

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



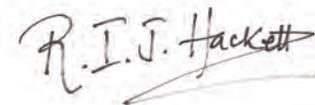
From the Head of Religious Studies



This newsletter marks the end of an era. Dr. Gilya Schmidt, who has been the heart and soul of Judaic Studies at UTK since she arrived in the early 1990s, has decided to retire and concentrate on her

writing. As this newsletter attests, she is going to be a hard act to follow. We shall miss her greatly as leader, mentor, scholar, teacher, and colleague, but also know that she is but an email or a phone call away. We wish her all the very best for her richly deserved retirement, and thank her from the bottom of our hearts for her immense contributions to Judaic Studies,

Religious Studies, the campus, and the wider Knoxville community.



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

Dear Friends of Judaic Studies,



It takes a dreary early September day, so totally out of character for our southern Indian summer, to make me sit down and say the word

that is unspeakable in the academic environment—retirement. There, I said it, even more, I wrote it, it's on paper, and yes, it's official. I turned in my letter of intent to my department head in April, and we have hammered out an appealing post-retirement agreement that will allow me to bridge the gap until my successor is in place, and then some.

Seriously, though, there are no words to express my gratitude to administrators and colleagues, students and staff, and to my beloved Jewish community of 22 years, for a fine life and career in Knoxville, TN, at the foot of the Smokies. I had no

idea what to expect when I arrived here in August 1993, fresh from an NEH Summer Seminar on Zionism at Columbia University in New York City. Oh, I had ideas what I wanted to accomplish, but no sense of whether this would be possible. I was not disappointed. Much appreciation goes to the former head of the Department of Religious Studies, Professor **Charles H. Reynolds**, who, together with Dean **Larry Ratner** and several members of the Jewish community, developed the vision for a scholar of Judaism in the Department of Religious Studies and quickly followed it up with a strong and successful fund-raising campaign more than twenty-five years ago. During a reception shortly after my arrival I announced that we would soon have a Judaic Studies program, and we went about establishing and collecting the courses we would need for a curriculum. The rest, as they say, is history. For more than two decades we have taught thousands of students, held nearly one hundred lectures, symposia, conferences, film festivals, and other

public events. Over the years, we have been so proud of the faculty associated with the Judaic Studies program. Many have gone to numerous academic national and international conferences to share their research with colleagues, published scholarly papers in professional journals, and birthed many books. They have and are receiving fellowships and grants for their scholarship at all levels. We hosted three Schusterman Visiting Israel Professors and four Diane and Guilford Glazer/Lea and Allen Orwitz Modern Hebrew Teaching Fellows, and for the past three years enjoyed regular teaching of Biblical Hebrew with the arrival of **Jack Love**. Never have we been as fortunate as now to have a constant demand for the Hebrew language and the resources to teach it. Alas, the need for funding, especially for Modern Hebrew, is immediate.

Although money is very important for a venture like ours, I want to stress that we could not carry out all of the activities we do without all of our friends. There is so much that

depends on good will and cooperation, volunteers and in-kind service. 5775 was a particularly difficult year because we lost several friends that I was particularly close to. In December 2014 we lost long-time donor and native Knoxville **Guilford Glazer**. And then, in short succession in winter, my friend **Werner Runschke** in Germany, who had been my collaborator on the book, *Süssien is Now Free of Jews*, and a very close personal friend, **Arnold Schwarzbart**. Following these losses, I felt thoroughly orphaned and sad. May their memory be for a blessing.

It took indeed a village to keep Judaic Studies not only alive, but robust and growing, for twenty-two years. From the state of Tennessee to private donors, all contributed what they could to the success of this program. To all, we are deeply grateful for your interest and

your support. Now it is time to turn a new leaf. I am looking to my colleagues to hire an energetic and productive scholar of Judaism who will take the Fern and Manfred Steinfeld Program in Judaic Studies to a new level, where we no longer operate on a shoestring budget, but establish endowments with sufficient funds so that in addition to the established positions we can not only teach Biblical and Modern Hebrew, but also Yiddish and Ladino, and have a regular Israel presence among our faculty. It will not only take a village, but a world to realize these dreams, and I will be cheering from the stands. To each and every one of you who have contributed to the success of this program over the years—*todah rabah!* Our world is a better place for the broad knowledge we have been able to share with this campus and this community, and for the many graduates who

learned about Judaism and who, in turn, pass on the message to their families and friends.

With deepest gratitude I wish continued success and growth to the program that I founded nearly a quarter century ago. *Hazak, hazak, v'nithazek*. May we go from strength to strength. Best wishes for a sweet and peaceful 5776 for all humanity

B'Shalom,

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

USHMM Honors Manny and Fern Steinfeld

On September 9, 2014, at the annual Risa K. Lambert Luncheon, the US Holocaust Memorial Museum honored **Manny** and **Fern Steinfeld** with the National Leadership Award. A UT delegation that included Dean **Theresa Lee** and Professor **Gilya Schmidt** traveled to Chicago to join 3,200 guests in honoring the Steinfelds. It was an amazing and moving event. Congratulations, Manny and Fern!



Manny Steinfeld at USHMM Tribute Luncheon.



Fern and Manfred Steinfeld with honor guard. Courtesy of Jack Williams.

Manny and Fern Steinfeld honored by the University of Tennessee

A UT honor was bestowed on philanthropists **Manny** and **Fern Steinfeld** with a new award created by the College of Arts and Sciences for alumni and friends of the college. **Paul Steinfeld** attended a luncheon for the awardees on April 17, 2015 and accepted the award for his parents. *Mazal tov* to Manny and Fern!



Paul Steinfeld and Dean Theresa Lee. Courtesy of Jan Duncan.

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

Gilya Schmidt Receives College Outreach Award

On December 9, 2014, Professor **Gilya Schmidt** was honored by the College of Arts and Sciences with the Faculty Academic Outreach Award, one of three awarded. This award recognizes faculty who have extended their scholarship and creative activity to directly benefit the community beyond the university.



2014 Faculty Academic Outreach Award, College of Arts and Sciences. Gilya Schmidt on right. Courtesy of University of Tennessee.

Dr. Alan Solomon Honored for Judaic Studies Support

Since the idea first came up, **Dr. Alan Solomon** has been involved with the Judaic Studies Program at the University of Tennessee—by serving on the founding committee for the endowed chair, establishing the Abraham and Rebecca Solomon and Ida

Schwartz Distinguished Lecture Fund for Judaic Studies, and participating in other events, such as the Schusterman Visiting Israel Professor. The Fern and Manfred Steinfeld Program in Judaic Studies is grateful for Dr. Solomon's long-time support.



Gilya Schmidt presents plaque to Dr. Alan Solomon. Courtesy of Ashley Combest.



Dr. Alan Solomon, Professor Deborah Dash Moore, Gilya Schmidt and Professor J. P. Dessel. Courtesy of Ashley Combest.

IN MEMORIAM

Whenever we experience a loss in the community, I pull myself together after the shivah minyanim and tell myself that it is time to go on. This past spring, I experienced more personal deaths within a few weeks than ever before. Before Passover I felt such a profound sadness that our world was slowly not my world anymore. It took the festival of freedom spent in the presence of my living friends that convinced me that life was still enjoyable.

Guilford Glazer (1921-2014)

Although I only met Knoxville native **Guilford Glazer** once, he and his wife **Diane** were generous donors to Judaic Studies at the University of Tennessee from the inception of the program in 1993. Guilford contributed to a number of special projects over the years, and most recently to our teaching of Modern Hebrew. Starting in 2008, we created the Guilford and Diane Glazer Modern Hebrew Teaching Fellowship which the Glazers supported for three years. They then were joined by **Allen** and **Lea Orwitz**

in 2012. We lost Guilford this past December at age 93. Guilford supported many causes, especially those that involved Israel. He was a generous individual who was intent on making a difference. Guilford is survived by his wife Diane, two children and five grandchildren. We will always gratefully remember Guilford's contribution to Judaic Studies at the University of Tennessee.



Pat Johnson, Diane and Guilford Glazer, and Dr. Joe Johnson. Courtesy of Jack Williams.



Guilford Glazer. Courtesy of Jack Williams.

Werner Runschke (1938-2015)

I have never considered email to be a vehicle of quality communication. Recently, I have started to dread it as the bearer of bad news. At the same time, one is grateful that news reaches us quickly that way. And so it was on February 22 when my friend **Werner Runschke's** son **Wolfgang** informed me of his father's death. Werner and his wife **Bärbel** have become familiar names to my friends. For the past 15 years I have spent weeks and sometimes months in their home in Süssen, Germany, in pursuit of documents located in various local archives. Werner was the honorary director of the Süssen City Archive and was invaluable in my hunt for Nazi era documents to do with Süssen's Jewish citizens. In the end, the information obtained from other archives was equally as important, but if it had not been for his dedication to the cause, I would never have gotten to that point. After several false leads and disappointing searches, Werner's excellent connections led us to a powerful paper trail that established the case for the atrocities against the Lang, Metzger, Baer, and Ottenheimer families. But it

IN MEMORIAM CONT'D

was not only this type of evidence that Werner helped me with, he and Bärbel drove me to about twenty different rural Jewish communities where we sought out and documented former Jewish property and graves in Jewish cemeteries that feature prominently in a book I am currently working on about Jewish communities in southern Germany. And finally, Bärbel and Werner became wonderful friends. I will miss him terribly. My heart goes out to his wife Bärbel and to their three children and four grandchildren.



Werner Runschke and Gilya Schmidt in Süssen City Archive.

Arnold Schwarzbart (1942-2015)

Soon after I arrived in Knoxville, **Arnold and Mary Linda Schwarzbart** took me to meet **Mira Kimmelman** in Oak Ridge, TN. From that time, we became good friends, and I couldn't imagine life in Knoxville without Arnold and Mary Linda. For the past 22 years we have shared Shabbat dinners and holidays, and they have hosted and fed some of our UT visitors. I fell

in love with Arnold's Judaica art and admired his creativity as well as his erudition in Jewish texts. His reading in Jewish mysticism influenced and informed some of his work. In 1999 Arnold gave a wonderful lecture for Judaic Studies on his art, entitled "Not by Might, Nor by Power, But by My Spirit Alone, Says the Lord of Hosts." In spite of being an immigrant boy who survived the Holocaust in Europe, Arnold was a gentle soul and always quietly supportive. Whether I needed a new handle on a kitchen knife or one of his beautiful amulets for a gift, Arnold would oblige. Arnold died on March 16 of this year. It has been very difficult to learn to live in a world without Arnold. His memory will always be for a blessing. My love and support go to his wife, Mary Linda. The Arnold Schwarzbart Gallery at the Arnstein Jewish Community Center will open January 31, 2016.



Arnold Schwarzbart at work. Courtesy of Mary Linda Schwarzbart. Photo by Ernie Gross.

John (Janós) Neubauer (1933-2015)

The curse of email....although I am not sure whether an envelope with a black border, as is the custom in Europe, is any easier. Just as I am completing this newsletter, I have received news of yet another loss. This one takes me back to my early years as a graduate student in Pittsburgh, PA, and one of my most cherished teachers. In quest of Martin Buber, I decided to learn something about German history and culture, so I got an M.A. in German Languages and Literatures. Unfortunately, I was first exposed to Kafka, whose writings left me somewhat shaken. As I was searching for a balm for my wounds, I made the acquaintance of John Neubauer, who took me on as one of his wards, teaching me about Goethe and the German Romantics. I soon learned that they had a good bit in common with Buber, a realization that would eventually make it into my dissertation. I was always grateful to my professor, who with his wife Ursula, became good friends for life. With great sorrow I extend my condolences to **Ursula Neubauer** and their daughters **Eva** and **Nicole** and their families.

May the memory of these wonderful human beings, treasured colleagues, and good friends be for a blessing.



Professor Emeritus John Neubauer.

JEWISH STUDENT CENTER/HILLEL



Hillel students celebrate Rosh Hashanah 5776. Courtesy of Deborah Oleshansky.

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 web.utk.edu/~uthillel.

JUDAIC STUDIES DONOR EVENT

AS I HAVE NOTED ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS, THE JUDAIC STUDIES PROGRAM AT UT EXISTS MOSTLY BY PRIVATE DONATIONS. ALL OF OUR PROGRAMMING IS DONOR-SUPPORTED, AS IS MODERN HEBREW, AND EVEN THE CHAIR HOLDER BENEFITS SIGNIFICANTLY FROM THE ENDOWMENT. THIS PAST SPRING, I DECIDED TO REACH OUT TO AS MANY OF OUR DONORS OVER THE YEARS AS I COULD LOCATE, AND INVITE THEM TO AN EVENING CELEBRATING THEIR GENEROSITY OVER THE YEARS AND THEIR MANY SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PROGRAM. ON APRIL 29, 2015, ABOUT ONE HUNDRED GUESTS MINGLED AT THE UT VISITORS' CENTER, APPRECIATING LIVELY KLEZMER MUSIC BY TENNESSEE SCHMALZ, ENJOYING DELICIOUS FOOD AND DRINK, AND LISTENING TO COMMENTS BY VICE PROVOST JOHN ZOMCHICK, DEAN THERESA LEE, PRESIDENT EMERITUS JOE JOHNSON, INTERIM DEPARTMENT HEAD RACHELLE SCOTT, AND GILYA SCHMIDT. I ALSO PUT TOGETHER A VISUAL RETROSPECTIVE OF THE PROGRAM WITH CLIPS FROM LECTURES AND CONFERENCES AND STILL PICTURES FROM A VARIETY OF OCCASIONS.



Raphe and Susette Panitz, Marilyn and Harvey Liberman (back), and Trudy Dreyer. Photo by Jack Williams.



Gilya Schmidt, Pat Johnson, Mary Linda Schwarzbart, and Dean Theresa Lee. Photo by Jack Williams.



Dean Theresa Lee, President Emeritus Joe Johnson, Gilya Schmidt, Charles H. Reynolds (back), Vice Provost John Zomchick, and Rachele Scott. Photo by Jack Williams.



Rachele Scott, Debbie Epley, Joan Riedl, Charles Reynolds, and guests. Photo by Jack Williams.



Mira Kimmelman and Donna Hardy. Photo by Jack Williams.



Jack Love, Itsik Pariente and Raphe Panitz. It must be Hebrew? Photo by Jason Messing.

New Endowment established in Honor of Gilya Schmidt

To my very great surprise, an anonymous donor gifted the University with a major contribution towards the establishment of an endowment in my honor. This gift was announced at the donor reception on April 29. I was very touched and grateful. The fund is known as the Dr. Gilya Schmidt Endowed Faculty Award in Judaic Studies.

On October 8, **Karen and Pace Robinson** were kind enough to organize a small gathering of potential donors who might make a contribution to this fund. If you are interested in participating, please see the fund information on the inside back page of this newsletter, the Judaic Studies website at <http://web.utk.edu/~judaic>, or contact **Holly Jackson-Sullivan** at hjacks14@utk.edu.



Karen and Pace Robinson and Gilya Schmidt. Courtesy of Holly Jackson-Sullivan.



Gilya Schmidt and Dean Theresa Lee. Photo by Jason Messing.

LEA AND ALLEN ORWITZ TEACHING FELLOW IN MODERN HEBREW

Itsik Pariente



For many years, **Diane** and **Guilford Glazer** supported many Judaic Studies activities--most recently also this Teaching Fellowship in Modern Hebrew.

With the death of Guilford Glazer, this support has come to a temporary halt. We are deeply grateful to **Lea** and **Allen Orwitz** for continuing their support of this fellowship this year and for the foreseeable future.

This year saw the Modern Hebrew program grow to 20 students! This is Mr. Pariente's third year teaching at

the University of Tennessee as the Lea and Allen Orwitz Teaching Fellow in Modern Hebrew (the first two years were supported by Diane and Guilford Glazer as well), and Mr. Pariente is grateful for the chance to teach in such a vibrant community.

His dissertation, under final review, deals with issues in the phonology of Modern Hebrew and examines several aspects of the sound system of Hebrew, including pharyngeal effects, vowel deletion, and the nature of the root. In addition to an article published by Brill last year, Mr. Pariente has published yet another paper about Sephardic modern Hebrew, "The interaction of vowel quality and pharyngeals in Sephardic modern Hebrew," to be published in November in *Folia Linguistica*.

JUDAIC STUDIES SCHOLARSHIPS

Since 2008, we have been fortunate to have two endowed scholarships for Judaic Studies students. To date, 22 Judaic Studies students have received one or both of the available scholarships for study and travel. This year's recipients are listed below.

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

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

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

Dr. Ruben Robinson Recipients

Rachel Brown



As a vocal performance major and the featured singer with a local Klezmer band, I have had the opportunity to sing many hallmark pieces from this

genre. In addition to performing these works, I have also done research on the history and evolution of Yiddish songs, which has helped to inform my performances and make me a more sensitive performer. I have added a Judaic Studies minor because I want to add to my knowledge of Judaism, its history and its evolution, so that I can perform these works with more insight. As a student in the Chancellor's Honors Program, I am required to do a senior thesis project. I plan to give a

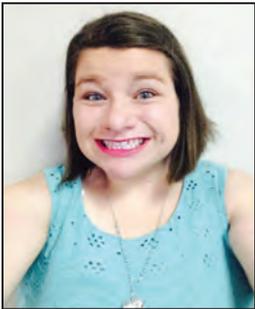
2014-15 DONORS

Every year not only the earnings from our endowments keep Judaic Studies afloat, but additional contributions from existing or new donors as well. We would like to thank all of our 2014-2015 donors for their generosity and for their interest in keeping the study of Judaism alive at the University of Tennessee.

- Mrs. **Alissa Barta-Reeves**
- Dr. and Mrs. **Jeffrey Becker**
- Dr. and Mrs. **Jack Benhayon**
- Mr. and Mrs. **James S. Bogard**
- Dr. and Mrs. **Harold Diftler**
- Drs. **Renee Hyatt** and **Paul C. Erwin**
- Mr. and Mrs. **William Hicks**
- Ms. **Rose P. Holz**
- Mrs. **Stella Iroff**
- Dr. and Mrs. **Joseph E. Johnson**
- Mr. and Mrs. **Marvin Kastenbaum**
- Mrs. **Sondra Markoff**
- Mr. and Mrs. **Allen Orwitz**
- Mrs. **Marilyn C. Presser**
- Mrs. **Judith Rattner**
- Mr. and Mrs. **Pace Robinson**
- Mrs. **Natalie L. Robinson**
- Mr. and Mrs. **Stephen Rosen**
- Dr. **Gilya Schmidt**
- Mrs. **Mary Linda Schwarzbart**
- Mrs. **Marcia Silverstein**
- Mr. and Mrs. **Nathan Solomon**
- Mr. and Mrs. **Manfred Steinfeld**
- Mr. **Melvin Sturm**
- Mrs. **Annette E. Winston**

lecture recital on Yiddish song, combining German Lieder, Hebrew songs and Yiddish songs. This project will contain a large research component for which my knowledge of Judaism and the history of its music will be crucial. On an even larger scale, I believe that I have the unique opportunity to educate audiences about the history of the Jewish people and the continued relevance of our music. I am confident that a Judaic Studies minor will enable me to pass on the knowledge that I gain to an increasingly wider audience.

Kimberly Mizell



As a child, I learned about Ancient Jews from a Protestant point of view. I was intrigued by the Temple, stories, and people. I had a foundation of

some of the holidays and rituals. As a college student, I visited Temple B’Nai Israel in Jackson, Tennessee. Through more learning and Dr. **Schmidt’s** classes I have found a love for learning about the Jewish peoples that reside in all places on Earth.

I am excited to use this minor to help future students understand the past and present culture of Jews. I will use what I have learned through Voices of the Holocaust to share what I learned from survivors. I will share what **Mira Kimmelman** taught me through her book: each generation is the future and must not allow another Holocaust to happen.

Taylor Thomas



I began to forge my new path when Dr. **Shepardson** introduced me to Dr. **Erin Darby**—someone with interests strikingly similar to my own, whom

I have grown to both respect and ad-

mire. Under Dr. Darby, I began studying in the departments of Religious Studies and Judaic Studies, focusing on Israelite and early Jewish religion. I have gone on to pursue such research topics as figurine-use in Persian Period Yehud, Babylonian influence upon religious life of diasporic Jewish communities, the transition from henotheism to monotheism in the ancient world, and the role of *asherah* in Israelite religion, engaging research for my honors thesis, representing the Humanities for the Undergraduate Research Student Association Executive Board, and presenting my research at undergraduate conferences.

Steinfeld recipients

Amanda Alarcon



A Holocaust survivor came to speak to my eighth-grade class to tell us about her experiences. The details of the atrocities that took place were

heartbreaking and astounding to me as I had never previously heard much about the Holocaust. Nothing resonated with me more than the strength and resilience of this woman. As I left the class that day, I thought “How could this happen?”

Coming to UT as a History major, I took my first Judaic Studies course, Religious Studies/Judaic Studies 386: Voices of the Holocaust with Dr. **Schmidt**. This class shaped my life and solidified what I wanted to do with it: become a professor in Holocaust Studies. The class profoundly shaped and expanded what I previously thought I knew about the Holocaust and Judaism’s history.

Taking other classes offered at UT, such as German/Judaic Studies 350: The Afterlife of the Holocaust and History 373: The History of the Holocaust has shown me how deeply rooted anti-Semitism was prior to the Holocaust and how it shaped the events and ideologies that led to the Holocaust.

I decided to become a Judaic Studies minor to further my knowledge of Judaism as a religion and its resilience throughout time—specifically during the Holocaust. This school year I will be completing my honors senior thesis on violence against women during the Holocaust and plan to attend the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum to view the archives for a portion of this research.

Hannah Bowling



When I first travelled to Israel, in 2012, my life was changed forever. I cannot put into words the experiences I had during this trip. This

trip was not a tourist vacation; it was an experience that allowed me to build strong connections with many Israelis. While volunteering that summer at the Kaplan Medical Center, and then once again this past summer, my love for Israel and the Jewish people intensified. I was able to see how these people lived, hurt, celebrated, believed, accepted and tolerated. While seeking other ways to serve the Jewish people, such as volunteering at Heska Amuna Synagogue, learning the Hebrew language, attending local synagogues, and hosting a T-shirt fund raiser, I found out about majoring in Judaic Studies. I immediately changed my major the same day. I have many plans and goals for this Degree, and future expectations.

James Farris



I am a senior Psychology major, minoring in Judaic Studies. I continue to take classes to learn new things, to explore the unfamiliar, and

to bring understanding to that which I had known but not truly understood.

It was through the fascination of learning that I enrolled in a Judaic Studies class last fall, Contemporary Jewish Thinkers, taught by Dr. **Gilya Schmidt**. Through the readings in class, I discovered why my mother's family had left Wurttemberg in 1781 to come to America, why they changed their name, and why my mother probably never knew she was Jewish, although now I know that many of our family traditions were actually Jewish traditions. A minor in Judaic Studies will allow me to deepen my understanding of the Jewish tradition

and bring them into my everyday life.

Mia Strong



Although originally a student of Philosophy, my passion for the subject of Judaic Studies has led me to declare a Religious Studies major with a minor in Judaic Studies. I have a

significant interest in researching Jewish Mysticism and objective morality and I hope to inspire others toward mindful living. As I plan for the future, I am aware that I cannot know exactly where life's journey will take me, but I strive to ask questions and remain mindful of life's possibilities using self-reflection and prayer to guide my journey.

JUDAIC STUDIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

FOR THE PAST TWENTY-TWO YEARS, COLLEAGUES FROM A VARIETY OF DEPARTMENTS HAVE GENEROUSLY PARTICIPATED IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE FERN AND MANFRED STEINFELD PROGRAM IN JUDAIC STUDIES—SOME BY TEACHING COURSES IN THE PROGRAM AND SOME BY PUBLISHING ON MATTERS TO DO WITH JUDAISM. BETWEEN US, WE HAVE TAUGHT APPROXIMATELY 20,000 STUDENTS ON JEWISH TOPICS. COLLEAGUES HAVE PUBLISHED A NUMBER OF BOOKS AND MANY ARTICLES, APPLIED FOR AND RECEIVED SEVERAL PRESTIGIOUS NATIONAL AS WELL AS INTERNAL GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS, AND ORGANIZED SESSIONS AND READ CONFERENCE PAPERS AT NUMEROUS PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS. THE MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE HAVE ALSO WEIGHED IN ON CURRICULUM FOR THE PROGRAM, ON SPEAKERS AND OTHER PROGRAMMING, AND ATTENDED MEETINGS AT LEAST TWICE A YEAR. TO EACH OF YOU, OLD AND NEW, MY DEEPEST THANKS FOR YOUR COMMITMENT AND YOUR SERVICE. YOU HAVE MADE A TREMENDOUS CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROGRAM OVER THE YEARS.

● **Robert Blitt**



Professor **Robert Blitt** of the College of Law was promoted from associate professor of law to full professor in May 2015. During the past year, Prof. Blitt's article on business and

human rights (originally published in the UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS INTERNATIONAL LAW JOURNAL) was translated into Bahasa Indonesia by the Jakarta-based Institute For Policy Research & Advocacy. Blitt also published an op-ed in the USA Today concerning the threat to freedom of expression in the wake of the Charlie Hebdo attack in Paris. The Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction ("CALI") awarded Prof. Blitt a grant to create a new experiential learning practicum at the law school to be offered in fall 2015. This practicum will enable UT students to develop expertise on Tennessee's Human Rights

Commission (THRC) and emerging legal technologies, which in turn will be used to promote enhanced access to justice in the state. During the summer, Prof. Blitt presented papers at conferences in Toronto, Canada, Hannover, Germany and Ramat Gan, Israel before traveling to Cambridge, UK to teach a seminar on international religious freedom at Downing College.



Robert, Stephanie, Idan, Abie, and Noah Blitt.

● **Erin Darby**

The last academic year has been a busy one for Dr. Erin Darby. Since fall 2014, Erin has published one co-authored article focusing on the production of Iron Age figurines from Jerusalem and her book, *Interpreting Judean Pillar Figurines: Gender and Empire in Judean Apotropaic Ritual* (Mohr Siebeck, 2014), appeared in print September 2014. She has also been busy finalizing several forthcoming chapters in edited volumes, dictionary articles, and a co-edited volume on figurines and religion in the southern Levant. Erin has also been working on a variety of grant applications. She received a SARIF Equipment and Infrastructure Award for specialized photographic equipment to document artifacts from the 2015 season of the 'Ayn Gharandal Archaeological Project, where she serves as one of the excavation co-directors. She also received a SARIF Foreign Travel Award to present two research papers in Haifa, Israel. Finally, she was awarded a NEH fellowship to continue research for her next monograph at the W. F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research

in Jerusalem, Israel. From February through May of 2016, Erin will be analyzing material remains from the site 'En Hazeva in Israel's Negev desert, particularly an extra-mural shrine deposit that may be associated with either Israelite or Edomite religious ritual.



Dr. Erin Darby introduces her new book in 2014. Courtesy of Erin Darby.

Last year, Erin continued her work with the Partnership for the Academic Study of Early Judaism (PASEJ). The partnership between UT and the Knoxville Jewish Alliance helped sponsor five lectures between 2014-2015 including Dr. **Carrie Duncan** (University of Missouri, Columbia), "If It's Good for the Gander, Why Not the Goose? Questions of Gender and Leadership in Early Jewish Communities" (September 18, 2014), **J.P. Dessel** (University of Tennessee), "Synagogues in Ancient and Modern Times" (October 27, 2014), **Raphe Panitz** and **Erin Darby** (University of Tennessee), "Cult Places in the Bible and the Ancient Near East" (March 10, 2015), **Jodi Magness** (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill), "New Discoveries in the Ancient Village Synagogue at Huqoq in Israel's Galilee" (April 28, 2015), and **Jack Love** (University of Tennessee), "The Art of the Jewish Cantor: The Liturgy Performed as Opera" (May 14, 2015).



Erin Darby, Eric Cline, and Robert Darby. Courtesy of Erin Darby.

In the 2015-2016 academic year, PASEJ has already sponsored **Eric Cline**, "1177 BC: The Year Civilization Collapsed" (September 24, 2015) and will organize at least three additional lectures (dates TBA) including, **Adam Bean** (Johns Hopkins University), "Yahweh, El, and Baal: Disputed Divine Identity in Ancient Israel," **Phillip Sherman** (Maryville College), "Caught in the Thicket: Looking for Animals in the Hebrew Bible," and **Greg Kaplan** (University of Tennessee), "Spinoza's Rabbi: Saul Levi Morteira?" If you are interested in receiving email alerts about upcoming PASEJ events, please contact Erin at edarby1@utk.edu.

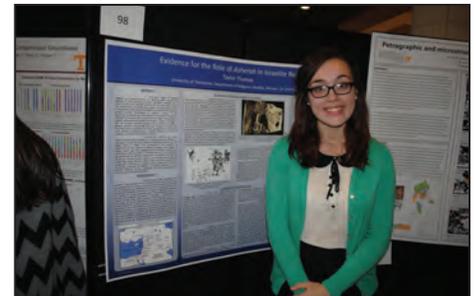
Erin also continued her involvement with the annual UT Archaeology and Fossil Day event at the McClung Museum, which drew over 700 community members and participants to campus and was supported by an Outreach Grant from the Archaeological Institute of America. This year's event took place again at the McClung Museum on October 11. In addition, Erin expanded her efforts by designing an Archaeology Day event for the Arnstein Jewish Community Center Preschool. The children were introduced to archaeological tools, read stories about archaeology in Israel, and excavated dig boxes in the AJCC gymnasium.



UT graduate Lillian Dropkin, former Judaic Studies major, with whole vessel at 'Ayn Gharandal. Courtesy of Erin Darby.

Erin gave a number of scholarly papers and presentations between 2014 and 2015. In September she organized and presented papers at the "Engaging Arabia: From Arabia/Palaestina to the Modern Middle East: 'Ayn Gharandal

Symposium" and the First Annual Arab Cultural Fair, supported by a Ready for the World Grant from the Office of the Provost, as well as the Office of Research, the College of Arts and Sciences, and a host of UT departments. In November, she delivered three papers at the Annual Meetings of the American School of Oriental Research and the Society of Biblical Literature in San Diego. She also served on a number of committees and chaired academic sessions for the American School of Oriental Research and became the chair of the Archaeology of the Biblical World session for the Society of Biblical Literature. In January she delivered a paper at the Archaeological Institute of America Annual Meeting in New Orleans and was invited to speak about the success of the UT annual Archaeology Day event. In March, she traveled to Haifa, Israel to present two papers at the "Terracottas in the Mediterranean through Time" symposium, sponsored by the University of Haifa and the Association of Coroplastic Studies, for which Erin serves as treasurer.



Religious Studies major Taylor Thomas on Israelite Religion at Eureka Undergraduate exhibition. Courtesy of Erin Darby.

Finally, during the summer of 2015, Erin co-directed the 2015 season of the 'Ayn Gharandal Archaeological Project (AGAP), excavating a Roman military settlement in southern Jordan. Highlights from this season include an almost fully-intact Roman bathhouse with Greek and pictorial graffiti and an early Christian chapel. The associated Dig Jordan study abroad program and AGAP field school brought 21 students/volunteers to the Middle East to learn about archaeology, history, and culture. Two Judaic Studies alums, **Lily Dropkin** (2015) and **Nicole Swartwood** (2014), and one current

Judaic Studies student, **Taylor Thomas**, joined the team over the summer. Lily and Nicole then traveled to Israel after the field season, where Erin helped organize a special tour of the Albright Institute of Archaeological Research in Jerusalem and nearby archaeological sites.



Erin Darby and Nikki Swartwood at Wadi Rum, Jordan. Courtesy of Erin Darby.

● **Nancy Henry**

Nancy Henry spent the 2014-15 academic year on an NEH Fellowship. She is currently completing her book, "Women and the Nineteenth-Century Cultures of Investment." In August 2015, Nancy took two graduate students to the annual Dickens Universe Conference at the University of California, Santa Cruz. She will be a co-organizer of the conference in 2016 and 2017.



Professor Nancy Henry in Leuven, Belgium, for the Anthony Trollope Bicentennial Conference in September 2015. Courtesy of Nancy Henry.

She has also recently assumed two editorial positions, one as Associate Editor of *George Eliot-George Henry Lewes Studies* and the other as International Co-Editor of the *Journal of Victorian Culture* (based in the UK). In September, Nancy traveled to Leuven, Belgium to present a paper on "Trollope's Women Investors" at the Anthony Trollope Bicentennial Conference.

● **Heather Hirschfeld**



Courtesy of Heather Hirschfeld.

Heather Hirschfeld completed her term as Riggsby Director of the Marco Institute for Medieval and Renaissance Studies at the end of 2014, but she remained connected to the institute by co-chairing the 2015 Marco Symposium, " 'Cry havoc!': War, Diplomacy, and Conspiracy in the Middle Ages and Renaissance" with fellow Judaic Studies faculty **Vejas Liulevicius**. She was an invited participant at the annual Shakespeare Association of America Conference, where she presented a paper entitled "Playing with Hell: The Revenger's Tragedy and the Infernal," part of a developing research project on the rhetorical uses of hell in the early modern period. That paper, as well as another on the critical background of the play, are at various stages of the publication process; her "Playwriting in Shakespeare's time: authorship, collaboration, and attribution," has been published in a collection entitled *Shakespeare and Textual Studies*, published by Cambridge University Press. She is in advanced stages of editing a 35-chapter volume for Oxford University Press, the *Handbook of Shakespearean Comedy*, and she signed in the spring a contract to edit and supply a new Introduction to the *New Cambridge Shakespeare Hamlet*. She was deeply honored to have been named in August to a two-year term as Lindsay Young Professor.

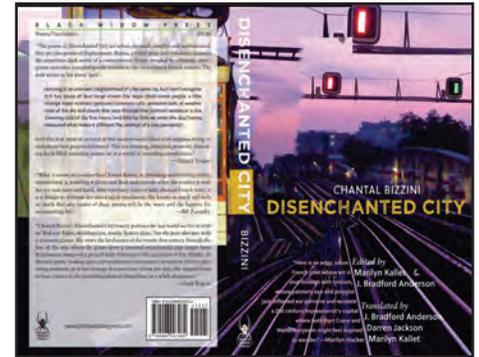
● **Marilyn Kallet**



Photo by Kristi Havens.

Marilyn Kallet's latest book is a translation from the French of **Chantal Bizzini's** *Disenchanted City*, Black Widow Press, 2015; co-edited by **J.B. Anderson** and co-translated with **Darren Jackson** and **J.B. Anderson**.

She is on leave from teaching in Fall 2015 to write poetry in France, and will be in residence at VCCA-France in Auvillar this November; she will teach an elementary school class and offer a poetry reading in Auvillar; on November 17, she will read poetry with Chantal Bizzini for Paris Lit, Up as part of their Ivy Writers series. This is a series of bilingual readings that pairs French writers with their translators.



Marilyn Kallet book cover for *Disenchanted City*. Courtesy of Marilyn Kallet.

In September 2015, Dr. Kallet offered poetry readings at the Decatur Book Festival and at the Flannery O'Connor Conference at Georgia State in Milledgeville. On October 9, at the Southern Festival of Books, she offered a panel on translation, "At Your Own Risk: The Perils and Joys of Translating Modern Poetry," (Nashville Public Library). And on October 10, she also read her poetry at SFB, "Writing for the Eye, Writing for the Ear," with state Poet Laureate **Margaret Britton Vaughn** (Legislative Plaza).

For the seventh year, Dr. Kallet led a poetry workshop in Auvillar, France, May 11-18, sponsored by VCCA-France. With her atelier, she offered a poetry reading on May 17, at La Chapelle in Auvillar. Other poetry readings in spring 2015 included Poets for Preservation, Historic Westwood; "Literary Rounds," UT Medical Center; inaugural reading for UT Cultural Attractions' first Poetry Week; Singing the Body Poetic for Sex Week at UT; poetry reading for Temple Beth El Sisterhood, January 11, 2015.

Among poetry in literary anthologies, Dr. Kallet published poems in *The Plume Anthology of Poetry*; *Blue Lyra Review: An Anthology of Diverse Voices*. Among literary journals in 2015, her

work appeared in *Blue Fifth Review*, *Plume*, *The Enchanting Verses*, and *Cutthroat: A Journal of the Arts*.

After 23 years of directing the Creative Writing Program off and on, Dr. Kallet turns the leadership over to Professor **Margaret Lazarus Dean** in the English Department. Dr. Kallet is Nancy Moore Goslee Professor of English, and continues to teach poetry workshops at every level. The Young Writers' Institute, directed by Dr. Kallet, offered its 22nd year of free workshops to high school teachers and their students in April, 2015.

● **Vejas Liulevicius**



Courtesy of Vejas Liulevicius.

Prof. **Vejas Gabriel Liulevicius** (Lindsay Young Professor in History) will shortly have a new lecture course appearing with The Great Courses Company, which produces recorded college-level lecture courses on CD, DVD, and available for download. This new 24-lecture course is "The History of Eastern Europe", and covers the remarkable diversity of the region. For more information on this and his six other taped courses (on themes including World War I, dictatorship, espionage, and global explorers), see: <http://www.thegreatcourses.com/professors/vejas-gabriel-liulevicius/>.

Prof. Liulevicius is also proud to note recent successes among his graduate students. **Jordan Kuck** earned his Ph.D. and took a tenure-track assistant professor post at West Virginia Wesleyan. **Josh Sander**, who is working on his dissertation on the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands, was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to research in archives in Germany.

● **Jacob Love**



Courtesy of Jacob Love.

Biblical Hebrew has gotten off to a good start with 12 students. Students have already learned the sights and sounds of the language and have processed much of the vocabulary leading to proficiency in the Book of Jonah. With the mid-term period coming up shortly, they are about to begin learning their first verb conjugations. Intermediate Biblical Hebrew could use a few more students, but the two who have continued from last year are doing a fine job on the Book of Ruth. By popular demand they took a bit of a hiatus from Ruth to learn about the creation of the world, and will probably read more in Genesis when the Ruth unit is completed. Finally, it has been his pleasure to introduce Judaism to about 28 students in Jewish and Religious Studies. Each of the faculty who teach this course has a particular emphasis, and Mr. **Love's** is Jewish music. It is his contention that one can follow the paths of Jews from land to land and generation to generation by listening to the music of these diverse places and over several centuries. He is grateful for the opportunity to expose our students to the languages, history, and culture of Jewish civilization.

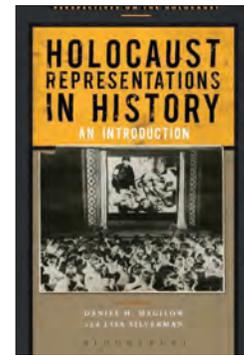
● **Daniel Magilow**



Courtesy of Daniel H. Magilow.

Dr. **Daniel H. Magilow's** newest book, *Holocaust Representations in History: An Introduction* (co-authored with Dr. **Lisa Silverman**, Associate Professor of History, at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee) was published in April 2015 by Bloomsbury. This book is an introduction for students and their teachers to the critical questions and

debates in the study of Holocaust representation. It considers both canonical memoirs, memorials, films, and other artworks, such as Anne Frank's *The Diary of A Young Girl*, Elie Wiesel's *Night*, and Berlin's Memorial



Professor Daniel Magilow's new co-edited book, *Holocaust Representations in History*. Courtesy of Daniel Magilow.

to the Murdered Jews of Europe, as well as less-well known, controversial, and taboo-breaking works such as the Children's Holocaust Memorial in Whitwell, Tennessee and the "Holocaust fraud" Fragments: Memories of a Wartime

Childhood. Dr. Magilow has given several talks to publicize this project, including a presentation at the 2015 German Jewish Studies Workshop in February and, in November 2015, a lecture at The Harry & Rose Samson Family Jewish Community Center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Alongside his activities related to the new book, Dr. Magilow has also given several talks at international conferences. In December 2014, he presented the paper "Nazisploitation, Neo-Nazisploitation, and the Margins of Holocaust Film" at the 46th Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, Baltimore, Maryland, and in February 2015, he spoke on the practice of cartophily (cigarette card collecting) in Nazi Germany at the 103rd Annual Convention of the College Art Association in New York. In February, he travelled to Oxford University in England to attend the conference "Weimar Photography in Context: Sequentiality, Seriality, Narrativity," where he presented on faked April Fools' images published in the German illustrated press during the 1920s.

Aside from his work in Judaic Studies and Holocaust Studies, Dr. Magilow's 2012 book *The Photography of Crisis: The Photo Essays of Weimar Germany* has continued to inform scholarly discussions about interwar

German photography, and in January 2015 the Pennsylvania State University Press re-released it in a new paperback edition.

● **Amy Neff**



Courtesy of Amy Neff.

Amy Neff was honored to be selected as an Alternate for membership at the Institute for Advanced Studies, Princeton. Another honor went to the Catalogue of the Frist Museum's recent exhibition, *Picturing Sanctity*, of which Neff was a co-author. The book was given Honorable Mention for best Catalogue of the Year by the American Association of Art Museum Curators. Neff also gave a paper at the International Congress of Medieval Studies at Kalamazoo, on a topic from her forthcoming book, the community of saints in the Italian manuscript, the *Supplicationes variae*. She eagerly anticipates a short trip to Florence in October 2015 to begin studies for her next project, generously supported by a UTK Professional Development Award.

● **Raphe Panitz**



Courtesy of Raphe Panitz.

Dr. Raphe Panitz has now taught two courses in Judaic Studies, 311 and 381. In the summer of 2014, Dr. Panitz had 11 students in 311, Introduction to the Hebrew Bible. In the summer of 2015, there were 9 students in 381,

Introduction to Judaism. He is currently teaching 311, in which there are 37 students enrolled and is scheduled to teach 311 again, in the Spring of 2016.

The students in these classes exhibited a strong interest in learning about Judaism and/or the Hebrew Bible. Some of them were Judaic Studies Majors or Minors; others were Religious Studies Majors or Minors. In the Judaism class, the students were exposed to the history, literature,

and rituals of the Jewish people. That exposure included a visit to one of the synagogues in the Knoxville area, to experience firsthand a Shabbat service. Based upon their reflections of the services, the members of the class enjoyed their time spent in one of the local synagogues.

In the Hebrew Bible classes, the students are studying the Hebrew Scriptures with an open mind, critically analyzing the texts of the Hebrew Bible, in translation. The classroom discussions are vibrant and thought provoking, and provide intellectual growth and development for all of the students.



Susette and Dr. Raphe Panitz. Photo by Erin Darby.

Dr. Panitz is looking forward to the Spring 2016 semester. Once again Raphe will have the privilege of working with UT students in trying to understand the texts of the Hebrew Bible.

● **Tina Shepardson**



Courtesy of Tina Shepardson.

We are happy to be able to share the news that **Dr. Shepardson's** promotion process is complete, and she is newly a full Professor in the Department of Religious Studies. Dr.

Shepardson was also honored to have received a 2015-17 Lindsay Young Professorship from the College of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Shepardson finds it a little startling to start thinking of herself as a "senior scholar" all of a sudden, but she has always had wonderful mentors and looks forward to passing along to others the inspiration and encouragement that they have given her.

Last spring Dr. Shepardson

had the pleasure of being invited to participate in a seminar on "Jews in the Late Antique Mediterranean," which proved to be an intense and wonderful few days of conversations and presentations. She spent part of this summer writing an essay based on her contributions to that seminar, and the result is an article called "Between Polemic and Propaganda: Evoking the Jews of Fourth-Century Antioch" that came out this October in the *Journal of the Jesus Movement in its Jewish Setting*, a new peer-reviewed journal that is publicly accessible online (see www.jjmjs.org). This past June she also had another article published in an edited volume, and has submitted other articles that are currently under review for publication.



Professor Christine Shepardson at Dura Europos on the Euphrates River in Syria. Courtesy of Tina Shepardson

In 2014-2015 she gave conference presentations in Switzerland, South Africa, San Diego, and Oxford, as well as at Vanderbilt and Brown. This coming year she plans to present her research at conferences in Atlanta and Chicago, and has accepted invitations to speak at Indiana University and to give the annual Vassiliadis Lecture at the University of California, San Diego. Last spring she was named one of the College of Arts and Sciences' "Faculty Trailblazers" during Faculty Appreciation Week.

Dr. Shepardson has a busy year ahead that will include chairing a search committee for a new Judaic Studies colleague, and chairing UT's new faculty-led Tennessee Initiative for Middle East Studies (TIMES). She looks forward to working with her colleagues and new students in what is sure to be another interesting and exciting year ahead.

J.P. DESSEL ACTIVITIES

MANFRED AND FERN STEINFELD PROFESSOR OF ANCIENT JEWISH HISTORY

In the Fall Dr. J. P. Dessel taught World Civilizations as well as an upper division class on Mesopotamian Archaeology. With all the turmoil in Iraq, it is interesting to note that there is quite a bit of archaeological work being done in the south, including a few western projects. In the Spring Dr. Dessel taught a double dose of Judaic Studies courses, his upper division course on Ancient Jewish History and a 499 History capstone course on Jerusalem. He has long wanted to teach a course on Jerusalem and was delighted for the opportunity. The 499 capstone class is designed as a writing seminar for History majors with the major requirement being a 20 to 25 page research paper. The history of Jerusalem is so multifaceted and emotionally evocative it is hard to squeeze everything in (Dr. Dessel lived in Jerusalem for over two years and every time he visits, he still finds new nooks and crannies that he never knew existed). The class started in the Late Bronze Age (of course) a period when Jerusalem was a city-state under Egyptian control. Jerusalem was mentioned in the Amarna Letters, a body of material mostly dating to the reign of the Egyptian king Akhenaten in the 14th c. B.C.E. But much of the course was designed to explore Jerusalem in the Middle Ages and present. The end results were some wonderful research papers, and a healthy sense of uncertainty about the future of such a richly complex city.

Dr. Dessel traveled to the Near East again last summer, visiting the Albright Institute of Archaeological Research in Jerusalem before going to excavate at Tell Tayinat near the city of Antakya, Turkey. As the vice president of the Albright Institute, part of his job is to visit the school and make sure things are going well. He is happy to report that their new director, Dr. **Matt Adams**, has settled into the position and is doing a wonderful job. Dr. Dessel also had a chance to visit several excavations in progress including

Tell Beth Shemesh where they are excavating an incredibly well preserved Late Bronze Age palace and looking forward to uncovering the rest of an Iron Age I temple. He also spent a few days in the Galilee visiting sites with an interest in starting a new project in Israel. Thankfully, Israel was very quiet while he was there, though he said last year, timing is everything.

Things also appeared quiet in the Hatay Province of southeastern Turkey where Tell Tayinat is located. However, appearances can be deceiving and the political situation across the border in Syria continued to have on-the-ground ramifications in Antakya. However, at their dig house life was quiet and they actually got back into the field this season. This season they spent cleaning up some of the last bits and pieces of Iron Age I levels that cover the Early Bronze Age remains, including a possible Early Bronze Age palace. They also continued to explore the area from which the Luwian monumental statuary was found but unfortunately there is little to report.

As always, he wants to thank his colleagues and friends at the University and especially the Department of History for their support. Unusual to note, but this year the holidays arrived right on time! Dr. Dessel wants to wish everyone a very healthy and sweet new year – Shanah Tovah!



Professor Dessel in Antakya, Turkey. Courtesy of J.P. Dessel.

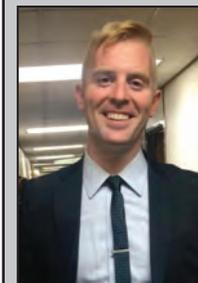
GRADUATE ASSISTANTS



Ashley Combest.
Photo by Jason Messing.

Ashley Combest, Ph.D. candidate in the Department of English, worked with me for the past five years. Ashley was an enormous help in many ways, but especially with the publication of my 2012 book on Süssen. During the summer she

decided to dedicate her time to completing her dissertation. I am deeply grateful to you, Ashley, for all of your help and wish you all the best, especially success with the completion of your degree.



Klayton Tietjen.
Courtesy of Klayton Tietjen.

I am delighted to welcome **Klayton Tietjen** as my new assistant. Klayton hails from Idaho and is currently a graduate student in the History Department. He studies the Early Middle

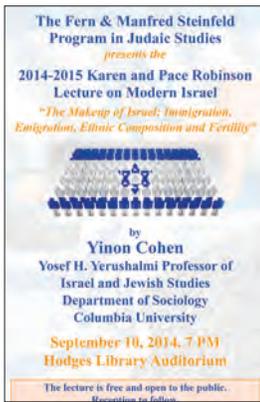
Ages, focusing on the Carolingian Empire. He earned a BA at Idaho State University where he majored in History and minored in French. He lived in France for two years and speaks French fluently; he also speaks and writes German and Latin. Before coming back to school, he worked in real estate for ten years, building a property investment and management company.

He, his beautiful wife, and his three kids are loving Knoxville and are very pleased to be living this chapter of their lives in East Tennessee.

JUDAIC STUDIES LECTURE SERIES

FROM THE INCEPTION OF THE JUDAIC STUDIES PROGRAM, AND THANKS TO A FEW DEDICATED DONORS, WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SUPPLEMENT OUR SCHOLARS IN RESIDENCE WITH REGULAR VISITING SCHOLARS TO EXPAND OUR AREAS OF LEARNING. OVER THE COURSE OF TWENTY-TWO YEARS, WE WERE ABLE TO HOST SEVENTY INDIVIDUAL SCHOLARS. IN CONNECTION WITH TWO HOLOCAUST CONFERENCES, AN ISRAEL CELEBRATION, AND A FILM FESTIVAL, WE WERE ABLE TO INVITE APPROXIMATELY THIRTY MORE SCHOLARS AND ARTISTS. IN ADDITION, BETWEEN 2008-2011, WE WELCOMED THREE SCHUSTERMAN VISITING ISRAEL PROFESSORS IN KNOXVILLE, WHO WERE NOT ONLY VISIBLE IN THE CLASSROOM, BUT IN THE COMMUNITY. THEY WERE PROFESSOR RIVKA RIBAK FROM HAIFA UNIVERSITY, PROFESSOR IGAL BURSZTYN FROM TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY, AND PROFESSOR ALEC MISHORY FROM THE OPEN UNIVERSITY IN ISRAEL. WE ARE GRATEFUL FIRST OF ALL TO OUR DONORS, BUT ALSO TO COSPONSORS WHO CONSISTED OF OTHER UNITS AT UT, INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS IN KNOXVILLE AND BEYOND THE CITY. TO ALL, OUR DEEPEST GRATITUDE FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR COLLECTIVE LEARNING ABOUT THINGS JEWISH.

2014-2015 Lectures



On September 10, 2014, Dr. **Yonon Cohen**, Yosef H. Yerushalmi Professor of Israel and Jewish Studies, Department of Sociology, Columbia University, visited the

University of Tennessee. Professor Cohen gave the third Karen and Pace Robinson Lecture on Modern Israel, entitled "The Makeup of Israel: Immigration, Emigration, Ethnic Composition and Fertility."



Professor Yonon Cohen.



Sarah Dees, Emily Johnson, Erin Darby, Itsik Pariente, Daniel Magilow, and Megan Bryson at Yonon Cohen lecture.



On November 10, 2014, **Deborah Dash Moore**, Frederick G. L. Huetwell Professor of History and until this year Director of the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies at the University

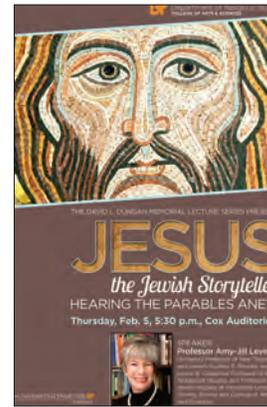
of Michigan, presented the 2014 Abraham and Rebecca Solomon and Ida Schwartz Distinguished Lecture for Judaic Studies. Professor Dash Moore spoke on the "Urban Origins of American Judaism," the title of her recently released book. The lecture was cosponsored by the Departments of Religious Studies and History.



Deborah Dash Moore lecture.



Judaic Studies major Lillian Dropkin presents Professor Dash Moore with Hillel t-shirt.



Professor **Amy Jill Levine** of Vanderbilt University is a popular and candid speaker on the Jewish aspects of Christianity. For the 2015 David L. Dungan Memorial

Lecture on February 5, the Department of Religious Studies invited Professor Levine to speak on the parables of Jesus. The Fern and Manfred Steinfeld Program in Judaic Studies was one of the many co-sponsors of the evening.



Carole Basri, a lawyer, film maker, and adjunct professor at Fordham University, visited Knoxville this past spring to introduce two of three films she produced

about Iraqi Jews and her family's role in the history of the Jewish community of Baghdad. Ms. Basri captivated the audience at both events with her comments both on her family's life in Iraq and on Iraqi Jewry in general as well as her outstanding research and artistic production. On February 26 the Religious Studies Association

in collaboration with the Fern and Manfred Steinfeld Program in Judaic Studies presented "Searching for Baghdad: A Daughter's Journey" to a packed auditorium at the Hodges Library. On March 1, the Knoxville Jewish Alliance and Judaic Studies presented Carole's stark testimony to Iraqi Jews' Crystal Night in "The Last Jews of Baghdad" at the AJCC. A spirited discussion followed the viewing.

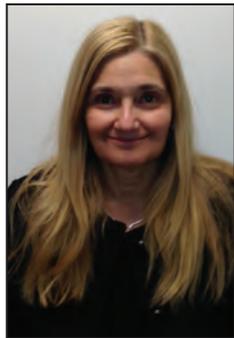
As part of the College of Arts and Sciences community initiative PASEJ, Dr. Erin Darby invited Professor Jodi Magness on April 28, 2015. Dr. Magness, the Kenan Distinguished Professor for Teaching Excellence in Early Judaism at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, is currently excavating an ancient village synagogue in Huqoq in the Galilee.



Dinner in honor of Professor Jodi Magness. Courtesy of Erin Darby.

Professor Magness gave a riveting visual presentation of her current research, not yet published. The lecture at the Hodges Library auditorium was very well received and was standing room only. Cosponsors included the Knoxville Jewish Alliance and a host of other units.

Upcoming Events: Please Mark Your Calendar!



Carole Basri. Courtesy of Carole Basri.

This academic year, we will again be welcoming **Carole Basri**, a lawyer and film maker of Iraqi Jewish origin. Carole, who visited the University of Tennessee this past spring, will return on Monday,

November 23. She will introduce her film, "Searching for Baghdad: A Daughter's Journey," to the Jewish community and take questions after the showing. The event will take place at the Arnstein Jewish Community Center, 7 PM. We are grateful to the KJA for cosponsoring and hosting the program which is free and open to the public.

In Spring 2016, we are very excited to be hosting two speakers. On Monday, February 22, **Michael Brenner**, Distinguished Historian in Residence and Director of the Center for Israel Studies as well as the Seymour and Lillian Abensohn Chair in Israel Studies at American University, will visit Knoxville as the Karen and Pace Robinson speaker on Modern Israel. Professor Brenner is also Professor of Jewish History and Culture at the Ludwig-Maximilians University of Munich, Germany. His lecture will be entitled "The Idea of a Jewish State from Herzl to Netanyahu" and will take place at the McClung Museum Auditorium at 7:30 PM. A reception will follow.

On Wednesday, March 9, Professor Justin Cammy, Associate Professor of Jewish Studies and Comparative Literature at Smith College, will speak on the origins of Modern Jewish Literature by discussing such foundational authors as Shalom Aleichem, Franz Kafka, and S.Y. Agnon. Professor Cammy's presentation will take place at the Hodges Library Auditorium at 7:30 PM. A reception will follow.

Both of these events are free and open to the public.

**GILYA G. SCHMIDT
ACTIVITIES**

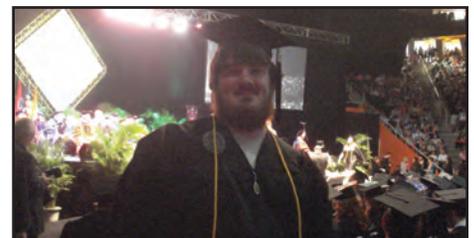
1993—Knoxville, TN. A new professor arrived in town. I did not really know anything about Knoxville, only that the University of Tennessee offered me what appeared to be a very nice position. I was excited and anxious, but soon felt at ease in my new home. Having made a good connection at Heska Amuna Synagogue and Temple Beth El sweetened the deal. I had a dream—to build a Judaic Studies program—and UT in fact stipulated that this was my charge. Over the years I have said many times that my gratitude to Professor **Charles H. Reynolds**, then Dean **Larry Ratner**, and President Emeritus **Joe Johnson** is boundless. They, too, had a vision,

and proceeded with its realization. Our resources have always been sparse, but we have been able to stretch them through strong collaborations within the University and beyond. I am proud to say that the Fern and Manfred Steinfeld Program in Judaic Studies compares favorably with the more than 220 Judaic Studies programs nationwide. We face challenges, especially financially, but we are also privileged to have an endowed chair, endowed funds for speakers, and two scholarship funds. We also have a stellar faculty and bright students who carry our good name out into the world. It is my hope that the program will continue to flourish and grow in the future.

TEACHING

From Introduction to Judaism to

German Jewry, Zionism, Holocaust, Israel, and Women in Judaism, I enjoyed teaching all of these topics in my classes. Altogether, I probably taught close to 4,000 students. Some of these young people now have graduated and chosen a career path. While some have left Knoxville, many live and work here and we occasionally run into each other at restaurants, stores, organizations, and the airport. Nothing pleases me more than to hear that I made a difference in their lives. My students have kept me young and I will miss teaching more than any other activity in my professional life.



Corey Puckett at May 2015 graduation.

This past year I taught REST/JS 381, Introduction to Judaism, with 40 students, and REST/JS 385, Contemporary Jewish Thought, with 35 students. In Spring 2015 I taught REST/JS 386, Voices of the Holocaust, with over 40 students, and REST/JST/WOST 320, Gender and Religion, with 40 students. Only a few students realized that this was the last time I would be teaching these classes, but I was keenly aware of this reality and sad that this part of my professional life will end.

Because we usually have a wait list for the Holocaust class, and my classes in general, I decided to teach the Holocaust class once more this fall, as my final class. There are currently over 40 students enrolled.

One of the highlights is always the visit of some of our Holocaust survivors. Students are in awe of their experiences and so excited to meet a real survivor. Dr. William Berez also gives them a sense of what it means to be a member of the Second Generation, a child of survivors. A very special todah rabah to our special guests!



Art Pais.



Trudy Dreyer teaches REST/JS 386 students about the Holocaust.



Dr. William Berez speaks to RS/JS 386 students.



Grace Frazier and Mira Kimmelman.

Honors by contract

Students enjoy adding to their classroom experience by doing research and writing lengthy papers for honors credit. I have always been blessed with students who are interested in going the extra mile both as honors and College Scholar students. Two years ago, **Emma Hicks** and **Hanna Lustig**, both College Scholars, and **Blaire Hamilton**, Religious Studies, worked with me on interesting research projects. This past year, **Jane Sharp**, **Zac Hyder**, and **Campbell Reynolds**, all Biology majors, as well as **Allison Poget**, Chemistry, and **Rachel Brown**, Vocal Performance, also researched topics that reached beyond what we learned in the classroom.



Zac Hyder and Campbell Reynolds at 2015 graduation.

On April 1, 2015, **Judy Hector**, M.A. graduate student in German, successfully defended her thesis on Fanny Lewald's First Fiction and Autobiography. I served on Judy's thesis committee for several years and it is a pleasure to know that she is done. Congratulations, Judy!



Dr. Maria Stehle, Professor Stefanie Ohnesorg, Judy Hector, and Gilya Schmidt.

RESEARCH

Over a twenty-year span I have published 8 books as well as a number of articles. The books are like children to me. Currently I am working on two projects—a book on Jewish liturgy featuring Cantor **Mordecai G. Heiser** of Pittsburgh, which is near completion, and a memorial book of sorts about Jewish life in southern Germany before the Holocaust. In addition, I am also under contract to contribute an article on the Holocaust to a handbook to be published by Oxford University Press. The book projects will follow me into retirement, where I hope to complete them.

“Mordecai Gustav Heiser: The Sweet Singer of B’nai Israel” manuscript



Mordecai G. Heiser Carnegie Recital Hall debut program, March 22, 1949. Courtesy of Judy Stein.

Although Ashley and I worked diligently on searching for needed information and on analyzing the music, and we both made good progress, there is still more work to be done. I am hopeful that spring and

summer of 2016 will bring the project to conclusion.

“Kaddish for Swabian Jews” manuscript

In August I travelled to the Staatsarchiv in Ludwigsburg, Germany, to search the reparations files for more information on the material culture of southern German Jews. Fortunately, the archive is open from 8 AM to 6 PM



Mrs. Michaela Mingoia, Staatsarchiv Ludwigsburg.

most days, so that I was quite successful in achieving my goal.

When we added up the number of photo copies I requested, the total came to about 1,350. I look forward to beginning work on this project sometime in 2016.



Gilya Schmidt working in State Archive, Ludwigsburg, August 2015. Courtesy of Mrs. Mingoa.

SERVICE

Professional

I continue to belong to the American Academy of Religion, the German Studies Association, and the Association for Jewish Studies. This past year I again was able to present my research at several conferences.

- In October 2014, I presented a paper, "Sugar and Spice and Everything Nice," on the material culture of southern German Jews at the German Studies Association in Kansas City, MO. At the same conference, I was invited to chair a session on Jewish Life and Culture in Nineteenth-Century Central Europe.
- In December 2014, I likewise chaired a session on "Germany, Jews, and the Arts from Weimar to the Nazi Period" for the Association for Jewish Studies in Baltimore, MD.
- In January 2015, I presented a paper on Jewish Spiritual Renewal and the art of Ephraim Moshe Lilien to the International Humanities and Arts Conference in Honolulu, Hawaii.

This academic year I am participating in three conferences. In October I presented a paper on the sparks that inspired Ephraim Moshe Lilien's art at the German Studies Association in Washington, D.C. In December I will present a paper on the class of '39 at the Hochschule für die Wissenschaft des Judentums, and in January a paper on Hermann Struck as a German war artist in Oberost at

the International Humanities and Arts Conference in Honolulu, Hawaii.

The research seminar on Modern Germany and Central Europe of which I am core faculty has been funded for eight years by the College of Arts and Sciences' Humanities Institute. This past year, on April 21, 2015, we invited Professor **Alan Levenson**, Schusterman/Josey Chair in Judaic History at the University of Oklahoma to present a paper on his research on Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch and to comment on my research on the material culture of the southern German Jews in the nineteenth century.

Institutional

Institutional service comes in many flavors. This past year I chaired the promotion committee for Dr. **Christine Shepardson** to full professor. Tina was successfully promoted in June. Congratulations, Tina! We are so proud of you!

Since 2012, I have been the mentor for Assistant Professor Dr. **Erin Darby**. In addition to regular conversations, this involves convening an annual retention meeting and the writing of a retention report.

During 2014-2015 I further served as departmental secretary for faculty meetings.

For the past three years, I served as the departmental representative on the Dean's Advisory Council, and as the occasional representative for the Interdisciplinary Programs to college meetings.

Every year, I get requests to teach on something in my field in colleagues' classes. In fall 2014 I taught about Judaism in Psychology 415; in spring 2015 I taught about the Holocaust in Berlin in German 415, and this fall I taught also about the Holocaust to an Architecture class designing synagogues and Holocaust memorials

In the spring, the College of Arts and Sciences Development Office asked me to make a presentation on Judaic Studies to their staff.

At the curriculum front, I coordinated an effort for a Connections Package on "Shifting Borders and Cultures in Europe," which I am currently chairing. My Holocaust course, REST/JS 386 was accepted into the college curriculum as one of the

Global Challenges courses. Both of these are new curriculum initiatives.

And, after setting learning objectives and goals for Judaic Studies students, I learned how to enter my first Assessment Report into the system. I consider this a major achievement!

For the college, I served on a committee to create Alumni Awards. In spring 2015 we solicited nominations for the various awards and chose winners. All of this culminated in a luncheon on April 17, 2015 where the recipients were honored.

The Tennessee Holocaust Commission requested that Professor **Robert Heller** and I interview Holocaust survivor **Mira Kimmelman**. Rob and I were able to speak with Mira on March 30, 2015.

Community

In June 2015 I concluded my service as past president of Heska Amuna Synagogue. It was an honor to serve my congregation in this role. I continue to serve on the Rabbi and Religious Services Committee on which I have served since 1993. I also continue to serve on the Knoxville Jewish Alliance's Annual Yom HaShoah Planning Committee.

A TRUE VOLUNTEER!



Shannon Stewart Spencer works for the Office of Research and Development. She is a graduate of the University of Tennessee, class of 2010, with a major in Religious Studies. Shannon is one of my former students. Earlier this year she contacted me and offered to volunteer for Judaic Studies. Shannon has made a significant contribution to the assembly of the newsletter this year. Thank you so much for your generosity, Shannon! Your spirit of volunteerism is much appreciated!

SHTETL NEWS

Mazel tov!

- On October 28, 2014 **Marilyn Liberman** was honored by the Department of Theory and Practice in Teacher Education in the UT College of Education, Health and Human Science as an "Outstanding Community Advocate." This award was in recognition of her strong record of civic-minded activities that support the work of teachers in K-12. We are so proud of you, Marilyn!
- Professor **Jeffrey Becker**, a Chancellor's Professor and head of the Department of Microbiology, recently became the first recipient of the newly established David and Sandra White Faculty Award in Microbiology. Jeff is one of the stellar faculty at UT who does everything well. He was the first professor to teach about HIV-AIDS, has had continuous funding for his research from the NIH for 41 years, and has headed the Microbiology Department since 2003. Jeff currently serves as the vice chair of the East Tennessee Foundation's Board of Directors. What a record, Jeff. Mazal tov!
- **Mark and Carol Harris** celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary this past year. We wish you many more healthy and happy years together, Carol and Mark!
- **Evan and Iris Nagler** celebrated their marriage earlier this year. Mazal tov to you and all good wishes for the future. Evan is the son of Dr. Stephen and Rosalie Nagler.
- Mazal tov to **Heather Gross**, daughter of **Marilyn Kallet** and **Lou Gross**, on her recent marriage!
- Dr. **Evan Ohriner** retired as Distinguished Research staff from Oak Ridge National Lab in February 2015. Over the course of 27 years of service he worked on components for NASA spacecraft that are exploring Mars, Saturn,

and Pluto. Since retirement he and wife **Jenifer** have taken advantage of the opportunity to travel to the western U.S. and to spend more time with their children and grandsons in California and Virginia.

- On June 30, 2015, Dr. **Bernard Rosenblatt** completed two years as the Knoxville Museum of Art's Board of Trustees Chair; he is now immediate past Chair.
- This past year **Jesse Feld**, former Communications Major and Judaic Studies Minor at the University of Tennessee, has been working as program director for the Knoxville Jewish Alliance. In 2012, Jesse received a Dr. Ruben Robinson scholarship towards his



Jesse Feld. Courtesy of Jesse Feld.

studies. We just learned that Jesse will be relocating to Richmond, VA, for a position with the Federation there. We are so proud of you, Jesse!

This year we are especially pleased to be able to welcome new additions to a number of families, and many new grandchildren to our local Jewish community.

- On April 17, 2014 **Mitchell and Tali Ohriner** welcomed son **Nadav Jacob Ohriner**. Mitchell is the son of Dr. **Evan and Jenifer Ohriner** and brother of Rabbi **Philip Ohriner**.
- Mazal tov to **Carole** and Dr. **Robert Martin** on the birth of their most recent grandchild, **Molly Frances Cox**, daughter of **Katie and James Cox**.
- On September 20, 2014, **Ellen and Steve Markman** became the very proud grandparents to a beautiful jewel, **Goldie Markman**, daughter of **Michael and Allie Markman**. **Meredith Angela Markman** was born to **Jeff and Meghan Markman** on February 11, 2015.
- Rabbi **Alon and Karen Ferency** with **Elhanan and Avishai** were

able to welcome baby **Adin** on December 22, 2014.

- February saw the birth of **Maxwell Ellis**, son of **Rachael** and **James Ellis**, and grandson of **Evelyn** and **Steve Oberman**.
- **Charles Jassen Needle** was born to **Stephanie** and **Mark Needle** and to big brother **Noah** and sister **Ella** on April 21. The very proud Bubie and Grandpa are **Judi** and **Martin Abrams**.
- This past spring, Dr. **Mitchell** and **Margy Goldman** became grandparents twice. **Meredith** and **Bradley Holtz** welcomed son **Gordon Benjamin Holtz**, and **Misha** and **Valerie** became the proud parents of **Avi Goldman**.
- **Rabbi Yossi** and **Miriam Esther Wilhelm** with **Mendel, Chayale, Chanie**, and **Rochel** welcomed a new son, **Levi**, on the eve of Shavuot this year.
- **Anna Gross McDonald** and her husband **Matthew**, UT Religious Studies graduate, welcomed their first child, **Hazel Belle**, in August of this year. Anna is the daughter of Dr. **Pam** and **Ernie Gross** and the sister of **Naomi King**.

A fond farewell to Maestro Lucas Richman.



Maestro Lucas Richman and Gilya Schmidt at farewell reception. Courtesy of Georgiana Vines.

- **Lucas Richman** served as the conductor and music director of the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra for the past twelve years. Lucas was a creative force in Knoxville, including two lectures for the Judaic Studies Program on Jewish music in 2006 and on Ernest Bloch in 2014, preceding the performance of Ernest Bloch's *Avodat Hakodesh* by the KSO. We appreciated his erudition and his community

spirit. You will be missed, Maestro!

May Their Memory Be For A Blessing

- Although the information in this section is never meant to be complete, I like to include news about friends of Judaic Studies. In addition to the death of my dear friend **Arnold Schwarzbart**, we unfortunately experienced other deaths in the community as well, among them the following:
- **Gene Bocknek**, husband of **Judy**, both of them long-time friends and members of our chavurah, died in August of this year. Gene was an amazing sculptor as well as a retired psychologist. We shall

miss him very much. Condolences go to his wife Judy.

- **Bert Gurwitch**, husband of **Janet**, was my Alabama buddy. We both cheered for Alabama, even though I had to hide behind Bert. Our hearts go out to Janet, who deserves congratulations in her own right, as one of the winners of the YWCA's Tribute to Women award this year.
- For many years **Leon Hasden**, father of **Melissa Sturm**, and husband of the late **Dale Hasden**, and grandfather to **Ethan and Britt**, led the Sunday morning services at Heska Amuna Synagogue. We shall miss him.
- **Sylvia Silver** lived in Knoxville

until a high age. In Knoxville she will always be remembered for her strong association with Hadassah. For Hadassah, Sylvia rose through the ranks; she became President of the Knoxville chapter in the 1940s, then President of the Southern Region and served on its National Board of Directors. She was a member of Temple Beth El and founded the Sisterhood of the temple. Sylvia's interests also extended to other causes, Jewish and non-Jewish. **Mrs. Barbara Bernstein**, friend, said of her, "Sylvia was my idea of what a community service leader should be and I tried to emulate her."

Become a friend of Judaic Studies at UT

The Fern and Manfred Steinfeld Program in Judaic Studies is in its third decade of scholarship, teaching, and programming. 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 three Schusterman Visiting Israel Professors. Most recently, we also offer Biblical Hebrew. 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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- DR. RUBEN ROBINSON MEMORIAL FUND, RELIGIOUS STUDIES _____
- KAREN AND PACE ROBINSON ENRICHMENT FUND, RELIGIOUS STUDIES _____
- MANFRED AND FERN STEINFELD PROFESSORSHIP ENDOWMENT IN ANCIENT JEWISH HISTORY, HISTORY DEPARTMENT _____
- DR. GILYA SCHMIDT ENDOWED FACULTY AWARD FUND IN JUDAIC STUDIES, RELIGIOUS STUDIES _____

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