

University Center at Binghamton

State University of New York / Binghamton, New York 13901

Judaic Studies Program
Telephone (607) 798-3070

JUDAIC STUDIES NEWSLETTER

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Dear Friends

Things were so hectic here at Judaic Studies that we let time elapse before writing again. But we couldn't let the semester end without wishing faculty and students a restful and fruitful recess and to friends in the community who are leaving for warmer pastures - a safe trip, and to all - Happy Hanukkah and Seasons Greetings.

Judaic "Employment Agency"

Do you know that we at Judaic Studies have been supplying Hebrew teachers to all the synagogues in the area? We also supply speakers for a variety of University and non-University sponsored events, like to the successful panel on the Heritage Series (David Gitlitz, Helen Rivlin, Norman Stillman, Samuel Morell) and Yedida Stillman and Helen Rivlin to the panel on Women and Change in the Middle East, Helen Rivlin for a sisterhood. We farm out students who do tutorial work in the community. We get demands from as far as Norwich and Oneonta. Last year we were called from Scranton to send them weekly a Torah reader. So, we thought of opening an agency with the profits going to Judaic Studies, of course. Well, do you think it's a bad idea?

Internship

It is with pleasure that Judaic Studies is willing to sponsor two supervised internships with the local Judaic Community. Two of our many bright majors, David Becker and Matthew Cutler, will be placed with the "Reporter" and with the Federation office respectively. With this, we feel we pay back the generosity shown to us by the Federation and strengthen our mutually beneficial cooperation.

Haifa Program

You know that we have a student exchange program with Haifa as well as a faculty exchange. After preparing a brochure, distributing it, advertising in all SUNY Campuses Newspapers, we received many applications. We accepted ten students who are eager to go. To our orientation meeting we invited an Israeli Ph.D. student here at the Math Department from Haifa, Mr. Ben Zion Boukai, who was very helpful in such hints as "Don't think

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Israelis are rude when they speak in a frank and direct manner - this is their way of speaking." Also, which probably the parents would have loved to hear "Don't hitchhike"!

At any event, since we don't have enough students (13-15 minimum) to warrant sending a resident director, I convinced our administration to pay a Haifa faculty member to look after them. While I shall be in Israel participating in a conference, I will also go to Haifa University to set it up. The students will spend the first two months (January and February) prior to the University Program, at a beautiful Kibbutz - "Rosh Hanikra" on the northern coast of Israel. I'm preparing a biography of each student to send both to the Kibbutz and to Haifa University so that they can relate to the students better. They form a lovely group and if all goes well, I expect the number of students going next year to double at least. The Judaic Studies committee secretary, Diane Malagari, and I who worked so hard on this program felt we should go to the airport and waive a glad goodbye to them. Joking aside - we wish them a wonderful time.

Next Term Activities

It is too early now to inform you of our anticipated scholarly, cultural and social activities of the coming semester. Let me just assure you that there is a lot to come. You will be notified in due time. Don't forget to browse at our course offerings for your intellectual shopping. You might find a bargain!

I would like to thank again Gaby and Marcy Yonaty for their gracious reception for our November speaker, Dr. Lisa Gilad and also Richard and Sara Koffman for hosting the poetry reading with Milton Kessler, which was a treat.

Hag Sameah ve-le-hitraot.

Yours Sincerely,

Yedida K. Stillman
Acting Director
Judaic Studies Program