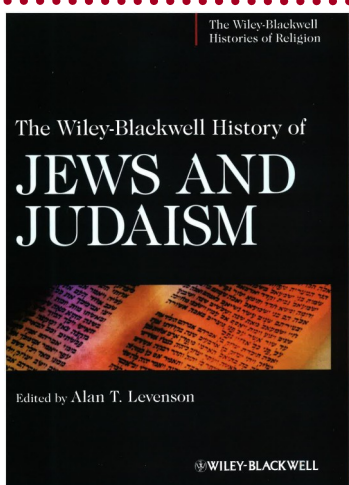


FROM OKLAHOMA TO JERUSALEM

Several “Sooners” attended this year’s Association of Jewish Studies in Chicago. The AJS is a three-day extravaganza of learned papers and lots of schmoozing. Professor Alan Levenson spoke about *The Making of the Modern Jewish Bible*, Professors Noam Stillman and Shmuel Shepkaru each chaired sessions. The posse traveled this summer to the 16th World Congress of Jewish Studies, with Professor Carsten Schapkow, Dinah Stillman and Robb Young joining. The Congress meets in Jerusalem once every four years – guess which American university seems to be sending the largest delegation? — Editor



The Wiley-Blackwell History of Jews and Judaism

Wiley-Blackwell published a comprehensive survey of Jews and Judaism in which four contributors work at the University of Oklahoma! While reviews note that this book combines established and emerging scholars, they omit to mention that fully one-quarter of the contributors are women and that several contributors are not Jewish – a fascinating comment on a field once deemed too parochial for outside interest. Levenson’s volume provides a comprehensive overview of the main periods and themes of Jewish history, discusses how to present Judaism as a religious system on its own terms, and explores the latest scholarship on a range of issues, including folk practices, politics, economics, the relationship of Judaism to Christianity, and the nature of contemporary Israel. For another authoritative reference work edited by a University of Oklahoma JUST faculty member, see Brill’s *Encyclopedia of Jews in the Islamic World*, edited by our program director, Noam Stillman.

Presidential Dream Course

JERUSALEM: HISTORY OF A HOLY CITY/CONTESTED CITY

No city has captured more attention, been the source of more religious inspiration, artistic imagination, or a focal point of violent confrontation, than has Jerusalem. Sacred to three religions, claimed as their capital by two peoples, Jerusalem is unlike any other city. It was considered by Jews, Christians and Muslims to be the Navel of the World. It was also the only city believed to

have a Heavenly as well as an earthly version. It has been destroyed and rebuilt numerous times. And it is still a holy and contested city today.

Professor Stillman was awarded the prestigious “Presidential Dream Course” designation for this class and was able to host an impressive cast of internationally known speakers:

Gary Rendsburg, Rutgers University

“Showplace of the East: The Archeology of Roman Jerusalem

Suleiman Mourad, Smith College

“Jerusalem, Islam and the Challenge of the Crusades”

Amy Singer, Tel Aviv University

The Ottoman Conquest of Jerusalem: Not a Military Project”

Naomi Feuchtwanger Sarig, Tel Aviv University

“Jerusalem: Image and Symbol in Christian Art

Bernard Wasserstein, University of Chicago

“Hitler’s Little Helpers: Axis Agents in Palestine 1939-1945”



FROM OKLAHOMA TO JERUSALEM ... continued

When Samson Was a Hit in the Galilee: OU Students' Summer at the Archaeological Excavation at Huqoq (Israel)



Nina Livesey

After finding the beautiful and intact image of a woman and the damaged images of a Hebrew inscription and a giant Samson, our goal for 2013 and beyond is to determine the size of the synagogue and find more of its mosaic floor. The image of Samson, who likely functioned as a messianic hero for this early community, is of particular interest because it so clearly illustrates the passage in Judges 15 about his setting the fox tails on fire. We find another mosaic depiction of Samson on an ancient synagogue floor at Wadi Haman, only three miles from Huqoq. According to the dig director Prof. Jodi Magness, when the



rabbis favorably assessed Samson, ignoring his relations with foreign women, they considered him a warrior-redeemer messiah. We had no idea we would find an image of Samson, which is part of what makes this excavation so exciting. — Nina

Stacey Arnett Studies in Jerusalem, Thanks to Bezalel Foundation Scholarship

While on the flight to Israel, I had no idea how I would feel once I finally arrived. I had never been to Israel before (except in my imagination), but when I stepped off the plane and walked out into the warm Tel Aviv air, I smiled. It was so calm and serene, with palm trees gently

moving in the wind. This foreign land I had only read about suddenly felt comfortable and familiar. I picked Jerusalem as my study abroad destination of choice, and I was not disappointed. The city is rich in diversity, history, and hope. Oh, and fantastic food.

I traveled every chance I could, going to places like Haifa, Nazareth, Capernaum, Tiberias, and Masada; I floated in the Dead Sea, walked on the Temple Mount, prayed at the Western (Wailing) Wall, and even hiked from the Mediterranean Sea to the Sea of Galilee. The view from my living room included the Temple Mount, Dome of the Rock, and the Mt. of Olives, while my bedroom window showcased the Judean Desert, the Dead Sea, and Jordan in the distance. I made incredible friends, had interesting conversations with random strangers in the Old City, and ate my weight in falafels. My favorite class was The Cultural History of Jerusalem; not only did we talk about the city's amazing history, we took field trips that allowed us to walk through, touch, and see the very things we talked about.

My journey to the center of the world would not have been possible without the generosity of the Bezalel Foundation and the Schusterman/Josey Program in Judaic and Israel Studies. I am forever grateful for the amazing opportunity I was given to live and study in the most amazing place in the world, and I cannot wait to return.



Stacey Arnett (right) with friends above Baha'i Gardens overlooking the Mediterranean Sea.

KUDOS and CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Shmuel Shepkaru** for "Christian Resurrection and Jewish Immortality During the First Crusade," which will be his second article in *Speculum*, the world's most highly regarded journal in medieval studies, with an acceptance rate below 10 percent.

Congratulations to **Carsten Schapkow**, who published "Ohne Sprache und ohne Religion?" Fritz Mauthners Sprachkritik und die zeitgenössischen Debatten über a Deutschtum und" and "Der Orient" in the *Enzyklopädie Jüdischer Geschichte und Kultur*, Volume 3 (Stuttgart: Metzler, 2013). While on sabbatical in Munich, Carsten gave invited lectures throughout Germany in Rostock, Munich, Trier and Wuppertal.

Congratulations to **Ori Kritz**, who published articles on two of Israel's beloved writers. "Kakha akum... kakha: ba-pa'am ha-elef" ("Thus I will get up thus: for the one thousandth time" by Rachel Bluvstein, in *Pseifas a periodical for poetry*, 85, winter 2011: 36-44, and "Vehu ha-or" ha-meta'ate'a le-Lea Goldberg ("And

This is the Deceiving Light") in *Hador* 2012: 109-118.

Above all: kudos on receiving the 2013 Cecil W. Woods Memorial Award for this year's outstanding teacher in the Department of Modern Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics.

Congratulations to **Steven Norwood**, whose new book, *Antisemitism and the Far Left*, will be published by Cambridge University Press in July 2013. Steve also published an article, "American Antisemitism during World War II," in Thomas W. Zeiler, ed., *A Companion to World War II* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2013) and delivered "Forging Friendly Ties: American Universities and Nazi Germany," at the Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies in Vienna.

Congratulations to **Dinah Assouline Stillman**, who presented papers in Chicago; Washington, D.C.; Atlanta; Greece; and Thessaloniki. Dinah also published two articles, including "Muslims as Jews, Jews as Muslims

and Both as the Other in Recent French Cinema," in the widely read *AJS Perspectives* (Spring 2012), pp. 32-34.

Congratulations to **Misha Klein**, who had a busy year presenting her book, *Kosher Feijoada and Other Paradoxes of Jewish Life*, to audiences in San Francisco, Omaha and elsewhere.

Congratulations to **Rangar Cline**, who published articles on "Jewish Angels," "The Chaldean Oracles" and "Sibyls and Sibylline Books" in the *Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Ancient History*. In addition, Rangar and Professor Jennifer Davis (History) welcomed Zoe Alexandra Cline to the family – mazal tov!

Congratulations to **Luis Cortest**, who presented "Three Key Moments in the History of Exegetical Reading" at OU on March 28 and "Thomas Aquinas and Moses Maimonides on Divine Attributes" at the 48th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Michigan on May 10.

JuSt Schusterman Visiting Professor Gershon Lewental



Gershon and Sitara Lewental

Professor Lewental is the American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise/Schusterman visiting professor of Israel studies. He

His fields include Iranian history, early Islam, the Baha'i faith, and Israeli history. At OU, he teaches classes on the rebirth of Israel, the Arab-Israeli conflict, early

earned his bachelor of arts degree from Cornell University and his doctoral degree from Brandeis University. His dissertation, on a battle during the Arab-Muslim conquest of Iran and its changing perceptions through time, was recently honored with the Foundation for Iranian Studies' Best Dissertation Award.

Islamic empires, and religion and society in the Middle East. This fall he will be teaching classes on Israeli Society and the Arab-Israeli conflict. In the past few months, he has given talks on the Baha'i faith in Israel, the religious-political rhetoric of Saddam Husayn and the 2013 Israeli elections. He coordinated the visit of the Israeli Ambassador Meir Shlomo to campus in November 2012.

Gershon is joined by his wife, Sitara, a native of the Republic of Tajikistan, and both are enjoying the warm and friendly welcome that they have received here in Norman. They look forward to their second year at OU and are eager to share their knowledge of Israel and the Middle East.

Two Stars Join Associated Faculty



Eve Tavor Bannet, George Lynn Cross Professor, has authored numerous articles and books, including *Transatlantic Stories and the History of Reading: Migrant Fictions 1720-1810*; *Empire of Letters: Letter Manuals and Transatlantic Correspondence*,

1688-1820; *The Domestic Revolution: Enlightenment Feminisms and the Novel*; *Postcultural Theory: Critical Theory After the Marxist Paradigm*; *Structuralism and the Logic of Dissent: Barthes, Derrida, Foucault and Lacan*; *Skepticism, Society and the Eighteenth-Century Novel*, and with Susan Manning, *Transatlantic Literary Studies, 1660-1830*. She is considered one of the doyennes of transatlantic literary theory. Bannet received her doctorate from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and is fluent in Hebrew and several other languages. She has spoken at JUST Lunch three times on "The Kampf for Language: Holocaust, Shoah and Sacrifice," "Rachel Lazarus and Maria Edgeworth" and this past autumn, on "The Popularity of Sheva: The First 'Benevolent Hebrew' on the English and American Stage." Her first two talks have already been published as articles. "Sheva" will be included in a special edition of *Studies in Jewish American Literature* in spring 2014. We are delighted that Professor Bannet has formally joined our associated faculty – we already considered her mishpochah (family).



Janet Ward joined OU in 2011 as professor of hHistory and as an IAS affiliate. Ward's research explores history's "spatial turn," especially in urban, architectural, and border studies. Author and coeditor of five books and more than two dozen articles and essays, she is currently at

work on two major research projects: the first on urban and spatial/racial planning during the Second World War, and the second on Holocaust memory sites. For the first project, "Blitz Cities: The Urban Aftermath of War and Terror," Ward is researching civilian defense and urban reconstruction efforts caused by the air war of World War II, as well as Nazi urban planning in the invaded territories of central

Our Core Faculty and a Few of Their Classes



Norman A. Stillman
Jews/Christians Under Islam
Spain Under Islam



Ori Krutz
Jewish Literature From
Antiquity to the Present



Shmuel Shepharu
History of Heaven and Hell
Evolution of Martyrdom



Alan J. Levenson
Judaism: A Religious History
Genesis Through Jewish Eyes



Carsten Schapkow
Jews and Other Germans



Lea Reches
Beginning Hebrew 1 & 2

Associated Faculty

Benjamin L. Alpers, Honors College
Eve Bannet, English
Ray Canoy, History
David Chappell, History
Rangar Cline, Religious Studies
Luis Cortest, Modern Languages (Spanish)
Ronnie Grinberg, History
Misha Klein, Anthropology
Nina Livesey, Religious Studies
William H. McDonald, English
Stephen H. Norwood, History
Karin L. Schutjer, Modern Languages (German)
Daniel C. Snell, History
Dinah Stillman, Modern Languages (French)
Janet Ward, History

and Eastern Europe. Ward's second new book project, "Sites of Holocaust Memory," is a transnational study on the spatial and architectural memorialization of the Holocaust. Ward recently received a contract from Bloomsbury Academic's new "Perspectives on the Holocaust" series. In June she was invited to the 2013 Curt C. and Else Silberman Faculty Seminar, organized by the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the

Continued on page 5

13TH ANNUAL YEDIDA STILLMAN MEMORIAL LECTURE

Delivered by Professor Michal Friedman Carnegie Mellon University

Carnegie Mellon University's Michal Friedman delivered the 13th annual Yedida Kalfon Stillman Memorial Lecture on February 28th. The title of her talk was "Recovering Jewish Spain: Politics, Historiography and Institutionalization of the Jewish Past in Spain." Friedman connected the notorious Spanish Expulsion of 1492 to 20th century developments in Spanish history, emphasizing the ambivalent embrace of its Jewish past in a string of famous authors and politicians. Friedman dwelt on the refusal of Francisco Franco to comply with the genocidal wishes of his Nazi ally, yet also on the deep antisemitism within representatives of Spanish fascism. Friedman offered a novel reading of both the historical coexistence ("convivencia") of religious and ethnic minorities in Spain, and the style of cultural hybridity in the discourse of "Hispanidad" (Hispanism).



Michal Friedman

The well-attended lecture and lively questions from students of Spanish history and language and general and Jewish historiography were a tribute to Friedman's lively presentation as well as the fundamental importance of her subject.

Friedman is the first OU alumna to deliver the Yedida

Kalfon Stillman Memorial Lecture. Friedman travelled with Norman and Yedida from Binghamton University in New York to OU, where she received her master of arts degree. Friedman completed her doctorate at Columbia University after winning a Fulbright-IIE as well as a number of other prestigious fellowships. Friedman specializes in Jewish Diaspora history, especially that of Sephardic and Spanish-speaking Jewish communities, and in Spanish history and culture. She has published articles or book chapters in many scholarly venues, including the *Journal of Jewish Social Studies*, *Münchener Beiträge zur Jüdischen Geschichte und Kultur* and the *Journal of Spanish Cultural Studies*. Professor Friedman teaches courses on Spanish and Latin American history and culture as well as Hebrew language.

The Memorial Lecture was established through the generosity of the family, friends and colleagues to honor the memory of the late beloved teacher and world-renowned scholar Yedida Kalfon Stillman, who died in February 1998. The first Memorial Lecture was given in February 2001, by Professor Paula Sanders of Rice University, who was introduced by OU President David Boren, who shared his personal reminiscences of Yedida Stillman. The Memorial Lecture has since become a major annual campus event. The lecturers have all been distinguished scholars in fields related to the late Professor Stillman's wide-ranging interests in Middle Eastern and Sephardic history and culture. In his opening remarks, Noam Stillman expressed gratitude that every Memorial Lecturer not only worked in his late wife's field, but were also colleagues, and in this case, a pupil and friend.

Janet Ward continued

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. Ward is an ardent advocate of interdisciplinary and transnational studies. She is organizing a conference at OU this fall on "Transnationalism and Minority Cultures" (Sept. 26-28: <http://www.ou.edu/midamerica2013/>).

Warm Welcome to Professor Ronnie Grinberg

Ronnie Grinberg is a historian of the United States with a focus on America since 1930, American Jewish history, women's and gender history, and social movements. She received her doctoral degree in American history from Northwestern University and bachelor of arts degree from Barnard College, Columbia University. She comes to the University of Oklahoma after having been a Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Colorado Boulder. She is currently completing a book manuscript about liberal Jewish intellectuals who became neoconservatives in the postwar period.



Farewells

JUST wishes a fond farewell to professors Hester Baer and Brent Landau. Hester's research in German film and the Holocaust contributed greatly to our program's strength in German-Judaica. Brent's major scholarly interest in early Christianity included interest in rabbinic Judaism and comparative Scripture – Landau and Levenson were slated to team-teach a course on Early Judaism / Early Christianity – Alan will have to wait for a different dance partner.

SCHOLARSHIPS

BEZALEL GRANT RENEWED... AND ENHANCED

This year, once again, the Bezalel Foundation is supporting OU students for study in Israel. An unprecedented 11 students were awarded scholarships for 2013-14. There were four at the Huqoq excavation this summer, three in the summer Ulpan at The Hebrew University, three attending the university during the spring semester and one student attending a full year there. In addition, five students were involved in the inaugural year of OU's participation in the Huqoq dig (details on p. 2 of this newsletter).

OTHER SCHOLARSHIPS

JuSt is happy to announce that we have once again awarded the Zarrow Scholarship and two Esther Rose Shnier XI Chapter of Sigma Delta Tau Scholarships to be used here in studies at OU.

NEW STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

HOWARD AND JANE PRICE have generously committed to a multi-year gift totaling \$50,000 in honor of Roz Price, Howard's mother. Howard and Jane are proud graduates of OU and frequent flyers to OU alumni events. The scholarship will be to support promising OU undergraduates in Judaic and Israel Studies struggling to finance their education.

We look forward to sharing a few words about Roz Price and announcing our first recipient in next year's newsletter.

OUR GRADUATE STUDENTS



Walker Robins has been a part of the Judaic Studies Program since 2008. He completed his master of arts degree in history in 2010 under the direction of professors Stillman, Levenson, and Schapkow on the Southern Baptist mission to the Jews, and he is currently pursuing a doctorate in the field. He

plans to begin research this summer on the broad terms of American support for Zionism and the State of Israel. During his time with the program, he has contributed several articles to Professor Stillman's *Encyclopedia of Jews in the Islamic World*, including entries on "Christian Missionaries and Missionary Schools" and "Jews in Arabic Cinema." Thanks to financial support from the Judaic Studies Program, he has been able to attend Association for Jewish Studies conferences in Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., and Chicago. Walker also has spent the last two summers studying Hebrew in Israel, thanks to the Bezalel Foundation's Study in Israel Scholarships. This past summer, he participated in the intensive workshop on "Hebrew Proficiency for University Teachers of Jewish Studies" hosted by the International Center for University Teaching of Jewish Civilization at The Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

Jacob Lackner is a second-semester doctoral student working under the direction of Professor Shepkaru. His primary area of research is medieval Jewish-Christian relations, more specifically, the way medieval Christians thought about medieval Jews. His research focuses on the representation of Jews in historical documents such as papal letters and sermons, and also in medieval art and literature. He has presented papers on this subject at the Texas Medieval Association, the Mid-America Medieval Association and the International Congress on Medieval Studies. He will be spending the 2013-2014 academic year at The Hebrew University in Jerusalem as a Bezalel fellow to improve his Hebrew and take advantage of their diverse course offerings in the field of Jewish Studies, while also enjoying one of the world's most historic cities.



On behalf of Bizzell Memorial Library, we wish to thank Professor Marc Lee Raphael for donating another approximately 300 books from his personal library.

BIZZELL MEMORIAL LIBRARY and JUDAIC STUDIES

We do not have what the business calls a “dedicated Judaica librarian,” but we do have two very dedicated librarians who support our program: professors Laurie Scrivener and Kerry Magruder.

Scrivener, the History and Area Studies librarian, is our “main man” – ordering all of our many and multi-lingual Judaica book purchase requests, helping us track down obscure titles, and tutoring us in the use on of on-line sources. Laurie coordinates all gift acceptance and oversees our Judaica collection development. Always helpful, always knowledgeable, Laurie is a major source of our program’s success.

Magruder’s collaboration with Judaica turns on his role as curator of OU’s Bible collection. Unknown to many, the library contains an extraordinary collection of Bibles and Bible manuscripts, many of which were purchased for \$1 by William Bennett Bizzell, OU’s president from 1925-1941. Our collection contains several early King James Versions, the Geneva Bible (hated by King James; beloved by American Puritans), a slew of illustrated Bible manuscripts, and much more.



Laurie Scrivener

“As the History and Area Studies librarian, I have had the privilege of working with the Judaic Studies program and Norman Stillman since I started at OU in 1996. I have tried to develop the Judaica collection by making sure that our automatic book-purchasing plan includes major Judaica publishers and subjects and by ordering books requested by Judaic Studies’ faculty. The University of Oklahoma Libraries also has benefitted from donations of books, facilitated by Noam Stillman, and by Levenson. I am proud that the University of Oklahoma Libraries has become a place considered worthy of such substantial gifts. I look forward to many more years of working with the Judaic Studies program.”

Bizzell, president OU from 1925 to 1941, purchased his first old Bible for one dollar while a college student in Boston. That Geneva Bible is just one of the 665 Bibles included in the Bizzell Bible Collection.

The collection was given to the university in 1949 by Bizzell's family, with the provision that it be kept intact. Since 1987 the collection has been housed in the beautiful Gaylord Room of the Bizzell Memorial Library. President Bizzell's love for scholarship and books is reflected in his drive to complete the University Library in 1930. A statue of President Bizzell now gazes perpetually on the south entrance to the library that now bears his name.



Kerry Magruder

Many Bibles in the Bizzell Collection are significant cultural artifacts, testifying to historical and political events and the history of printing, as well as the cultural heritage of devout peoples. Many also are works of art, reflecting the skill and artistry of master craftsmen. Elegant typeface, tooled leather binding, fore-edge painting and woodcut illustrations attest to the fine workmanship exhibited in these Bibles.

Polyglot Bibles, like the one pictured at left, proved a critical tool for Bible scholars.

In his bookplate (right), President Bizzell is



pictured gazing down upon a large open Bible. Beneath a star declaring the year of his birth, he wears the robe and mortarboard of academic regalia.



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2012-2013 Brown-bag Lecture Series Continued Diverse Offerings

JuSt Lunch Brown-Bag Lecture Series, our monthly lecture series, captures the program's ethos: informal, diverse and high-quality. This Wednesday noontime event has been drawing students, scholars and OU community members since its inception.

"The Muslim Brotherhood and the Jews"
Professor Noam Stillman, OU

"Excavating Israel's Ancient Past
at Huqoq: What's to Dig?"
Professor Nina Livesey, OU

"The Baha'i Faith in Israel and Its Community's
Relations with the Jewish State"
Professor Gershon Lewental, Visiting
Schusterman Assistant Professor, OU

"New York Jewish Intellectuals
and Gender"
Dr. Ronnie Grinberg
Post-Doc, University of Colorado

"The Enemy at the Gates: Sennacherib's Siege
of Jerusalem through Judean Eyes"
Dr. Robb Andrew Young,
Graduate, Yale University

"Returning to Stay?
Jews in Germany After the Shoah"
Dr. Andrea Sinn, PhD,
University of Munich

"The Popularity of Sheva: The First
"Benevolent Hebrew" on the English
and American Stage"
Professor Eve Bannett, OU

"Antisemitism in Elite College
Admissions, 1900-1950"
Professor Andrew Porwancher, OU



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