousing success. Nearly 200 people attended the reception and presentations, and we are grateful to Mayor Haslam, UT President Petersen and his wife Carol, Dr. Joe Johnson and his wife Pat, Vice President Robert Levy and his wife Dr. Karen Levy, Dean Bruce Bursten from the College of Arts and Sciences, as well as many other community leaders and the Jewish as well as educational community who came out for this event. Marilyn Burnett, always a favorite crowd pleaser with her kosher culinary delicacies, again did not disappoint. Dr. Bernard Rosenblatt and Gilya Schmidt co-chaired the event. Honorary co-chairs were Dr. Robert A. Levy, Senator Tim Burchett, Robert Goodfriend, and Bernard Bernstein.

A great surprise was a gift of \$10,000 from Diane and Guilford Glazer for the work of the Tennessee Holocaust Commission. Commission Chair Felicia Anchor and Executive Director Ruth Tanner were overjoyed by this contribution as well as others by the attendees at the reception which totaled more than \$18,000 for educational programs in the state of Tennessee.

I would like to say special thanks to our survivors and veterans who honored us by coming to the event, to Rob Heller for his incredible gift of photography, to my co-chair Dr. Bernie Rosenblatt who kept us afloat while I was in Germany in July, and to Cherel Henderson and Dr. Michael Toomey and the entire staff of the East Tennessee Historical Society, who have been super to work with, as well as Heska Amuna and Temple Beth



El synagogues in Knoxville Oak Ridge Jewish congregation, Chabad, and the Knoxville Jewish Alliance for their support, and to Felicia Anchor and Ruth Tanner and Stacey Knight of the THC for the great support they gave us for this project. Certainly not least I would like to thank the College of Arts and Sciences and Dean Bruce Bursten for his support of this event, and the University of Tennessee, especially Beth Gladden in the Office of Communications, for media and related support.

In addition to a teachers' workshop on August 11, nine programs took place at the East Tennessee History Center in connection with the exhibition, a number of them with large audiences in attendance. There were also a number of docent led tours. A complete report will follow in next year's newsletter.

Our thanks to everyone who was involved in this excellent educational experience.



Professor Gilya Schmidt presents Glazer check to Felicia Anchor, Chair of the Tennessee Holocaust Commission - Photo courtesy of the University of Tennessee

■ **Goodbye and Good Luck, Deborah**
Deborah Scaperoth, a Ph.D. candidate in the English Department, worked as my Graduate Assistant from January 2005 until August 2006. While I am very happy for Deborah, who has completed her dissertation and is in the revision stage, I was not happy to lose her. She did the lion's share of the work for "Living On" and for Peter Machinist's lecture, and I am very grateful for everything she did in helping me keep Judaic Studies current. We wish Deborah all the best with her future endeavors.

■ **Hello Michael**

Fortunately there are always graduate students who are just short of finished with their advanced degree. This was the case with Michael Booker, a Ph.D. student in the History

Department, who has all of his course work completed and is currently writing his dissertation with Professor John Bohstedt. I am happy to have Michael work with me for the near future.



Michael Booker at the New Den, Home of Millwall Football Club, Southeast London

■ **STUDENTS**

Jerry Gay came to us with a very focused plan of study, and graduated this past December with a B.A., double-majoring in Asian Studies and Judaic Studies.

Igor deSouza graduated from UT as the top College Scholar of 2005. Studying medieval Jewish philosophy, he is currently doing graduate work at the University of Chicago, and spent the summer in Jerusalem.

Allison Castell graduated from UT in 2004 with a degree in elementary education and Judaic Studies. Allison is currently teaching in Virginia.

■ **FEATURING ALI AZIZI**

For the past several years, Religions Studies major Ali Scott Azizi has been on my radar as a student. In his final year, he took two of my classes, including one on the Holocaust. I was quite surprised one day when Ali asked whether I would write him a recommendation to Vanderbilt where he wanted to pursue a graduate degree. I happily agreed, and am happy to say that Ali is on the way to earning a Masters of Education in International Education Policy, and has applied to American University in Washington, D.C. to the Kogod School of Business for their MBA Program. Ali is the kind of young person of whom we need more. He speaks Farsi, Arabic, and Spanish, and has spent several summers overseas. After graduating from UT last year, and while at Vanderbilt, he came to services at Heska Amuna one day because he had gone to Temple Beth El for his assignment while my student and

wanted to see what the other synagogue was like. Because he is such an unusual individual, I asked Ali to write something on his summer experience in the Middle East this year. His report follows; it is a sobering account.

"The world can be a very curious place at times. Growing up, I did not always see a world around me of people who were willing or ready to accept the differences of those around them. It was something my parents always referred to as ignorance with a touch of irony. To them, it was ignorant simply because many people chose not to learn about or appreciate differences. However, it was ironic because as Americans we are supposed to be taught to accept and appreciate differences. This does not mean that we must agree with or embrace another's way of life, only that we must accept it as their decision. We, in turn, expect the same right of choice. Without this right, pluralistic societies cannot hope to function well.

"Our family consists of individuals of two very different backgrounds – Persian Muslims on my father's side and American Christian on my mother's. The key to the family dynamic had to depend on the respect for the right of choice. Regardless of the differences, there was enough trust in one another's ability to make personal decisions that the family was able to grow and mature accordingly.

"Recently I learned that crossing a national border or checkpoint can be much like accepting the differences of others. Hours can be spent awaiting acceptance with the distinct possibility of being denied by guards, who discretionarily prohibit one's entry based on innumerable stereotypes and misconceptions. It is a process which depends largely on bias.

"Last summer, while working in Israel, the Palestinian Territories, and Jordan, I experienced this harsh reality. Although I have spent four of the last five summers overseas, two in East Asia and two in the Middle East and Europe, I had never experienced such a level of mass disenfranchisement as I realized, first hand, on this assignment. It was my work in education which took me into this region, as I believe development and reform of educational systems has the capacity to alleviate future strife in a meaningful, measurable way; especially in regions such as the Middle East. The irony case was that while I was attempting to do something positive, I was brandished as

being potentially negative, exclusively because of the background of my name. There were innumerable instances where I was pointedly told that it was impossible to have my name and not adhere to the group of its origin.

"The experience, while leaving me somewhat frustrated, only strengthened my belief in pluralism and education. I walked away from each incident knowing that it was ignorance which was the root of the problem. The involved parties obviously knew no better of me than to label me according to my name. The only rational solution is to teach people the error of such modes of thinking, to show them both the historical and contemporary examples and repercussions of nurturing ignorance – hatred, war, genocide, etc. While in my case it produced no irreparable harm, if allowed to grow, ignorance can be the cause of much greater evil."

■ JEWISH FACULTY OUTREACH

The Knoxville Jewish Alliance has taken the lead in reviving the Jewish faculty group which has been in existence for many years, but seldom meets. On April 6, Stephen Rosen and Gilya Schmidt convened a lunch at the Copper Cellar on Cumberland Avenue to inform the UT Jewish faculty of the work of the KJA and the Jewish Student Center. Stephen Rosen, campaign chair, and Deborah Oleshansky, director of the JSC/Hillel spoke to the group.

On September 6 the Judaic Studies Program, the Jewish Student Center, and the Knoxville Jewish Alliance teamed up for a reception at the Riverside Restaurant to welcome Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Robert Holub who has recently arrived from Berkeley where he held a major administrative position as well. Stephen Rosen, Deborah Oleshansky, Elyse Messing and Seth Schklar from AEPi spoke to the group about the activities currently underway. Professor Gilya Schmidt introduced Dr. Holub to the faculty. His scholarly research focuses on nineteenth-century German and German-Jewish thinkers and writers, such as Friedrich Nietzsche and Heinrich Heine.

■ JEWISH STUDENT CENTER

Under the leadership of **Deborah Oleshansky**, the Jewish Student Center/Hillel has been quite active in spite of the fact that we do not have a permanent space on campus. For information, please contact Deborah Oleshansky at

SHTETL NEWS

Unfortunately last year saw the death of several friends of Judaic Studies who will be sorely missed. May their memory be for a blessing.

A year ago **Sylvia Leibowitz z"l** left this earth to join her husband, **Harold z"l**, who had preceded her in death several years ago. Harold and Sylvia were among the founding members of the Judaic Studies endowment that helped create the endowed chair held by Gilya Schmidt. They continued to be strong supporters of the program and expressed their appreciation in many ways. We will miss Sylvia as we miss Harold.

Likewise, **Gert Cohen**, mother of Arnold Cohen, died last year. Soon after, Arnold also lost his wife, **Linda**. Arnold is a founding member of the chair endowment and a member of the DORS Board of Visitors. We express our heartfelt sympathy to Arnold for these losses.

Some of you remember my friend **Marga Randall** from Pittsburgh, a dear friend for more than 20 years, who left Germany in 1941 after experiencing much discrimination and chicanery at the hands of the Nazis. After I moved to Knoxville, Marga came to visit and spoke to my classes and to classes at Temple Beth El and the Baptist Student Union. Her presentations were riveting and students thoroughly enjoyed hearing about her personal experiences. Marga was awarded an honorary doctorate by Seton Hill College in Greensburg, Pennsylvania, for her contributions to Holocaust studies. Her death last Thanksgiving has left a large void in my personal life.

Just recently I learned that long-time friend **Irma Meyer**, wife of Steven Meyer, also from Pittsburgh, died in January of 2006. Steven and Irma were among my first Jewish friends in Pittsburgh.

Dr. Marcia Katz, retired professor of Nuclear Engineering, was suddenly torn from our midst in April of 2006. Those who knew Marcia would have agreed with her that life was an adventure. She was an incredibly generous person who gave of herself and of her resources for the good of many causes, among



Left to Right: Marga Randall and Irma Meyer

them Heska Amuna Synagogue's Volunteer Ministry Program which she shepherded for many years, the Zionist women's group Hadassah, and the Knoxville Jewish Alliance. She was a regular every year for the WUOT fund drive, answering the telephone in the earliest hours of the morning. She was active in many other organizations that benefited from her generosity. Marcia was also an avid bridge player. I owe Marcia much, she was crucial in getting me integrated into the Knoxville Jewish and women's community, and I miss her terribly.



Dr. Marcia Katz

On July 11, while I was in Germany, one of the dearest people in our Knoxville Jewish community completed his journey at Shannondale Health Care Center. Ninety one year-old **Isaac Benhayon** was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina in 1915. He grew up in Gibraltar where he met the love of his life, Esmeralda, to whom he was married for fifty-nine years. They lived



Left to Right: Isaac and Esmeralda Benhayon

in Tangier, Morocco, before moving to New York City in 1961, where he worked as a translator for the Chase Manhattan Bank for 19 years. In 1991, the Benhayons moved to Knoxville where Isaac was active in the religious life of Heska Amuna Synagogue until his death. Isaac was a teacher to us all, he was truly a *chacham* and a *zaddik*. He was beloved by all, as was Esmeralda. We will always remember Esmeralda and Isaac with love and gratitude. Our hearts go out to Jack and Judith Benhayon and family.

Fortunately, we also were able to celebrate some *simchas* in the community this past year.

Natalie Robinson, who with her late husband Mitchell z"l, has been a stalwart of Judaic Studies at UT, was

able to celebrate her 80th birthday in good health and spirits. We wish you a hearty mazal tov, Natalie. May you live to be 120.

Likewise, on June 10 **Barbara and Bernie Bernstein** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary surrounded by family and friends. Bernie and Barbara also were founding contributors to the endowed chair in Judaic Studies held by Gilya Schmidt, and we appreciate your continuing support and encouragement. *Mazal tov* on an important milestone in your lives!

Dr. Bernard Rosenblatt and his wife **Lesley** moved to Knoxville nine years ago. Bernie became the executive director of the Knoxville Jewish Alliance, then still called the Knoxville Jewish Federation. With his background in academics

and the theatre he was able to communicate with many different constituencies in the Jewish and larger community, and he always had the right thing to say. Bernie's accomplishment during his tenure were many, but perhaps his most significant contribution was the establishment of a partnership with the Jewish teens in Hadera-Eiron and their families. At the end of 2005 Dr. Bernie Rosenblatt decided to retire, and as we have seen in this past year, his shoes are hard to fill. In recognition of Bernie's place of honor in the Jewish community, the KJA established The Dr. Bernard S. Rosenblatt Fund which will benefit a wide range of activities within the Knoxville Jewish community. We wish Bernie and Lesley and Lesley's Mom Virginia many years of fun and good health!

Visit the Knoxville Jewish Alliance Web site:
www.jewishknoxville.org

Become a friend of Judaic Studies at UT

The Fern and Manfred Steinfeld Program in Judaic Studies is now 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:

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