



STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT BINGHAMTON

Binghamton, New York 13901

Judaic Studies Program
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JUDAIC STUDIES NEWSLETTER

1984-1985

No. 1

September 1984

A Newsletter Reborn

Hello again!

In order to keep our many interested friends among the students, faculty and the community-at-large abreast of our activities, the "Judaic Studies Newsletter" of SUNY-Binghamton - after a gap of many years - is now back in business with this issue. We hope that it will appear periodically as the voice of what we modestly believe is one of the most vital and exciting programs on this campus.

What makes this program so unique is not merely the high quality and diversity of its course offerings, but also the dedication, enthusiasm, and generous participation of faculty from many different disciplines who together with students and people in the general community make Judaic Studies at Binghamton a collegium in the truest sense of the word. Because of this strong collegial spirit, we hope that you will help us with material for future newsletters by sending in to the Judaic Studies Office (Library Tower 1306) any news items of interest to our circle, such as special events (well in advance, please), recent achievements (publications, lectures, honors or awards), or activities (conferences attended, etc.).

The Newsletter is the voice of our program.

News of the Program

The new academic year is off to a running start. Registration for our courses remains strong even though two of our faculty members are away this year. The Fall 1984 enrollment for Judaic courses comes to a total of 285. Eight students have declared themselves to be Judaic Studies majors, and nine more are working for the Judaic Studies certificate. One senior is working on a combined Judaic Studies and History honors thesis.

The Judaic Studies Committee which has been expanded to include representatives of the graduate students working in Jewish History and the Program's friends in the Broome County Jewish Community has already met once to plan the year's activities.

The Committee Members are:

David Gitlitz - Administration

John Flint

Leon J. Goldstein

Bertrand Horwitz (Spring)

Milton Kessler (Fall)

Norman A. Stillman

Yedida K. Stillman (Chair)

- Faculty

Susan Ochroch Savitch

Sandra Sketchley

- Graduate Students

David Becker

Suzanne Parker

Cara Saposnik

- Undergraduate Students

Jackie Jacobs

Flora Rosefsky

- Community Friends of Judaic Studies

This Year's First Town and Gown Party

On Saturday evening, September 15, more than 80 people attended a party at the Stillman home on the west side to welcome Professor Marsha Bensoussan and her husband Albert. Professor Bensoussan is this year's Exchange Scholar from Haifa University. She is teaching Rhetoric in the English Department and will also be giving a course in linguistics next term. Although here on sabbatical from her home institution in Israel, Professor Bensoussan has gone out of her way to become an active part of both the Judaic Studies Program and the community. She has graciously agreed to serve on the special committee for SUNY's Haifa Program (about which more in the next Newsletter). Many of the students who have expressed interest in One-Semester SUNY-Haifa Program came to the party.

It was a convivial gathering highlighted by Middle Eastern food, Israeli wine, and Sephardi music. This is only the first of the town-gown mixers which will allow both university and non-university friends of Judaic Studies the chance to become better acquainted and remove any artificial barriers.

Jewish Federation Lends Its Support

At its recent Board Meeting, the Jewish Federation of Broome County voted unanimously to help underwrite the cost of bringing in one of our forthcoming guest lecturers, Professor Lisa Gilad (see Coming Events below). This generous expression of support and confidence is a mark of the strong bonds that link us together. Our Program, like our University, is a public institution with a public mission. We are firmly committed to this goal.

Coming Events

Here are some of the exciting events we have coming up in the near future:

- October 13 Milton Kessler, our distinguished poet, will give a reading of his poetry at the home of Richard and Sara Koffman.
- October 23-4 Professor Robert Rockaway of Tel-Aviv University will visit our campus and give talks in several Judaic Studies classes and other forums. Professor Rockaway is an historian with some highly original interests, including Jewish gangsters in the Roaring Twenties. He will be coming to us through the Visiting Israeli Scholars Project.
- October 28 Professor Art Liebman will be taking his class on The Sociology of the Jews on its annual tour of the Lower East Side. Each year people who have taken the tour with him have come back saying what a marvelous and enriching experience it was.
- November 7-8 Professor Lisa Gilad, Social Anthropologist at Memorial University, St. Johns, Newfoundland, will give two lectures one on campus on "Jewish Yemeni Women: The Changing Family in an Israeli New Town." The other will be an illustrated lecture on Yemeni Culture at the Jewish Community Center. The lecture will be followed by a reception at the home of Gabi and Marci Yonaty (Nov. 8)
- November 8 Professor Robert Paine, who holds the chair of Social Anthropology at Memorial University and is the author of numerous books and articles will talk on "Conflict in Zion" based on his fieldwork in the West Bank, Israel.
- November 12 The film series entitles "The Long Search" sponsored by the Religious Studies Program and the History Department will be showing a film on Judaism entitled "The Chosen People," produced for the BBC. The film will be screened in LH 8 at 8:00 PM.

Be sure to look for announcements as to details of time and place for most of these events.