

# University Center at Binghamton

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Judaic Studies Program  
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## JUDAIC STUDIES NEWSLETTER

No. 6

May, 1985

### David Biale Giving Up Directorship of Judaic Studies for New Responsibilities

Professor David Biale, who has been away this year on sabbatical, has asked to be relieved of the Directorship of Judaic Studies in order that he might assume the office of Director of Graduate Studies for the History Department. Professor Biale, who is a specialist in Modern Jewish History and Historiography has headed the Judaic Studies Program since coming to Binghamton seven years ago. During his tenure, the Program expanded to include a B.A. in addition to the certificate offering.

Professor Biale will continue to teach his important Judaic core and elective courses. We wish him all the best in his new administrative assignment.

### Dean Gitlitz to appoint a new Director

Dean David Gitlitz has asked the members of the Judaic Studies Committee, which is composed of faculty, students, and community representatives to recommend a new Director for a three-year term. The Dean is hoping to make the appointment before the end of the semester. The appointment comes at a critical time in the Judaic Studies Program's development. In spite of the untimely death of one faculty member and the retirement of another, and in spite of severe budgetary constraints at the University, our Program continues to grow, attracting students with new course offerings and increasing its communal service and outreach activities.

### A CALL FOR HELP

If you have enjoyed reading our newsletters, as so many of you have told us; if you have enjoyed any of our public lectures, regular course offerings, or our social activities; if you feel that the community service we provide with student interns at the Jewish Federation and the Jewish Community Center and student teachers at the various synagogue religious schools is worth continuing; would you please join with us in supporting these and the many other programs and services we are planning for next year. You can do this by sending your tax deductible contribution of \$10 made out to "Judaic Studies Account # 524" in the return address envelope included with this newsletter. Our budget is already painfully low because of our greatly expanded communal programs this past year. Your help, your partnership, will be greatly appreciated.

If anyone wishes to sponsor a speaker or a series of speakers in honor of a relative or friend, please contact us so that we might work out the details together.

Other News of the Program

Farewell to two Professors and two Rabbis

As you know, some of our colleagues, friends and Rabbis are retiring this year. We wish to publicly thank them here for their contribution to Judaic Studies.

Phil Piaker, the Distinguished Service Professor of Accounting, was one of the main forces behind the establishing of the Judaic Studies Program in 1973. The Piaker family generously donated a fund to Judaic Studies to establish the Piaker Award which is granted each year to the best student in Judaic Studies. This year Phil was also recognized by the university award for excellence in teaching.

The Dean and faculty of the School of Management are honoring Phil Piaker on Sunday, May 5th at the Security Mutual Building. (5:00 Reception, 6:00 Dinner, Program at 7:30)

Helen A.B. Rivlin, Professor of History, was also a founder of the Program. She has taught many courses for the Judaic Studies Program, from "Rebirth of Israel" to "Modern Jewish History," to "Antisemitism". The courses were popular and had a good following. Helen's retiring will undoubtedly create a gap in the Judaic Studies offerings. Helen graciously gave many talks locally to Sisterhoods, Hadassah, etc. Helen is moving to Boston and we wish her good luck. The History Department is planning a party in her honor on May 2nd to which Judaic Studies Faculty are invited.

Rabbi Elihu Schagrin, the Rabbi of Temple Concord has decided to retire after 32 years. Rabbi Schagrin has served as Chaplin on campus several years alternating with other local Rabbis. We want to thank him wholeheartedly. We are glad that he will stay in the community and will continue to be of help to Judaic Studies.

Rabbi Raphael Groner, of the Beth David Synagogue is making Aliya to Israel with his family. We are happy for them but sad at the same time to lose his committed support for Judaic Studies. Rabbi Groner has taught both Hebrew and Jewish History as a visiting lecturer and has served as Chaplin as well. We wish him and his family Hatzalah (success) in their bold new undertaking.

Both Rabbis are being honored by their congregations.

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### Student Awards

Each year we bestow two awards, one in Judaic Studies and one in Hebrew. This year's Judaic Studies award recipients are Bonnie Schwartz and Matthew Cutler. Both Bonnie and Matt have demonstrated not only all-around excellence in Judaic Studies, but also leadership and involvement in student and communal activities.

Each year through the generosity of the Jewish Federation of Broome County, we give an award to an outstanding Hebrew student. This year there are also two recipients: Gallya Lahav and Miriam Robaschek.

### Honors Thesis

Suzanne Parker with Norman Stillman  
Bonnie Schwartz with Sam Morell  
Matthew Cutler with Helen Rivlin  
Michelle Donner with Norman Stillman

### Summer Courses

FYI we are offering two summer courses by graduate students from the History Department. They are as follows:

Jud. St. 182G, The Holocaust, Faith Rogow

Jud. St. 182A, Jewish Sex Roles & Stereotypes, Bonnie Morris

### Binghamton Jewish Community History Project

Paul Finkelman, from the History Department and I have started gathering material regarding a project which will deal with the History of the local Jewish Community. Right now it is in the inception stage trying to apply for some grants. Rabbi Schagrin graciously volunteered to be a consultant to the project. Ross McGuire the curator of Roberson who successfully mounted an exhibition on immigration to the Binghamton Community has kindly shared with us all his material and offered to be of help. Marc Goldberg offered to publicize some of our findings.

As this shapes up, we will keep you informed and will make it available for anyone who wants to share with us memories and memorabilia.

### A Note of Appreciation

The school year is just about over. We had one of our most successful years ever thanks to a fine and dedicated committee made up of Judaic Studies faculty, members of the community and students. We also

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thank the Judaic Studies secretary, Diane Malagari, who worked diligently on all our projects. We thank all those who hosted events: S. & R. Koffman, Marcy and Gaby Yonaty, M. & A. Bensoussan, and many others who volunteered their homes Vicki Roof & Flora Rosefsky. Thanks also to Helen Drasgow, Joe and Isabelle Levine for offering to help when help is needed.

The rapport with the Jewish Federation and the Jewish Community Center was fruitful and meaningful. The Federation gave us two grants for speakers budget. We once again thank the Jewish Federation Board for their generosity. Every event was planned together and the result was quite satisfactory. We look forward to continuous cooperation in the future.

We wish you a good summer.

Lehitraot

*Yedida K. Stillman*

Yedida K. Stillman  
Acting Director  
Judaic Studies Program

P.S. Forthcoming is the official annual report of the Judaic Studies Program.