



Faculty Searches Approved for Jewish Studies

Despite many current rumblings regarding further financial setbacks in the State budget, there is some cause to rejoice. Searches for two new faculty positions have been approved by Dean Willard Harrison of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The first is a position in Hebrew linguistics, coordinated by the Department of African and Asian Languages and Literatures (the Search Committee is headed by Prof. Haig Der-Houssikian); the second is a position in Judaism in the Department of Religion (the Search Committee is headed by Prof. David Hackett). Both positions have been advertised at the Assistant Professor level, though the position in Religion may be filled at a beginning Associate Professor rank.

The Hebrew Program has been without a Hebrew linguist for three years now, and the Department of Religion for about the same time has had vacant the position in Jewish Studies formerly occupied by Prof. Barry Mesch. Certainly it should be understood that a search does not guarantee a hiring; however, should both of these searches be successful, the core faculty strength in Jewish Studies at the University of Florida would rise to nearly 9.5 full-time employees. This does not include a number of affiliated faculty in the Departments of English, History, and Political Science.

The Departments of Religion and African and Asian Languages and Literatures, in cooperation with the Center for Jewish Studies, certainly will select the most qualified individuals for these important positions. The University of Florida is an Affirmative Action equal employment opportunity institution; women and minority candidates are strongly encouraged to apply for these positions.

The Center, in cooperation with Religion and History, is applying for approval of a "Concentration" in Jewish Studies on the M.A. level. The program will be coordinated and supported by the Center. The degree will have two tracks, one toward an M.A. in History and the other in Religion. The Center will seek public and private funds to support those entering the M.A. program.



Dr. Bar Siman-Tov is a visiting professor from Hebrew University in Jerusalem (see story page 5).

The student population in Jewish Studies classes in 1991-92 was nearly 700 enrollments. The same seems to be the case for this year.

(Continued on page 3)

Jewish Studies Instructional Staff

- Warren Bargad, Director**
(Modern Hebrew Language and Literature)
- Avraham Balaban** (Modern Hebrew Language and Literature)
- Yaacov Bar-Siman-Tov, Visiting Professor, Hebrew University** (Political Science, International Relations)
- Dora Friedman** (Hebrew)
- Andrew Gordon** (American Jewish Literature)
- Howard Greenstein, Adjunct Lecturer** (American Jewish Experience)
- Sheldon Isenberg** (Jewish Mysticism; Classical and Modern Judaism; Women in Judaism)
- Allan Lehmann, Adjunct Lecturer** (Classic Jewish Texts; Hasidism)
- James Mueller** (Hebrew Scriptures; Judaism and Christianity)
- Melvyn New** (The Modern Jewish Novel)
- George Pozzetta** (Immigration and Ethnicity in American History)
- Daniel Schroeter** (Jewish History)
- Harold Stahmer** (Modern Jewish Philosophies)
- Kenneth Wald** (Religion and Politics)

A New Hope for Peace in the Middle East

guest article by Yaacov Bar-Siman-Tov

Israel's June 23rd elections which brought the Labor party to victory was a most important turnabout not only in Israeli politics but also in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

For the first time since the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty in 1979, a window of opportunity has opened for resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict. The new ruling coalition in Israel, led by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, is determined to accelerate the negotiations with Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and the Palestinians. The party hopes to reach agreements not only on the procedures of the negotiations but also on substantive issues such as self-rule

for the Palestinians and an interim agreement with the Syrians.

The list of Rabin's government initiatives to accelerate the negotiations is very impressive: (1) *Change in the settlement policy* -- the government has canceled or stopped the construction of over 10,000 housing units in the territories. (2) *Defrosting relations with Egypt* -- for the first time in six years an Israeli-Egyptian summit was held. (3) *Creating positive signals to the Palestinians* -- a resolution was negotiated for the crisis at An-Najah University and 600 Palestinians were released from Ketsiot prison. (4) *Revising the special relationship with the*

United States -- Israel has entered a peace process in close coordination with the United States.

Rabin's declaration on the 3rd of September indicates that Israel is facing a new spirit: "We have to sever ourselves from the illusion of the 'greater Land of Israel' and to remember that the strength of a people is not measured by the territories it possesses, but by its ability to take care of the social systems, economic systems and security systems." The road to peace is still long and complicated, however, there is much more hope that we are on the path towards peace.

1991-92 Graduates in Jewish Studies

Nine students graduated with majors in Jewish Studies in the 1991-92 academic year: Sarit Amir, Wendy Botwin, Jessica Daniels, Shira Friedman, Gwynn Kessler, Karl Liebman, Steve Nemeroff, Caren Ridge and Brook Yakatan.

The Center for Jewish Studies congratulates them all, and wishes them good luck in their future endeavors.

1991-92 Certificates Awarded

Fourteen students were awarded the Certificate (Minor) in Jewish Studies in the 1991-92 academic year: Jonathan Barash, Gila Chesnoff, Colby Cohen, Daniela Cohn, Monique Ferguson, Dara Greenspan, Kimberly Kasow, Pamela Katz, Robin Levenston, Margaret Millender, Daniel Reimer, Sherry Reiz, Adrienne Savel and Ruth Zackowitz.

1992 Bnai Zion Award

Ms. Amy Reynolds of Bradenton, Florida, received the 1992 Bnai Zion Award for Excellence in Hebrew. The award is made possible by the Bnai Zion Foundation of New York.



Renowned Historian Norman Stillman Visits UF

On September 15, 1992, Prof. Norman Stillman presented a lecture on "The Impact of 1492 on Jewish History and Culture." He described 1492 as a "great watershed of history." It was mainly because of the heights to which the Jewish community of Spain had risen that made the shock of the expulsion all the more terrible. One of the positive impacts of the expulsion, Stillman noted, was an infusion of new life into Jewish communities in the Islamic world. Of the 150,000 Jewish exiles, about 50,000 went to England, France, the low countries, and the New World. Approximately 100,000 Jewish exiles settled in the Mediterranean basin, especially the Ottoman Empire.

Prof. Stillman offered some details of Jewish life in cities such as Istanbul and Salonika. He also noted how the Sephardi Jews tended to take over the whole culture of various cities and other settlements, especially in North Africa. They also brought new technologies, such as printing presses to these countries. The Sephardim also contributed much to the world of ideas. This includes the spread of mysticism and messianic enthusiasm, the renewal of rabbinic ordination, and many volumes on Jewish law.

In contemporary times the Eastern Sephardi Jews moved en masse to Israel, and the Western Sephardi Jews became the first modern acculturated Jews in

England, France, and the Netherlands. Low fertility, marrying out, and World War II also decreased the large communities of Sephardi population.

The lecture was cosponsored by the Gary R. Gerson Lecture Endowment and Gainesville Jewish Appeal.



Prof. Kay Kaufman Shelemay

Kay Kaufman Shelemay, Recipient of NEH Fellowship, Speaks at UF

On October 27, 1992, Prof. Kay Kaufman Shelemay of Harvard University gave an engaging talk on "Song and Remembrance in the Sephardi Tradition." She played samples of Sephardi music from the Balkan countries, including a song by a woman living in Sarajevo, Bosnia -- indeed a timely piece of cultural history. She also brought samples of contemporary Syrian Jewish melodies which she had taped in Brooklyn, New York, where over

30,000 Syrian Jews reside.

In the afternoon of her visit to Gainesville, Prof. Shelemay presented a paper to the Department of Music on Ethiopian Christian chant, which she had researched over two years in Addis Ababa. She has recently been appointed as a full professor to the faculty of Music at Harvard University. We wish her congratulations and good fortune in her new position.

Prof. Shelemay's visit to the University was also cosponsored by the Gary R. Gerson Lecture Endowment and Gainesville Jewish Appeal.

Faculty Searches *continued*

We are pleased to have Prof. Yaacov Bar-Siman-Tov, our Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence in 1988-89, here again for the 1992-93 academic year. His sponsorship has been shared by the Dauer Endowment in the Department of Political Science and the Greenbaum Family Endowment in the Center for Jewish Studies.

We were also pleased to have Prof. Shlomo Doshen, the eminent social anthropologist from Tel Aviv University, join us in the Spring of 1992. We have again applied for funds to sponsor a Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence for the Spring of 1994.

Finally, the Center has moved into larger quarters, more than doubling our space. Should you be in Gainesville, feel free to visit the new offices in 440 and 441 Little Hall.

--Warren Bargad

✎ Faculty News ✎

Warren Bargad has written a manuscript *To Write the Lips of Sleepers: The Romantic Modernism of Amir Gilboa*. The manuscript has been accepted for publication by the Hebrew Union College Press. Prof. Bargad will chair a session on Modern Hebrew Literature at the Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies in Boston, December 13-15, 1992.

Avraham Balaban authored a book published by Hakibbutz Hameuchad in January 1992. The work is entitled *Mr. Mani: An Examination of A.B. Yehoshua's Novel*. Balaban's first book printed in English, *Between God and Beast: An Examination of the Fiction of Amos Oz*, will be published by Pennsylvania State University Press in the Spring of 1993. Prof. Balaban's newest project is a manuscript concentrating on the post-modernist aspect of contemporary Israeli fiction. He will reside in Israel during the spring semester to devote full-time efforts to research. Prof. Balaban has also written an article on Yuval Shimoni's *The Flight of the Dove* to be published in the forthcoming issue of *Alei Si'ah*.

Andrew Gordon presented a lecture on Cynthia Ozick's short story "The Shout" at the 9th International Conference in Literature and Psychology. The

conference was held in Lisbon in July of 1992. The author of Saul Bellow's biography, James Atlas, contacted Dr. Gordon in response to Prof. Gordon's article "The Ancient Mariner, and Other Encounters with Saul Bellow." Prof. Gordon plans to publish an article concerning Bellow's February 1992 visit to the University of Florida in a forthcoming issue of the *Saul Bellow Journal*.

Sheldon Isenberg had an article, "The Post-Modern Return of the Metaphysically Repressed," published in a 1992 issue of *Aries* (a journal on the history of esotericism). He also contributed a chapter entitled "Aging in Judaism" to *The Handbook of Aging and the Humanities*. In addition to contributions to other works, Prof. Isenberg received a grant from the Division of Sponsored Research for his book project, *Aging in Judaism*. He also presented a paper on "Spiritual Eldering" at the March 1992 meeting of the American Society for Aging in San Diego.

James Mueller has recently published two articles in the *Anchor Bible Dictionary*. He also served as assistant to the editor for the entire *Anchor Bible Project*. Prof. Mueller is one of three editors of *The Oxford Study Bible*. The work is published by Oxford University Press in New York. Dr. Mueller's 1992 speaking engagements included a

presentation of a paper in Jerusalem entitled "Jesus' Parables in Light of Rabbinics."

Melvyn New has completed a collection on the works of the Anglo-Jewish 19th Century novelist and poet Amy Levy. The University of Florida Press plans its publication for March or April of 1993. The work will include Levy's three novels as well as selections from her poetry. Prof. New continues to teach courses which concentrate on modern Jewish fiction. Authors in past courses have included Henry Roth, Bruno Schwartz, Amos Oz and Cynthia Ozick.

George Pozzetta authored a paper entitled "What Then Is the European American? Ethnicity in Contemporary America," published in November of 1991 in *Altreitalia*. The paper discusses how contemporary ethnicity survives in America today. He has submitted an article on "Race, Ethnicity, and the Evolution of Political Legitimacy during the 1960s" to appear in David Farber's *The Sixties: From Memory to History*. The book will be published by University of North Carolina Press. Prof. Pozzetta also delivered a lecture on "Immigrants and Their Culture" at the 50th Anniversary Meeting of the Polish American Historical Association in December of 1991.

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More Faculty News

Daniel Schroeter recently traveled to France and to Israel on the 3rd year of his grant from the United States-Israel Binational Science Foundation. Prof. Schroeter also spoke in Istanbul on "Center and Periphery: The Changing Relationship Between the Jews of the Arab Middle East and the Ottoman State in the 19th Century." He has published book reviews on Jeff Halper's *Between Redemption and Revival: The Jewish Yishuv of Jerusalem in the 19th Century*. The reviews are published in recent issues of *The American Historical Review*, *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, and *Middle East Journal*.

Robert Singerman, Jewish Studies Bibliographer, completed a 720 page camera-ready manuscript, *Spanish and Portuguese Jewry: A Bibliography* to be published by Greenwood Press in early 1993. Its over 5,000 entries supplement the 5,000 plus entries presented in a similar text by Singerman published in 1975. Volume 49 of the *Jewish Book Annual* contains Singerman's bibliography of post-1970 scholarship devoted to Abraham Ibn Ezra. The forthcoming volume of *Judaica Librarianship* will highlight the library collection development policy for Jewish Studies drafted by Mr. Singerman. Also in press (*Printing History*, vol. 15) is a study and imprints checklist of Naphtali Judah, a bookseller and publisher active in New York in the late 1790s.

Harold Stahmer gave a paper on July 10 entitled, "Speech-thinking and Dialogism: Eugen Rosenstock-Huessy (1888-1973) and Mikhail Bakhtin (1895-1975)" at Dartmouth College. He has been invited to give a paper on "The Linguistic Social Philosophies of Eugen Rosenstock-Huessy and Mikhail Bakhtin" in March of 1993 in Moscow. This past August the authorities at the German Benedictine Abbey granted Dr. Stahmer permission to edit and publish the correspondence between Martin Buber and Father Caesarius Lauer. The correspondence will be published in the fall of 1993 by Brendow Verlag.

Kenneth Wald taught an undergraduate course in the Spring of 1992 focusing on the recent elections in Israel. This spring he plans to focus on religion and politics in the United States. Dr. Wald continues to research political behavior and attitudes, including how religion shapes both variables. Two of his current paper topics cover the role of religion in Israeli voting and the conflict between various sectors in Israel. The research relies on the use of recent Israeli public opinion polls.

Graduate Assistant

Ray Merenstein is serving as the Graduate Assistant to the Center for Jewish Studies. Ray's duties include the editing of *Amudim*. Ray completed his B.A. in American Studies at Tulane University in New Orleans. He will receive his Master's Degree in Mass Communication specializing in Public Relations in May 1993.

Yaacov Bar-Siman-Tov, 1988-89 Fulbright Scholar-In-Residence, Returns to Teach at U.F.

Four years ago the Center for Jewish Studies and the Department of Political Science cosponsored Dr. Bar-Siman-Tov as a visiting professor to the University of Florida. Dr. Bar-Siman-Tov was selected for the Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence program for the 1988-89 year.

As a testament to the success of Dr. Bar-Siman-Tov's visit to the University, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Department of Political Science, and the Center for Jewish Studies brought Prof. Bar-Siman-Tov back to the University for the 1992-93 school year.

Dr. Bar-Siman-Tov presently teaches two courses. "Conflict, War, and Peace in the Middle East" offers graduate students the opportunity to develop critical skills in evaluating the theoretical and empirical research in the field of the Arab-Israeli conflict. A course entitled "The Arab-Israeli Conflict" allows undergraduates to explore the basic analytical questions of what is conflict, crisis, war, and the nature of bargaining.

Dr. Bar-Siman-Tov hopes both courses will help students "open their views to Middle East conflicts and negotiations." The students learn basic theoretical models of conflict and bargaining which help analyze the Arab-Israeli conflict as well as other confrontations.

Continued on page 7

Price Library of Judaica

The Jewish-American History and Culture: An Encyclopedia, edited by Jack Fischel and Sanford Pinsker, contains an article by Stephen Lehmann and Eva Sartori on Jewish libraries and archives. As might be expected, the Price Library is listed alongside most major Judaica collections in the US and Canada.

This reference book permits a casual way of comparing Judaica libraries. The Klau Library of the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, for instance, leads the rabbinical seminaries with over 375,000 volumes. The Library of Congress houses 1.3 million Hebraica and Jewish-interest books.

Among state-supported institutions, UCLA excels with 170,000 titles. The Price Library, relatively new to the collection scene, has 42,500 volumes filed since its founding in 1977. Just ahead of the Price Library at Florida are Ohio State and Cornell, each with 60,000 volumes. The Price Library, however, does remain the largest collection of Judaica and Hebraica in the southeastern United States.

The warehouse of books unprocessed in 1979 are now 90 percent fully catalogued. Virtually all of the monographic holdings are reflected in the on-line catalog system connecting all state universities. The automated circulation system recorded over 3,000 transactions during the 1991-92 school year. Such figures

exclude the extensive amount of photocopying and in-house consultation exercised by both faculty and students.

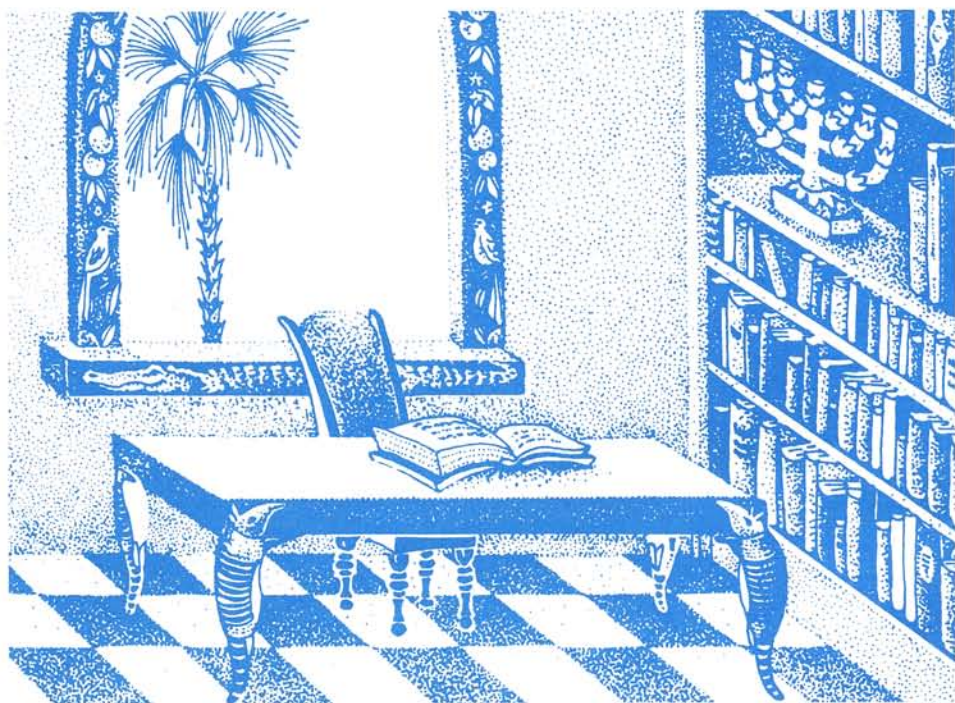
Roughly two-thirds of the 3,208 volumes added to the collection last year represent newly processed titles from the rapidly shrinking number of older, scarce and embrittled materials. The Collection continues to be well developed with subject strength, but as long-time readers of *Amudim* know, fewer new volumes can be added due to shrinking resources. A great deal of time is spent by the bibliographer prioritizing offers and announcements of titles, domestic and foreign, for purchase.

Unfortunately many of the more popular but less scholarly works must be given a low ranking due to shrinking resources.

Out-of-print and foreign language books are increasingly expensive as the US dollar sinks in value on the international currency market.

Also, newly published Israeli books are no longer the bargains they once were, thus greater selectivity must now be exercised with the Library's Israeli acquisitions. The cumulative negative effect of these multi-year cuts will impact on the collection for years to come -- all the more unfortunate because no other library in Florida collects Hebraica. In the long run, the budget cuts will ultimately translate into a good retrospective collection at the University but a pronounced weakness in holdings of current materials needed by faculty and students alike.

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Price Library *continued*

A major gift of Holy Land maps has been given to the George A. Smathers Libraries of the University of Florida by Drs. James C. and Adina P. Simmons of Tel-Aviv and Tallahassee. These beautiful antique maps, about seventy in number and ranging in date from 1493 through the 18th century, are greatly prized by avid collectors world-wide. The gift is made in loving memory of Engineer Levy Pevzner and his wife, Zenia, of Tel-Aviv, and Eugene Simmons and his wife, Irma, of Lucedale, Mississippi.

Gifts are especially welcomed in this era of economic retrenchment, not only the major collection donations but also pamphlets, bulletins and other material not yet in the collections. Donations of Jewish fiction and

popular works aimed at the general public are areas where readers of *Amudim* can certainly help the Price Library of Judaica in a most meaningful way.

If you are contemplating an endowment opportunity or if you have a sizeable collection of Judaica you would like to donate, please contact Mr. Robert Singerman, 406 Smathers Library, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida 32611 or call (904) 392-0308 to discuss your contemplated gift. Smaller gifts of materials can simply be mailed to Mr. Singerman without prior consultation. Gifts from benefactors and donors will be acknowledged in accordance with library policy. It would certainly be nice to have a lengthy listing of acknowledgements in next year's issue of *Amudim*. Let's make it happen!

--Robert Singerman

Center for Jewish Studies Turns Twenty

The Center for Jewish Studies was established at the University of Florida in 1973 as part of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. As the Center nears its twentieth anniversary, it seems a good time to reflect on its progress and growth.

The Gary R. Gerson Lecture Endowment has allowed the Center to bring scholars of international acclaim to speak at the University for the past six years. After many years of proposals, the College finally approved a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Jewish Studies -- a program which has grown rapidly. The Center has also supported numerous visiting

scholars from Israel to serve on the Jewish Studies faculty.

As we enter our third decade of service to the University and the surrounding community we realize there is still much more to accomplish. The Center continues to add new Jewish Studies courses and expand current programs. The Center has begun plans to develop a Graduate Studies program as well as continue to bring distinguished faculty to its staff.

We cannot accomplish these goals alone. Many gifts, both large and small, have allowed the University of Florida

Bar-Siman-Tov *continued*

Dr. Bar-Siman-Tov not only shares his expertise with students but also lectures and writes extensively on the peace process. His recently completed manuscript is entitled *Israel and the Peace Process, 1977-1982: In Search of Legitimacy for Peace*.

The book concentrates on the problems of making peace. Through an extensive case study of Menahem Begin and the Sinai, Bar-Siman-Tov examines how Israel perceives the peace process and how Israel formulates and implements peace negotiations.

Dr. Bar-Siman-Tov feels the crux of the peace problem lies in how to legitimize and justify peace to all parties involved. He explores both the normative and cognitive components of conflict and peace.

to enhance the highly prestigious Center for Jewish Studies. Such gifts help fulfill our vision of establishing the Center as a distinguished place both at the University and in the international Jewish Studies academic community. We depend on the support of generous friends to make this vision a reality for the students, faculty, and alumni.

Should you be interested in making a gift to the Center for Jewish Studies, please fill out the form on page 8. Please also feel free to contact us at (904) 392-9247, or write the Center at 441 Little Hall, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida 32611.

Fall Semester Courses

The courses in Hebrew language, literature and film include: Beginning Hebrew, 2nd-Year Modern Hebrew, Introduction to Modern Hebrew Literature, Israeli Cinema and Readings in Modern Hebrew Literature.

The courses in Jewish culture, history and thought include: American Jewish Experience, Origins and Development of Modern Israel, History of the Jews from Ancient to Early Modern Times, Arab-Israeli Conflict, Judaism and Christianity and Introduction to Judaism.

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Spring Semester Courses

The course offerings for the Spring 1993 include: Beginning Hebrew, 2nd-Year Modern Hebrew, History of the Holocaust and its Roots, Arab-Israeli Conflict, Israeli Foreign Policy, Hasidism, Modern Jewish History, Religion and Politics, Women in Judaism and Introduction to Modern Hebrew Literature.

1993 Spring Lecture Series

February 24, 1993
Prof. Deborah Lipstadt
Emory University
"Denials of the Holocaust"
Location TBA
8:00 P.M.

March 17, 1993
Prof. Marcia Falk
Affiliated Scholar, Stanford University
"Judaism From a Feminist Perspective"
Institute for Research on Women and Gender
Location TBA
8:00 P.M.



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