

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

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE



From the Head of Religious Studies



Dear Friends,

It just seems like yesterday that Professor Gilya Schmidt laid the foundations for the Judaic Studies Program! As the newsletter attests, the house that Gilya built (and keeps on expanding) with vision, energy, and devotion serves many constituencies on this campus and in the community. It is always a joy to read the accomplishments of those associated with the program. We are ever grateful to the donors and supporters for making it all happen.

R.I.J. Hackett

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

Dear Friends of Judaic Studies,



After a sweltering summer here in Knoxville, we have resumed our routine at the University of Tennessee

with an exciting year of teaching, programming, scholarship, and yes — football. This is the 18th newsletter of the Fern and Manfred Steinfeld Program in Judaic Studies. Eighteen is a milestone in Jewish life, in fact, it means “life” (chai). At this time in an individual’s life, in a career, in a program such as ours, the hope is expressed for another healthy eighteen. This is what I wish for our Judaic Studies

Program: eighteen more years of life and vitality and growth for the next generation.

The 2010-11 academic year was again breathtaking. Highlights include a special gift in honor of Manny and Fern Steinfeld from long-time friends in New York. In March, a delegation from UT visited with Fern and Manny Steinfeld in Florida, and I had a chance to visit with Lea and Allen Orwitz in Knoxville and in San Francisco. In 2009, Marco Di Giulio and I had the pleasure of visiting with Diane and Guilford Glazer in Los Angeles. Many good things came our way again this year — a third visiting Schusterman Israeli professor, a Diane and Guilford Glazer and Lea and Allen Orwitz Teaching Fellow in Modern Hebrew, students who received Manfred and Fern Steinfeld

and Dr. Ruben Robinson Judaic Studies scholarships, collaborations with other units for visiting speakers, new faculty members, and the many accomplishments of our own Judaic Studies Advisory Committee faculty.

All of this can be found inside the 2011 issue of our newsletter, as well as exciting news for this academic year. May we go from strength to strength.

Best wishes for a healthy and happy Shanah Tovah. May the new year be peaceful and productive.

Cordially,

Gilya G. Schmidt

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

**CONGRATULATIONS TO 2011-2012
CHANCELLOR'S ASSOCIATES:**

Arnold Cohen (Chair)
Jeff Gubitz
Larry Leibowitz
Deborah Oleshansky
Pace Robinson
Marilyn Wohl

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

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

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

JUDAIC STUDIES SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The Fern and Manfred Steinfeld Judaic Studies Scholarship and the Dr. Ruben Robinson Judaic Studies Scholarship have been in place since 2007. Our first recipient of the Dr. Ruben Robinson Judaic Studies Scholarship in 2008, **Adam Schwartz**, has been spending his time since graduation in 2009 in Israel.

Richard Schow Adams, recipient of the first Fern and Manfred Steinfeld Judaic Studies Scholarship in 2009, graduated in April 2010. He was recognized as the outstanding graduate in Judaic Studies. Currently Rich is pursuing an M.A. in Middle-East History at the University of Utah.

Adam and Rich are joined by **Amy Marlo Canter**, **Mark Asher Kline**, and **Mike Louis Derocco**, our most recent scholarship recipients.

MARK ASHER KLINE



2010-2011 Steinfeld Scholarship recipient Mark Kline

Mark Asher Kline received a Fern and Manfred Steinfeld Judaic Studies Scholarship for the 2010-2011 academic year. He graduated

as the top student for Judaic Studies in May 2011. Mark is pursuing graduate studies in Information Science here at the University of Tennessee. He is the Graduate Assistant for Collections at the McClung Museum.

AMY MARLO CANTER



2011 Steinfeld Scholarship recipient Amy Canter (right) and friend at the Ohel Jacob Synagogue, now the Jewish Refugee Museum in Shanghai, China.

Amy Marlo Canter spent academic year 2008-09 studying at Ben Gurion University in Beer Sheva, Israel, with support from a Dr. Ruben Robinson Judaic Studies Scholarship. For 2010-11 she received a Fern and Manfred Steinfeld Judaic Studies Scholarship. During Spring 2011, Amy had the opportunity to visit Shanghai University, where she conducted research among the Chinese students on their knowledge of

Judaism, the Holocaust, and Israel. Amy's research was supported by an additional Fern and Manfred Steinfeld Judaic Studies scholarship. She was fascinated by her Chinese experience and returned for the summer. Our thanks to Professor Changgang Guo, Dean of the Graduate School of Shanghai University, for hosting Amy. For Amy's report on her adventures, see page 17.

MIKE LOUIS DEROCCO



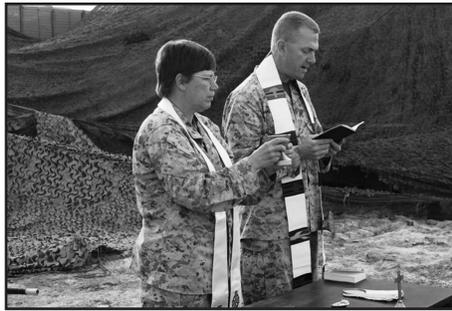
2010-2011 Robinson Scholarship recipient Mike Derocco

Mike Louis Derocco, 2010-11 co-captain of UT's swim team, received a Dr. Ruben Robinson Judaic Studies Scholarship for the 2010-2011 academic year. Mike graduated in August of 2011. His plans are to become a rescue swimmer.

MORE ABOUT FORMER STUDENTS....

Former UT and College Scholar student, **Igor H. de Souza**, is concluding the long road from Tennessee to Chicago via Providence, Rhode Island. He reports,

“For 2011-2012, I am in the final stages of writing my dissertation, which will be defended May or June 2012. The title is “Hebrew Philosophical Commentaries on Maimonides’ Guide of the Perplexed.” For the completion of my dissertation, I obtained the Whiting Dissertation-Year fellowship from the University of Chicago, as well as an external grant from the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture. I have also been appointed as Visiting Research Fellow at Brown University in Providence, RI, where I am living during the academic year. I am presenting an excerpt of a chapter at the Association for Jewish Studies conference in December, and a lecture at the Town and Village Synagogue’s Young Scholars on the Cutting Edge Lecture Series (in NY), also in December. I am also in the process of applying for post-doctoral fellowships and academic jobs all over the US.”



Former Judaic Studies student Nathan Solomon (right), U.S. chaplain in Afghanistan, and colleague leading Easter Sunrise services.

Nathan Solomon was a student in the Department of Religious Studies in the early 1990s. As Professor Lee Humphreys’ student, he also took classes with Professor Schmidt. Nathan and I have kept in touch over the years, and Nathan’s work as a Navy Chaplain with the military in Afghanistan was recently featured in *The Atlantic*. <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2011/09/enlisting-allah/8597/>

At the same time as Nathan, **Link Elmore** also was an undergraduate at the University of Tennessee. He and Nathan were good friends while they were in Knoxville. They are still friends. Link also took classes with Professor Humphreys and Professor Schmidt. We still receive holiday greetings from Link and family. Link’s wife Karen is a medical doctor, and Link is currently finishing a Master’s degree in Geography at Virginia Tech. He is also an adjunct for GIS at Emory & Henry College.



Xiaoxiao Xie, Shanghai University, visited Knoxville for research in fall of 2008. Xiaoxiao just arrived in Adelaide, Australia, where he will study for a Ph. D. in political science.

In fall of 2008, three of the students I had met on my trips to Shanghai University came to Knoxville to conduct research for their M.A. theses. All three students graduated from their university and stayed in touch. One of the students, **XiaoXiao Xie**, recently wrote that he is in Adelaide, Australia, earning a Ph.D. in political science. He explained, “My days in Knoxville are actually the starting point of my academic life. Remember I was interested in the 60s radical movement in those times, and that later developed into my Master’s thesis. However, when doing my research on the American New Left Movement, I found Maoism is one of the dominant discourses of those radical activists. From then on, my research shifted to Maoism, namely global Maoism. Now, I am doing primary research on Maoism in both the Indian and Australian context. Comparative studies on Maoism in these two countries could be my future pursuit.”

SCHUSTERMAN VISITING ISRAELI PROFESSOR PROGRAM AT UT

Beginning in 2007, the College of Arts and Sciences and the Fern and Manfred Steinfeld Program in Judaic Studies at UT, the Knoxville Jewish Alliance, Heska Amuna Synagogue, and Temple Beth El, as well as many individual members of the Knoxville Jewish community raised \$50,000 annually for three years in a row to match the grant we received from

the American Israeli Cooperative Enterprise (AICE) to bring an Israeli scholar to the University of Tennessee to teach and to reach out to the community. This powerful program brought three wonderful colleagues to Knoxville. We would like to again thank all who made these visiting scholars possible.

1. **Rivka Ribak**, Professor of Communications at Haifa University, and her family spent academic year 2008-09 with us. Their presence in Knoxville enriched our lives tremendously.
2. In 2009-10, Professor of Film **Igal Bursztyn** from Tel Aviv University delighted us with

Schustermania *continued from page 3*

his wit and his films. All of us had a good time planning and organizing a festival of Igal's films, and those in attendance enjoyed the viewings and director's chats.

3. 2010-11 brought art historian and Professor **Alec Mishory** from the Open University of Israel and Tel Aviv University to Knoxville. As was the case with Professors Ribak and Bursztyn (for activities, see 2009 and 2010 Judaic Studies newsletters online), Professor Mishory was likewise generous with his time. He lectured several times on Jewish art at the university and in the community at large. Students, faculty, and the general public enjoyed his rich and well-organized *Powerpoint* presentations. These presentations included
 - October 2010: A seminar presentation on Jewish art for the Department of Religious Studies.

- November 2010: Inaugural lecture, "Some Aspects of Contemporary Hebrew Typography."
- January 2011: Lecture, "The Sanctuary of Temple Beth El in Knoxville: Architecture and Stained Glass Windows," Tennessee Historical Society.
- February 2011: Lecture, "Bezalel, son of Uri, Israelite Hebrew Designer Artist," Temple Beth El.
- February 2011: Lecture, "The Origin of the Israeli Flag," Arnstein Jewish Community Center.
- March 2011: Lecture, "The Temple Menorah Returns Home," Heska Amuna Synagogue.

It is fitting to again acknowledge the College of Arts and Sciences and former Dean Bruce E. Bursten, the Department of Religious Studies, AICE, and the Knoxville Jewish community for their outstanding support and collaboration for this special initiative. Our students, our university, our Judaic Studies Program, and our community are

the richer for the presence of these interesting colleagues among us.

The donors for the three Schusterman professors included

- **The College of Arts and Sciences**
- **Barry and Heidi Allen**
- **Eric and Stephanie Bank**
- **Jeff and Nancy Becker**
- **Bernie and Barbara Bernstein**
- **Bruce E. Bursten**
- **Arnold and Susan Cohen**
- **Guilford and Diane Glazer**
- **Mitch and Margy Goldman**
- **Heska Amuna Synagogue**
- **Richard and Jacki Imbrey**
- **Herb and Elise Jacobs**
- **Knoxville Jewish Alliance**
- **Larry and Kay Leibowitz**
- **Harvey and Marilyn Liberman**
- **Steve and Evelyn Oberman**
- **Allen and Lea Orwitz**
- **Natalie Robinson**
- **Pace and Karen Robinson**
- **Alexandra Rosen**
- **Stephen and Kim Rosen**
- **Gilya Schmidt**
- **Alan Solomon and Andrea Cartwright**
- **Mel Sturm**
- **Temple Beth El**
- **Moshe and Ilana Siman-Tov**
- **Barry and Annette Winston**

DIANE AND GUILFORD GLAZER AND LEA AND ALLEN ORWITZ TEACHING FELLOW IN MODERN HEBREW

Teaching Hebrew, Biblical or Modern, at the University of Tennessee has always been a challenge. For many years there was a taped program in Asian Studies with a tutor for Modern Hebrew. Until his retirement, Professor Lee Humphreys taught Biblical Hebrew as an overload, and during her time in Knoxville, Professor Johanna Stiebert also taught a two-year cycle of Biblical Hebrew.

Our dream had been for some time to secure funding for a live teacher of Modern Hebrew for our students. This dream became reality in 2008 when **Diane and Guilford Glazer** provided funding

for such a teacher. They were joined two years ago by **Lea and Allen Orwitz**. Together, the Glazers and the Orwitzes sponsor the Diane and Guilford Glazer and Lea and Allen Orwitz Teaching Fellowship in Modern Hebrew.

Our first Glazer Teaching Fellow was Dr. **Marco Di Giulio**, who came to us from the University of Florence in Italy.

When Dr. Di Giulio moved to Franklin and Marshall University in Lancaster, we were fortunate to be able to hire another outstanding teacher and scholar, Dr. **Michela**

Andreatta from the University of Turin in Italy. This summer Dr. Andreatta moved to the University of Rochester, N. Y. For this newsletter, Michela wrote,

"I arrived at UT in fall 2010 with a teaching appointment as the Diane and Guilford Glazer and Lea and Allen Orwitz Teaching Fellow in Modern Hebrew. Though I had been in the United States before, that was my first teaching position, since all my previous appointments, namely at Harvard University and University of Pennsylvania, between 2005 and 2006, had

been for conducting research at the postdoctoral level. The Department of Religious Studies at UT first provided me with the valuable opportunity to experience teaching in an American university and in a large state university environment, with the engaging mix of student backgrounds that can be found there. Though at UT I did not have the chance to integrate my research into my teaching (my field of expertise is on Hebrew literature from Renaissance and early modern Italy), the light teaching load required allowed me to invest a sizeable amount of time on writing. Moreover, the flexibility in the course organization I was thoughtfully entitled to by the director of the Jewish Program at UT, Dr. Gilya Schmidt, gave me the chance to attend over the year a number of conferences and scholarly meetings in the United States, as well as to accept the offer of a fellowship by the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies in

Philadelphia for participating in their annual seminar (last year devoted to the topic of conversion from and to Judaism). Last but not least, the year I spent in Knoxville gave me the opportunity to discover and appreciate the local culture and the wonderful natural environment of the Smoky Mountains. I am particularly grateful for that to my colleagues in the Department of Religious Studies, particularly the Head, Dr. Rosalind Hackett, for being able to transmit to me their enthusiasm for that special corner of the South."



For academic year 2011-12, we again have a teacher of Modern Hebrew from Italy. In August,

Dr. **Elisa Carandina** joined us with her husband **Paolo Lucca**.

Elisa Carandina received her Ph.D. in Hebrew Studies in 2006 from the University of Turin and from the INALCO, Paris. Her main field of interest is contemporary Hebrew literature with a special focus on gender issues. She devoted her articles to the theme of motherhood in contemporary Hebrew literature and the use of myth in Hebrew literature by women writers. Dr. Carandina also has wide translation experience with major Italian publishing houses for which she translated Israeli novels and essays. She taught for two years at L'Orientale University, Naples, as non-tenured professor of Modern Hebrew Language and Literature.

We are deeply grateful to Diane and Guilford Glazer and to Lea and Allen Orwitz for your generosity in supporting the teaching of Modern Hebrew at the University of Tennessee.

FAREWELL TO THE CHIEF

For five years, from 2005-10, the College of Arts and Sciences was led by Dr. **Bruce E. Bursten**. During that time, Judaic Studies—and Middle Eastern Studies broadly—experienced unprecedented support at the institutional and personal level, due to Dean Bursten's support. Under his leadership, we initiated the Schusterman Visiting Israeli Professor Program, the Diane and Guilford Glazer and Lea and Allen Orwitz Teaching Fellowship in Modern Hebrew, the Dr. Ruben Robinson Judaic Studies Scholarship, the Fern and Manfred Steinfeld Judaic Studies Scholarship, and we received the largest one-time contribution from a private donor for Judaic Studies, Manny and Fern Steinfeld. These initiatives allowed for ambitious programming—academic lectures, public lectures,

and the Igal Bursztyn Film Festival in Spring 2010. We were also delighted that our students had the opportunity to meet and work with our inspiring visiting faculty.



Rosalind Hackett (left), Michela Andreatta, Alec Mishory, Gilya Schmidt, Bruce Bursten at August 2010 Schusterman reception.

As Head of the Department of Religious Studies, I received permission to apply for a federal grant from the Department of Education to initiate the teaching of Arabic and the infusion of Arab culture into the University of

Tennessee curriculum. The grant proposal saw three incarnations, the two most recent ones in collaboration with Professor Erec Koch, former Head of Modern Foreign Languages and Literatures. The proposal, which was funded in 2010, called for a considerable institutional commitment of real funds as well as in-kind contributions. We are grateful to Dr. Bursten for his vision and the College of Arts and Sciences' strong support of this initiative.

We thank Dr. Bursten for your many contributions to Judaic Studies and wish you well for your future life.

JUDAIC STUDIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

● Robert Blitt

Professor Robert Blitt of the College of Law continued to develop his human rights scholarship relating to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion or belief, most recently publishing two articles, *The Bottom Up Journey of "Defamation of Religion" from Muslim States to the United Nations: A Case Study of the Migration of Anti-Constitutional Ideas* (STUDIES IN LAW, POLITICS, AND SOCIETY) and *One New President, One New Patriarch and A Generous Disregard for the Constitution: A Recipe for the Continuing Decline of Secular Russia* (VANDERBILT JOURNAL OF TRANSNATIONAL LAW). In 2010-2011, Professor Blitt presented his research in the UK and Israel, as well as at the University of Tennessee as an invited speaker during a multiday conference addressing social justice issues. As a recipient of a US Department of Education grant designed to infuse and enhance course content with information pertinent to the Middle East and Arab world, beginning in 2011-2012, Professor Blitt will integrate modules addressing international law and the Arab world and Islam and religious freedom into his seminars on Public International Law and International Religious Freedom.

● Palmira Brummett

At the end of academic year 2010-11, Professor Palmira Brummett, Department of History, resigned from the Judaic Studies Advisory Committee. Professor Brummett had served on the committee since the program's inception in 1993. We thank Professor Brummett for your valuable contributions to Judaic Studies at the University of Tennessee and wish you well for the future.



Erin Darby in Cave 1 at Qumran, where the first Dead Sea Scrolls were found.

● Erin Darby

This year we have with us Dr. Erin Darby, who recently received her Ph.D. in Hebrew Bible from Duke University. Dr. Darby's research and teaching interests include topics in Biblical Studies, Ancient Near Eastern Studies, Archaeology, Judaic Studies, Anthropology, Art History, Ritual Studies, and Gender Studies. In her dissertation she focuses on small female figurines from southern Israel, using these various modes of inquiry to ascertain the function of the figurines and their role in Judean ritual life. Erin is also the co-director of the 'Ayn Gharandal Archaeological Project, where she and her husband run an archaeological field school during the summer months. Upcoming projects include further work on figurines from the Levant and the publication of the excavations at 'En Hatsevah, Israel. When she is not teaching in the States, Erin spends much of her time at archaeological sites in the Middle East, such as Cave 1 at Qumran (pictured here), where the first Dead Scrolls were found.

● Nancy Henry

Professor Nancy Henry spent the past year completing a book manuscript, *The Life of George Eliot*,

which she expects to be published by Wiley-Blackwell (UK) in 2012. She also published an article, "The Romola Code: 'Men of Appetites' in George Eliot's Historical Novel" in *Victorian Literature and Culture*. Last April, she organized a reading by British novelist and short story writer Clive Sinclair. The event was co-sponsored by Judaic Studies and the Department of English, and Sinclair read from his just-completed collection, *Death and Texas*. Last Spring, Professor Henry also served on the Program Committee for the North American Victorian Studies Association Conference, to be held at Vanderbilt University in November 2011. The University of Tennessee English Department is co-sponsoring the conference. In August, along with her colleague, Gerard Cohen-Vrignaud, and two graduate students, she attended the week-long Dickens Universe at the University of California, Santa Cruz. This year's Dickens Universe was the subject of a recent article in the *New Yorker*. She has assumed the position of Director of Placement and Graduate Admissions for the English Department at UT and looks forward to working on a new book project on women and finance in Victorian literature and culture.

● Heather Hirschfeld

Professor Heather Hirschfeld was pleased to take on a new administrative role as Riggsby Director of Medieval and Renaissance Studies in January of 2011. She saw two essays into print in the past year as well: one on Thomas Middleton's *The Revenger's Tragedy*, and another on Thomas Middleton as a collaborative writer. She especially enjoyed working on a presentation for Heska Amuna on the Book of Ruth for Shavuot, and when her Marco duties slow down a bit she is eager to continue these studies.

● **Vejas Liulevicius**

In 2010-2011, Professor Vejas Gabriel Liulevicius continued as President of the Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies. In 2011, Oxford University Press issued a paperback version of his latest book, *The German Myth of the East, 1800 to the Present*. He is especially proud of the achievements of graduate students working with him in 2011. Brad Nichols won a prestigious year-long dissertation fellowship from the Berlin Program for Advanced German and European Studies, for archival research in Germany for his dissertation, "The Hunt for Lost Blood in the East: A Study of Nazi Re-Germanization Policy." Michael McConnell was awarded a 2011-2012 Ben and Zelda Cohen Fellowship at the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum for work on his dissertation dealing with forced evacuations conducted by the Gestapo against German civilians in the Rhineland at the end of World War II. Geoff Krempa won an award from the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, to participate in the summer Junior Scholars' Training Seminar, co-sponsored by Eastern European Studies at the Woodrow Wilson International Center and the National Council for Eurasian and Eastern European Research (NCEEER). Geoff is working on his dissertation, entitled "Against the Red Peril of the East: Germany, Hungary, the White International, and Central European Extremism, 1918-1925."

● **Daniel H. Magilow**

Daniel H. Magilow's co-edited volume *Nazisploitation!: The Nazi Image in Low Brow Cinema and Culture* will appear in November 2011 through Continuum Books. This essay collection, for which he wrote the introduction and compiled the filmography, considers the persistence and perverse attractions of Nazi imagery in a variety of media including film, video games,

and comic books.

In 2011, Professor Magilow also published the article "Yizker Books and Photographic Form" in the essay collection *Memorial Books of Eastern European Jewry: Essays on the History and Meaning of Yizker Volumes* (ed. Rosemary Horowitz, McFarland Publishing). His essay concerns the use of photographs in *yizker* volumes, the memorial books that commemorate Jewish communities in Eastern Europe destroyed during the Holocaust.

Professor Magilow continues his work as the Managing Editor of the *Journal of Jewish Identities*. For the Summer 2011 issue, he contributed a book review of the edited volume *Jewish Life in Nazi Germany: Dilemmas and Responses* (eds. Francis Nicosia and David Scrase, Berghahn Books). He has also dedicated significant energies this past year to organizing the book review section for the journal's forthcoming Winter 2012 special issue about Latin American Jewish identities.

He has also given talks at both regional and national conferences and has taught courses on interwar German culture, Holocaust representation, literary theory, and German children's literature.

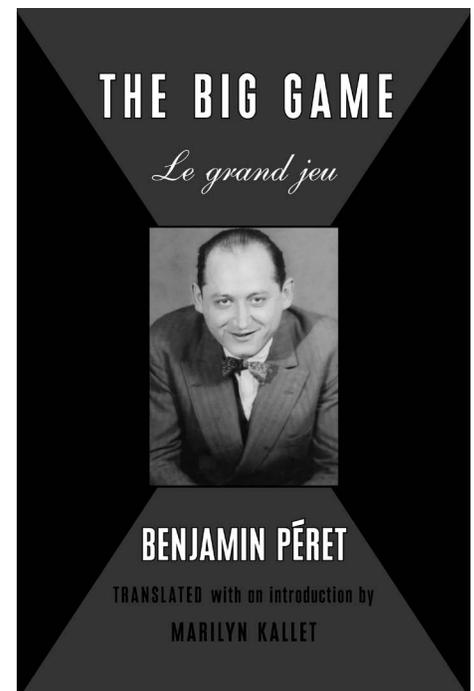
● **Amy Neff**

The highlight of last year was an invitation to speak at the Courtauld Institute at the University of London—the premier art history program in the UK. Professor Neff gave two public lectures at the Courtauld in May. The first was based on a recent article that was published in *Gothic Art and Thought*, edited by Colum Hourihane, for Princeton University Press. In the article and paper, she compares several thirteenth-century images of the gospel story of the Wedding at Cana, revealing interesting changes of attitude toward the Jewish bride. Her second talk at the Courtauld focused on her current research-in-progress, on symbolic aspects of landscape painting in thirteenth-century Italian art.

She is finding that when artists depicted the stigmatisation of Saint Francis, they often set the scene in a cave. By selecting this particular landscape setting, the artists were able to suggest a comparison between the thirteenth-century Christian saint and the Hebrew prophets Moses and Elijah, who also experienced the presence of God when praying in caves. Francis's Mount La Verna thus became the symbolic equivalent of Mount Sinai. She was honored to receive a Lindsay Young Professorship for the academic years 2011-2013.

● **Marilyn Kallet**

Marilyn Kallet published a new book of translations, *The Big Game*, a milestone English translation of French Surrealist poetry by Benjamin Péret (Black Widow Press, 2011).



Professor Kallet led the poetry workshop, "O Taste and See: Writing the Senses in Deep France," for the third time this May. Professional writers gathered in Auvillar, France, to write and study with Professor Kallet. She and the participants performed their poetry for the villagers on May 24th; Kallet translated the poetry into French and taught the participants how to pronounce their lyrics.



Marilyn Kallet reading poetry at Auvillar, France.

Among many other readings and presentations, Professor Kallet read on February 7 at the launch of the Asheville Poetry Review's reading series, sponsored by Biltmore Farms Estates. In Fall 2011, she will perform for the Lunch and Then Some group, sponsored by the Knoxville Jewish Alliance, and for Jewish Book Month, on October 30th. She hosted a "French-flavored poetry fest" at the UT library on October 5, 2011, a talk about translating at the Southern Festival of Books on October 15th, and will read from the new translations in New Orleans at The Gold Mine, October 27th.

Her interview on translating the Surrealists, "Putting a Mustache on the Mona Lisa," appeared online in August 2011 at *Chapter 16*, the magazine of the Tennessee Humanities Council. Two of her poems, "Get This Right," and "Dog Days," have been published in the Knoxville Writers' Guild anthology, *A Tapestry of Voices*. "Get This Right" reflects Kallet's continuing Holocaust research in Auvillar, France.

She began directing the creative writing program again in 2010. In 2011-2012 she organized a reading series, "Worlds in Their Words," which includes National Book Award winner Terrance Hayes, and poet Blas Falconer, among others. This program was made possible with funding from the Haines-Morris Foundation of the College of Arts & Sciences, as well as from the Hodges Better English Fund and Writers in the Library.

● Tina Shepardson

Last year and this coming year have been particularly busy with the time-consuming but very rewarding task of searching for new colleagues. Last year Professor Shepardson chaired a Religious Studies search that hired Youshaa Patel, a scholar of Islam, and she participated in a History search that hired Jacob Latham, a scholar of religion and Roman history; this year she is chairing a Religious Studies search for a scholar of early Judaism. She is very excited about these new colleagues and looks forward to their contributions.



Dr. Tina Shepardson and Jenny Bledsoe (UT '11) receive awards at the Chancellor's Honors Banquet.

In the meantime, she was very honored to receive a 2011 Chancellor's Award for Professional Promise in Research and Creative Achievement. She continues to make good progress on her second book manuscript, is considering an offer to edit a book on Syriac Christianity, and saw the publication of her article "Interpreting the Ninevites' Repentance: Jewish and Christian Exegetes in Late Antique Mesopotamia."

She continues to chair the Faculty Research Seminar on "The Mediterranean World in Late Antiquity," which is extremely useful in fostering academic conversations in the field on campus and facilitating faculty publications. She received a SARIF award to present her research at the XVI International Oxford Patristics Conference in England and also presented some research at the VI North American Syriac Symposium in Durham, NC. In addition, she still regularly gives local talks, such as at last year's Pregame Faculty Showcase, the Dean's Advisory Council, and numerous community organizations. It has been a busy but good year, and she looks forward to another one to come.

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

Professor Dessel received an NEH Grant for 2011-12 and is not in residence at UT this year. Mazal tov to J.P., Adrienne, and Talia on the Bar Mitzvah of their son and brother Erez on September 24.

ADVANCE NOTICE:

Please watch for an archaeology lecture sponsored by the Classics Department on January 23, 2011, cosponsored by Judaic Studies. Dr. Matthew Adams from Bucknell University, an archaeologist with experience in Israel and Egypt, will give a lecture on a newly discovered Early Bronze Age temple from Meggido. Contact is Professor Aleydis Van de Moortel in the Classics Department, at avdm@utk.edu.

JUDAIC STUDIES LECTURE SERIES

Judaic Studies is grateful for a recent gift from **Nancy and Dr. Jeffrey Becker** in support of the annual Judaic Studies lecture series, through the Jeff and Nancy Becker Community Enrichment Fund with the KJCF. Thank you, Jeff and Nancy, for your generosity!

More and more, academic units and programs at the University of Tennessee collaborate in bringing speakers to campus. It makes a lot of sense to pool scarce resources to make them last longer and reach farther.

ACADEMIC YEAR 2010-11

On October 17 and 18, 2010, the English Department invited Professor **Marge Piercy**, a famous Jewish author, to campus to give readings. Professor Piercy's visit to Knoxville was sponsored by the Creative Writing Program in association with the John C. Hodges Better English Fund, the Fern and Manfred Steinfeld Program in Judaic Studies, Writers in the Library, the Commission for Women, and Ready for the World.



Professor Changgang Guo, Dean of the Graduate School, Shanghai University, with Gilya Schmidt.

It is seldom that our colleagues from Asia make it to Knoxville, in spite of a strong linkage between the University of Tennessee and universities in China. On October 27, 2010, our colleague from Shanghai University, Professor **Changgang Guo**, Dean of the Graduate School and Director of Global Studies, visited Knoxville and gave a presentation on globalization and diversity. Professor Guo's visit was co-sponsored by the Graduate School, the Departments of Religious Studies and Modern Foreign

Languages and Literatures, and the Asian Studies Program at the University of Tennessee.

It has been customary for Schusterman Visiting Israeli Professors to give an inaugural lecture upon their arrival. On November 22, 2010, Professor **Alec Mishory** from the Open University of Israel and Tel Aviv University gave a *Powerpoint* presentation on the Hebrew Alphabet. Sponsors included the College of Arts and Sciences, the School of Art, the Departments of Religious Studies and History, the Abraham and Rebecca Solomon and Ida Schwartz Distinguished Lecture Fund for Judaic Studies, the Karen and Pace Robinson Enrichment Fund, University of Tennessee, along with the Knoxville Jewish Alliance, and the Jewish Community of Knoxville.



Alec Mishory, guest, Dottie Habel, Rosalind Hackett, and Amy Neff at Mishory Lecture on Hebrew Alphabet, November 2010.

After break, on January 24, 2011, our colleague from Nanjing University, Professor **Xu Xin**, Director of the Diane and Guilford Glazer Center for Judaic Studies,



Professor Xu Xin, Nanjing University, during visit to UT in January 2011.

visited Knoxville for a presentation on China and the Jews. This event was co-sponsored by the Departments of Religious Studies and Modern Foreign Languages and Literatures, Asian Studies, the Abraham and Rebecca Solomon and Ida Schwartz Distinguished Lecture Fund, the Karen and Pace Robinson Judaic Studies Enrichment Fund, University of Tennessee, and the Knoxville Jewish Alliance.

The Fern and Manfred Steinfeld
Program in Judaic Studies
presents
Professor Xu Xin
Director
Diane and Guilford Glazer
Center for Judaic Studies
Nanjing University

"Why the Chinese are Interested in the Jews"

Monday, January 24, 2011, 7 p.m.
McClung Museum Auditorium
Reception to Follow

The lecture is free and open to the public.
This event is sponsored by the Department of Religious Studies, Asian Studies, and Modern Foreign Languages and Literatures, the Abraham and Rebecca Solomon and Ida Schwartz Distinguished Lecture Fund, the Karen and Pace Robinson Judaic Studies Enrichment Fund, University of Tennessee, and the Knoxville Jewish Alliance.

2011 SPEAKERS

Dr. Azizah al-Hibri, Professor at the T. C. Williams School of Law, University of Richmond, Virginia, visited the University of Tennessee and Knoxville on September 21 and 22. Professor al-Hibri's visit was in support of a federal initiative to teach Arabic language and Arab culture across the curriculum at the University of Tennessee. Professor al-Hibri is a prolific author as well as founding editor of *Hypatia: a Journal of Feminist Philosophy*, and founder and president of KARAMAH: Muslim Women Lawyers for Human Rights. In June 2011, President Obama appointed Professor al-Hibri to serve as a commissioner on the bi-partisan U. S. Commission on International Religious Freedom.

Professor Azizah al-Hibri

will present a lecture entitled
**“Arabic Civilization and the Founding
 Fathers: A Fresh Examination”**
 September 21, 7 PM
 College of Law, Room 132

On September 22 at 12 PM, Dr. al-Hibri will speak in the Law School, Room 132, on “Islam, Liberty and the Rule of Law.”



Dr. al-Hibri, Professor at the T. C. Williams School of Law, University of Richmond, Virginia, is a prolific author as well as founding editor of *Hypatia: a Journal of Feminist Philosophy*, and founder and president of *KARAMAH: Muslim Women Lawyers for Human Rights*. In June 2011, President Barack Obama appointed al-Hibri to serve as a commissioner on the bi-partisan U. S. Commission on International Religious Freedom.

All events are free and open to the public. For further information, please contact Professor Robert Blitt, College of Law, at 974-6855, or email rblitt@utk.edu.

Professor al-Hibri's visit is in support of a federal initiative to introduce Arabic Language and Culture Across the Curriculum at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. The visit is sponsored by the University of Tennessee's College of Law, with support from the Office of Research, Departments of Religious Studies, History, Modern Foreign Languages and Literatures, and the School of Music.

Professor al-Hibri gave three presentations: one on September 21, entitled “Arabic Civilization and the Founding Fathers: A Fresh Examination,” and one on September 22 on “Islam, Liberty and the Rule of Law.” Professor Robert Blitt wrote and received a grant from UT's Office of Research to fund the visit, which was sponsored and hosted by the College of Law, with additional support from the Departments of Religious Studies, History, Modern Foreign Languages

and Literatures, and the School of Music.

Professor Blitt organized a third public lecture in the community, which enjoyed broad cross-communal sponsorship. We were hosted for that talk by the Church of the Savior. Our thanks to Reverend John Bluth Gill for their hospitality.

RENOWNED JEWISH ARTIST VISITS UT

The Printmaking Program in the UTK School of Art and The Fern and Manfred Steinfeld Program in Judaic Studies are pleased to host Los Angeles-based Jewish American artist **Ruth Weisberg** for a week-long printmaking project and two public lectures in the Fall of 2011. Weisberg's visit is also supported through the Haines-Morris Endowment in the College of Arts and Sciences.

During her one-week visit, Professor Weisberg will present two public lectures and work on studio projects in the UTK Print Workshop. The two public lectures will be free and open to the public.

- Tuesday, November 1, 7 PM
Lecture on “Historical and Contemporary Jewish Identity in Art,” Hodges Library Auditorium.
- Thursday, November 3, 7 PM
Lecture on her own work, Art and Architecture, Room 109.

Professor Weisberg teaches drawing and printmaking at the USC Roski School of Fine Arts. From 1995-2010 she served as dean of the Roski School, and before that, she served as chair of the school's studio arts department and as acting associate dean for the School of Architecture and Fine Arts. She received her M.A. from the University of Michigan, and her Laurea in Painting and Printmaking from the Academia di Belle Arti, Perugia, Italy.

On September 25, 2011, Professor Weisberg was awarded the Foundation for Jewish Culture's 50th Anniversary Jewish Cultural Achievement Award. Previous winners included Arthur Miller, Saul Bellows, and Leonard Baskin. Mazal Tov to Professor Weisberg on this great honor.

For more on Professor Weisberg's work, please go to:

<http://roski.usc.edu/faculty/ruth-weisberg.html>
<http://www.cla.purdue.edu/waaw/Ressler/artists/weisbergstat.html>

Thank you very much for the collaboration, Beauvais! We are delighted to be part of this exciting visit.

A Community Conversation ISLAMIC SHARI'AH AND THE AMERICAN CONSTITUTION

with

Professor Azizah al-Hibri

T. C. WILLIAMS SCHOOL OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND, VA

Thursday, September 22, 2011

7:00pm

Church of the Savior

934 N Weisgarber Rd, Knoxville, TN 37909

This spring, a bill was introduced in the Tennessee Legislature to make the practice of Shari'ah law a felony in Tennessee. Professor Azizah al-Hibri, the first Muslim woman law professor in the United States, will dispel misconceptions and discuss Shari'ah in a conversation with the community at Church of the Savior.

A Fulbright Scholar and a Fellow at the National Humanities Center, Dr. al-Hibri was a consultant to the Supreme Council for Family Affairs in Qatar and advised them on the development of Qatar's personal status code. At the request of the U.S. State Department, Dr. al-Hibri has shared her perspective throughout Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa. Dr. al-Hibri serves on the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom.

sponsored by: Church of the Savior; Knoxville Jewish Alliance; University of Tennessee Muslim Student Association; First Freedom Center, Richmond, VA; Episcopal Peace Fellowship at St. James; Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church; Temple Beth El, and the Knoxville Ministerial Association

visiting artist RUTH WEISBERG

The Printmaking Program in the UT Knoxville School of Art and The Fern and Manfred Steinfeld Program in Judaic Studies are pleased to host Los Angeles-based Jewish-American artist Ruth Weisberg for a week-long printmaking project and two public lectures. Weisberg's visit is also supported through the Haines-Morris Endowment in the College of Arts and Sciences. Her public lectures are free and open to the public.

“Historical and Contemporary Jewish Identity in Art.”
 Tuesday November 1st at 7pm, Hodges Library Auditorium

Artist Talk, Thursday November 3rd at 7pm
 Art and Architecture Building, room 109

Professor Ruth Weisberg teaches drawing and printmaking at the USC Roski School of Fine Arts. From 1995 to 2010, she served as dean of the Roski School. Her work is in numerous museum collections including the Getty Center; Norton Simon Museum; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Smithsonian Institution; Metropolitan Museum of Art; Whitney Museum of American Art; Jewish Museum, New York; Art Institute of Chicago; Biblioteca Nazionale d'Italia (Rome); and Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris. A color lithograph she did at the University of Tennessee in 1992 is in the collection of the Ewing Gallery as well as the KMA.

She has written more than 60 articles, reviews and catalogue essays, and regularly lectures and curates exhibitions. She has received numerous honors, including the USC Phi Kappa Phi Faculty Recognition Award for Creative Work, the College Art Association's Distinguished Teaching of Art Award, a Senior Research Fulbright combined with a visiting artist residency at the American Academy in Rome, a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar, and a Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa, from Hebrew Union College. This fall Professor Weisberg was selected for the Foundation for Jewish Culture's 50th Anniversary Jewish Cultural Achievement Award.



“The Blessing” 2008, Oil and Mixed Media Painting on Canvas, 86 x 96 inches, Courtesy of Jack Rubberg Fine Arts, Los Angeles.

GILYA G. SCHMIDT ACTIVITIES

TEACHING

After seven years of a lighter teaching load while Head of the Department of Religious Studies, I am back to a full load, which is two courses, totaling between 80 and 100 students a semester.

In academic year 2010-11, I taught four courses.

In Fall 2010,

- RS/JS 381 Introduction to Judaism, with 40 students, and
- RS/JS 385 Contemporary Jewish Thinkers, on German Jews, with 34 students.
- I also worked one-on-one with an Honors-by-contract student, **Nikki Swartwood**.

In Spring 2011,

- RS/JS 386 Voices of the Holocaust, with 40 students, and
- RS/JS/WS 320 Women in Religion (Judaism), with 43 students.
- In addition, I guest taught two lectures on Jewish art and the Holocaust for the Berlin course, German 415.



Art Pais, Holocaust survivor, lectures to RS/JS 386 "Voices of the Holocaust" class in Spring 2011.

A fortunate coincidence brought forth a Geography graduate student, **Matt Cook**, who is working on

Gunter Demnig's *Stolpersteine* (stumbling stones) art project in Germany for his M.A. thesis. Matt and his advisor, Dr. Micheline Van Riemsdijk, invited me to join his thesis committee.

In Summer 2011,

- **Mike Derocco** did an independent study on the Holocaust with me.
- For a number of years, I had been serving on **Priscilla Levasseur's** doctoral committee in Psychology. Priscilla studied with Professor Howard Pollio, working on the phenomenology of psychology. This past August, Priscilla defended her doctoral thesis, "The Phenomenology of Everyday Experience of Contemporary Mystics in the Jewish Traditions of Kabbalah," and became Dr. Levasseur. Congratulations, Priscilla!

Teaching in academic year 2011-12 will again consist of four courses. Now, in Fall 2011, I am teaching RS/JS 381 Introduction to Judaism, with 40 students, and RS 101 Introduction to World Religions, with about 60 students. I am also again working with Honors-by-contract student, **Nikki Swartwood**, this time on the Polish Jews and the issue of conversion.

In Spring 2012, I plan to teach RS/JS 386 Voices of the Holocaust, and a seminar, RS/JS 405 Modern Jewish Thought (Israel).

RESEARCH

Süssen is Now Free of Jews—World War II, The Holocaust, and Rural Judaism

Although the actual research and the writing for this book have been completed, last year brought readers' responses from two anonymous outside readers.

Their comments were wonderfully constructive and generous. Nevertheless, I was required first to respond to their comments, and then to actually carry out the revisions I promised to make. This took the better part of the spring semester and half of the summer until July 1, when the revised manuscript was due to the publisher, Fordham University Press. Part of the somewhat arduous work had to do with double checking all of the notes and sources, more than a thousand, which is always quite time consuming. Even upon completion, there may be lingering questions, so that it is tempting to return to the sources just one more time. This happened to me as well, and I took advantage of the quiet of the summer to ruminate over some points, large and small, and make additional inquiries. My very deep thanks to **Werner Runschke**, Director of the Süssen City Archive, for his patience and perseverance in helping me figure out final questions and additional queries. Many, many thanks, Werner. This book could have never happened without your amazing help over the past 12 years! *Süssen is Now Free of Jews* is scheduled to be out in spring 2012.



Werner and Bärbel Runschke, colleagues and friends, and collaborators on book, *Süssen is Now Free of Jews*, in Schorndorf, Germany, in summer 2010.

This year, both Hugo and Inge are celebrating their 88th birthdays. Mazal tov to both of you. May you



Inge Lang, Gilya Schmidt, and Hugo Lang. Hugo and Inge are the focus of Schmidt's book, *Süsslen is Now Free of Jews*.

enjoy many more years of health and good spirits.

Authors are now advised to create a website for their publications. By next summer, we will try to make available to the public some of the pictures and documents as well as actual letters from Eva Lang and Ruth Lang via the worldwide web.

"Oh Little Village Mine—Kaddish for Rural Swabian Jews"

Because of my intense work on the revisions for the *Süsslen* book, and invitations to present papers on topics not directly related to my other two research projects this past year, I did little work on this manuscript on village Jews in Southern Germany. I will have an opportunity in Spring 2012 to conduct additional necessary research on Jewish families in German archives.

"Mordecai Gustav Heiser—The Sweet Singer of B'nai Israel"

While waiting for the readers reports on the *Süsslen* book, I did some more work on this manuscript concerning Jewish liturgical music, primarily entering data from Heiser documents. After the galleys for the *Süsslen* book have been read, I will return to working on this project, which will also require additional research at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, and in Pittsburgh.

German and Central European Research Seminar

In May of 2011 the Research Seminar on Germany and Central

Europe was renewed for the fifth time. I thank my colleagues, Professors **Daniel Magilow**, **Denise Philips**, **Maria Stehle**, and **Monica Black**, who are the other core members of the seminar, for their hard work in organizing our sessions, inviting and hosting our visiting scholars, keeping our seminar website up to date, and writing the annual renewal applications. It is an honor to work with such dedicated and exciting colleagues.

This past year, I contributed a paper and discussion on the *Stolpersteine* art project to the seminar. This project was begun by Gunter Demnig about a decade ago in Germany. To date, more than 20,000 stumbling stones, 4 x 4 cm concrete blocks with a brass plate, have been placed into sidewalks in front of formerly Jewish properties to remember those who were murdered in the Holocaust. This is the research project that Matt Cook in Geography is pursuing for his M.A. degree.

I was also fortunate to have the opportunity to present an outline of my Heiser book project for critique and discussion to the seminar. We invited our colleague, Professor Peter Höyng, at Emory, to comment on the proposal, and I am grateful for his many excellent and constructive remarks that will be very helpful as I get deeper into this project.

SERVICE

Professional Academic Conferences 2010-11

Presenting our work at academic conferences is crucial to a lively academic discussion with colleagues in our discipline. I work in several disciplines, Jewish history and culture and German Jewish history and culture, as well as the study of religions broadly. In 2010-11, I attended four academic conferences:

International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR)

In August 2010, the International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR), of which my department Head, Professor **Rosalind I. J. Hackett**, is president, held its quinquennial congress in Toronto, Canada. I participated with a paper on Jewish cattle dealers under the Nazis in southern Germany entitled, "Suezza—No Grazing Land for Jews."

German Studies Association (GSA)

In October, a German colleague in Israel invited me to participate in a session on Zionism at the annual German Studies Association meeting in Oakland, California. I withdrew the proposal on my research that I had submitted and joined their panel with a paper on "The Difficulty of Being a German Nationalist for German Jews."

American Academy of Religion (AAR)

Since 1986 I have been a member of the American Academy of Religion, the largest professional association for Religious Studies scholars. In 2008, I was appointed to the International Connections Committee (ICC), a standing committee of this professional organization. The committee plans and organizes Special Topics Fora for the annual meeting in which up to ten international scholars participate by invitation. This past year, my duties on the ICC suddenly increased because of a resignation on the committee. With the very able help of **Margaret Jenkins**, Director of Development and Membership of the AAR, and the committee members, we organized three special topics fora with a total of eight international scholars from the Mediterranean

and four U.S. respondents for the annual meeting which will take place in San Francisco in November. Three of our committee members will chair the sessions. I will also chair the International Members' Breakfast during the annual meeting and participate in a pre-conference meeting of the ICC.

I also serve on the steering committee of the Religion, Genocide and Holocaust Group (RHG) of the AAR. This group organizes sessions, alone or in cooperation with other units, on topics relating to the Holocaust and genocide in its broadest context. In 2011 we have three sessions at the conference, and I will chair one of them.

In addition, at the 2010 annual meeting of the AAR, the Department of Religious Studies was interviewing prospective candidates for a position in Islam. As a member of the search committee, I participated in as many interviews as possible.

Association for Jewish Studies (AJS)

I have likewise been a member of the Association for Jewish Studies (AJS) since 1986, and regularly participate in their annual conference. The 2010 conference took place in Boston, and I chaired a session on "Israeli Identities in Film and the Internet." Being in Boston also allowed me to visit the Pucker Gallery which holds hundreds of Samuel Bak paintings. Bak's penetrating and thought-provoking, if not troubling, scenes speak loudly, even if silently, about the suffering and loss that Bak experienced because of the Holocaust.

International Humanities and Arts Conference

I regularly attend the annual International Humanities and Arts Conference in Honolulu. The focus is more on the arts and performance than on reading papers, and the venue lends itself well to more creative presentations. This time I

presented a paper on "*Stolpersteine—The Mark of Cain or Redemption?*"

Southeast Conference for the Study of Religion (SECSOR)

Because of a conflict with another required conference, I was not able to attend the annual regional American Academy of Religion meeting which met in March in Louisville, Kentucky. As chair of the History of Judaism section, I organized two sessions for the Southeast Conference for the Study of Religion (SECSOR), one in conjunction with the American Religions section which my colleague, Dr. **Kelly Baker**, is chairing. This was my last participation in SECSOR. After 16 years of chairing the History of Judaism section, I have stepped down from this post.

Academic Conferences 2011-12

During this academic year, there are again a number of exciting opportunities for me to participate and present my work. In addition to the responsibilities with ICC and RGH at the annual meeting of the AAR in November, the Department of Religious Studies is searching for a new colleague in Early Judaism (from the Hebrew Bible to the end of the Talmudic period). As a member of the search committee, I will again participate in interviewing suitable candidates at the annual meeting. At the AJS annual meeting I will make a presentation on my research in Jewish Liturgy and the Life of Cantor Mordecai G. Heiser. And at the International Humanities and Arts Conference I will present another creative project which will consist of a combination of Samuel Bak's art and fragments from the lives and experiences of the Lang family in Süssen, Germany. At a conference that will take place in early summer 2012 in Germany, I will have an opportunity to speak about the work I did with my Chinese colleagues who are involved in teaching Judaism at Chinese

universities, organizing conferences on Judaism in China, studying the Holocaust in Israel, and studying Hebrew.

Institutional Service

Among my departmental responsibilities are two college committees. Since fall 2010 I am serving on the Dean's Advisory Council, and starting this fall, I will serve on the advisory committee of the newly created Tennessee Humanities Institute.

Additionally, I am adjunct faculty in Modern Foreign Languages and Literatures, for the German section. For the past five years, I have been faculty mentor to Dr. **Daniel Magilow**, who will stand for tenure this year. We wish you all the best, Dan!

I am also honored to be a faculty Fellow with the Institute for the Study of War and Society, headed by Professor **Vejas Liulevicius**.

This fall, I will be completing my term on the UT Press Editorial Board as well as the Press's Executive Committee, on which I served for the past three years. This summer I also concluded my long-standing tenure on the *Soundings* Editorial Board.



Gilya Schmidt and Tina Shepardson at 2011 UT College of Arts and Sciences Graduation.

Arabic Language and the Infusion of Arab Culture Across the University of Tennessee Curriculum

In 2010 the Departments of Religious Studies and Modern Foreign Languages and Literatures received a two-year federal UISFL grant from the Department of Education for the teaching of Arabic language and the infusion of Arab culture across the University of Tennessee curriculum. While Head of the Department of Religious Studies, and with the enthusiastic help of the Middle East Sub-Committee of the departmental Board of Visitors, I wrote the first version of the grant, but it was not funded. When Professor **Erec Koch** came to UT, he expressed an interest in retooling the grant, an exercise that he and I went through twice. Last year we were successful. We completed year one of the grant in May, during which time we were able to bring Professor Muhammad Siddiq from Berkeley for a workshop with interested faculty. We were also able to support five faculty members with a stipend to infuse and enhance existing courses with Arab culture content. They are Professors **Jay Rubenstein** and **Margaret Andersen** in History, **Robert Blitt** in the College of Law, Professor **Gerard Cohen-Vrignaud** in English, and Professor **Lois Presser** in Sociology. I also served on the search committee for an instructor of Arabic, and we were able to hire **Hassan Lachheb**, from Indiana University, whose academic home is in MFL. In March,



Gilya Schmidt at entrance to Sonora Desert Museum in Southern Arizona during UISFL conference for Principal Investigators of federal grants in March 2011.



Gilya Schmidt in Sonora Desert Museum, Arizona.

Professor Koch and I attended the mandatory annual meeting of Project Directors in Tucson, Arizona. It was an amazing conference, with much to learn about international education, about the environment, and, most importantly, about networking in this world of federal grants. We recently submitted our interim report for year one to the Department of Education.

Unfortunately, during the summer Professor Koch took a position at a different university. As a result, I am now the Principal Investigator on the grant, and I am very grateful to Professor Gregory Kaplan, Interim Head of MFL, for agreeing to be the co-PI. Due to the end of the stimulus funds, our grant was cut by 55 percent for year two by the federal agency. We are nevertheless charged with again selecting faculty for course infusion and holding a workshop with Professor Siddiq for interested faculty. Hassan Lachheb as Instructor for Arabic is on board, teaching three large sections of Arabic; we have chosen two faculty members for course enhancement, and by Spring 2012 we will be ready to show that we have a plan for a gateway course to the Middle East.

These efforts will hopefully continue after the grant ends and will lead to a minor in Arabic, perhaps even a major. We are aided in this undertaking by Hassan Lachheb, and by two new colleagues, Dr. **Douja Mamelouk**,

new faculty in MFL, with a specialization in Franco-Arabic languages and literatures, and Dr. **Youshaa Patel**, who will join the Religious Studies Department in 2012, after a post-doc this year. Dr. Patel will teach Islam.

My deep gratitude to Interim Dean **Hap McSween** and the College of Arts and Sciences for their support of this grant in every way, to the Departments of Religious Studies and Modern Foreign Languages and Literatures, and to the Office of Research, especially **Linnea Minnema**, without whom it would be impossible to survive the grant process. Also, much gratitude to **Chris Corey** at DoEd, who has been an awesome project manager this past year. Thanks for all your help!

COMMUNITY

For the past two years, I have served as president-elect of Heska Amuna Synagogue. I have now taken on the presidency, for the next two years. This volunteer position requires my participation in the religious life of the synagogue, working with the Rabbi and with the Rabbi and Religious Services committee, which I chair. I am also required to participate in the monthly meetings of the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors. It is an honor to serve my synagogue and my community. I am especially grateful for the cooperation of Rabbi **Alon Ferency**, Chairman of the Board **Scott Hahn**, office administrator **Marian Jay**, kitchen supervisor **Marilyn Burnett**, and custodian **Debbie Johnson**. All of you make this fun!

LEADERSHIP KNOXVILLE

As a 2008 graduate of Leadership Knoxville, I served for the past two years on the LK Curriculum Committee. In this capacity I was involved in planning the curriculum and organizing Diversity Day for the class of 2009 and again for 2010. The two day-

long events, a year apart, were quite different and exciting, each in its own way. While in fall 2009 we took the class to the Defense Fund Alex Haley Farm, in fall 2010 the class spent the morning at the Green McAdoo Museum in Clinton, Tennessee. I had been there with my own class and enjoyed it immensely. However, this time we were able to meet one of the actual "Clinton Twelve," **Bobby Cain**, who drove over from Nashville with his wife, **Margo**.

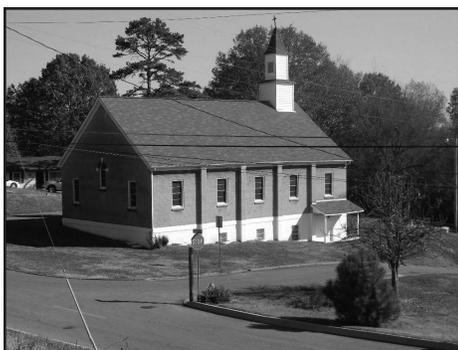


Member of "Clinton Twelve" Bobby Cain and wife Margo.

In addition, we had with us the artist who painted a mural of the integration efforts for the opening of the museum, **Alan Jones**. This large



Leadership Knoxville class of 2011 with mural by Alan Jones in background.



Asbury Baptist Church in Clinton, TN.

painting now hangs in the Asbury Baptist Church in Clinton. It was quite humbling to be in the presence of these generous individuals, and it immensely enriched my knowledge of this time period in our backyard, of which I first learned from **Jerry Shattuck's** story. My thanks to Leadership Knoxville for giving me the opportunity to participate in the work of the Curriculum Committee for these past two years.

TENNESSEE HOLOCAUST COMMISSION

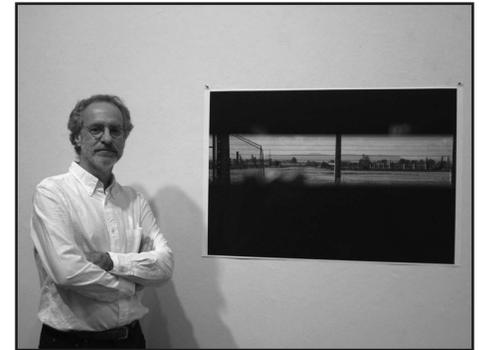
www.tennesseeholocaustcommission.org

After 15 years of service on the Tennessee Holocaust Commission, I have decided not to be reappointed. I love the work of the commission and will always support it in whatever way I can. Coincidentally, our chair of 15 years, **Felicia Anchor**, a child of survivors, has also decided to step down at this time. Felicia, there is no more dedicated spokesperson for the THC. Thank you for all your effort and all your work on behalf of Holocaust education in the state of Tennessee.



Front left to right: Leonid Saharovici, Annette Eskind, Jan Groveman, Aileen Katcher, Felicia Anchor, Allen Exelbierd. Back left to right: Jack Belz, Gus Kuhn, Larry Leibowitz, Tom Wood.

Rob Heller's Auschwitz Exhibition



Rob Heller at Ewing Gallery.

Photographs of the infamous Auschwitz concentration camp taken by Journalism and Electronic Media Professor **Rob Heller** were on display at UT's Ewing Gallery in November of 2010. The photos were taken by Heller during a 2007 visit to Warsaw for the opening of the "Living On" exhibition of photographs and interviews of Tennessee Holocaust survivors and liberators. U. S. Ambassador to Poland and former Knoxville Mayor **Victor Ashe** helped to arrange the exhibition of "Living On" in Poland.



Photograph by Rob Heller.

With only six hours at the camp, Heller tried to make the most of it. "It was difficult to take in the enormity of the place," Heller said. "I focused on details—the construction of the wooden barracks, barbed wire and concrete, birch trees, memorial stones placed by visitors from around the world. I found a rusted knife among the ruins and tried to imagine the story behind the utensil." For more details of the exhibition, see http://wuot.org/mt/archives/2010/12/000597-rob_heller_photographing_the_architecture_of_evil_at_auschwitz.html.

Ever since coming to Knoxville, 18 years ago, I have participated in the Knoxville Jewish Alliance's Yom HaShoah Planning Committee. Every year, this committee organizes a day to remember the suffering and losses caused by the Holocaust as well as other genocides. It is an important lesson that we must not forget.

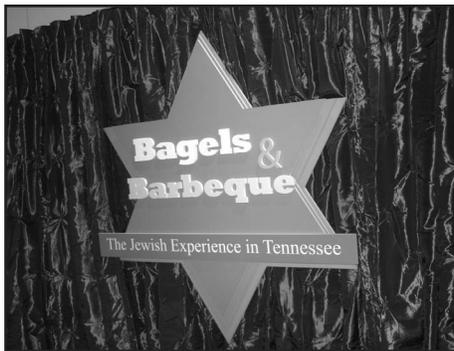
In Spring 2011 I was invited to present two lectures on my research of rural Jews in southern Germany to the students at ORICL in Oak Ridge. This was my second time with ORICL, and I always enjoy their very interested and attentive "students," most of whom can teach me something!

JEWISH STUDENT CENTER/HILLEL

The Jewish students at the University of Tennessee are an active and enterprising group, who not only organize holiday services and year-round programming, but regularly find a home for Shabbat meals with families throughout the community. If you are interested in hosting the students for Shabbat, or if you are willing to help them in other ways, please contact their director, Deborah Oleshansky, at doleshansky@jewishknoxville.org. For general information, please see their website at <http://www.utk.edu/~uthillel>.

SHTETL NEWS

"Bagels and Barbecue: The Jewish Experience in Tennessee" had a very popular run at the East Tennessee History Center in downtown Knoxville from October 18, 2010-January 31, 2011. The exhibition educated on Jewish life in Tennessee, with a lovely and rich section on the history of the Jews



of Knoxville provided by **Barbara Bernstein** and **Nicki Russler**, courtesy of the Knoxville Jewish Alliance community archives. Our thanks to **Cherel Henderson** for including an informative display about Judaic Studies at the University of Tennessee as well.



Trudy Dreyer in front of photographic panel by Rob Heller of Tennessee Holocaust survivors. On left of panel is Mathilda Goodfriend, z"l.



"Bagels and Barbecue" exhibition at East Tennessee History Center. Exhibition of Judaic Studies materials on left, Arnold Schwarzbart tapestry in center.

This past year, there was an explosion of babies also in the Jewish community. 2011 began with the

birth of **Elhanan**, son of Rabbi **Alon** and **Karen Ferency**. Born at the same time was **Elior Rafael Ohriner**, son of **Philip** and **Shoshanah Ohriner**, and brother **Ari**, and grandson of **Evan** and **Jenifer Ohriner**. Most recent births include **Phoebe Lynn King**, daughter of **Naomi** and **Brice King** and sister of **Sierra** and granddaughter of **Pam** and **Ernie Gross**; and **Aitan Benjamin Katz**, son of **Autumn** and **Matt Katz** and grandson of **Judy** and **Abraham Brietstein**.



Mira Kimmelman celebrating her 88th birthday.

In September, **Mira Kimmelman**, author and Holocaust survivor, also celebrated her 88th birthday. Mira has been a dear friend and long-time supporter of Judaic Studies. Over the years, she has donated thousands of dollars in royalties from her first book, *Echoes from the Holocaust* (University of Tennessee Press 1997). During the past two years, 2008 and 2009 alone, the proceeds netted more than \$1,000. Thank you very much for your generosity, Mira. I am grateful for your friendship, and we are very much indebted to you for your support of Judaic Studies at the University of Tennessee.

On September 1, 2011 several health care professionals were honored for their service to the community. One of the Health Care Heroes was Dr. **Alan Solomon**, UT Graduate School of Medicine, who received recognition in the Innovation category for his work on amalooids in an effort to find a cure for Alzheimer's.

To all, a hearty mazal tov on milestone events in your lives.

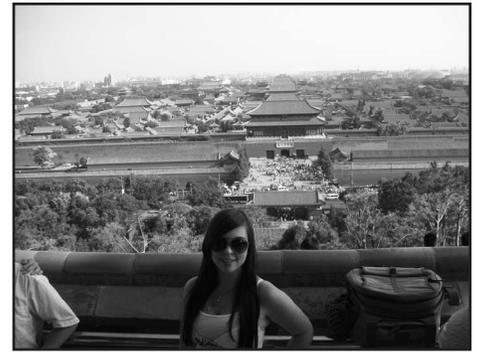
REPORT ON CHINA RESEARCH TRIP BY
JUDAIC STUDIES MAJOR AMY CANTER

Last fall (2010) I attended a lecture given by Professor Changgang Guo from Shanghai University on religion in China. After the lecture there was a small reception and I had the opportunity to speak with him. He was very interested in Judaic Studies and Hebrew and, after I told him I had gone to university in Israel, he suggested that I should study in China. I told him I would love to if I ever had the opportunity, and to my surprise a few weeks later I received a formal letter of invitation to attend Shanghai University. I was ecstatic and could hardly believe I had been given this amazing opportunity after simply having a conversation with a visiting professor.

Once I accepted the invitation I began working with Dr. Gilya Schmidt to decide what I would research while there and applied for my visa. I arrived in Shanghai at the beginning of March and stayed until the end of April. While there, I interviewed over 100 Chinese students on what they knew about Judaism, Israel, and the Holocaust. For the survey I

prepared about 20 basic questions such as “What is Judaism,” “Where is Israel located,” and “What happened to the Jewish people during WWII.” I also asked a few questions specific to Shanghai, since it played such an important role in the Holocaust and World War II. I made sure to interview many different ages and majors, and am working on correlating how much was known, based on those factors. I also had to do the interviews in English which made it a little difficult; however, one of Professor Guo’s students helped me find English speaking students and translated a few things into Chinese for me to make the questions easier to understand.

While most of the students didn’t know much about these topics some knew a great deal, in particular the law students. I had many interesting answers. For example, I asked the students if they knew of anyone famous who was Jewish and almost all of them answered Karl Marx and Albert Einstein. I learned that there was a Jewish American English teacher at the university and some of the students had learned about Judaism from her. A few had also learned about Israel by visiting the World Expo, which Shanghai hosted in 2010. Also, many of the students had learned about Jewish culture through popular American television series, such as *The Big Bang Theory*.



Amy Canter visiting The Forbidden City in Beijing, China.

I found the topic fascinating and I am still working on finishing my research paper. Also, while I was there I had the opportunity to experience the Chinese culture. While I have traveled quite a bit, it was far different from anywhere else I had ever been. While I was mostly in Shanghai, I was also able to travel some while I was there, I visited Xian and Beijing and also Fenghuang, an ancient city in Hunan Province, with a Chinese student I met during my research. It was an amazing experience and I am so grateful to Professor Guo and Dr. Schmidt for giving me the opportunity to do this.



2011 Steinfeld Scholarship recipient Amy Canter (right) and friend at the Ohel Jacob Synagogue, now the Jewish Refugee Museum in Shanghai, China.



Amy Canter visiting The Forbidden City in Beijing, China.



Amy Canter visiting Xian, China.



Amy Canter in China, Spring 2011.

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

Institutional Membership

We are pleased to announce the AJS 2010-2011 Institutional Members.

American University, Center for Israel Studies & Jewish Studies Program

Arizona State University, Center for Jewish Studies

Center for Cultural Judaism

Columbia University, Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies

Cornell University, Program in Jewish Studies

Foundation for Jewish Culture

Harvard University, Center for Jewish Studies

Hebrew College

Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion

Indiana University, Robert A. and Sandra S. Borns Jewish Studies Program

The Graduate School of the Jewish Theological Seminary

Johns Hopkins University, Leonard and Helen R. Stulman Jewish Studies Program

McGill University, Department of Jewish Studies

Monash University, Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation

National Yiddish Book Center

New York University, Skirball Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies

Northwestern University, The Crown Family Center for Jewish Studies

Ohio State University, Melton Center for Jewish Studies

Old Dominion University, Institute for Jewish Studies and Interfaith Understanding

Pennsylvania State University, Jewish Studies Program

Purdue University, Jewish Studies Program

Queens College, CUNY, Center for Jewish Studies

Reconstructionist Rabbinical College

Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies

Stanford University, Taube Center for Jewish Studies

Tikvah Fund

University of Arizona, Arizona Center for Judaic Studies

University of California, Los Angeles, Center for Jewish Studies

University of California, San Diego, Judaic Studies Program

University of Connecticut, Center for Judaic Studies and Contemporary Jewish Life

University of Denver, Center for Judaic Studies

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Program in Jewish Culture and Society

University of Maryland, Meyerhoff Center for Jewish Studies

University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Judaic and Near Eastern Studies Department

University of Michigan, The Frankel Center for Judaic Studies

University of Minnesota, Center for Jewish Studies

University of Nebraska at Lincoln, Norman and Bernice Harris Center for Judaic Studies

University of North Carolina at Asheville, Carolina Center for Jewish Studies

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Center for Jewish Studies

University of Oregon, Harold Schnitzer Family Program in Judaic Studies

University of Pittsburgh, Jewish Studies Program

University of Tennessee - Knoxville, The Fern and Manfred Steinfeld Program in Judaic Studies

University of Texas at Austin, Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies

University of Virginia, Jewish Studies Program

University of Washington, Samuel and Althea Stroum Jewish Studies Program, Jackson School of International Studies

University of Wisconsin – Madison, Mosse/Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies

University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee, Sam and Helen Stahl Center for Jewish Studies

Vanderbilt University, Program in Jewish Studies

Washington University in St. Louis, Program in Jewish, Islamic, and Near Eastern Studies

Yeshiva University, Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies

York University, Israel and Golda Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Studies

MORE GOOD NEWS....



Congratulations to our Religious Studies wizard, **Karen**, and her husband, Professor **Mark Windham**,

on births of grandchildren **Aiden Ashley Windham**, on September 26, 2010, and **Vera Elizabeth Windham**, on August 3, 2011, and the marriage of son **Ashley Bartus Windham** to **Sandra Michelle Ferguson** on September 17, 2011. What a busy year for Karen and Mark!

Congratulations to **Michael** and **Jennifer Booker** on birth of son **Trey**. Michael, who worked with me as my graduate assistant for nearly four years, became Dr. Booker in 2010. This summer he and his family moved to Nacogdoches,

Texas, where Michael is a Visiting Assistant Professor in History at Steven S. Austin University.



Jennifer, Trey and Michael Booker

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 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. Private funds have made possible the teaching of Modern Hebrew and the hiring of the Schusterman Visiting Israeli Professors. Your support can help to make our program better and stronger. If you wish to make a contribution, the following funds are available:

- THE FERN AND MANFRED STEINFELD SCHOLARSHIP FUND IN JUDAIC STUDIES, RELIGIOUS STUDIES _____
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You can also find us on the Web:
web.utk.edu/~judaic

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Inquiries and charges of violation of Title VI (race, color, national origin), Title IX (sex), Section 504 (disability), A.D.A. (disability), Age Discrimination in Employment Act (age), sexual orientation, or veteran status should be directed to the Office of Equity and Diversity (OED), 1840 Melrose Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37996-3560, telephone (865) 974-2498 (V/TTY available) or 974-2440. Requests for accommodation of a disability should be directed to the ADA Coordinator at the Office of Equity and Diversity.

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



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