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yediAut



Pamela Nadell,
Director, Jewish
Studies Program



Howard Wachtel,
Director, Center for
Israeli Studies

From the Directors

We are delighted once again to bring you *YediAut*, news of American University's Jewish Studies Program and Center for Israeli Studies. Its pages spotlight our on-going activities: classes and curriculum in the Jewish Studies major and minor, internships, and the many public programs that we sponsor. In addition, they describe our distinguished visiting faculty, conferences, guest lectures, and study abroad in Israel. Together these articles reveal not only how Jewish Studies and Israeli Studies flourish at American University but also their key role in enhancing the university's global diversity. As always, we thank you, our readers, for your support. ■

Jewish Studies Professors Tackle Holocaust Questions

Allies Could Have Helped Save Italian Jews

British and American intelligence agents had advance information in 1943 that could have helped save Roman Jewry from deportation to Auschwitz, according to AU history professor Richard Breitman. But not until this year did the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post* learn the news as related by Breitman, who is currently working with the Nazi War Criminal Records Interagency Working Group (IWG) examining 400,000 pages of newly declassified documents. These documents, from the Office of Strategic Services, the forerunner of the Central Intelligence Agency, include Nazi SS messages sent between Berlin and Rome in late 1943, which British intelligence intercepted, decoded, and shared with the Americans.

Breitman's report for the IWG, coauthored with Timothy Naftali, shows that the British knew that on

See Breitman page 7

Where Did Valuables Stolen from Hungarian Jews Go?

Ronald W. Zweig, visiting professor at American University, is currently completing his new book on one of the remaining unanswered questions relating to the Holocaust—what happened to the tons of gold and diamonds and other precious items stolen from the Jews of Hungary in the last months of World War II. These items disappeared from history, and the fate of the "Gold Train" that took them out of Hungary just days before the Red Army liberated that country remains a mystery. Zweig has traced the fate of the train and of the gold and other valuables it carried to a surprising conclusion, to be revealed when his book is published.

It is thanks to a generous gift from American University alumnus Jeffrey Berman, that the Jewish Studies Program and the Department of History,

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President and Mrs. Ladner visit Israel

President and Mrs. Benjamin Ladner learned firsthand about the projects of the Center for Israeli Studies during a very busy week in Israel at the end of March 2000. Arriving the day after the Pope left Jerusalem, the president met with past and present political leaders. ■



President Benjamin Ladner and director of Center for Israeli Studies, Howard M. Wachtel, being shown industrial technology by Stef Wertheimer, chairman of the board of ISCAR LTD., at his industrial park in the northern Galilee town of Tefen



President Benjamin Ladner, far right, with American University students studying at Hebrew University, along with Professors Daniel Schydrowsky, far left, and Howard M. Wachtel, sixth from left, after a meeting at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem

Meeting with pioneers of Israel's high technology industry and students from AU in the Jerusalem study abroad program

Learning about Israel's rich history



President and Mrs. Benjamin Ladner with their guide, Jacob Shoshan



President Benjamin Ladner meets with former mayor of Jerusalem, Teddy Kollek



U.S.-Israel Civil Liberties Law Program

The 15th anniversary of AU's Washington College of Law (WCL) program that provides intensive legal and practical training in civil rights and civil liberties law was celebrated in Israel

in December 1999 with an International Symposium of Jurists on Human Rights at Tel Aviv University, a gala at the Knesset, and a workshop on pro bono legal

services in Israel. Founded in conjunction with the

New Israel Fund in 1984 by AU professor Herman Schwartz, one of the leading civil rights and constitutional lawyers in the United States, this program consists of one year of intensive legal studies and internships in Washington, D.C., and a second year of internships at an Israeli institution specializing in public interest legal work. Among some 40 graduates of the program are Neta Ziv-Goldman, cofounder of the Women's Legal Defense Center; Hassan Jabareen, who created Adalah, the Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel; and Gidon Bromberg, Israeli director of Friends of the Earth, Middle East. Schwartz, the program's director, summed up his pride in the achievements of the graduates when he said in the Israeli newspaper *Ha'aretz*, "They were only required to give a two-year commitment. I never thought they would start all these organizations." ■

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Photo by Israel Sun Ltd.



University of Haifa Program at AU's Washington College of Law (WCL)

This summer WCL kicked off the new Israel program it is cosponsoring with the University of Haifa Faculty of Law and Nova Southeastern School of Law in Ft. Lauderdale,

In addition, WCL professors Egon Guttman and Janet Spragens, director of the WCL Israel Program, spent six weeks in Haifa this summer teaching courses in U.S. tax and corporate law to Haifa law students as part of the faculty exchange.

Florida. The program involves a two-course, 6-credit, summer study abroad program for American law students in Haifa and a series of faculty exchanges between the University of Haifa and the American law schools. In connection with the study abroad program,

Professors Andrew Pike (WCL) and Steven Friedland (Nova) traveled to Haifa this summer

with 13 WCL and Nova law students. The students lived on a kibbutz for a week, then moved to a guest house at the Rutenberg Institute for Peace in downtown Haifa. As part of their studies, they heard lectures from the Haifa faculty on various aspects of Israeli law and the peace process and visited, among other places, the Israeli Supreme Court, the stock exchange, Nazareth, Galilee, and Masada.

In addition, WCL professors Egon Guttman and Janet Spragens, director of the WCL Israel Program, spent six weeks in Haifa this summer teaching courses in U.S. tax and corporate law to Haifa law students as part of the faculty exchange. This academic year, as part of the faculty exchange, the University of Haifa is sending law professors Victor Bouganin and Dean Yoseph Edrey to WCL, and law professor Jonathan Yovel to Nova. ■

Upcoming Events in the Center for Israeli Studies



*Prof. Russell Stone,
Association for
Israel Studies
academic liaison*



*University Professor
Rita Simon, School
of Public Affairs*

AU and the Center for Israeli Studies (CIS) once again will be the site for the annual meeting, May 15–17, 2001, of the Association for Israel Studies, the international professional organization for research on Israel. This, the 17th annual meeting, is open to scholarly and academic papers on all aspects of contemporary Israeli society. The program is currently being planned by Prof. Gershon Shafir, of the University of California, San Diego, <gshafir@ucsd.edu>. For further information, please contact Russell Stone at <rstone@american.edu> or 202-885-2482. We are now in our second year as the headquarters for the association, which is administered by Stone.

In 2002, we will host a conference, “Diaspora and Comparative Immigration,” which will provide a venue for important research on the influence of the national experience of Jews immigrating from similar diasporic contexts to Israel and the United States. This conference has been underwritten by the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture and will be codirected by Alan Kraut of the Department of History and Howard M. Wachtel, CIS director.

In May 2001 we will launch our second study abroad program in Israel, a new environmental studies course, *Water in the Middle East: Scarcity and Prospects*, led by Prof. David Culver of the Department of Biology and director of environmental studies at AU. For two weeks students will participate in seminars, field experience, and visits to water resource sites in this program, which will be based at the Arava Institute in the southern Negev. Partially funded by the Jewish National Fund in Israel and by scholarships provided by the Cora and John H. Davis Foundation, this program builds on the two-week 1999 visit of Pedro Berliner (Blaustein Institute for Desert Research) as an in-residence Israeli Scholar in CIS and Environmental Studies.

In the works is a new course, *Contemporary Israeli Society*, led by University Professor Rita Simon of the School of Public Affairs. This seminar will take advantage of the expertise of some 20 AU faculty members with research and teaching experience in Israel, including modern dance, sociology, political science, history, economics, and literature. Students will be exposed to faculty with significant comprehension of contemporary Israel and its history through a format that will offer a lecture and seminar discussion with individual faculty on these diverse topics. ■



*Many in the United States
know Yoram Peri as president
of the New Israel Fund.*

Yoram Peri Visiting Scholar in Residence

During the academic year 2000–2001, Prof. Yoram Peri will be a visiting scholar in residence. While in residence, he will be working on a new book on the media and politics in Israel and the United States and will deliver a series of lectures, beginning with “The Rabin Assassination,” to coincide with the publication of his new book of the same title (Stanford University Press).

Peri is currently a senior lecturer in the Department of Communication at Hebrew University, continuing an academic career in which he held appointments at Tel Aviv University and in the United States at Harvard and Dartmouth.

Peri’s career, however, straddles the academic and public affairs. He can be safely called one of the premier public intellectuals in Israel, with significant activities in the political world and in newspaper publishing. He served as campaign manager and political advisor to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

In the world of journalism he served as editor in chief of the daily newspaper *Davar*, editor and moderator of a weekly radio program, *Ha’arachat Matzav*, host of a weekly television panel show on the news of the week, *Va’adat Ha’orchim*, and editor of the journal *Israeli Democracy*. ■

Faculty Notes

Richard Breitman, history, had his book *Official Secrets: What the Nazis Planned, What the British and Americans Knew* published in paperback. For more, see page 1.

Erran Carmel, Kogod School of Business, has begun, with colleagues in the United States and Israel, a study of information technology firms that have established R&D subsidiaries in both the United States and Israel. They are identifying the most important factors that determine the allocation of different R&D activities across the two countries.

Gershon Greenberg, philosophy and religion, continues to write on Jewish religious responses to the Holocaust. Among his works are two annotated bibliographies of sources in this field for the years 1938 through 1949, published by the Institute for Holocaust Research at Bar Ilan University.

Gregg Ivers, chair of the Department of Government, School of Public Affairs, has published a new constitutional law casebook, *American Constitutional Law*, 2 volumes, and is the author of *To Build a Wall: American Jews and the Separation of Church and State*.

Alan Kraut, history, was elected president of the Immigration and Ethnic History Society and has received a grant from the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture for a conference to be held in 2002, "Diaspora and Comparative Immigration."

Arnost Lustig, literature, continues to win acclaim for his Holocaust fiction. A film version of his short story "Blue Day" was recently produced for Czech television. Northwestern University Press just published his three classic novels—*Night and Hope*, *Diamonds of the Night*, and *Darkness Casts No Shadow*—in a single volume.

Pamela S. Nadell, history, director of the Jewish Studies Program, was elected chair of the Academic Council of the American Jewish Historical Society and appointed to the Academic Council of the Center for Jewish History. Her book *Women Who Would Be Rabbis: A History of Women's Ordination, 1889–1985* was published in paperback. Her new book,

Women and American Judaism: Historical Perspectives, coedited with Brandeis University professor Jonathan D. Sarna, will be published in July.

Saul Newman, School of Public Affairs, authored *Ethnoregional Conflict in Democracies* as well as articles on nationalism, ethnic politics, and terrorism. During the summer of 2000 he conducted research in Israel on a new project, tentatively titled "Settling Settler Conflicts: Northern Ireland, South Africa, Israel, and Theories of Nationalism."

Amos Perlmutter, government, has written several books, including *The Life and Times of Menachem Begin* and *The Partitioned State*. Perlmutter serves as editor of the *Journal of Strategic Studies and Security Studies* and is often featured as an expert on such shows as *ABC Nightline* and the *News Hour with Jim Lehrer* and on CNN and Israel TV.

Naima Prevots, performing arts, worked with the Israeli Ministry of Education as a consultant to develop and finalize the *bagrut* exams in dance. Prevots served as facilitator and keynote speaker for the first conference ever held for dance teachers in the schools in Israel.

David H. Rosenbloom, School of Public Affairs, coauthored "Reforma B'minhal Hamemshalti B'yisrael" (Governmental Management Reform in Israel) in *Hamediniot Hatziborit B'Israel*, a book edited by David Nachmias and Gila Menahem and published by the Israel Democracy Institute. He was a visiting professor in the Department of Political Science at Hebrew University during the intersession and taught a graduate course, the New Public Management and Administrative Reform.

Linda Schermer Raphael, Jewish studies, recently published with Marc Lee Raphael *When Night Fell: An Anthology of Holocaust Short Stories*.

Myra Sklarew, literature, completed work on a book manuscript, *From Mole Hills to Messiah*, a collection of essays, and continued work on a seven-year project on the Holocaust and the construction of

memory. During a month in Lithuania this summer, she visited Jewish survivors in the north of Lithuania, in Telsiai (famous for the Telz Yeshiva, 1875–1941) and in Varniai (in the Telz district), once a town of scholars and maskilim. In Telsiai she met with a woman who survived the Holocaust in the guise of a nun. In Varniai she met with another woman in her 80s, who was converted and saved by the church and to this day remains a Catholic, living as a farmer in this rural village.

Russell Stone, sociology, as series editor for the Israeli studies book publishing program of the State University of New York (SUNY) Press, produces on average five books each year. The total number of books published to date is more than 50. The list can be accessed at <www.sunypress.edu>, with a search of Israeli Studies. He contributed a new article on Israel for the 2000 edition of *Encyclopedia Britannica*. At the Association for Israel Studies annual meeting in June at Tel Aviv University, Stone was organizer and chair of a roundtable session, "Israeli Public Opinion Data Resources." At the Ben-Gurion Research Center in Beersheba he was a panelist for "The End of the Zionist Era?" at a conference on the future of Israeli nationalism. He was also a discussant in a session, "Nations and Nationalism," at the American Sociological Association annual meeting. Stone is administrative officer for the Association for Israel Studies (AIS) headquarters at American University. He has coedited *Critical Essays on Israeli Social Issues and Scholarship*.

Howard M. Wachtel, economics, director of the Center for Israeli Studies, was an academic visitor at the Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace at Hebrew University and distinguished visiting scholar, American Academy in Berlin. He published seven articles in four languages and delivered 13 lectures in eight countries last year, including "Globalization and Its Impact on Environmental Policy," at Tel Aviv University. While in Israel he conducted research on water pricing policies and international water markets. ■

News from the Jewish Studies Program

During the past year American University's interdisciplinary Jewish Studies Program continued to offer a broad selection of courses on the Jewish experience. They included classes in Hebrew language; ancient, medieval, and modern Jewish history; Jewish philosophy; Holocaust studies; Israeli studies; and Jewish literature in translation. ■



In 1998 the Jewish Studies Program cosponsored a conference at AU, "The History of American Jewish Political Conservatism," with Temple University's Feinstein Center for the Study of American Jewish History. Some dozen prominent scholars and journalists over two days presented papers on the historical development of Jewish political conservatism from the 1930s onward. The papers from this conference have been published in the Johns Hopkins University Press journal *American Jewish History* (volume 87, numbers 2 and 3), which may be ordered from the press. ■

Jewish Studies Program: Guest Presentations 1999–2000

- Hebrew University professor Avigdor Shinan presented "The Life of King David in Rabbinic Literature," October 1999.
- Shirley Kaufman and Galit Hasan-Rokem read from their new book, *The Defiant Muse: Hebrew Feminist Poems from Antiquity to the Present, A Bilingual Anthology*, November 1999, cosponsored with the Center for Israeli Studies.
- Prof. Itzhak Galnoor of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem presented "How I Tried and Failed to Change the Israeli Bureaucracy," November 1999, cosponsored with the Department of Public Administration, Center for Israeli Studies, and Council on Comparative Studies.
- Screening of *Women of the Wall*, February 2000, cosponsored with AU Hillel.
- Cornell University professor Gary Rendsburg presented "From Moses to the Muses: Two Hundred Years of Modern Biblical Scholarship," February 2000.
- Author and poet Ricardo Feierstein of Argentina presented a bilingual reading, cosponsored with the Department of Language and Foreign Studies, March 2000. In addition, Feierstein's reading at the D.C. Jewish Community Center was cosponsored by the Jewish Studies Program.
- Bar Ilan University professor Efraim Inbar, director of the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies, presented "The Middle East Peace Process: An Update and Realistic Assessment," cosponsored with the Center for Israeli Studies and the Department of Sociology.
- Tel Aviv University professor Robert Rockaway presented "But He Was Good to His Mother: The Lives and Crimes of Jewish Gangsters," April 2000.

Student Awards

The Jewish Studies Program and the Center for Israeli Studies recognize the 1999–2000 student award winners:

Kate Burke, Brett Freeman, Rebecca Geller, Aaron Goldstein, Nicole Gratch, Adam Herbst, Sara Hillman, Matthew Jubitz, Szilvia Ladunga, Jamie Levine, Cori Roth, Samuel Rubin, and Susan Schwartz all received the Cora and John H. Davis Foundation Israeli Studies Awards.

Graduate student Daniel Weiss received a Jerrold and Jane Goodman Award from the Jewish Studies Program to present his paper "The Centrality of Culture in Israeli Politics and Society"

at the 2000 annual meeting of the Association for Israel Studies in Israel.

Jessica Sarah DeNino received the Janet Ruth Zober Memorial Scholarship from Hillel of Greater Washington for her program in deaf education.

Katrin Paehler, history graduate student, received a Jerrold and Jane Goodman Award from the Jewish Studies Program to attend the seminar "Jewish Civilization and the Holocaust" at Northwestern University.

Aleisa Fishman, graduate student in history, has won two awards, the Rabbi Levi A. Olan Memorial Fellowship from the Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives and the National Women's Studies Association Jewish Caucus Fellowship for her dissertation in progress, "Gender, the Market, and Jewish Identity in Nassau County, New York, 1946–1960." ■

Breitman, from page 1

October 8, 1943, Herbert Kappler, German police attaché in Rome, was ordered to seize the 8,000 Jews of Rome. On October 11, 1943, Ernst Kaltenbrunner, head of the Reich Security Main Office wrote Kappler in chilling terms:

"It is precisely the immediate and thorough eradication of the Jews in Italy which is [in] the special interest of the present internal political situation and the general security in Italy. To postpone the expulsion of the Jews . . . can no more be considered than the idea mentioned of calling up the Jews in Italy for what would probably be very unproductive labour under responsible direction by Italian authorities. The longer the delay, the more the Jews who are doubtless reckoning on evacuation measures have an opportunity by moving to the houses of pro-Jewish Italians or disappearing completely . . . proceed with the evacuation of the Jews without further delay."



Richard Breitman

As Professor Breitman told the *New York Times*, "The release raises the historical question once again of what Allied governments knew about the Holocaust during World War II and what might have been done with information they possessed," a subject Breitman has tackled before, notably in *Official Secrets: What the Nazis Planned, What the British and Americans Knew*. Breitman earned his PhD at Harvard University and is also the author of *German Socialism and Weimar Democracy*; *Breaking the Silence: American Refugee Policy and European Jewry, 1933-1945* (with Alan Kraut); and *The Architect of Genocide: Himmler and the Final Solution*. He is also editor in chief of the journal *Holocaust and Genocide Studies*. ■

Zweig, from page 1

jointly with the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, are hosting Zweig this year. Zweig comes to us from Tel Aviv University, where he is senior lecturer in the Department of Jewish History and editor of the *Journal of Israeli History*. He also directed Tel Aviv University's well-known Center for Research in the History of Zionism from 1989 to 1993.

A graduate of the University of Sydney, Australia, and of the University of Cambridge, England, Zweig is the author of *Britain and Palestine during the Second World War* and *German Reparations and the Jewish World*, soon to be republished in an expanded and revised edition. He has also edited four collections of essays on modern Jewish history, published more than 20 scholarly articles, been a fellow at the Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies at Oxford University, and held numerous other visiting fellowships.

In addition, Zweig has a strong interest in information technologies. The British Academy has published his work on archives and electronic records, and since 1995 he has been director of the Kipp Institute for Advanced Technology in the Humanities at Tel Aviv University, where he heads a research program in the digitization of printed sources. Using unique computer technology, the Kipp Institute has prepared an electronic version of the entire run—40,000 pages—of a newspaper of historical record, the *Palestine Post* (1932-1950), which can now be read and searched on computer. ■



Ronald Zweig



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