



B.A. In Jewish Studies In Place

At its meeting in January, 1990, the Board of Regents voted to implement the B.A. degree program in Jewish Studies at the University of Florida. All the efforts of the Center's faculty and administration over the past few years to consolidate the undergraduate program in Jewish Studies have come to fruition. The program continues to develop in the numbers of students interested in the Certificate and the Major and in the variety of course offerings.

Some items of interest:

* Five students graduated in 1989-90 with a degree in Jewish Studies. Two more will graduate in December 1990. Half of these graduates have gone on to advanced study or career opportunities in Jewish frameworks.

* The 1989-90 lecture series on "Perspectives on American Judaism" was well received. The public lectures by Steven Cohen, Deborah Dash Moore, Jonathan Sarna and Charles Silberman attracted over 600 attendees. The lecturers also met with members of the Association of Students in Jewish Studies and faculty to discuss their respective research and current issues in the area of American Judaism.

* After a year's leave on a National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship, Prof. Daniel Schroeter has begun teaching courses in Jewish History. These include "Jewish History: From Classical Times to 1700" and Modern Jewish History: 1700-Present." In Fall, 1990, he is taught a course on "Israel and the Middle East."

* Currently there are 25 students majoring in Jewish Studies. This figure is emerging as the annual average. An additional 35 students are in the process of completing the Certificate (minor) in Jewish Studies.

* The Hebrew program has been expanded to the fourth-year level, with Prof. Avraham Balaban teaching "Readings in Modern Hebrew Literature."

(continued p. 7)

Jewish Studies Instructional Staff 1990-92

Warren Bargad, Director (Modern Hebrew Language and Literature)
Avraham Balaban (Modern Hebrew Language and Literature)
Dora Friedman (Hebrew)
Andrew Gordon (American Jewish Literature)
Howard Greenstein (Adjunct Lecturer: The American Jewish Experience; The Holocaust and Its Roots)
Sheldon Isenberg (Jewish Mysticism; Classical and Modern Judaism; Women in Judaism)
Allan Lehmann (Adjunct Lecturer: Classic Jewish Texts)
Barry Mesch (On leave)
James Mueller (Hebrew Scriptures)
Melvyn New (The Modern Jewish Novel)
Harry Paul (History of the Jews of France)
George Pozzetta (Immigration and Ethnicity in American History)
Daniel Schroeter (Jewish History)
Harold Stahmer (Modern Jewish Philosophies)
Kenneth Wald (On leave)



Dr. Warren Bargad, Mr. Charles Silberman, Bessie Proctor and Dr. Samuel Proctor on the occasion of Dr. Proctor being presented the Elie Wiesel Distinguished Service Award.

“Perspectives on American Judaism”

In Fall, 1989, and Spring, 1990, the Center for Jewish Studies presented a series of four lectures and discussions based on the topic “Perspectives on American Judaism.” The lecturers, all renowned scholars in their respective fields, were Prof. Steven M. Cohen of Queens College, Prof. Deborah Dash Moore of Vassar College, Prof. Jonathan Sarna of Brandeis University, and Mr. Charles Silberman, an independent scholar, author and lecturer.

Prof. Cohen opened the series with a presentation on “American Judaism and the Crisis of Modernity.” Addressing the dichotomous Jewish question of assimilation into American society versus maintenance of Jewish traditions, Prof. Cohen argued that while change is apparent, there is a general stability in Jewish life through the generations. According to Prof. Cohen, the upper half of the Jewish community is doing better than ever before. He points to the increase in political influence, the growth of Jewish faculty and Jewish scholarship, the revival of Orthodoxy, and an increased involvement with Israel as indicators of the upper-half’s strength. Younger Jews, on the other hand, appear less Jewish, but once they marry, Prof. Cohen holds, they do as well or better than their elders.

Prof. Moore’s talk was entitled “The Making of Jewish Miami: Jewish Migration in the Post-War Decades.” From 1940 to 1960 the Jewish population in Miami doubled every five years. According to Prof. Moore, Jewish soldiers stationed in Miami during WW II found the city attractive and accessible and often chose to remain there. As the Jewish population grew, so did their influence

and involvement in politics, art and culture. Still, the organization and heritage of Miami Jews are linked very strongly to the Northeast. Prof. Moore maintains that it will be the responsibility of each successive generation to establish and develop their own unique heritage.

Prof. Sarna spoke on “The Struggle to Preserve American Judaism: 19th Century Strategies and Their 20th Century Implications.” As Prof. Sarna noted, in 1825 American Judaism moved from synagogue communities to a community of synagogues. By 1860, the main contours of American Judaism were already in place. Since then the strategy of denominationalism within Judaism has remained basically intact. Prof. Sarna pointed out, however, that denominationalism is not what Judaism is about but what America is about. While there is no agreement over which of the three strategies, Orthodox, Conservative or Reform, works best, the motivation of all three must be the preservation of American Jewry.

Mr. Silberman provided an incisive climax to the series with his lecture entitled, “Will Our Grandchildren be Jewish?—The Future of the American Jewish Community.” In the past, according to Mr. Silberman, one became a Jew by birth; it was a matter of fate over choice. Today, however, the covenant is voluntary. Judaism is an option rather than fate for this generation. The openness of American society presents the duality of making it easier to surrender Judaism while also allowing the Jew of today little discomfort in remaining Jewish. Because of this, Judaism has become a “participant sport” and each Jew will have to take decisive action to remain Jewish.

Thanks are due to the Gary R. Gerson Endowment and to the co-sponsors of the series: the Humanities Council, the Gainesville Jewish Appeal, the Departments of Sociology, History, and Religion, the Breier Visiting Fellow Program and the Arthur and Violette Kahn Visiting Scholar Endowment.

The Gary R. Gerson Visiting Professorship in Jewish Studies

Gary and Niety Gerson of Miami have made a second \$100,000 gift to the Center for Jewish Studies to establish the Gerson Visiting Professorship in Jewish Studies. The Gary R. Gerson Lecture Series Endowment has allowed the Center to bring to the University of Florida distinguished speakers such as Prof. Arthur Green, Prof. Mark Cohen, and the 1986 Nobel Peace Prize Winner, Elie Wiesel. Their most recent gift will allow the Center for Jewish Studies to bring to the UF campus renowned scholars in Jewish Studies both as guest lecturers and as Visiting Professors.

Mr. Gerson, Managing Partner of the C.P.A. firm Gerson, Preston & Company, and his wife are long-time supporters of the Center for Jewish Studies. When coupled with the State of Florida Matching Gifts Program the Gerson gifts have now reached a total of \$250,000.

Rich Endowment in Holocaust Studies

On March 27, a luncheon was held in the President's Dining Room at the University of Florida to celebrate the establishment of the Harry Rich Visiting Professorship Endowment in Holocaust Studies in The Center for Jewish Studies. The Endowment was established through the Harry Rich Family Foundation of Miami by David Rich, a 1960 UF Business Administration Graduate.



Presentation of a plaque commemorating the Harry Rich Endowment in Holocaust Studies. L-R: Dr. Samuel Proctor, Dr. Warren Bargad, Harry Rich, Dean Willard Harrison, David Rich, Nan Rich.

Harry Rich, founder of Florida Carpets Corporation, was present at the luncheon and spoke movingly about the ethnic strife and violence he had seen as a child during World War I and of the murder of his siblings in the Holocaust.

The Harry Rich Visiting Professorship Endowment in Holocaust

Studies will enable the Center periodically to offer a course on the Holocaust, to invite prominent scholars

to lecture on Holocaust topics and to schedule adjunct programming such as film series, colloquia, and conferences.

Dr. Samuel Proctor Awarded Elie Wiesel Distinguished Service Award

Dr. Samuel Proctor, Distinguished Service Professor of History at UF, and Mr. Charles Silberman, journalist-scholar and author of *A Certain People: American Jews and Their Lives Today*, were honored at a dinner sponsored by the Center for Jewish Studies on March 7 at the Heritage Club.

Dr. Warren Bargad presented Dr. Proctor with a plaque commemorating Dr. Proctor's being awarded the Center for Jewish Studies' first **Elie Wiesel Distinguished Service Award**. He noted that Dr. Proctor's selfless dedication and extensive fund-raising efforts were instrumental in revitalizing the Center in the 1980's.

Accolades were offered by several UF faculty members including Dr. Sheila Dickison, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Dr. Michael Gannon, Professor of History and Director of the Institute for Early Contact Period Studies. Mr. Silberman also spoke, commenting upon the type of role model that Dr. Proctor epitomizes in the annuals of American Judaism.

1989-90 Graduates in Jewish Studies

Five majors in Jewish Studies have graduated since December 1989: Hillary Gordon, Heidi Barron, Steven Elliot, Elissa Rudd, and Dyan Weissman. Our apologies to Jess Dolgin who should have been recognized in an earlier edition of AMUDIM as the first recipient of a Bachelor of Arts in Jewish Studies. Mr. Dolgin received his degree in 1988.

Certificates Awarded 1989-90

Seven students were awarded the Certificate in Jewish Studies in June 1990: Joseph Adir, Karen Kaplan, Scott Erker, Laura Karlan, Stacie Smith, Robert Wolf, and Robert Singer.

1990 Bnai Zion Award

Ms. Shira Friedman of Gainesville, Florida, received the 1990 Bnai Zion Award for Excellence in Hebrew. The award is made by the Bnai Zion Foundation of New York.

*The Center for Jewish Studies
mourns its benefactor
Violette Kahn
wife of Arthur Kahn ('38) of Miami*

Price Library

Review of 1989/90

Among the highlights of the past year are the relocation of the Price Library of Judaica and the special allocation of lottery money for library enrichment purchases. In March of 1990, the cataloged portion of the collection, numbering some 38,000 volumes, moved to stack level "E" in the Smathers Library (Library East), with the reading room, reference collection, and staff offices now sharing space with the Latin American Collection on the fourth floor of Smathers. In addition to gaining much needed space for shelving a growing collection, another major benefit has been the increase in hours the Judaica Library's circulating holdings are now available in the "open stacks" of the Smathers Library. This move of the collection will provide a few more years of growth space until a new library facility, now in the conceptual stage for construction behind Library West, is completed.

With the separate Judaica and Latin American collections sharing three entire stack levels housing well over 200,000 volumes, many of them scarce and fragile, plans are now underway for staffing a single circulation desk and for providing better security through controlled patron access to the book stacks.

The Price Library of Judaica, the largest collection of Judaica and Hebraica in the southeast United States, received substantial and greatly appreciated budgetary support from lottery funds allocated by the state legislature in 1989 to the UF Libraries. With this supplemental funding, microform collections of major Jewish newspapers were acquired: *Jewish Chronicle* (London, 1841-1988), *Jerusalem Post* (Jerusalem, 1950-1988), and *ha-Aretz* (Tel-Aviv, 1976-1988). These important primary sources provide valuable documentary evidence of Jewish communal life and literary activity in three national Jewish population centers. In addition to serving the specialized research needs of students and faculty linked to the Center for Jewish Studies, the non-Hebrew titles can also be of enormous value to students of European ethnic relations, modern European history, or Middle Eastern affairs.

In addition to these newspaper files, another major acquisition was the Collective Catalogue of Hebrew Manuscripts, an undertaking of the Jewish National and University Library's Institute of Microfilmed Hebrew Manuscripts. This ambitious project attempts to identify and locate all extant Hebrew manuscripts, with coverage provided here for 262,500 items in some 700 collections throughout the world. By consulting the



Catalogue, researchers now have bibliographic access to the microfilms of these manuscripts held by the Institute in Jerusalem.

Acquisitions from around the world continue to arrive on the library's doorstep. In addition to systematic purchases from Israel and the publishing centers of Europe as resources permit, the Price Library strives to acquire the most

of Judaica



worthy commercially published Judaica released in ever-increasing quantities by American publishing houses. Out-of-print works, including elusive foreign-language materials (Jewish community histories and memorial books, for instance) are also acquired as buying opportunities arise. The Price Library's collection of *yizkor* (memorial) books for extinguished European communities now exceeds 400 titles and is augmented, from time to time, through purchases from Israeli sources specializing in this material. Pamphlets, newsletters, synagogue histories, and demographic reports are solicited whenever the Jewish Studies Bibliographer learns of their existence. Uncommon materials from faraway

places such as Panama or Australia are routinely requested and received on a complimentary basis. Experience has demonstrated that it is typically easier to learn about a newly released volume of Jewish interest published in Jerusalem than it is to identify a new synagogue history published by a congregation in Florida!

Two extraordinary gifts received this past year are especially worthy of mention here. One is the generous library endowment created by Mr. & Mrs. Stewart Kohn in honor of Stewart's father, Harry Kohn, of Miami Beach. A major acquisition of books and sheet music came to the Price Library from the collection of Mordecai Yardeini (Miami Beach). Through the conscientious efforts of Mr. Stanley Kaplan, the attorney responsible for the estate of Yardeini's widow, Nina Rosenberg-Yardeini, Robert Singerman was given the opportunity to select for the UF Libraries some 200 titles, highlighted by numerous Soviet editions of Yiddish literature together with relatively modern by seldom encountered imprints in Yiddish from Bucharest, Warsaw, Mexico City, Buenos Aires, etc. American Yiddish books from the 1930s and 1940s, often privately published and autographed by their authors, were also retrieved. Jewish music was quite well represented in the collection, especially by published and unpublished scores,

and albums, owing to Mr. Yardeini's career as a composer of synagogue music and a cantor.

There is no more appropriate way to honor a loved one or friend, a professor, or an organization than with books placed in an important library. Books hold and dispense the wisdom of the past, cultivate the wisdom of the present, and prepare for the wisdom of the future. As with any academic enterprise, the Price Library looks to private donors for continuing support. Such gifts help to expand the Library's collections and to maintain its stature as a major research library.

For more information on the Price Library of Judaica collection and gift opportunities, contact Robert Singerman, Price Library of Judaica, 406 Library East, University of Florida Libraries, Gainesville, FL 32611, or phone (904) 392-0308.

Study Abroad Update

The Center for Jewish Studies is affiliated with Study Abroad programs at three major universities in Israel: Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Tel Aviv University and Haifa University. Each university offers the student a unique academic experience while providing fully transferable credits that can be used to meet requirements in Hebrew Language, Humanities, or any number of majors and minors.

All three universities offer full-year and semester programs. The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Tel Aviv University also offer regular Summer programs. Since 1988, over 20 students from UF have participated in the Study Abroad program in Israel. Of these, 14 have received partial financial aid through the Kolko Memorial Scholarship fund, a fund established in the Center for Jewish Studies by Dr. Louis Cohen, Professor Emeritus of Clinical Psychology at UF, and his nephews, Philip Kolko and Philip E. Kubzansky, in memory of Prof. Cohen's late uncles, Philip and David Kolko.

There are currently four students in Israel participating in the Study Abroad Program: Gwynn Kessler (Political Science and Jewish Studies), Robin Levenston, Daniel Reimer (History) and Caren Ridge (Jewish Studies). Laurie Schneider (Psychology) will be attending Hebrew University in Spring, 1991.

Information about the Study Abroad program and application forms are available from Dr. Bargad.

Faculty News

Warren Bargad, Director, Center for Jewish Studies, published "Poems of Saul: A Semiotic Approach" in *Prooftexts*, Vol. 10 (1990). The article discusses the social, cultural, and political background to poems of King Saul by Amir Gilboa, Yehuda Amichai, Natan Zach, and Meir Wieseltier. He is currently completing a study of the works of Amir Gilboa. In December, 1990, he chairs a session on Hebrew poetry at the Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies in Boston.

Abraham Balaban's book of poems "The Right Warmth" is scheduled for publication in December, 1990. A manuscript entitled "Mr. Molkho: An Examination of A.B. Yehoshua's *Molkho* and *Mr. Mani*" has been accepted for publication by Hakibbutz Hameuhad for the series Essay/Study/Interpretation. He is currently revising his Hebrew book *Between God and Beast: An Interpretation of the Prose of Amos Oz* for a volume in English entitled *The Fiction of Amos Oz*.

James R. Mueller has completed the revision of the annotations for the Apocrypha for the Oxford Study Edition of the Revised English Bible. Dr. Mueller is also one of the three general editors for the revision. In November, 1990, he chaired a session at the American Academy of Religion Society of Biblical Literature meeting in New Orleans on "The Pseudepigrapha." He has also contributed to a new, soon to be published edition of the Dead Sea Scrolls.

Robert Singerman, Jewish Studies Bibliographer, Price Library of Judaica, is currently serving as Coordinator for the Association of Jewish Libraries Job Clearinghouse. From June 1988 to June 1990 he served as President of the

Association of Jewish Libraries, Research and Special Library division. Mr. Singerman recently published *Judaica Americana: A Bibliography of Publications to 1900*.

Harold Stahmer published "Franz Rosenzweig's Letters to Margrit Rosenstock-Huessy, 1917-1922" in Volume XXXIV of the *Year Book of the Leo Baeck Institute*.

Sheldon R. Isenberg attended the conference of the International Religious Foundation in Rome and Assisi, Italy, and delivered a paper on "The Linguistic Limits of Post-Modernism." In 1989 he published "A Hierarchy of Knowledge in a Hasidic Parable" in *Listening*.

Andrew Gordon's review of Saul Bellow's novel *A Theft* appears in *Saul Bellow Journal* Volume 9, Number 1 (1990).

Howard Greenstein will teach a new course entitled "History of the Holocaust and Its Roots," in Spring, 1991. Dr. Greenstein gave the invocation at the recent inauguration of University of Florida President John Lombardi.

Daniel Schroeter published "Trade as a Mediator in Muslim-Jewish Relations: Southwestern Morocco in the 19th Century," in *Jews Among Arabs: Contacts and Boundaries*.

Graduate Assistant Position

The Graduate Assistant to the Center for Jewish Studies for 1990-91 is Mary Robb. Ms. Robb completed her undergraduate work at the University of Waterloo in Ontario, Canada where she earned a B.A. in English Literature. She is currently working toward a Master's Degree in Communications.

B.A. in Place continued

* Fifteen courses are now being offered each semester in the Jewish Studies program. Over 350 students have enrolled in Fall, 1990. In 1989-90, over 600 students were registered in Jewish Studies offerings.

* In the Summer of 1990, Prof. Yaacov Bar-Siman-Tov, our Fulbright Scholar-In-Residence in 1987-88, returned to the University and the Center for Jewish Studies. He taught a course entitled "International Relations in the Middle East" as well as a graduate course on the Arab-Israeli conflict. Prof. Bar-Siman-Tov recently has been promoted to the rank of Full Professor in the Department of International Relations at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He has agreed to serve as an advisor to University of Florida students studying in Israel on our Study Abroad program.

* The Jewish Studies faculty is considering the development of an M.A. degree program in Jewish Studies. An outline of degree requirements and goals will be included in the Board of Regents Area Studies Review this coming Spring, 1991.

* One inauspicious note: Two professors in Jewish Studies have moved to other areas of the country. Prof. Barry Mesch, for many years a mainstay of the Jewish Studies program and its former director, has taken a leave of absence from UF and is serving as Provost and Stone-Teplow Families Professor in Jewish Thought at the Hebrew College in Brookline, Mass. Prof. Shlomo Lederman has resigned from UF and has taken a position in Hebrew Language and Linguistics at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Both are sorely missed; both are wished much success in their endeavors.

Fall Semester Courses

American Jewish Experience, Survey of Jewish History, Israel and the Middle East, Beginning Modern Hebrew, 2nd Year Modern Hebrew 1, Introduction to Modern Hebrew Literature, Readings in Modern Hebrew Literature 1, Introduction to Judaism, Judaism & Christianity.

Spring Semester Courses

Beginning Hebrew 2, 2nd Year Hebrew 2, Israeli Literature in Translation [Honors], Introduction to Modern Hebrew Literature 2, Readings in Modern Hebrew Literature 2, Women in Judaism, The Holocaust and Its Roots, Modern Jewish Novel, Classic Jewish Texts, Jewish History 1700-Present, Comparative Mysticism.

"Perspectives On Anti-Semitism"

During the Fall semester the Center for Jewish Studies will present "Perspectives on Anti-Semitism." The first lecturer in the series is **Prof. Leonard Dinnerstein** of the University

of Arizona. A professor of history, Dr. Dinnerstein's field of study is the history of ethnic minorities in America, with particular emphasis on the Jewish Experience. His books include *Uneasy at Home: Anti-Semitism and the American Jewish Experience*. Dr. Dinnerstein's topic is "Anti-Semitism in America."

The second lecturer in the series is **Prof. Raul Hilberg** of the University of Vermont. Dr. Hilberg's topic is "The Origins of the Final Solution." He is the author of *The Destruction of the European Jews*.

The Spring, 1991, lecture series includes **Prof. Paul Mendes-Flohr's** talk on "The Arab Question as a Jewish Question", **Prof. Ellen Umansky's** (Hebrew Union College) presentation "In Her Own Voice: The Expression of Modern Jewish Women's Spirituality," and a lecture-discussion with **Prof. Anton Shammas** (University of Michigan), author of the acclaimed *Arabesques*.

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407 Grinter Hall
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611

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CALENDAR

- Oct. 24 **Prof. Leonard Dinnerstein** (University of Arizona)
"Anti-Semitism in America"
8:00 P.M., Gannett Auditorium
- Dec. 2 **Prof. Raul Hilberg** (University of Vermont)
"The Origins of the Final Solution"
8:00 P.M., Gannett Auditorium
- Jan. 7 **Prof. Paul Mendes-Flohr** (Hebrew University
of Jerusalem) "The Arab Question as a
Jewish Question." 8:00 P.M., location TBA
- Feb. 13 **Prof. Ellen Umansky** (Haverford College
and Hebrew Union College, New York)
"In Her Own Voice: The Expression
of Modern Jewish Women's Spirituality"
8:00 P.M., location TBA
- Mar. 20 **Prof. Anton Shammas** (University of Michigan),
Arab-Israeli author of *Arabesques*.
8:00 P.M., location TBA

New Course Offerings

"Israel and the Middle East," taught by Prof. Daniel Schroeter, Department of History. The course examines the history of Zionism, Jewish settlement in Palestine, the development of Israel, and the Arab-Israeli conflict, with attention to both political developments in Palestine and Israel, and the transformations of Jewish and Arab society and culture.

"Jewish History: From Classical Times to 1700," taught by Prof. Daniel Schroeter. This course examines the history of the Jewish people from the destruction of the Second Temple to the beginnings of modern Jewish history (mid-1700s). The social, religious, and intellectual life of the Jews in the Middle East and Europe, and the first settlements of the Jews in the New World are the major subjects studied. In Spring, 1991, Dr. Schroeter will continue this survey with "Modern Jewish History: 1700 to Present."

"The Holocaust and Its Roots," taught by Prof. Howard Greenstein, will introduce students to the modern historical events known as "The Holocaust" and will analyze those events in the context of the cultural heritage of Western civilization. The course will examine the significant ideas and developments which led to the Holocaust as well as recent theories which seek to explain the consequences of anti-Semitism in Europe, the rise of the Third Reich, the Nuremberg Laws, the "Final Solution," Jewish resistance and heroic rescue efforts by Gentile supporters.

"Women in Judaism," taught by Prof. Sheldon Isenberg, will discuss the images of Jewish women from the Bible to modern times. Specific topics include the treatment of women in biblical narrative and law, the rabbinic, legal, and homiletic traditions, concepts of Jewish mysticism, and twentieth-century issues such as Israel, the Holocaust, and Jewish Feminism.

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