

Ha Kol:  
"The Voice"

Fall, 1987

Newsletter of the Judaic Studies Program  
University Center  
State University of New York at Binghamton  
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Prof. Yedida K. Stillman  
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The New Year: 5748

The "New Year," academic and Jewish, finds the Judaic Studies Program [JUST] at SUNY-Binghamton in excellent "health," full of energy and ready to go with its broadest selection of course offerings in many years. Reports continue to come in about last Spring's Sephardic Conference, a smashing success, which solidified our reputation and increased our visibility in the international world of contemporary Judaic scholarship. With respect to our instructional staff for the 1987-8 school year, the one-year appointment of Prof. Alan Arkush (Ph.D., Brandeis) and the return to our campus of Dr. Helen A. Rivlin (Professor emeritus, Department of History) greatly adds to the scope and depth of our program. The search for a permanent replacement for David Biale is already under way. JUST also plans to continue building bridges to the local Jewish community in Broome County (NY) through its Internship Program, the College of Jewish Studies and the Southern Tier Jewish Historical Project.

JUST is making great progress at SUNY-Binghamton. We are grateful to the many people in our program and behind the scene who lend their talents and give their financial support to us. To all of you - friends, students and colleagues: we wish you a year of health and happiness, achievement and insight!

L'shanah Tovah!  
LJS

FACULTY

Nine individuals will serve as instructors for JUST during the Fall Semester, 1987.

Prof. Alan Arkush (JUST), Jewish History

Prof. David Gitlitz (VP and Dept of Comp. Lit.),  
 Sephardic Studies  
 Prof. Samuel Morell (Dept. of Classical and Near  
 Eastern Studies), Hebrew, Rabbinics  
 Prof. Helen A. Rivlin (emeritus, Dept. of History),  
 Antisemitism, Israel and Zionism  
 Ms. Faith Rogow (Doctoral Candidate, Dept. of History)  
 Women's History and Religious Studies  
 Prof. Norman A. Stillman (Dept. of History), Sephardic  
 Studies, Medieval Jewish History  
 Prof. Yedida K. Stillman (Dept. of Classical and Near  
 Eastern Studies), Director of JUST, Hebrew  
 Prof. Lance J. Sussman (Dept. of History), American Jewish  
 History  
 Prof. Michael Taub (Dept of Classical and Near Eastern  
 Studies), Hebrew and Yiddish

[Prof. Deborah Hertz will be on leave this semester.]

## 2. New Faculty: Dr. Alan Arkush

JUST is delighted to welcome Dr. Alan Arkush to its faculty. A one-year appointment, Dr. Arkush is a distinguished scholar in Judaic Studies. He earned his B.A. at Cornell, an M.A. at the Jewish Theological Seminary, and his Ph.D. (1987) at Brandeis University. He has taught previously as a Visiting Instructor at Cornell and the University of Texas at Dallas. He recently published an original translation of Moses Mendelssohn's Jerusalem (1782), one of the earliest and most important works in Modern Jewish thought. During the Fall Semester, Prof. Arkush will be offering two courses (see below) and three in the Spring. Dr. Arkush's office is LT 1113. Again, welcome Dr. Arkush!

## 3. Courses: Fall, 1987

Heb 101	Elementary	Morell, Y. Stillman, Taub
Heb 203	Intermediate	Y. Stillman
Heb 280T	Holocaust Fiction	Taub
Heb 331	Alienation in Heb Lit	Morell
Heb 380	Readings in Heb Non-Fiction	Morell
Heb 391	Practicum	Staff
Heb 397	Ind. Study	Staff
Heb 597	Ind. Study	Staff
Yid 101	Elementary Yid	Taub
Yid 203	Intermediate Yid	Taub
Yid 397	Ind. Study	Taub

JUST 240	Judaism: A Religious History (H240)	N. Stillman
JUST 242	Jews and Christians	A. Arkush
JUST 243	Ashkenazi History (H280B)	A. Arkush
JUST 244	Modern Jewish History (H244)	L. Sussman
JUST 247	Rebirth of Israel (J247)	H. Rivlin
JUST 262	Jews, Marranos and Jewish Culture (Span 481A)	D. Bitlitz
JUST 280A	Feminist Thought in West. Religion (H280C)	F. Rogow
JUST 391	Practicum	Staff
JUST 397	Ind Study	Staff
JUST 490E	Antisemitism (H490E)	H. Rivlin
JUST 497	Ind. Study	Staff
JUST 499	Senior Thesis	Staff
HIST 574A	Seminar in Jewish Historiography	N. Stillman

#### 4. Southern Tier Jewish History Project [STJHP]

Under the direction of Lance J. Sussman, Asst. Prof. of American Jewish History, STJHP is currently operating at full steam. More than dozen interviews were conducted this summer with long-term residents and natives of the area. Among the most unusual stories heard was an account of Jewish farm life in Broome County during the 1940s. At least forty Jewish families, refugees fleeing from Hitler, engaged in agricultural pursuits in this area. The archives of the Broome County Historical Society also revealed that a 1919 campaign in the Southern Tier to relieve the Jewish victims of World War I in East Europe netted over \$54,000. Half of the contributions were by George Johnson and family!

Prof. Sussman is currently looking for photographs and other memorabilia depicting Jewish life in Broome County, 1850 to the present. In September, the Senior Citizens Club of the Jewish Community Center will be holding a "Nostalgia Day" to collect their materials. Individuals are also invited to check their attics and family albums in search of "treasure." If you have materials you would like to share (all originals will be returned), please contact Prof. Sussman c/o Dept. of History/SUNY-Binghamton or call 797-0354 (evenings).

Prof. Sussman will be giving a public lecture during the Fall Semester entitled: "Beyond the Catskills: Changing Patterns of Jewish Communal Life in Binghamton, NY, 1850-Present." Date and location: TBA

### 5. Outreach: College of Jewish Studies (CJS)

CJS, an educational coalition of JUST and local Jewish agencies and institutions has announced its program for the Fall. Gary Rendsburg, Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies at Cornell University, will offer six classes on "The Literary Character of Biblical Narrative" beginning on Thursday, October 22.

Jan Gunneweg, a lecturer in archeology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, will give an illustrated lecture on "The City of David" on Thursday, September 17. "Beginner's" and "Advanced Beginners" Hebrew will be offered by Shalom Shoer, a graduate student at SUNY and the Coordinator of the Jewish Student Union.

All classes will be held at the Jewish Community Center, 500 Clubhouse Road, Binghamton, NY 13903 724-2417. Attn: Claire Goldstein

### 6. Haifa Exchange Program

Two professors from the Haifa Exchange Program, David Berger (Psychology Dept., Haifa) and Eli Pfefferkorn (English Dept., Brown University) will speak on the SUNY-B campus on September 15 at 4-6 PM in UU-133. Both students and faculty are encouraged to listen to their discussion of the "newly enriched Haifa University programs."

At 7:30 P.M. on September 15, also at UU-133, Dr. Pfefferkorn will give a public lecture on "Justina's Diary: The Story of the Cracow Underground Youth Movement, 1939-42."

### 7. News

Lance J. Sussman received his Ph.D. in May, 1987 from HUC-JIR. He studied with Profs. Jacob R. Marcus and Jonathan D. Sarna and wrote a biography of Isaac Leeser (1806-1868), the foremost American Jewish religious leader prior to the Civil War.

Prof. Yedida Stillman, Director of Just gave a lecture and chaired a session at this summer's International Conference on Teaching Jewish Civilization. The Conference was held in Jerusalem at the Hebrew Univeristy.

Prof. Norman Stillman - has returned to active teaching after a one semester leave to work on a new book: Jews of Arab Lands in Modern Lands. Prof. Stillman's research was supported by three fellowships given, respectively, by the Warner Foundation of Bnai Brith, the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture and the American Philosophica Society.

Prof. Shmuel Morell - will receive an honorary doctorate (DHL) this September at the Jewish Theological Seminary at the installation of the new President of JTS. Congratulations on an honor richly deserved.

Prof. Deborah Hertz - will be on leave this semester. She received a "Fulbright" to study "Three Generations of Jewish Conversion in Germany" at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem. Prof. Hertz work will be based on Nazi conversion records collected from various Protestant sources. She will also be teaching a graduate seminar at Hebrew University on "Jewish Assimilation in Germany."

Faith Rogow - a doctoral candidate at SUNY-Binghamton, will be offering a course, "Feminist Thought in Western Religion," this Fall crosslisted with JUST. She is currently completing her dissertation, "A Comprehensive History of the National Council of Jewish Women" and has published several topics on women's topics. Ms. Rogow received her B.A. in Religion from Indiana University and earned her M.A. in Jewish and Women's Studies at SUNY-B.

"Survivor" - a poem written by first year student Sandy Falik will be published in the Journal of Reform Judaism this year. Falik's poem was originally written as an epilogue to her term paper in Prof. Sussman's class on American Jewish History (Fall, '86).

Gail Kupferman - a JUST major, spent the summer at Kibbutz Deganya Aleph in northern Israel. She wrote the following account of her activities:

"You should see me at work. - You wouldn't believe it. I carry a ladder around all day, going from banana tree to to banana tree, tying the trees to cables that run above the fields. I'm getting more callouses than muscles, and more bruises than tan. Such is the life on Kibbutz." (7/15/87)

Mordekhay Zaken - is a new Graduate Student who comes to us with a an M.A. in Middle Eastern Jewish History from the Hebrew University. Zaken has already published 2 articles in Hebrew on Kurdistan Jewry.

David Becker - who graduated with honors from SUNY-Binghamton ('86) with a double major, JUST and Classics, will be returning to campus this Fall as a graduate student majoring in Jewish History. Since graduation, Becker has been involved in a Hebrew University sponsored-program working with Ethiopian Jews in Israel.

Dr. Daniel Kaufman - a member of the Department of Archaeology, Haifa University, will be teaching at SUNY-B. He will offer a first semester course in "Archaeological Methods" (Anthro 583 B) and "Biblical Archaeology: Israel before the Hebrews" in the Spring (cross-listed with JUST).  
Welcome Dr. Kaufman!

Dr. Ariel Ullman, School of Management, and Dr. Haim Ofek, Department of Economics, SUNY-B, will be spending the school year at Haifa University, c/o Department of Economics. Drs. Kaufman, Ullman, and Ofek are participants in the Haifa Exchange Program.