

# AAJS of JEWISH STUDIES

In this issue:  
*News of our July AAJS  
Conference*

No. 20 July 1997

President: Dr Bernard Rechter  
Vice President NSW: Dr Myer Samra  
Vice President Vic: Dr Ziva Shavitsky

**Publisher: Australian Journal of Jewish Studies**

Honorary Secretary: Barbara Linz  
Treasurer: Sister Marianne Dicy  
Editor: Dr Rachel Kohn

## AAJS 11th Annual Conference

*Heinrich Himmler, the Architect of Genocide and American refugee Policy and European Jewry, 1933- 1945.*

He is also chief-editor of *Holocaust and Genocide Studies*, the leading Journal in the field of Holocaust and genocide studies.

We are fortunate to have such an outstanding scholar as the keynote speaker at our conference.

### Keynote Speaker:

Professor Richard Breitman will be the guest speaker at the conference. He shall be speaking on Sunday 13 July at the session immediately following lunch. He will be speaking on 'British intelligence decodes of German police messages in the course of the Holocaust'. (The matter of German police involvement in the Holocaust has, of course, been one of the subjects dealt with in Goldhagen's recent well publicised book, *Hitler's Willing Executioners*.)

Richard Breitman is Chair of History of the American University, Washington, DC, and author of numerous highly acclaimed and ground breaking studies, among them his work on

*Heinrich Himmler, the Architect of Genocide and American refugee Policy and European Jewry, 1933- 1945.*

We are fortunate to have such an outstanding scholar as the keynote speaker at our conference.

### Other contributors:

Other papers to be delivered at the conference cover a diverse range of research on many aspects on Jewish Studies. Topics covered include contemporary Middle Eastern politics, Hebrew literature, Jewish music and aspects of Australian Jewish history.

Dr Chanan Reich of Haifa University will deliver a paper on aspects of Australian government policies following the 1967 war. Professor Andrew McRedie, one of Australia's leading musicologists and formerly professor of Musicology at the University of Adelaide, will

speaking on music and composition and the Holocaust.

Other papers on aspects of Hebrew literature will be delivered by Dr Ziva Shavitsky, Mrs Rachel Birati, and Mr Dvir Abramovich.

All enquires regarding the conference should be

addressed to Mrs Ros Ben-Moshe, 17 Holland Grove, North Caulfield, 3161, Tel: (03) 9523 7857, or in Sydney to Sister Marianne Dacy at the University of Sydney (02) 9351 4162 from Monday to Wednesday.

## Our Journal

The highly regarded *Australian Journal of Jewish Studies* is now being distributed. We must apologise that due to a number of circumstances there was a delay in the publication of the 1996 issues and this issue covers both Numbers 1 & 2 of Volume 10, 1996.

This is the final journal which Dr Rachel Kohn will be editing. We would like to take this opportunity to thank her

for her seven years of outstanding service and dedication to the Association's Journal. Under her editorship the Journal has developed an extremely high profile and is extremely well regarded at the international level. She has brought a high level of expertise and devotion to her task and has been absolutely meticulous in everything which she has done. We owe her a great debt of gratitude.

## Centre for Intercultural Jewish Studies

The launch of the Centre for Intercultural Jewish Studies will take place at the Sydney Jewish Museum, 148 Darlinghurst Rd., Darlinghurst, on Tuesday, 5 August 1997, from 5.30 to 7 p.m.

Professor John Milfull, Director of the Centre will coordinate the launch which will officially

opened by the Governor of New South Wales, HE The Hon. Gordon Samuels, AC

Ms Susan Bures, Chair, NSW Arts Advisory Council, Deputy Chair, Ethnic Affairs Commission and former editor of the *Australian Jewish News*, will give an address on:



## 'Being Jewish in Australia'

This will be followed by Greetings to the new Centre from the Ambassador of Israel,

HE Mr Shmuel Moyal, represented by the chargé d'affaires, and the Director of the Sydney Jewish Museum, Rabbi Jeffrey Cohen.

## News from

As we mentioned briefly in the last newsletter, Dr Rodney Goultman's book *Bondi in the Sinai: Australia, the MFO and the Politics of Participation* was recently published by the University Press of America, Inc. The book reveals the political atmospherics behind Australia's involvement in the American-inspired Multi-national and Observers' Force in the Sinai. A child of the Egypt/Israel peace pact of 1979, the Force's lack of United Nations approval proved a formidable barrier for a sceptical Australian audience. Australia's inclusion in the MFO would not have

## Members

been possible without the singular efforts of her staunchly anti-Communist Prime Minister, Malcolm Fraser. Background factors examined include resentment of the American Alliance, changing attitudes to the Middle East peace process, and the emotional fall-out of the Vietnam War. This book deals with previously unpublished material in a holistic political analysis.

Rodney Goultman is Senior Lecturer at the Faculty of Education, University of South Australia, Underdale Campus.

## REMINDER!!!

## RENEWAL OF SUBSCRIPTIONS

If you have not renewed your subscription (notices were included with the last Newsletter) please do so as soon as possible. The Association is dependent on your membership.

# PRELIMINARY CALL FOR PAPERS

## THE CULTURE AND POLITICS OF THE DIASPORA

25 - 27 FEBRUARY 1998

We are planning to hold our Twelfth Annual Conference with the Centre for Intercultural Jewish Studies and the Centre for European Studies at the University of New South Wales.

### Key questions for papers include:

- Identification and integration patterns of citizens of Jewish extraction;
- German-Jewish assimilation: myth or reality;
- 'Ordinary people' and antisemitism(s);
- Mapping European antisemitism(s);
- The self-definition of (Jewish ) socialists;
- Multiple identities: cultural pluralism and modernity
- Jewish Americans and US politics;
- The Jewish Australian Experiences(s);
- Migrants and Refugees;
- Zionism and national identity.

Please submit your paper title, relating to one of the above questions, with an abstract of c100 words to Professor John Milfull, CENTRE FOR INTERCULTURAL JEWISH STUDIES:

j.milfull@unsw.edu.au  
by 30 September 1997.

All correspondence to:  
P.O Box 233, Holme Building  
UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY NSW 2006  
Ph: 9337 5064 Fax: 9388 8169

Items for the next newsletter should be sent to: The Editor Dr S Rutland  
Department of Semitic Studies  
Fax: 9351 6684  
email: Suzanne.Rutland@semitic.su.edu.au



# AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION of JEWISH STUDIES

No. 20 December 1997

President: Dr Bernard Rechter  
Vice President NSW: Dr Myer Samra  
Vice President Vic: Dr Zlva Shvartsky

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Since the July conference a number of important developments have occurred which, we hope, will strengthen the work of our Association. We have joined together with the Centre for Intercultural Jewish Studies headed by Professor John Milfull of the University of New South Wales for a major conference on the Jewish Diaspora which will take place from 25th to 27th February 1998 at the University. The full draft conference program is included in this Newsletter, as well as the registration form.

This conference promises to be an extremely exciting event and should not be missed by anyone interested in Jewish studies. There will be between ten to fourteen top international speakers at the conference, including Dr. David Bankier of Yad Vashem and the Hebrew University, and Professor David Cesarani of the Wiener Library in London. All major Diaspora themes will be explored. Professor Milfull has put an enormous amount of effort into organising this conference, for which we thank him. We are delighted that our Association is part of the proceedings. One of our previous Presidents, Professor Bill Rubinstein, will be coming out from Wales to attend. Bill was a strong supporter of our Association and it will be good to catch up with him in person.

As the Diaspora conference is our major annual conference for the year in Sydney, we will not be having a conference at our usual time in July. However, Dr. Ron Shapiro of the University of Western Australia is organising a major conference on Jewish Literature, again with a number of top international speakers, so I hope our members will avail themselves of this opportunity.

Our other major activity is the publication of the Journal. I have to apologise to members for the delay in the production of the 1997 Journal, due to the changing of the editorial guard and problems relating to finance. However I am pleased to announce that these difficulties have been overcome and we hope to have a Journal out early in the year.

I would again like to express my appreciation to Dr. Rachel Kohn for her outstanding contribution as the second editor of our Journal. Unfortunately, Rachel had to resign from this labour of love because of her commitments to ABC Radio National. We have been very lucky that Dr Rodney Goutrmann of the University of South Australia has agreed to take over the editorship. Rodney is a founding member of the Association, has served on the Executive as honorary treasurer, and is a well known educator and historian who has specialised in his research in Australia-Israel

relations. His most recent book is *Bondi over Sinai*. We are very grateful to Rodney for agreeing to become editor of our Journal.

We were also faced with the problem of lack of funds to produce the next Journal, but this difficulty has been overcome thanks to a grant from the Pratt Foundation which will enable us to publish the next Journal. Funding for a second Journal has also been promised. I would like to express my deep personal gratitude on behalf of the Association to Richard Pratt for agreeing to provide this assistance and to Sam Lipski, Editor-in-Chief of the Australian Jewish News for assisting us in procuring this grant.

Tertiary Jewish Studies is extremely important for the advancement of knowledge in this area and an Association such as ours is a key element for academic exchange through both the medium of our annual conferences and the publication of our Journal. I would like to see greater fostering of our students' work, both at the honours and post-graduate levels, with students being encouraged to present at conferences and to publish the results of their research in the Journal. In order to highlight the importance of university Jewish Studies, a one day seminar will take place in Sydney on 1 March, 1998, immediately after the Diaspora Conference, with guest speakers Professor Louis Waller and Dr Mark Baker from Melbourne. The NSW Jewish Board of Deputies and the NSW Inter-Schools Committee for Jewish Education are sponsoring a seminar for educators on Teaching the Holocaust on the Sunday before the Diaspora Conference, 22 February, 1998. Mrs Lilly Maltz of Academy BJE is coordinating the Holocaust Educators' seminar and Dr Ivan Cher is continuing to provide his total support for the university Jewish Studies seminar on 1 March 1998. With such a rich program on offer in Sydney from Sunday 22 February to Sunday 1 March, I hope that many academics and students will avail themselves of this opportunity.

I would also like to request all members to persuade interested friends to join our Association as we need to increase our membership if we are to resolve our financial crisis and continue to do the good work we are doing. Please do your best to attend the conference in February and to encourage new members to the Association.

I hope that everyone has a restful and productive break over the end of the year period. I, myself, am attending the Holocaust Educators' Course at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem and will be back in Australia at the beginning of February.

Suzanne D. Rutland

In this issue:  
*Diarize the  
February 1998  
Conference now*

Publisher: Australian Journal of Jewish Studies

Honorary Secretary: Barbara Lint  
Treasurers: Slatz Marianne Dey  
Editor: Dr Rachel Kohn

## Important and Fascinating Conference in February

### THE CULTURE AND POLITICS OF THE DIASPORA

Centre for Intercultural Jewish Studies and the Australian Association for Jewish Studies

JEWISH SECTION UNSW,  
25-27 February 1998

#### PROVISIONAL PROGRAM

Please Note: at present we do not have the precise titles of some papers - in many cases we have simply identified an "area".

1. Understanding Diaspora
  - Gabi Sheffer (Jerusalem) - *Defining Diaspora*
  - Howard Wettstein (UC Riverside) - *Judaism as a Religion of Exile*
  - Terry Ruth Winant (California State) - *The Portability of Roots: Analytical Tools for Diasporaphilia*
  - William Rubinstein (Aberystwyth) - *The Economic Context of Diaspora Development*
2. German-Jewish Assimilation: a Test Case:
  - Reinhard Ruerup (TU Berlin) - *Integration and Identity: Jewish Social History in Germany 1780-1933*
  - David Bankier (Jerusalem) - *Zionists, Communists and other German Jews*
  - Rafael Seligmann - *Germans and Jews*
  - John Milfull (UNSW) - *"Visibility and" Invisibility": The Paradox of German-Jewish Assimilation*
3. Israel and the Diaspora
  - Dan Michman (Bar Ilan) - *Back to Diaspora Experience in the Rebuilt Jewish Homeland?*
  - Rachel Birati (Monash) - *The Diaspora and Zionism as reflected in modern Hebrew Literature*
4. Identities and Diversities
  - David Cesarani (Southampton, Wiener Library) - *The Transformation of British Jewish Identity*
  - Tamas Stark (Budapest) - *The Jewish Community in Hungary since 1945*
  - Vera Ranki (Sydney) - *Hungarian Jewry*
  - Carmel U. Chiswick (Illinois) - *Judaism in the US and Israel: reactions to the economic context*
  - Geoffrey Brahm Levey (UNSW) - *When did the Liberalism of American Jews emerge?*
  - Clive Kessler (UNSW) - *A Malay Diaspora? The Other Side of Dr Mahathir's Jewish Problem?*
5. Australiana
  - Konrad Kwiatt (Macquarie) - *The Second Time Round? Re-aculturation of German-Jewish Refugees in Australia*
  - Suzanne Rutland - *Who is a Jew? Postwar Jewish Emigration to Australia and the Impact of the IRO Scheme*

continued on page 2



# Report from the Eleventh Annual Conference of the AAJS

## Held in July 1997

*The Eleventh Annual Conference of the Australian Association of Jewish Studies was held in Melbourne in the pleasant setting of the Kimberley Gardens' Hotel from 12th to 14th July 1997. Owing to the small number of people attending the 1996 Conference in Sydney, it was decided to plan a more limited two-day event in Melbourne this year. As in the previous year, numbers were small. Despite this disappointment, a very interesting programme was offered, the Plenary Speaker being Professor Richard Breitman, who holds the Chair of History at the American University in Washington DC. His stimulating talk was entitled: British Intelligence Decodes of German Police Messages in Relation to the Holocaust. Other papers covered such subjects as: The Jews of Earliest Christianity, The Representation of German Jewry in Modern 20th Century Hebrew Literature, and the Contribution of Euro-Judaic Musicians to Musical Life in Japan, China and the Philippines 1933-1960. A selection of the papers from the conference will be published in the journal for 1997.*

At the Annual General Meeting Dr Suzanne Rutland was elected as President, Prof Bernard Rechter (Vice-President), Mrs Barbara Linz (Secretary), and Sr Marianne Dacy (Treasurer). For the

moment, Dr Rodney Goultman will take over the editorship of the Australian Journal of Jewish Studies, which Dr Rachael Kohn so expertly edited over several years. A decision taken at the meeting was to hold the annual conference in February in the hope of attracting more participants because so many potential participants are overseas in July. July also clashes with dates for several other important conferences.

Repeating the words of the outgoing President Professor Bernard Rechter:

*'Unless all those involved in teaching and research in the higher education institutions in this field of study are prepared to maintain and in some cases develop an interest in the conferences of the Association: and unless we can begin to attract the many people who only have a marginal and occasional involvement in Jewish Studies, it is difficult to see a strengthening rather than a weakening of our endeavours. The number of academic workers and researchers in Jewish Studies in Australia is not large. We need to work together so as to develop our outreach and effectiveness.'*

## NEWS & INFORMATION

### THE EUROPEAN LEGACY TOWARD NEW PARADIGMS

*(Journal of the International Society for the Study of European Ideas ISSEI)*

DR. SASCHA TALMOR AND PROF.

EZRA TALMOR - Editors

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### ISSEI ON LISTSERV

If you are connected to email, you can now receive *FREE OF CHARGE*, regular and up-to-date information on The International Society for the Study of European Ideas (ISSEI) and its official journal, THE EUROPEAN LEGACY: TOWARD NEW PARADIGMS. You will be informed of the Society's news, its upcoming Conferences, and you will receive the latest Newsletters, all to your own email address.

You will also have the opportunity of sending out messages and announcements yourself.

Our aim is to provide a network of ISSEI members for discussions, exchange of ideas and information.

### HOW DO I SUBSCRIBE?

To subscribe to ISSEI's listserv, simply send an email message to: [Majordomo@uib.no](mailto:Majordomo@uib.no)

The text in the message should read ONLY: subscribe issci. (Nothing else, no signature either).

**IF I JOIN THE LIST NOW, HOW DO I RETRIEVE PREVIOUS INFORMATION WHICH WAS POSTED ON THE LISTSERV BEFORE I JOINED?**

Archived back issues on the ISSEI list can be found on the WEB

<http://www.uib.no/ums/lists/issci/96/>

**HOW DO I SUBMIT A MESSAGE TO THE OTHER MEMBERS ON THE LISTSERV SO THAT THEY ALL RECEIVE IT?**

By simply sending ONE email message to the following: [issci@uib.no](mailto:issci@uib.no) with the message in the text.

We urge you to take advantage of this free service and become involved in the vision of creating a EUROPEAN ACADEMY via the Internet with a constant flow and exchange of ideas.

**CHECK OUT OUR HOME-PAGE:**

<http://www.mitpress.mit.edu/jrnls-catalog/euro-legacy.html>



# FROM JERUSALEM



# TO ROME †

*Marianne Dacy has been working in the Archive of Australian Judaism since 1983. She is a Sister of our Lady of Sion, an*

*organisation which focuses on Jewish/Christian relations in a 'social justice context' which is sensitive to prejudice and racism. Marianne lived in Israel for 10 years where she began her Masters at the Hebrew University. Back in Sydney she is in the process of doing her Doctorate on 'The break between Church and Synagogue'. She is also the secretary of the Council of Christians and Jews and the honorary treasurer of the Australian Association of Jewish studies.*

*Thanks to financial support from the Dunera Association, the Pratt Foundation and the Gavermer Foundation as well as donations from Friends of the Archive of Australian Judaism towards her expenses, it was possible for Marianne to attend five overseas Congresses between July and September 1997.*

*Marianne filed this report on her fascinating trip:*

1. At the Twelfth World Congress of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem, I presented a paper on Boaz Bischofswerder, a German Jewish refugee musician
2. At the International Congress of The Dead Sea Scrolls Fifty Years after their Discovery, I presented a further paper on links between an early Christian document and the Dead Sea Scrolls
3. In Rome, I attended the Women's Seminar of the International Council of Christians and Jews whose theme was 'The Other as Partner', the actual Colloquium of the International Council of Christians and Jews whose theme was 'The Other as Mystery and Challenge', and another international symposium in Rome on the topic of Good and Evil After Auschwitz -Ethical Implications for Today.

## ISRAEL

### The Dead Sea Scrolls Fifty Years After Their Discovery

The Congress took place in Jerusalem at the Israel Museum from 20-25th July, and was attended by over four hundred participants from all around the world. The programme was structured so that some sessions and events catered to the more general interests of a wider public, while others dealt with specific scholarly topics, such as the interpretation of the Hebrew Bible at Qumran, the teachings of Qumran in the context of Second Temple Judaism, languages, Apocrypha and poetry and liturgy. Sessions of a more general interest included demonstrations of computer-assisted research on the Dead Sea Scrolls, perspectives on the archaeology of the Judean Desert, a discussion by novelists and evening session on the Dead Sea Scrolls in modern scholarship. Geza Vermes and David Flusser (now in his eighties) were among the lecturers who spoke at the latter sessions. In all, one hundred and twenty papers were presented, and these will be published in the Congress Proceedings.

## Australian Participants

Several Australians were involved in both the organisation of the Congress as well as presenting papers. These included two ex-patriot Australians, the Congress secretary, Janet Amitai (Daughter of Gerda Buckwalter of Sydney who served for many years in the office of the NSW Friends of the Hebrew University) and Michael Stone who moderated some of the sessions. Papers were also presented by four Australians from Sydney University: Lena Cansdale (Origins of the Name of Qumran), Alan Crown and Marianne Dacy (The Epistle to Barnabas and the Dead Sea Scrolls. The Idea of Knowledge), and Barbara Thiering.

Overall the Congress was an event of great diversity and richness representing a comprehensive presentation of the achievements and struggles of fifty years of research into the Dead Sea Scrolls.

### Twelfth World Congress of Jewish Studies (July 29th-August 5th 1997)

This Congress is the largest on record to date, with twelve hundred papers being presented, including two from members of the AAJS, Fred Klarberg and myself. The range of topics was extremely broad, the schedule of lectures covering six broad divisions: A: The Bible and its periods from ancient to modern), C: Rabbinic Literature, Jewish law and thought, D: Literatures, languages and arts, and E: Contemporary Jewish society. Papers were on such topics as: Dead Sea Scrolls; Jews and Christians in the Early Modern Period; Holocaust Research; Geonim and Rishonim; The Beginning of Yiddish and the Attitude to the 'Other'; History of the Hebrew language; Israeli Society; Levitas and Contemporary Philosophy; Magic; Second Temple Period History or Biblical Historiography. Only a selection of these papers will be published owing to the record numbers of papers. As with the Qumran Conference, a number of cultural events were offered as well as fieldtrips.

As well as attending the congress I was able to benefit from a side trip to Jordan to see Petra, Mt Nebo, Madaba, Wadi Rum, ancient Amman and the Roman city of Jerash. I also spent time in the Central Zionist Archives in Jerusalem in listing Australian material, with the view to eventually having it microfilmed. Over the years, the Archive of Australian Judaism has been able to microfilm a significant portion of early Zionist material that previously could not be found in Australia. In addition, I was hosted at the Israel Museum of the Diaspora by Rina Shaham, who staffs the Research Department and with whom I have corresponded and sent material from the Archive for several years.

## ITALY

After Israel I went on to three more weeks in Italy where I attended the Women's Seminar of the International Council of Christians and Jews, the Colloquium of the International Council of Christians and Jews at Rocca di Pappa and then the Colloquium of SIDIC on Good and Evil After Auschwitz. Orit Shapiro, a member of the ACT Jewish community, and a doctoral student writing her thesis on fundamentalism in the Middle East who is very active in interfaith work

in Canberra also attended the ICCJ Colloquium as well as

the Youth Congress of the ICCJ which preceded it. Her fares and expenses were paid mostly from donations from Christians. As a result of her attendance, she was elected to the Executive of the youth committee of the ICCJ. Rome was chosen as the venue for the Colloquiums because of its strong symbolic value. It is the residence of the head of a large part of Christianity, and also the home of the oldest Jewish community in the diaspora. In addition, it has the largest mosque in Europe, opened only in 1995, and is a city with a very high academic concentration.

### International Symposium. Good and Evil After Auschwitz - Ethical Implications for Today.

This took place at the Gregorian University from 22nd-25th September. In addition to the speakers and universities involved, hundreds of individuals in Italy, Europe and throughout the world were invited to participate, and over four hundred would have actually been present. The first public envisioned, and to whom the symposium programs were sent were Italian, European and international institutions of higher learning, but participation was open to leaders in the religious and political fields as well as other interested persons.

The symposium was sponsored by SIDIC (Service International de Documentation Judéo-Christienne), the Pontifical Gregorian University and the Università de Rome "Tor Vergata."

Three Australian were at the Symposium, Sr Shirley Sedawie (NDS), and two members of the Australian Association of Jewish Studies, Dr Paul Bartrop and myself. The task put before the speakers was to begin from the tragic experience of organised evil as had taken place at Auschwitz, so as to reflect on the ethical implications for today.

*It was felt that the implications of the Shoah had barely begun to penetrate Christian theology or world consciousness, and it was recognised that it is imperative to address this question. The atmosphere and mind set that had produced the Shoah are still present in our world, today, as shown in recent events in the Serbo-Bosnian war, for example, and horrific events still occurring in Africa. All forms of violence inspired by religious intolerance or by manifestations of recurring racism are continuing to appear on the world scene. The meeting was informed, that as a result of reflection, the European bishops had made a resolution to devote one day in the Church's calendar to repentance for the Church's actions against the Jews over the centuries.*

Again, in between sessions as in Jerusalem, I was able to profit from the richness of the environment to see traces of the earliest Jews and Christians, and to search for material in libraries for my thesis. It was a very eventful and wonderful time. It is quite difficult to encapsulate an experience.... for that is the way I would describe the overall feeling of this trip. One remembers fragments of talks, but it is the atmosphere and the people present that one remembers more, the ambience, the music, the conversations, the controversies, the challenges raised, the explorations....

Marianne Dacy

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Items for the next newsletter should be sent to: The Editor Dr S Rutland  
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continued from page 1

- Chanan Reich (Haifa) - *The Australian Jewish Community and Australian Foreign Policy: the Impact of the 1967 and 1973 Israeli-Arab Wars*
- Birgit Lang (Vienna) - *An Austrian-Jewish Diaspora: The Sydney LittleWinnese Theatre*
- Ron Shapiro (Western Australia) - *The Jew in Australian Fiction*
- Peter Montezath (Adelaide) - *Holocaust Remembrance in Australia*

In addition, we are planning the following:

- Mark Braham (Sydney) - *reading from his new book, Stranger than Fiction*

#### Panel Discussion

- Rabbi Apple, Ian Bersten, Rabbi Fox, Bernhard Rechter: Chair: Rachel Kohn - *Jewish Identities in Australia*

Please check our Webpage (address at the end) for updates to the program.

#### Hotels for conference - Two favorites:

- Cranbrook Hotel, 601 New South Head Rd, Rose Bay NSW 2029, (+61 2) 9327 7770. Very pretty location, easy bus connection to city and the prettiest parts of Sydney Harbour. A European-style Pension with breakfast, unpretentious and cheap (currently AU\$76). Campus access: a bit fussy, but it could be worth it for the rest of your stay.
- Sullivans Hotel, 21 Oxford St. Paddington

2021 Phone: (+61 2) 9361-0211 Fax: 9360-3735; Under \$100. Near Kings Cross "This small, friendly, family-owned and -operated hotel is exceptional value. Just a 15-minute walk from the city in fashionable Paddington, the hotel is close to the shops, cafes, restaurants, movie theatres, and nightlife of Oxford Street. The best rooms are those overlooking the central courtyard and pool, and the terrace houses at the rear. Guest rooms are decorated in a contemporary style, and families can book adjoining rooms for a modest additional charge. Those at the front are subject to considerable traffic noise. AE, DC, MC, V. 62 rooms with shower. Breakfast room, pool, bicycles." Campus access: easy bus connection.

#### Local Accommodation

- Barker Lodge Flag Inn, 32 Barker Street, Kingsford, NSW, 2032, Opposite Gate 14 of UNSW (+61 2) 9662 8444
- Trade Winds Hotel NRMA 4 star, 200 Maroubra Road, Maroubra, NSW 2035, 30 minute walk, good public buses (+61 2) 9344 5555
- Holiday Inn (Coogee Beach), 242 Arden Street, Coogee, NSW 2034, 25 minute walk, shuttle bus (+61 2) 9315 7600
- Gemini Hotel, 65 Belmore Road, Randwick NSW 2031, 10 minute walk (+61 2) 9399 9011
- Kensington Motel Apartments, 147 Anzac

Parade, Kensington, NSW, 2033, 10 minute walk (+61 2) 9663 0631

- Coogee Sands Motor Inn, 161 Dolphin Street, Coogee NSW 2034, 25 minute walk (+61 2) 9665 8588

#### College Accommodation

- Kensington Colleges, Gate 6, High Street, Kensington, NSW 2033. On Campus UNSW. Contact Fiona Bowic on (+61 2) 9663 8103
  - Shalom College, Barker St., Kensington NSW 2033. On Campus - our Jewish college, kosher cuisine (+61 2) 9663 1366
- For discounted rates mention that you are a UNSW Conference Delegate

For info and images of Sydney, try: <http://www.cse.unsw.edu.au/~i2197602/sydney.html>

We will be happy to assist with accommodation reservations for overseas participants; please let Professor John Milfull know of your wishes, and he will do his best to find suitable accommodation.

Professor John Milfull

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# CONFERENCES

## MILLENNIUM -

### CALL FOR PAPERS

<<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/departments/history/amll/>

5 - 10 July 1998

*The Journal of Religious History* will be sponsoring this scholarly meeting to inaugurate the *Religious History Society*.

It will be held in conjunction with the next Biennial Australian Historical Association Conference, from 5 to 10 July 1998 at the University of Sydney.

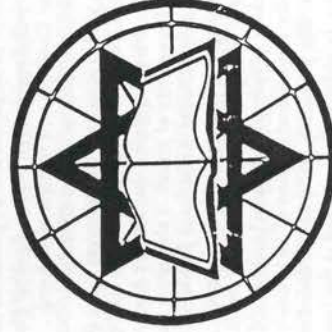
The major theme for the meeting is: Millennium.

People submitting papers are invited to consider the theme as widely as possible, and to engage with past and future millennium events, as well as the phenomenon of millennialism. Papers selected for presentation at the meeting will be considered for publication in the special Millennium issue of the *Journal of Religious History* to appear in the year 2000.

The Millennium Meeting is an innovation of the *Journal of Religious History* Association and all scholars with an interest in the scholarly practice of religious history are urged to attend.

Scholars attending the conference, or submitting expressions of interest, will be invited to form a new international society

for the study of religious history, to be called the Religious History Society. Benefits of membership will include individual subscription to the *Journal of Religious History*, notice of future conferences and other activities to be decided at the Millennium Meeting.



*Initial inquiries about the Millennium Meeting should be directed to:*

Dr Hilary M. Carey

JRH Millennium Meeting

Editor, *Journal of Religious History*

History Department

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email: [Joan.Patrick@history.usyd.edu.au](mailto:Joan.Patrick@history.usyd.edu.au)

*Offers of papers, with a 100 word abstract, should be forwarded by 28 December, 1997 to:*

Dr Penny Russell

Convener, AHA Conference '98

Department of History

The University of Sydney NSW 2006

AUSTRALIA

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or

Dr Hilary M. Carey

## MODERN JEWISH LITERATURE. A SYMPOSIUM ON TWENTIETH CENTURY JEWISH WRITING

JULY 6 - 9, 1998.

To be held at the University of Western Australia, Nedlands, Perth, 6907.

## CALL FOR PAPERS AND OTHER FORMS OF PRESENTATION

For more information please contact

English Department,

Telephone (61 8) 9380 2071

Fax (61 8) 9380 1030

Email [rs Shapiro@cyllenc.uwa.edu.au](mailto:rs Shapiro@cyllenc.uwa.edu.au)



# AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION of JEWISH STUDIES

**In this issue:**  
*New President &  
Executive Director for  
the NSW Friends of the  
Hebrew University*

No. 21 September 1998

President: Dr Bernard Rechter  
Vice President NSW: Dr Myer Samra  
Vice President Vic: Dr Zlva Shavitsky

Publisher: Australian Journal of Jewish Studies

Honorary Secretary: Barbara Linz  
Treasurer: Sister Marianne Dacy  
Editor: Dr Rachel Kohn

## Successful Conference provokes lively debate

### The Culture and Politics of the Diaspora:

#### Centre for Intercultural Jewish Studies & Australian Association for Jewish Studies

University of New South Wales, 23-27 February 1998

In late February the twelfth annual conference of the Australian Association of Jewish Studies in association with the Centre for European Studies (directed by Professor John Milful) and the Modern Greek Studies Department at the University of New South Wales, participated in a cross disciplinary conference on the Culture and Politics of the Diaspora. The conference was organised by Professor John Milful, Director of the Centre for Intercultural Jewish Studies. It had a strongly international flavour with scholars participating from Austria, Britain, Germany, Israel and the United States.

The conference consisted of one section focussing on the Greek experience, while the second section was devoted to the Jewish experience in Europe,

Australia and North America. Although the two sections shared a common theme, they were planned as self-contained 'seminar-conferences', and participants could choose to attend one or other of the conferences, or both. Wednesday 25 February was a 'crossover day' as the program included a number of papers relevant to both sections.

On the evening of Tuesday 24 February delegates were welcomed at a reception hosted by the British Council and the Goethe Institute. Professor Konrad Kwiet, now at Macquarie University, has a long association with the Goethe Institute, having been a major organiser of a conference held there in 1985 on the German Jewish Experience.

#### The Jewish Diaspora

The papers presented provoked lively debate and exchanges of opinion. Seminar participants included several international

speakers from Great Britain, Israel, Austria, Germany, the United States and Hungary, as well as from Sydney and interstate.

The Jewish section of the conference was opened by Professor Gabi Sheffer, political scientist from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, whose research in the area of the Jewish Diaspora is well known. Previous president of the Association, Professor W. D. Rubinstein was present, coming all the way from Wales to present a paper on 'Jewish Participation in the Economic Elite of Diaspora Societies and Anti-Semitism'. Vrasidas Karalis (Sydney) spoke on 'Minor languages and minority voices in contemporary Greece: The Greek-Jewish Adventure as literature'. Other papers included: Danny Ben-Moshe's (Melbourne) 'Implications of Post-Zionism for Diaspora Jewry', Vera Ranki (Sydney) 'The

*continued on page 2* ▲



**The Culture and  
Politics of the  
Diaspora:  
Centre for  
Intercultural Jewish  
Studies & Australian  
Association  
for Jewish Studies**

**University of  
New South Wales**

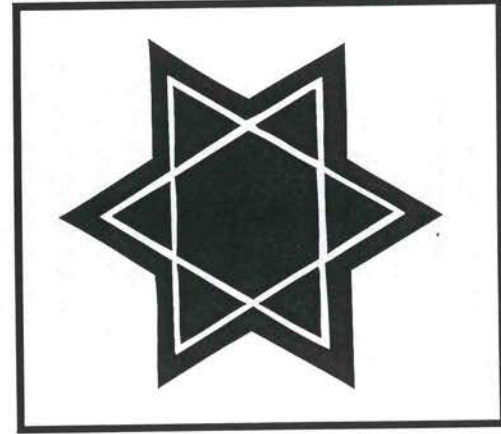
**23-27 February 1998**

Golden Age of Security: Jews, Modernity and identity in Hungary, 1867-1914', Suzanne Rutland's 'Subtle Exclusions: Postwar Jewish emigration to Australia and the Impact of the IRO Scheme', and Birgit Langs (Vienna) 'Austrian-Jewish Diaspora: the Sydney Little Viennese Theatre'; and a reading by Mark Braham from his new book 'Stranger than Fiction'.

In all it was a very stimulating conference. Publication of the papers is being organised by Professor John Milful. In 1999, it is planned that the Australian Association of Jewish Studies will hold its annual conference in Melbourne in July.

### **Modern Jewish Literature Symposium:**

**University of Western Australia • 6-9 July 1998**



**The Modern Jewish Literature Symposium was held at The University of Western Australia on 6 - 9 July 1998.**

It was an event which attracted delegates from over half a dozen overseas countries as well as a strong contingent of Australian Jewish authors from around Australia. The symposium consisted of events including formal papers, informal talks, panel discussion and readings from published works or works in progress. The emphasis was on considerations surrounding a notion of modern Jewish identity, and the aim was for frank and open engagement.

At the opening ceremony Dr Ron Shapiro, the symposium convenor, welcomed delegates and discussed some of the reasons for putting on a conference of this kind at a time when, he said, world Jewry seems more

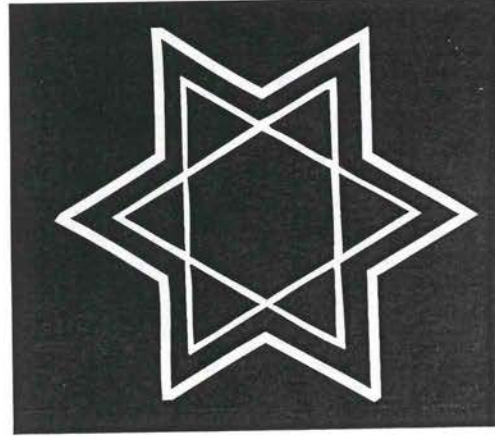
internally divided than perhaps ever before. Professor Alex Cohen, Chancellor of UWA, followed with an entertaining and witty address, followed in turn by Ambassador Shmuel Moyal from the Israel Embassy in Canberra who spoke authoritatively on Israeli literature today. This set the tone for four days of discussion, listening and, on occasion, of impassioned exchanges.

The additional spin-off for many delegates was the informal or social side of the gathering in that many delegates who knew each other only by name had an opportunity to introduce themselves. Many addresses and contact numbers were exchanged. The symposium concluded on the last day with a dinner and, for a few staying for the following day, an excursion. Many people, then and since, have expressed their enthusiasm for the symposium with its focus on matters pertaining to Jewish identity TODAY rather than with the more customary 'archaeological' Jewish Studies approach, not a few adding they hoped there will be more of the same.

### **Australian Journal of Jewish Studies Vol XI 1997**

Volume XI was produced earlier this year as the first Journal to be edited by Dr Rodney Goultman who has taken over the editorship from Dr Rachel Kohn. Rodney is to be congratulated on an excellent publication.

There is an interesting collection of articles covering a range of topics from Jewish prayer in the First Century written by Marianne Dacy to modern Hebrew literature by Ziva Shavitsky and Rachel Birati. Rodney is now working on the next Journal which will be published shortly.





# NEWS From Members

## Paul Bartrop

Dr Paul Bartrop has been elected as an honorary Research Fellow in the School of Australian and International Studies at Deakin University, for his work in the area of Jewish History (particularly the Holocaust). He is based at Deakin's Burwood campus. As always, Paul R. Bartrop has been very active in publication. Some recent articles and chapters are:

'Experience', in *The Australian Jewish Experience*:

*A Colloquium*, Australian Jewish Historical Society (Victoria), 1998, pp1-9.

'Divergent Experiences on the frontier: Jews and Aborigines in Early Colonial Australia', *Australian Jewish Historical Society Journal*, vol XIV, Part 1 (November 1997) pp23-37.

**Destruction without**

**Genocide'**, *Genocide Perspectives*, vol 1 (1997), pp66-108.

Paul R. Bartrop and Lois Foster '**The Roots of Multiculturalism in Australia and Canada**', in Kate Burridge, Lois Foster and Gerry Turcotte (eds) *Canada-Australia: Toward a Second Century of partnership* Ottawa: International Council for

Canadian Studies, Carleton University Press, 1997, pp267-86.

Paul has also delivered papers at the AAJS Eleventh Annual conference in Melbourne, 1997; the JEN/ZFA Conference, Melbourne, 1997; and the Association of Principals of Jewish Schools of Australasia, Melbourne 1998.

'**The Year of Uncertainty: Australians and the Image of Foreign Jews in 1946**', in Howard Freeman (ed), *A Portion of Praise: A Festschrift to honour John S. Levi*

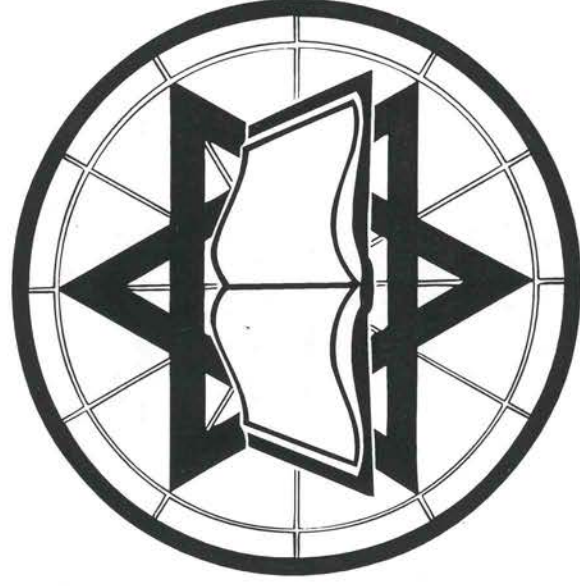
Melbourne: Progressive Jewish Culture Fund, 1997, pp246-266.

"**These people are undesirable ...**":

**Australian responses to Refugees from Nazism before World War II**, in

G. Jan Colijn and Marcia Sachs Littell (eds) *Confronting the Holocaust: A Mandate for the twenty-first Century (Essays in Honour of Yehuda Bauer)* Lanham (Maryland): University Press of America, 1997, pp63-80.

'**Jewish Emancipation in the mid-Nineteenth Century: The Australian**



'**Comparative Genocide Studies at the University of South Australia: A Report on a course**', *International Network on Holocaust and Genocide*, vol 12, no 3 (1997), pp 10-12.

'**The Powhatans of Virginia and the English Invasion of America:**

## Suzanne Rutland & Sophie Caplan

In June of this year *With*

*One Voice: A History of the New South Wales Jewish Board of Deputies* co-authored by Suzanne Rutland and Sophie Caplan, was published as a special publication of the Australian Jewish Historical Society, supported by a grant from the NSW Ethnic Affairs Commission.

### PLEASE NOTE:

I am dependent on members for copy for this section. Please send me information about your latest publications or any news of important developments which you would like recorded in this Newsletter.



# New President and Executive Director for the NSW Friends of the Hebrew University

**T**he NSW Friends of the Hebrew University has confirmed a new President and a new Executive Director. Michael Dunkel, Senior Partner of Denes Ebner Solicitors and long-time Honorary Solicitor of the Friends of the Hebrew University, is the new NSW President.

Michael Dunkel began his association with the NSW Friends in 1964 when he joined the NSW Friends of the Hebrew University Younger Set and starred in the Younger Set's reviews in 1965, 1966 and 1968. In 1974 the then President, the late John Hammond, asked him to join the executive committee of the NSW Friends. He has been a member of the

committee, except for a short interruption, ever since and has been largely responsible for the handling of estate matters, a major source of revenue for the Hebrew University in NSW. He served as Vice President before his recent elevation to President. He is also a trustee of the Sir Zelman Cowen Universities Fund.

Announcing the appointment of Don Perlgut as the NSW Friends of the Hebrew University Executive Director, Michael Dunkel said "We are most pleased to have Don join us, and bring his unique combination of skills in fund-raising, higher education, management, public relations and Jewish communal awareness. He is already working as part of our team on the visit to Australia later this month of Professor Hanoch Gutfreund,

immediate past President of the Hebrew University.

Don Perlgut spent eleven years at ABC Television, the last six managing the Open Learning and Adult Education programs. He has been the film critic for *The Australian Jewish News* since 1988. He frequently lectures on Jewish film topics to community groups, including in the Hebrew University Melton Jewish Adult Education Program run by the Shalom Institute. Most recently he worked as a consultant to

Australian Pay TV channels and education video producers. While studying for his bachelors degree in Political Science from Cornell University, he studied Middle East politics at the Hebrew University. He also holds a Masters Degree in City Planning from the University of California, Berkeley.

## REMINDER!

### RENEWAL OF SUBSCRIPTIONS

Included with this Newsletter is a form for renewal of subscriptions.

It would be appreciated if you can fill in the form and return your subscription to us promptly.

*The Association is dependent on your membership.*

All correspondence to:  
P.O Box 233, Holmc Building  
UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY NSW 2006  
Ph: 9337 5064 Fax: 9388 8169

Items for the next newsletter should be sent to: The Editor Dr S Rutland  
Department of Semitic Studies  
Fax: 9351 6684  
email: Suzanne.Rutland@semitic.su.edu.au



# AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION of JEWISH STUDIES

No. 22 April 1999

President: Dr Bernard Rechter  
Vice President NSW: Dr Myer Samra  
Vice President Vic: Dr Ziva Shavitsky

In this issue:

- *New Developments at the University of Sydney*
- *Post Graduate Courses*

Publisher: Australian Journal of Jewish Studies

Honorary Secretary: Barbara Linz  
Treasurer: Sister Marianne Dacy  
Editor: Dr Rachel Kohn

## EXCITING PLANS for the Australian Association for Jewish Studies in 1999

**T**his year promises to be a productive year for the Australian Association for Jewish Studies. After much discussion, it was decided that our conference for 1999 should be based on a theme and it was decided to focus on Australian Jewry with the title:

**“Australian Jewry - From a Remnant of Israel to a Vibrant Community”. This conference will be held jointly with the Australian Jewish Historical Society and the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society.**

We also decided to hold the conference at a different time of the year. We are holding it in the first weekend in November, rather than during the June/ July break, largely because so many of our members tend to go overseas to attend conferences held during the Northern Hemisphere summer. So please note down carefully the change of time for the conference in your diary.

We have an active conference committee in Melbourne, headed by Dr Rachel Birati, who is to be congratulated on her recent award of her doctorate. We have included a call for papers on the last page of

this Newsletter. I please note that the closing date is 1 August 1999.

Dr Rodney Goultman, our editor, is working hard on the production of the next Journal. Anyone who has material should send it to him. Rodney has just moved from Adelaide to Melbourne and is an associate with the Monash Centre for Jewish Civilisation. Rodney is now canvassing contributions for the Journal. His new address and contact numbers are:

**Dr Rodney Goultman**

2/33 Goe Street,

South Caulfield, Victoria 3162

Tel/Fax: 03 9671 3783

email:

[Rodney.Goultman@arts.monash.au](mailto:Rodney.Goultman@arts.monash.au)

I am sure that Adelaide's loss will be Melbourne's gain although Rodney, who was the backbone of the Adelaide Hebrew Congregation for many years, will be sorely missed there. We would like to acknowledge the generous donation of the Pratt Foundation which covered the costs associated with the publication of the Journal last year, and hope that the Foundation will again be generous in their support of our endeavours.

I would like to take this opportunity to urge all members to try to encourage new people to join our Association. For this reason, we are including a membership form, in case you have a friend or friends who you think would be interested in joining us. We also need to encourage students to become members of the Association, and for this reason we need to reassess the student membership category at our next AGM.

I would like to thank one of our honours students, Raquel HaSofer for assisting in putting this Newsletter together. I feel that the involvement of the next generation in the work of the Association is vital if this organisation is to have a future. I would also like to thank Mrs Barbara Linz, our honorary secretary, for her continuing support, and in particular for assisting with the design and production of the Newsletter.

Please remember that the Newsletter is dependent on all of you for information. I was glad to receive and publish information from three members for this Newsletter. Please keep sending me copy!

Suzanne D. Rutland, Newsletter Editor

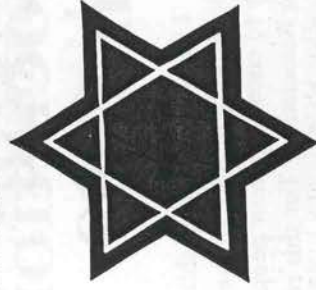




# CREATING LINKS

for

## Honours/ Postgraduate students in Australia



**O**ne key role of the Australian Association for Jewish Studies is to foster Jewish Studies at the graduate level in all areas of the discipline.

While the problem of isolation during postgraduate studies is a real issue for all students, it is even more the case in the area of Jewish Studies. Often there may only be a couple of students involved in postgraduate research at any one institution, so they do not have the opportunity of stimulation from colleagues facing similar problems and issues in their research. This difficulty can be partly overcome by fostering links across Australia so that students at one university can link into other students with similar interests. With the facility of the internet, this is much more feasible than it was in the past. This Newsletter can also be a way of keeping all those interested in tertiary Jewish Studies informed of new research projects at the postgraduate level.

# NEWS From Members

*Recent publications for  
Malcolm Turnbull:*

"From VJBD to JCCV: a Short History", in *Jewish Community Council of Victoria: 50th Anniversary Celebrations Booklet*, JCCV 1997, p.6-13

"The Three North Americans': the Early Spiritual Leadership of the Beth Israel Synagogue", in *The Australian Jewish Experience: a Colloquium. Papers presented on 26 August 1997 to honour Rabbi John S. Levi*. A.J.H.S. Vic, 1998, p.33-41

"The Reverend Isidore Meyers (1856-1922)", *Australian Jewish Historical Society Journal* 14(3), 1998, p.508 - 528.

*Victims or Villains: Jewish Images in Classical English Detective Fiction.* Bowling Green State University Popular Press, 1998.



*Recent Publications for Dr Phillip Mendes: Department of Social Work, Monash University:*

"The Rise and Fall of the Jewish/Left Alliance: An Historical and Political Analysis" in *Australian Journal of Politics and History*, In Press.

"AMESA and the Jewish Community: Towards New Directions", *Australasian Middles East Studies Association Newsletter*, November 1998.

Dr. Mendes is currently working on a research proposal with Professor Bernard Rechter and Dr. Michael Stevenson at Monash University relating to the question of "Jews and the Left: Different Political Traditions and Ideologies Within the Jewish Australian Community".

*Hilary Rubenstein, Former editor of the AAJS newsletter, writes from Wales:*

Since coming to Wales I continue to pursue Jewish Studies. I am teaching a course in Modern Jewish History in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Wales at Lempeter. My husband Bill and I have finished a book which is in press, to be published in 1999 by Macmillan, entitled, 'Philosemitism: Admiration and Support in the English-Speaking World for Jews, 1840-1939'. I am now working on a textbook on Modern Jewish History, co-authored with two other people, to be published by Edward Arnold of London. Bill is one of my co-authors. Apart from teaching at Lempeter and working on these two books, I gave the annual Lady Magnus lecture at the Jewish Historical Society of England on the topic, "A Pioneering Philosemite: Charlotte Elizabeth Tonna (1790-1845) and the Jews". A version of this paper appeared in *A Portion of Praise: A Festschrift to Honour John S. Levi* (Melbourne, 1997).

I have not completely abandoned work on Australian Jewish history. For instance my article "Early manifestations of Holocaust Denial in Australia" appeared in the *Australian Jewish Historical Society Journal*, vol. 14, part 1, 1997, pp.93-109. It concerns developments in Australia pre-dating the emergence of John Bennett in 1979. My article entitled "A Gross Discourtesy to his Majesty": The Campaign Within Australia, 1930-31, Against Sir Isaac Isaacs' Appointment as Governor-General' appeared in the *Australian Jewish Historical Society Journal*, vol 14, part 3, November 1998.





# New Developments at the University of Sydney



**A**t the Department of Semitic Studies at the University of Sydney we have had an Honours program accepted for the course Jewish Civilisation, Thought and Culture.

The course was offered for the first time in 1998 and two students graduated with their honours at the end of last year. This year we have three students as discussed in the next article. As can be seen below, the new program offers the students the opportunity to specialise in one area – either the classical period or the modern period. The four courses offered in the classical strand were remodelled from courses previously offered, while the six courses offered at the modern period are all completely new. Below is a description of this new program both in terms of units of study offered and content. In addition, a third year is being offered to the Beginners

Yiddish class taught by Henry Roth Lecturer in Yiddish, Dr Jennifer Dowling, and to the Beginners Hebrew program taught by the Malka Einhorn Lecturer, Ms Yona Gilead.

At the end of last year and early this year, two important new appointments were made. In December last year Ms Leanne Piggott was appointed as the FAI Lecturer in Modern Israel Studies, a position largely funded by Mr Rodney Adler, AM, whose support of this position has been greatly appreciated. The Pratt Foundation is also contributing to this position. In February this year, Mr Chaim Opperman was appointed to the position of Jewish Education Coordinator in the Faculty of Education, replacing Tony Buchen who had filled the position in a temporary capacity for two years. Chaim Opperman brings great skills and expertise to this position. He has

had 31 years of experience in language teaching with the Department of School Education, the last three being as Acting Inspector for Languages at the NSW Board of Studies where he was in charge of the teaching of 38 languages.

There is no doubt that the teaching of Hebrew and Jewish Studies in the Department of Semitic Studies at the University of Sydney is flourishing, with student numbers growing each year. Our Department offers Hebrew, both Classical and Modern with a full program for both beginners and advanced students; Yiddish for Beginners; Biblical Studies and Jewish civilisation, Thought and Culture which includes Modern Israel Studies. The large number of graduates from the teacher education program (now over 50 students) has provided further impetus to the growth of the Department.

Suzanne D. Rutland

## Postgraduate Courses in Semitic Studies at Sydney University

*Courses offered for Honours and Masters students range from the classical to the modern period.*

- Options in the classical period include:
- *Literature of the Biblical Period*
  - *Jewish Writings of the Second Temple Period*
  - *Jewish Sages and their Institutions*
  - *Socio-religious developments in the First to Third Centuries.*

The modern stream offers studies in:

- *Yiddish Literature in Translation*
- *Yiddish Popular Culture*
- *The Australian Jewish Experience*
- *The Evolution of Judaism in the New World*
- *The Zionist Dream: Myth or Reality*
- *Israel and the Arabs: History and Perceptions.*

*Jewish Civilisation: Methodology*

*and Tools* is a compulsory core course to be studied by all students. It is a basic introduction, looking at issues of definitions, the challenges posed by the study of Biblical and post-Biblical sources, issues of inter-disciplinary approach, and the history and role of the major languages.

This year, three students are undertaking their Honours year through Semitic Studies. Siobhan Joseph, a joint History and Semitic Studies student, is writing her thesis on the Australian Nazi war crimes trials and why they failed.

Raquel Hasofer is investigating the question of the Messiah emerging from the living or from the dead, as a theological issue in contemporary Judaism, and Aviva Bard is examining the manner in which Jewish authors have portrayed the figure of the Golem in literature.

Two students from the Department of Semitic Studies this year were awarded an Australian Postgraduate Award to undertake a doctorate at Sydney University. Rachel Bard, a Semitic Studies student, is concerned with post-World War Two Egyptian Jewish migration to Australia, and Tony Buchen with the Department of History jointly supervised by Suzanne Rutland, is writing a comparison of Jewish identity as it developed in Australia and the United States in the inter-war years.

We would very much welcome postgraduate students at other universities around Australia involved in the field of Jewish Studies, to send information concerning their areas of research and courses offered by their institutions.



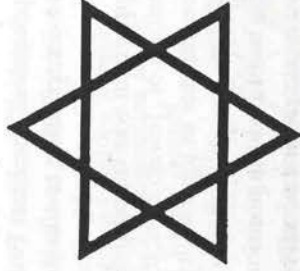
# CALL FOR PAPERS

*The Australian Association of Jewish Studies is holding its  
1999 conference in*

**Melbourne on 7th - 8th November**

*The theme for the conference is:*

***“Australian Jewry - From a Remnant  
of Israel to a Vibrant Community”***



This is the first call for proposed papers to be presented at the conference.

While the theme represents the focus of the conference, papers on any other aspect of Jewish Studies are welcome.

If you wish to present a paper, please submit a proposed title and an abstract to:

**Dr Rachel Birati**  
Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation  
Monash University  
Clayton, Victoria 3168  
Email: [birati@netwide.com.au](mailto:birati@netwide.com.au)  
Fax: (03) 98574084

**Closing date for submission: 1st August 1999**

If you require more information regarding the conference, contact Dr Rachel Birati.

All correspondence to:  
P.O. Box 233, Holme Building  
UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY NSW 2006  
Ph: 9337 5064 Fax: 9388 8169

Items for the next newsletter should be sent to: The Editor Dr S Rutland  
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# AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION of JEWISH STUDIES

No. 23 April 2000

President: Dr Rachael Birzi  
Vice President NSW: Dr Suzanne Rutland

## In this issue:

- *University Jewish Studies*
- *1999 Conference Report*
- *Upcoming Conferences*

Publisher: Australian Journal of Jewish Studies

Treasurer: Sister Marianne Dacy  
Editor: Dr Rodney Gottman

## YAD VASHEM COMES TO SYDNEY

**O**n Sunday 19 March the NSW Joint Committee for Jewish Higher Education hosted a half day seminar entitled: "The Shoah: Memories, Crimes & Denial". The seminar was held at the Hakoah Club and open to the public. The forum provided an opportunity for young, up and coming researchers to present papers highlighting their particular fields of interest.

The Seminar was opened with papers by Professor Konrad Kwiet and Dr Suzanne Rutland, lecturers at University of Sydney. Professor Colin Tatz, the Director of the Centre for Comparative Genocide Studies at Macquarie University, conducted the proceedings. Both Professor Kwiet and Dr Rutland presented interesting views about "the saga surrounding Konrad Kalejs" and "how Nazi War Criminals arrived in the New World".

The highlight of the seminar was, for many people, the presentations made by those recently returned from Yad Vashem. All four presenters had participated in the "teaching the Shoah and Anti-Semitism" course which is run by Yad Vashem twice a year, once in the Israeli summer and once in the winter. This course, held in conjunction with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem is open to all graduate students and senior educators who are seeking to expand the horizons of their understanding about the Shoah and

its impact on both world Jewry and, indeed, humanity.

According to Professor Winton Higgins, the first presenter, the course crystallised "the extraordinary trauma and pain of this experience" and its effects across many generations. Professor Higgins posited the viewpoint that we should utilise the Holocaust as a mirror through which to reassess ourselves

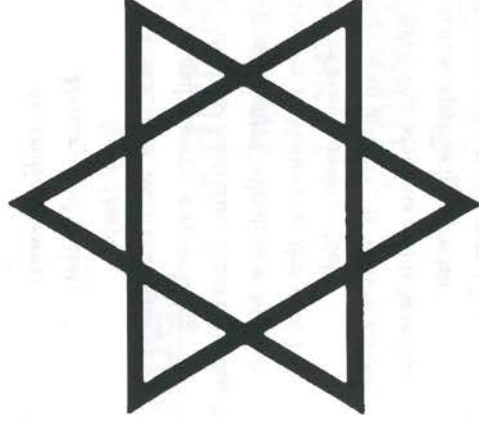
overall knowledge of the Shoah and (their) commitment to educating others". Both students were recipients of scholarship assistance from the Joint Committee and from the Australian Friends of Hebrew University, who for the first time assisted three students in participating in this course. (The third student, Meher Grigorian, is currently in Armenia conducting research on the Armenian genocide.)

Christopher Duncan, a member of the Catholic Education Office, who plays a significant role in curriculum development for youth, gave the final presentation. Mr Duncan also stressed that the course was "the most powerful experience of my life", and that he found it "dumbfounding, to be a part of a humanity that did not apologise for its crimes". Mr Duncan's interesting perspective aimed at a united effort between Jewish and Catholic groups to increase awareness of the Shoah amongst all sectors of the population in Australia. As he stated: "There is a need for this dialogue to be created between two great traditions".

Professor Colin Tatz and Dr Suzanne Rutland who both stated their delight with an "extraordinary set of presentations", summed up the seminar. Those requiring further information about the Yad Vashem Winter course should contact Dr Rutland directly on (02) 9351 6662.

Those interested in other courses run by the Hebrew University of Jerusalem should be in contact with Justine Chait (02) 9460 3454.

*Justine Chait*





# UNIVERSITY

The following reports have been received from various universities about new

developments in Jewish Studies in Australia. If you have further information in this regard please email it to the Newsletter editor,

Dr Suzanne Rutland:

suzanne.rutland@semitic.usyd.edu.au

## Macquarie University/UTS & University of Western Sydney

### *The Politics of Genocide and Genocide Studies*

This course is coordinated and largely taught by Professor Colin Tatz who, following his retirement from Macquarie University last year, is now a visiting scholar at the University of Western Sydney. There are a number of guest lecturers working with Professor Tatz. The course is again being offered at the campus of the University of Technology, Sydney, (UTS) in Broadway, but is open to students of the above three universities, as well as students from the University of Sydney.

## New Developments at Monash University Australian Centre For Jewish Civilisation

### 'Literature of Destruction and Redemption'

Dr. Rachel Birati

Lecturer of Hebrew and Jewish Studies, Monash University

A new subject, 'Literature of Destruction and Redemption' - JWC 2260/3260, will be offered in second semester 2000 at Monash University, taught by Dr Rachel Birati, our president. This subject is aimed at second and third year students who

wish to explore modern Jewish literature that deals with the themes of pogroms, the Holocaust and the establishment of the State of Israel.

Through a guided study of appropriate literary texts, students will be able to explore these themes by focussing separately on destruction and on redemption, and then viewing them both in a unified way. Students will be directed to important critical material and will be guided through a variety of audio-visual aids. There will be a number of guest speakers, one of whom will give an introductory lecture on 'Destruction and Redemption in Ancient Jewish Sources'. A reader of selected extracts from contemporary original and critical material will be available from the School.

### *Australian Jewry: History and Society*

Lionel Sharpe

A new subject, Australian Jewry: History and Society, is again being offered by the Australian Centre for the Study of Jewish Civilisation at Monash University in Melbourne this year. This semester long subject, which commenced in 1999, is open to second and third year students and is based on a thematic approach to Jewish settlement in Australia since 1788.

The course has a number of non-Jewish students and additional input is provided to introduce them to aspects of Judaism by a visit to synagogues and Jewish institutions. The course is also being audited by some of the guides from the Jewish Museum of Australia in St. Kilda.

Themes such as the changing demography of Jewish communities of Australia, the origins of organised communal life, Australian government responses to world events affecting Jewry, anti-semitism, Jewish education, the Zionist movement etc are being taught by a number of experts who

have conducted research in these areas. Lionel Sharpe, a former Senior Lecturer at RMIT and now an honorary Research Associate at Monash is co-ordinating the subject. Further information can be obtained by e-mail:

lionel.sharpe@arts.monash.net.au

## New Developments at The University of New South Wales, 2000:

An academic Jewish Studies Committee was formed at UNSW in 1999 consisting of all the academics teaching Jewish Studies at the University of NSW (Dr Geoffrey Level, Professor John Milfill, Professor Clive Kessler and Dr Ian Bickerton), as well as Dr Suzanne Rutland and Ms Leanne Piggott from the University of Sydney and Dr Hilton from the Shalom Institute. On the basis of the recommendations of this committee, the following new courses are being offered at the UNSW in 2000:

### First year courses:

#### *Emancipation and its discontents:*

This new course is being team taught by Professors Clive Kessler and Konrad Kwiet, Drs Geoffrey Levey and Suzanne Rutland, in Semester I as a first year course. It seeks to combine an interdisciplinary approach to the issues and problems of Jewish emancipation with three strands of history, political science and sociology. As such, it is a fairly innovative approach to Jewish Studies university teaching and student reactions will be interesting to follow.

#### *The Origins of Modern Zionism*

To be taught in Semester II by Ms Leanne Piggott, this course will focus on the early developments in Zionism.

### Upper Level Course:

#### *Australian Jewish History*

This new course focuses on the



# JEWISH STUDIES

Australian Jewish experience.

It takes a thematic approach to the major issues in Australian Jewish history, including immigration, antisemitism, communal structure, Jewish education and women. It also aims to introduce students to issues of working with archival sources and oral history.

## New Developments in Semitic Studies, University of Sydney

### *Roth Lecturer in Holocaust Studies:*

At the beginning of this year two new appointments were made in the Department of Semitic Studies, which will help to expand the number of options on offer in the department. These are:

Professor Konrad Kwiet who has been appointed as Adjunct Professor and the Roth Lecturer in Holocaust Studies following his retirement as Professor in German at Macquarie University. Professor Kwiet arrived in Sydney in 1976 to take up a position as lecturer in the School of German Studies at the University of New South Wales. In 1981 he was promoted to the position of Associate Professor and served in that position at UNSW until 1991. In 1992 he was appointed to a full professorship at Macquarie University where he worked until the end of last year.

Professor Kwiet has mainly taught in the area of German studies, but his research and expertise are as an historian in the areas of Jewish History and in particular antisemitism and the Holocaust. His doctoral thesis dealt with Nazi Occupational Policy in the Netherlands and his post-doctoral studies dealt with the history of the Jewish badge from antiquity. He has published widely in German, English Hebrew and Dutch in the areas of antisemitism, Dutch and German



in the Department of Semitic Studies will greatly enrich the Jewish Studies program at the University of Sydney. He brings with him his international reputation, his extensive knowledge and expertise in the area of the history of antisemitism, Holocaust, and war crimes and his ability to work with postgraduate students in these areas of his expertise. Following his appointment, the Department of Semitic Studies is also working closely with the Sydney Jewish Museum with the inaugural Marika Weinberger Guide Training Program which has 60 participants this year.

### *John J. Hilton Lectureship in Classical Hebrew & The Roth*

#### *Lectureship in Jewish Civilisation*

This new half time lectureship consists of the two quarter-time fractional positions of the John J. Hilton Lectureship in Classical Hebrew & the Roth Lectureship in Jewish Civilisation located in the Department of Semitic Studies. Ruth Lewin was appointed to these positions and she brings much Jewish scholarship to the Department of Semitic Studies at the University of Sydney. She has taught Hebrew and Jewish Civilisation at the undergraduate level, as well as working with the new Honours/Masters program in the Department. She completed her BA(Hons) at Tel Aviv University, specialising in Classical and Medieval Jewish History. Her PhD thesis on St Augustine interrelates with these periods in Jewish history.

Ruth Lewin teaches with the Melton Adult Jewish Education program and is involved with a whole range of other communal activities. Last year she received the Dr Fanny Reading Award for her contributions to Jewish education. She has also been a consultant with the NSW Board of Studies and the Australian Catholic University.

Jewish history, and the Holocaust.

While at the University of New South Wales he taught courses on the German Jewish Experience and the Holocaust and was the first academic to introduce Holocaust Studies at a tertiary level in Australia.

In recognition of his leading scholarship in this area, in 1988 Professor Kwiet was appointed as the chief historian for the Special Investigations Unit (SIU) for the Australian war crimes investigations and trials and since then he has acted as the historical consultant and expert witness for the Canadian, Scottish and United States War Crimes Units, a role he continues to play to the present. He was invited to be senior scholar-in-residence at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington DC in 1995 - 6, again a tribute to his leading contribution in this field of academic studies.

Professor Kwiet's scholarship in the area of Jewish Studies has also been internationally recognised. In 1986 he was Visiting Professor for Jewish History in Heidelberg, Germany, and for the last two years he has been Visiting Professor for the Martin Buber Foundation Chair for Jewish Studies at Frankfurt University, Germany, during the Australian summer.

Professor Kwiet's appointment as the Roth Lecturer in Holocaust Studies



# AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION of JEWISH STUDIES

No. 23 April 2000

President: Dr Rachael Birati  
Vice President NSW: Dr Suzanne Rutland

## In this issue:

- *University Jewish Studies*
- *1999 Conference Report*
- *Upcoming Conferences*

Publisher: Australian Journal of Jewish Studies

Treasurer: Sister Marianne Dacy  
Editor: Dr Rodney Gottman

## YAD VASHEM COMESTO SYDNEY

**O**n Sunday 19 March the NSW Joint Committee for Jewish Higher Education hosted a half day seminar entitled: "The Shoah: Memories, Crimes & Denial". The seminar was held at the Hakoah Club and open to the public. The forum provided an opportunity for young, up and coming researchers to present papers highlighting their particular fields of interest.

The Seminar was opened with papers by Professor Konrad Kwiet and Dr Suzanne Rutland, lecturers at University of Sydney. Professor Colin Tatz, the Director of the Centre for Comparative Genocide Studies at Macquarie University, conducted the proceedings. Both Professor Kwiet and Dr Rutland presented interesting views about "the saga surrounding Konrad Kalejs" and "how Nazi War Criminals arrived in the New World".

The highlight of the seminar was, for many people, the presentations made by those recently returned from Yad Vashem. All four presenters had participated in the "Teaching the Shoah and Anti-Semitism" course which is run by Yad Vashem twice a year, once in the Israeli summer and once in the winter. This course, held in conjunction with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem is open to all graduate students and senior educators who are seeking to expand the horizons of their understanding about the Shoah and

its impact on both world Jewry and, indeed, humanity.

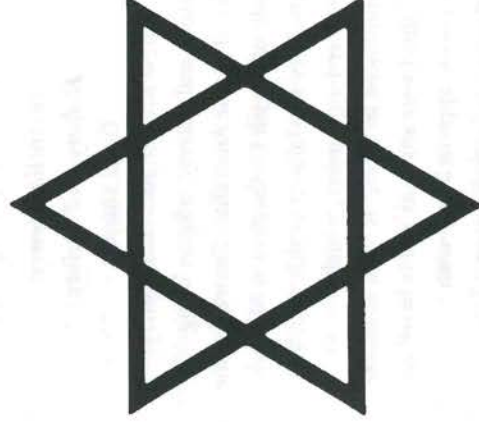
According to Professor Winton Higgins, the first presenter, the course crystallised "the extraordinary trauma and pain of this experience" and its effects across many generations. Professor Higgins posited the viewpoint that we should utilise the Holocaust as a mirror through which to reassess ourselves

overall knowledge of the Shoah and (their) commitment to educating others". Both students were recipients of scholarship assistance from the Joint Committee and from the Australian Friends of Hebrew University, who for the first time assisted three students in participating in this course. (The third student, Meher Grigorian, is currently in Armenia conducting research on the Armenian genocide.)

Christopher Duncan, a member of the Catholic Education Office, who plays a significant role in curriculum development for youth, gave the final presentation. Mr Duncan also stressed that the course was "the most powerful experience of my life", and that he found it "dumbfounding, to be a part of a humanity that did not apologise for its crimes". Mr Duncan's interesting perspective aimed at a united effort between Jewish and Catholic groups to increase awareness of the Shoah amongst all sectors of the population in Australia. As he stated: "There is a need for this dialogue to be created between two great traditions".

Professor Colin Tatz and Dr Suzanne Rutland who both stated their delight with an "extraordinary set of presentations", summed up the seminar. Those requiring further information about the Yad Vashem Winter course should contact Dr Rutland directly on (02) 9351 6662. Those interested in other courses run by the Hebrew University of Jerusalem should be in contact with Justine Chait (02) 9460 3454.

*Justine Chait*



and learn from the mistakes of past generations. His particular perspective was that Australia is morally deficient and should be ashamed, as he personally was at Yad Vashem, for its attitude during the Shoah and in its aftermath, specifically in dealing with refugees.

Michael Abrahams-Sprod, a PhD student in the Department of Semitic Studies at Sydney University, under the supervision of Professor Kwiet and Louise Douglas-Major, an Honours student in the same Department, both agreed that the Yad Vashem Course had a "profound effect on (their)





Yad Vashem and the Hebrew University Summer Institute are pleased to announce the following seminar offering a thorough investigation of the Holocaust and anti-Semitism, focusing on historical information, conceptual frameworks and alternative didactic methods.

# TEACHING THE HOLOCAUST AND ANTI-SEMITISM



## The Course Includes:

- Development of anti-Semitism
- Nazi Racial Ideology
- The Final Solution
- The Ghetto
- Armed Jewish Resistance
- World Response
- Rescue attempts
- Righteous among the nations
- Creativity and the Holocaust
- Theological responses
- Prosecution of war criminals
- Pedagogic theory and practise

The 3 1/2 week seminar is open to graduate and post-graduate research students and formal and informal educators at all levels.

WHEN? December/January and June/ July annually.

Academic Consultant: Dr Suzanne Rutland & Konrad Kwiet, Department of Semitic Studies,  
Sydney University (02)9351 6662

For further information please contact Justine Chait: (02) 9332 4060



# AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION of JEWISH STUDIES

No. 24 July 2000

President: Dr Rachael Birati  
Vice President NSW: Dr Suzanne Rutland

## In this issue:

- Conference plans for 2001
- Call for Papers
- Developments at Melbourne University

Publisher: Australian Journal of Jewish Studies

Treasurer: Sister Marianne Dacy  
Editor: Dr Rodney Goultman

## CONFERENCE PLANS FOR 2001

The next AAJS conference will be held in Sydney on 11 - 12 February 2001, with the conference location being at Shalom College at the University of New South Wales. The conference theme will be 'From Exile to Redemption'. Below is a Call for Papers for this conference. Please note that all abstracts should be sent to our honorary treasurer, Marianne Dacy.

### CALL FOR PAPERS

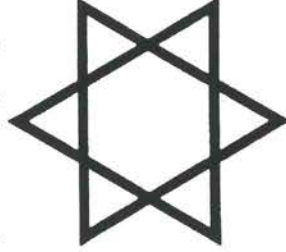
The Australian Association of Jewish Studies is holding its 2001 conference in Sydney on 11th-12th February

The theme for the conference is:

#### “From Exile to Redemption”

This is the first call for proposed papers to be presented at the conference. While the theme concentrates on the Shoah, its effects and the establishment of the State of Israel, papers on any other aspect of Jewish Studies are welcome. If you wish to present a paper, please submit a proposed title and an abstract to:

Marianne Dacy  
Archive of Australian Judaica,  
Fisher Library  
University of Sydney NSW 2006  
Ph: 02 9351 2890  
Email: mdacy@library.usyd.edu.au  
Fax: (02) 9351 2890



**Closing date for submission:  
6th November 2000**

## NEWS FROM MEMBERS

- Recent publications from Dr Philip Mendes from the Department of Social Work, Monash University:  
*The Senator Sam Cohen Affair: Soviet Anti-Semitism, the ALP and the 1961 Federal Election* in Labour History, Number 78, May 2000, pp.179-197

*The Cold War, McCarthyism, the Melbourne Jewish Council to Combat Fascism*  
Dr Mendes is currently researching the Jewish Council's campaign against German immigration in the early 1950s.  
• Congratulations to Dvir Abramovich on receiving his doctorate from the University of Melbourne.

## Australian Jewish History Working Party in Victoria

*A small group of interested Jewish educators and academics have been meeting in Melbourne under the convenorship of Alan Collins, a well known Australian Jewish writer, to explore strategies for the integration of the teaching of Australian Jewish history in the school curriculum.*

Alan Collins had expressed his concern in a letter to the Jewish press some months ago about the lack of knowledge among members of the community about our own local Jewish history. The response to his letter led to the formation of a small working group under the auspice of the Australian Jewish Historical Society in Victoria.

As a first step in the process of developing an appropriate strategy for an integrated curriculum the working party has requested the Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation at Monash University to survey all Jewish schools to obtain information on how, where, and if at all, Australian Jewish history, is embraced in the school curriculum.



# DEVELOPMENTS AT MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY

*The first semester has seen the Hebrew-Jewish studies program at the University of Melbourne continue its successful mission of reaching new students and setting the stage for the 21st century. We have done so by providing high quality, cutting edge programs in Jewish Higher education as well as giving our students an open and stimulating learning environment. With Over 100 students in the Hebrew courses alone( not including the History subjects) including 10 postgraduate students (of which 4 are PhD students), the visible boom that we have witnessed in the last few years is continuing. In line with our ambition to provide a broad based, academically rigorous curriculum in the most important areas of Jewish literature and thought we have:*

will be offered again, as is Jerusalem in Jewish Literature

3) In 2001, a new subject will be offered – Exploring the World of Jewish Literature.

4) All other courses, from Beginners Hebrew to Advanced Hebrew have seen increased enrollments.

7) As a result of working actively to enhance Jewish library resources, the University of Melbourne, in an unprecedented move, has purchased 10 year backset of four prestigious Israeli literary journals and renewed subscriptions to several others. The 10 year backset, unavailable in Australia until now' Melbourne and the Hebrew Studies program the most extensive in the country. In addition, since the beginning of the year, over 100 Hebrew books have been purchased. It reinforces our commitment to maintaining and spreading Jewish culture in a dedicated fashion to the community and students.



1) Introduced Reading the Holocaust – This new course, with 19 enrolled students, explores the way fiction and poetry have confronted Judaism's most devastating communal catastrophe and the way which writers try to make sense of the senseless. The course examines the various responses to the Holocaust by both Israeli and Diaspora authors, including second generation authors.

2) Introduction to Modern Jewish culture which began last year has proven to be even more popular this year with 25 students choosing to take up the subject. Next semester, Jewish National Thought

5) Due to the amazing attendance of over 600 people for our seminar series Into The Third Millennium: Jewish Thought and Culture, a new seminar series entitled The University of Melbourne Lectures on Ancient and Contemporary Judaism will be running through our program in August to commence with a lecture by Rabbi Laibl Wolf and other notable and distinguished speakers. The aim is to further integrate Judaic studies into the life of the university and the community.

6) Dvir Abramovich and Ziva Shavitsky are editing a book for UWA Press to be published soon. The book covers the broad spectrum

of Jewish literature which arose from the first ever Jewish Literature conference in Perth. Also, Ziva Shavitsky is in the final stages of completing two books.

8) Ziva Shavitsky is the only Australian paper giver in the forthcoming National Association of Professors of Hebrew conference in Chicago where she will deliver a paper. Last year, Dvir Abramovich was the only in the Mexico Conference.

9) The Melbourne University Program for High Performing Students (those students undertaking tertiary Hebrew while at school) continues to thrive with two other schools about to join the program next year.

10) A major article by Dvir Abramovich about the importance of Hebrew in the life of the Jewish community in Australia was published in the opinion pages of the *Australian Jewish News*.

All correspondence to:

P.O Box 233, Holme Building  
UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY NSW 2006  
Ph: 9351 4162 Fax: 9351 2890

Items for the next newsletter should be sent to: The Editor Dr S Rutland  
Department of Semitic Studies  
Fax: 9351 6684  
email: [suzanne.rutland@semitic.usyd.edu.au](mailto:suzanne.rutland@semitic.usyd.edu.au)



# AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION of AJ'S of JEWISH STUDIES

No. 25 May 2001

President: Dr Ziva Shavitsky  
Vice President NSW: Dr Suzanne Rutland

## In this issue:

- *New Association President*
- *Conference plans for 2002*
- *University Reports*

Publisher: Australian Journal of Jewish Studies

Treasurer: Sister Marianne Dacy  
Journal Editor: Dr Rodney Gottman

# Successful Thirteenth Annual Conference

**F**rom Destruction to Redemption" was the theme for the thirteenth Annual conference of the Australian Association of Jewish Studies which took place in February at Shalom College, Sydney. Held in conjunction with The Australian Jewish Genealogical Society, Australia Israel Jewish Affairs Committee (AIJAC) and The Australian Association of Holocaust Survivors and Descendants, the two day conference proved to be dynamic, inspiring and educational.

The highlight of the conference, was the keynote address by Professor Yehuda Bauer. He discussed recent trends in Holocaust research and indicated how the opening of archives and records change and widen the historian's perspective. Over ninety people attended this lecture and we thank the AIJAC for sponsoring Professor Bauer's visit to Australia.

The Panel discussion on Holocaust and Memory, chaired by Professor Konrad Kwiet, evoked discussion and thought. Papers were given by Ellen Ben Sefer, Dr. Simone Gigliotti and Krsytyna Duszniak. Other important lectures were given on The Sephardi Experience by Dr. Myer Samra and a comparison between Aids and Holocaust denial was presented by Dr John Ziegler. The Genealogy workshop and panel discussion on Antisemitism, Jews and Christianity were interesting shedding light on current research that our members are undertaking.

We were pleased to launch Dr Paul

Bartrop's new book "Surviving the Camps: Unity in Adversity During the Holocaust" (University Press of America, 2000) during lunch on the first day of the conference.

Papers on Hebrew literature given by Dr Ziva Shavitsky and Dr Rachel Birati opened the second day of the conference. The second session of the Monday focused on issues of female writers and biblical scholars in Modern Israel with Dr Dvir Abramovich's "I am Woman Hear Me Roar" and Peta Pellach's paper on Nechama Leibowitz. Case studies on Holocaust testimonies, Holocaust descendent profiles as well as language and memory were presented during the afternoon session.

The final session comprised four interesting lectures: Rabbi Avrum Ehrlich presented on 'The Debate Over the Re-establishment of the Sanhedrin from the Sixteenth Century Till the Present', Sister Marianne Dacy analysed 'The Divine Name in Blessings from Qumran Texts', Rabbi Shlomo di Veroli discussed 'A Critical Edition of the Mishnah' and Orna Lankry spoke on 'The Cosmology of Isaac Luria as Presented by Sixteenth Century Kabbalist, Hayim Vital'. It is hoped that these four papers will be published in the next Journal of the Association.

Overall, the Conference was an extremely stimulating and inspiring event. Thank you to our participants from Melbourne who joined us in Sydney for the conference. We were very pleased with this year's attendance and we thank all our members for attending and continuing their support for the Association.

## New President for the Association – Dr. Ziva Shavitsky

**A**t this conference Dr Rachel Birati stepped down as president and she was replaced by Dr. Ziva Shavitsky from the University of Melbourne who heads the Hebrew Studies Program in the School of Languages and is the coordinator of the Jewish Studies Program there. She lectures in Modern Hebrew Language and Literature and in Modern Jewish Literature.

Ziva has lectured at conferences in Australia, Israel and the United States. In 1996 she spent her Sabbatical in Israel and Oxford where she was visiting scholar at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Tel-Aviv University and The Oxford Centre for Jewish Studies.

Dr. Shavitsky has published in a number of journals and has lectured to many organisations in Melbourne both within the Jewish community and to the Australian community at large. Through the University of Melbourne she conducts the MUPHAS Programme which is an extension program for gifted students in year 12 who study the first year tertiary Hebrew Language & Literature courses while still at school.

In addition to her work on Hebrew literature, Ziva has also conducted research in the area of Biblical literature and archaeology and in the teaching of a second language to immigrants. She is hoping to publish three books in the near future. One that she has edited together with Dr. Dvir Abramovich on Modern Jewish Literature and she is also completing a book on The People of Israel and Judah in Exile up to the time of Alexander the Great and a book, which is related to today's paper, The Representation of German Jewry in Twentieth Century Hebrew Literature.

## 2001 Annual General Meeting

*The AGM of the Association was held on Sunday late afternoon after the first day of the conference. Dr Rachel Birati presented her presidential report. Dr Ziva Shavitsky was elected as our new president and Dr. Dvir Abramovich was elected as the Victorian vice president.*



# UNIVERSITY

## From the Centre of Jewish Civilisation, Monash University

A number of important new developments have taken place at Monash University including:

- Professor Andrew Markus has been appointed Director of the Centre
- The number of enrolled students in all subjects is impressive. There are 120 students enrolled to do "The Holocaust", eighty percent of whom are non-Jewish. The subject is taught by Professor Andrew Markus.
- The Centre had the highest number of enrolled students in Hebrew this semester, with nine students enrolled to do third year Hebrew. This augurs well for the Hebrew Dept. as it throws light on community interest in the subject and a bright prospect for future Hebrew teaching. The Hebrew Department is headed by Dr Rachel Birati.
- After enjoying much success last semester, the subject "Literature of Destruction and Redemption" will be taught again by Dr Rachel Birati in the second semester.
- This year, Yiddish has been introduced as a new subject at Monash University. It is taught by Mrs. D. Charak

## The University of Melbourne

A new Hebrew lectureship in Hebrew Language and Literature to honour the late Dr Jan Randa was announced this year. Dr Dvir Abramovich has been appointed to the position. Dr Abramovich told the *Jewish News*, "Dr Randa's life work was to make the study of Hebrew exciting and mainstream. My mission is to reinforce this goal and to actively work to further enhance and integrate Hebrew literature and language into the life of the university and the Jewish community."

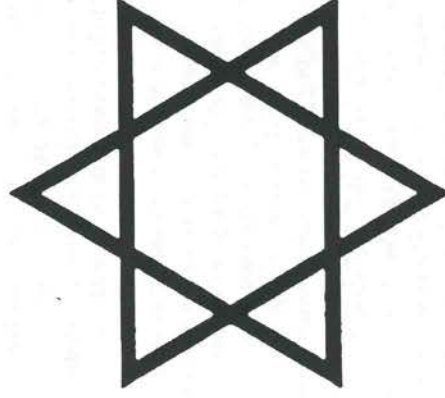
As a result, Melbourne University is the only program in Australia with two full time Hebrew literature and language lecturers, and with 4 courses exclusively devoted to Hebrew. Some key features are:

- In the Hebrew studies program we have about 10 students doing post-graduate studies, among them current Hebrew teachers.
- Last year we had statistically the highest number of successful completion of Ph.D. students within the School of Languages, an achievement that was noted by the Dean and

the Head of the School of Languages. Also, last year we had about 100 students enrolled in the Hebrew studies program alone, the highest in Australasia. This year we have again have over 100 students in the Hebrew program (not counting those students enrolled in the Jewish Studies courses offered by the History department), including four Ph.D. students.

- The new course "Exploring the World of Jewish literature" is a success with over 20 students enrolled. The subject "Introduction to Modern Jewish culture" that was introduced last year continues to boom with over 25 students undertaking it.

- In addition to having many of the



Hebrew teachers teaching today at the day schools coming through our program, last year we trained four new Hebrew teachers from Scopus and Bialik, and we regularly conduct re-training and re-fresher courses for serving teachers. Time and again, Hebrew teachers enrol who wish to upgrade their qualifications.

- Last year, we initiated and hosted academic and community events for Hebrew teachers to further enhance the skills of the Hebrew teachers. For example, when Professor Nurit Govrin, the second woman to receive the Bialik Prize was a visiting scholar in our program, we arranged for her to deliver a lecture to Hebrew teachers from all the schools. Similarly, when Dr. Rivka Maoz was a visiting scholar in program, we organised for her to speak to the teachers and students of Hebrew.

- In addition, we continued the seminar series that we began last year, entitled "The University of Melbourne Lectures in Contemporary Judaism, featuring speakers such as Professor Rafi Israeli and Rabbi Laibl

Wolf attracted over 150 people.

- The Hebrew studies MUPHAS (Melbourne University Program for High Achieving Students) program has 34 students. Participating schools are Mount Scopus, Bialik, Leibler-Yavneh, Beth Rivka and King David. This ensures that students who completed their VCE Hebrew in Year 11 do not abandon Hebrew but continue with it. Last year, several of the top students from the Jewish Day schools undertook tertiary Hebrew. This is a real success story, as many of the MUPHAS students choose to continue with their Hebrew studies and constitute the future of Hebrew in Melbourne.

- We are working hard to promote further the research and study of Hebrew by supporting students and enabling them financially to travel to Israel and to develop and cultivate scholarly projects engaged with Hebrew.

- The Hebrew Studies Program objective is to keep providing high quality, cutting edge and a broad based academically stimulating Hebrew syllabus that can reach new students who will become Hebrew teachers and set the stage for the 21st century.

- To support our Hebrew teachers in the day schools and our students who are potential teachers, we have actively worked towards enhancing our Hebrew library resources. Over the last year we lobbied the University and won a grant that has allowed us to purchase 10 years backsets of four Hebrew journals and to subscribe to all of them. Moreover, in order to foster Hebrew learning, reading and research we have purchased over 120 new Hebrew books that help us to meet the intellectual and educational needs of the community

- Dr. Dvir Abramovich has been elected Chairperson of the Hebrew Cultural Department at The State Zionist Council of Victoria, further re-enforcing his commitment to Hebrew education and to its strengthening in Australia.

- Dr. Abramovich was also quoted in the *Jewish News* saying that he believes the future is bright for Hebrew and Hebrew education in Australia.

- The number of enrolled students in the History Department in subjects which form part of the Jewish Studies Program is also impressive. Covering among others, such subjects as Jews in the Modern World: 1900-2000; The Holocaust and Genocide and God Through History there are over 300 students enrolled in these courses.



# JEWISH STUDIES

## Department of Semitic Studies, University of Sydney

The Department continues to offer a wide selection of courses in Classical and Modern Hebrew, Biblical Studies, Jewish Civilisation and Yiddish. Student numbers in all subject areas have increased. Important changes this year include the continuation of the restructuring of the Biblical Studies program to provide a stronger orientation in Jewish scholarship in this area of study, which was facilitated by the work of Ruth Lewin, the John J. Hilton Lecturer in Classical Hebrew. The whole Modern Hebrew program has been restructured and we have also introduced the Hebrew University placement tests this year to ensure that all students are placed in the correct classes.

At the beginning of 2000 Professor Konrad Kwiet, who took early retirement from Macquarie University, accepted a two year appointment as the Roth Lecturer in Holocaust Studies at the University of Sydney. Professor Kwiet assumed lecturing responsibilities for the two units in the third year Jewish Civilisation program, teaching the units: 'From Emancipation to the Holocaust' in Semester I and 'The Holocaust and its Aftermath' in Semester II. At his initiative, a new course proposal was also approved by the Faculty of Arts for a Master of Arts in Holocaust Studies. This is an interdisciplinary course with units of study being offered in Semitic Studies, History and Education. The new MA has been made possible by the growing expertise of the university in the field. This is largely a result of Professor Kwiet's joining Semitic Studies and the appointment of Dr Dirk Moses, an expert in German History who has a specific interest in the Holocaust, in the Department of History.

This new and challenging Masters Program in Holocaust Studies is designed to provide some answers to this unprecedented event in world history. Issues to be covered include current trends in Holocaust research, German and European antisemitism and the Holocaust; and the identities and roles of the victims, perpetrators and bystanders. The extent of Allied rescue attempts, and Australia's role before, during and after the war; and contemporary responses will also be investigated. So too will legal issues

surrounding the crimes before and after 1945; strategies for combating antisemitism and Holocaust denial; the significance and limitations of Oral History project; and more.

The participation of members of the Faculty of Education is an important aspect of the new MA. Mr Harry Oppermann, Lecturer in Hebrew and Judaic Studies Methods played an active role in the development of the course. Ms Carmel Young and Mr Mike Horsley from the School of Professional Studies in the Faculty of Education will examine such issues as how to teach about the Holocaust and

## Report from University of New South Wales – Dr Geoffrey Levey:

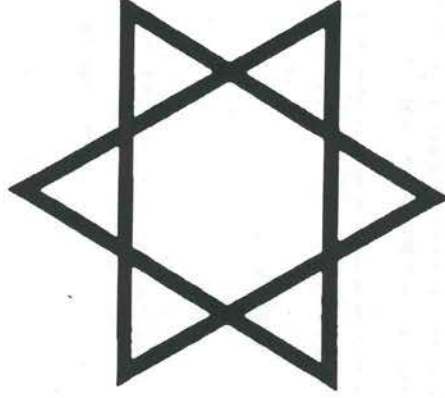
The UNSW Jewish Studies Program introduced a number of new courses in 2000 working closely and co-operatively with Sydney University Colleagues, especially Suzanne Rutland and Leanne Piggott and Konrad Kwiet. The resulting new course offerings at UNSW in 2000 included a new first year subject on Jewish Emancipation which was team-taught. In Semester II Leanne Piggott and Ian Bickerton, offered a new unit on Zionism for first year students. Suzanne Rutland introduced another upper level unit on the Australian Jewish Experience. For 2001 the new course on emancipation was restructured and is being taught entirely by Professor Kwiet, as it was found that first year students had difficulty coping with a team taught course. The other new units proved successful and will continue in the same format for 2001.

## The Politics of Genocide and Genocide Studies – 2000

This course is coordinated and largely taught by Professor Colin Tatz, now at the University of Western Sydney. The course itself was offered at the Broadway campus of UTS and proved extremely successful, with over 70 students from UTS, UWS, Macquarie University and the University of Sydney participating. There were a number of guest lecturers working with Professor Tatz who will be funded on a casual basis by Joint Committee. All the guest lecturers were either postgraduate students, or have jobs in other institutions.

## Yad Vashem Winter Course

Dr Rutland continues to be the academic adviser for the Yad Vashem Winter Institute for Educators from Abroad. In January 2001 we had seven Australian participants – three from Melbourne supported by the Raoul Wallenberg Unit, the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation Unit in Melbourne, three from Sydney supported by the Joint Committee, the Friends of Hebrew University and a couple by B'nai B'rith, and one from Queensland. We hope to have another large contingent this year and would like to request any member of the Association who has not undertaken the course to please consider doing so. The dates for the Winter Institute are 31 December 2001 to 23 January 2002.



“prejudice in print” while Mr David Fraser of law will contribute his expertise in the law.

In the second half of 2000, Dr Rutland had a six month Sabbatical, during which period Dr Ian Young was acting head of department. While away she was a contributor to the recent 'Remembering for the Future' Conference on Genocide and the Holocaust, at Oxford. Dr Rutland's study leave was made possible by support from the Sir Zelman Universities Fund which brought Professor Yom Tov Assis to Sydney to undertake the first month of her teaching commitments. Professor Assis was highly regarded by all the Jewish Civilisation students who were inspired by his teaching. The community at large was also exposed to his expertise at a highly successful function organised by the Joint Committee together with Friends of Hebrew University and Mandelbaum House whose scholar in residence, Professor Ilan Troen, also spoke.



# REMINDER

## MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR

### The Australian Association for Jewish Studies

MEMBERSHIP FEES for the Australian Association for Jewish Studies (ABN 16535824946)1 are current from 1 July 2000 – 30 June 2001 included are the *Australian Journal of Jewish Studies* published once/twice yearly, *AAJS Newsletter*, book discounts, and discounted registration fee for the *AAJS* annual conference

Fees for 2000/2001 (July 2000 to June 30th 2001)

Regular: \$50 (Aus)

Full-time Student/Pensioner: \$15 (Aus)

Institutional: \$60 (Aus)

Overseas: \$60 (Aus)

Note: this portion should be retained for your records

Please send this slip with our payment to  
Honorary Treasurer

AAJS  
PO Box 233, Holme Building  
UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY NSW Australia

Name ..... Date .....

Address .....

..... Telephone .....

Email ..... Amount enclosed .....

*The Australian Association of Jewish Studies* has an ABN number, but is not registered for GST because of insufficient income. Payment of membership fees is vital for the Association's activities. Many have not paid their 2000/2001 subscription.

## ADVANCE NOTICE

The Fourteenth Annual Conference entitled  
**Changing Epicentres: Migration in  
Jewish History and Literature**

is to be held in Melbourne on Sunday 16 and Monday 17 February 2002 at the Kimberley Motel. The conference is being convened by a committee headed by Dr Ziva Shavitsky and Dr. Dvir Abramovich. While its theme will relate to Migration in Jewish history and literature, with a special focus on Australia, papers looking at other themes are welcomed.

## CONGRATULATIONS

...to Sister Marianne Dacy for being awarded her doctorate through the Department of Semitic Studies at the University of Sydney where she recently graduated. She wrote her thesis on the Separation of Judaism from early Christianity. Marianne as our honorary treasurer is a real mainstay of the Association. It is due to her dedicated work over the last five years that this Association has continued to function so successfully.

All correspondence to:  
P.O Box 233, Holme Building  
UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY NSW 2006  
Ph: 9351 4162 Fax: 9351 2890

Items for the next newsletter should be sent to: The Editor Dr S Rutland  
Department of Semitic Studies  
Fax: 9351 6684  
email: [suzanne.rutland@semitic.usyd.edu.au](mailto:suzanne.rutland@semitic.usyd.edu.au)



# ADDENDUM

## News from Members

### Dr Philip Mendes has submitted the following notice:

Dr Philip Mendes from the Social Work Department at Monash University is completing some research on Senator Sam Cohen, Soviet Jewry, the 1961 federal election and the aftermath.

For the purpose of the research, he is seeking information concerning the contributions of Senator Haworth (Liberal Member for Isaacs) and Syd Einfeld, MP, to the 1962 parliamentary debate on Soviet Jewry. Philip would be grateful if anyone with information on these issues could contact him at Monash University on 03 - 9905 4288.

Subject: Call for Papers - "Vu ahin, Le.an", Where Shall We Go?  
Searching and Belonging for Jewish Holocaust Survivors

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## CALL FOR PAPERS

The Meyerhoff Center for Jewish Studies  
The University of Maryland, College Park  
Sunday, February 21, 1999

Conference title: "Vu ahin, Le.an", Where Shall We Go? Searching and Belonging for Jewish Holocaust Survivors

**Deadline: Abstracts are due by November 1, 1998.**

Abstracts are invited for 30-minute scholarly papers that explore issues of identity for Jews in Displaced Persons (DP) camps in the years immediately following liberation. While most countries were closed to them, survivors faced vital decisions, personal and practical, but also religious, ideological and ethical about where to go and with whom. Amid the search for missing family, while still recovering from physical and psychological trauma,



many issues had to be resolved. Choices were limited but would ultimately shape the destinies of future communities.

Jews in the DP camps (mainly in Germany) published newspapers and wrote memoirs where they discussed the nature of their choices and dilemmas. This conference seeks to encourage research that draws from original sources, especially those in Yiddish, since many of the sources remain untranslated from the original. Works-in-progress are welcomed. We also plan to include work that examines the growing body of scholarly and artistic treatment of the period in film and literature. Abstracts should include a description of the sources used, your prior scholarly work in this area, and, if you are discussing a work-in-progress, the extent to which work is completed. Please include your affiliation and an address (and email) by which you can be reached. Participants will receive an honorarium and some travel expenses will be reimbursed.

Please send 2 copies of an anonymous abstract (no longer than one page with an additional page for references if desired) and one copy with the author's name and affiliation to:

Dr. Miriam Isaacs, 0113 Woods Hall. -note Conference on envelope.

Miriam Isaacs

Meyerhoff Center for Jewish Studies

0113 Woods Hall,

University of Maryland, College Park, 20742-7415

tel (301) 405-0264

fax (301) 405-8232

email: miriam isaacs[SMTP:misaacs@wam.umd.edu]



# AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH STUDIES NEWSLETTER

## In this issue:

- February Conference 2003
- Dr Rachael Birati Retires
- News of 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference
- Jewish Studies in Sydney

President: Dr Suzanne Rutland    Treasurer: Dr Marianne Dacy  
Vice-presidents: Dr Andrew Markus (VIC)  
Michael Abrahams-Sprod (NSW)  
Journal Editors: A/Prof Ziva Shavitsky & Dr Dvir Abramovich

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No 24 December 2002

Publisher: Australian Association of Jewish Studies

## **KABBALAH: SERIOUS THOUGHT OR MYSTICAL MUSINGS?**

### **FIFTEENTH CONFERENCE OF THE AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH STUDIES**

The forthcoming conference of the Australian Association of Jewish Studies to be held at Mandelbaum House from 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> February 2003 promises to be an especially exciting event. The topic: *Jewish Kabbalah, Mysticism and Jewish Thought* has attracted seventeen top academics from overseas as well as over a dozen excellent Australian scholars. While the larger proportion of the papers will focus on aspects of Jewish kabbalah and mysticism, other topics include foundation member Professor Bill Rubinstein's "Jews in Grandmaster Chess since the mid Nineteenth Century" and Dr Dvir Abramovich's "Lady Sleuths in Israeli Fiction". Dr Ian young from the University of Sydney will speak on aspects of the Dead Seas Scrolls while Dr Alison Coudert from Arizona State University will present a paper entitled: "The Kabbalah, Science and the Enlightenment". At least three papers will touch on Yiddish culture including that of Dr Jennifer Dowling of Sydney who will speak on pre-enlightenment mystical texts. Dr Motti Zalkin from Ben Gurion University discusses the topic: "Zelem Kop"? Lithuanian Jewry between Rationalism and Mysticism" and Dr Moroslawa Bulat from the Jagiellonian University Krakow is speaking on: "Jewish Mysticism on the Stage: Production of Shanski's 'The Dubbuk' in Yiddish and Polish." This splendid smorgasbord of some thirty interesting papers promises to make the conference an outstanding success.

#### **Registration**

Conference fees

- .. One day (including lunch): \$A70
- .. Two days (including lunch) \$A120
- .. Single Lecture \$A10
- .. Students (full time) \$A20 per day
- .. Current AAJS Members \$A100 for two days and \$A60 for one day.

Payments may be made by cheque or international money to the Australian Association of Jewish Studies. Accommodation may be booked directly with Mandelbaum House from the website address <<http://judaica.library.usyd.edu.au/notices.htm>>.

All correspondence to be addressed to PO Box 233, Holme Building, UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY NSW 2006. Registrations after February 3<sup>rd</sup> will cost \$A140 for the full two



days, or \$80 for a single day. Student rate and attendance of a single lecture remain the same. Lunch must be reserved in advance.

#### **Accommodation**

The AAJS is pleased to announce that Mandelbaum House has agreed to offer special rates to the conference. Breakfast is included in these rates and the cost of lunch is included in some attendance tickets. The suites also have special rates for couples. Mandelbaum House offers kosher catering to its guests.

Two nights (16th & 17th February) in a single room: A\$140 (total)  
Two nights (16th & 17th February) in a suite: A\$190 (total)  
Three nights (15th - 17th February) in a single room: A\$180 (total)  
Three nights (15 - 17th February) in a suite: A\$420 (total)  
Weekly rate in a single room: A\$420  
Weekly rate in a suite: A\$560

Reservations should be made directly with Mandelbaum House before February 3rd  
2002. Mandelbaum House: Tel: 612 9692 5200  
Fax: 612 9526 9691  
mandelbaum@staff.usyd.edu.au

**Queries** about the conference can be directed to: Dr. Marianne Dacy [mdacy@library.usyd.edu.au](mailto:mdacy@library.usyd.edu.au) (till December 23 and from January 24) or Dr Suzanne Rutland [suzanne.rutland@semitic.usyd.edu.au](mailto:suzanne.rutland@semitic.usyd.edu.au) (from January 3 to 19).

#### **DR RACHAEL BIRATI RETIRES**

At the end of 2001 Dr Rachael Birati retired as the inaugural lecturer in Modern Hebrew Language and Literature at the Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation at Monash University. It was a sad loss. Dr Birati attracted students from a variety of backgrounds interested in developing their knowledge of Hebrew - including students from faculties other than Law and Arts. Her enthusiasm for the subjects and her deep knowledge was well conveyed to the students and her warmth of approach endeared her to them. As well as Hebrew as a major study, she developed a first year Hebrew course for beginners to introduce new students to the subject. In the past two years she began teaching a subject on the Literature of Redemption and Destruction, a subject she hopes to continue to teach in her retirement. Dr Birati has been active in the Australian Association for Jewish Studies and played a major role in organising the last conference of the Association held in Melbourne.

Dr Birati's love of the Hebrew Language and its literature is evident to all who meet her. She will be sorely missed by her colleagues and students. However, her desire to spend more time with her family in Israel is understandable.

Bernard Rechter (6 Dec 2001)



## ECHOES FROM FOURTEENTH AAJS CONFERENCE

### Opening Remarks from A/Prof Ziva Shavitsky (February 2002)

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all here to the 14th International conference of the Australian Association of Jewish Studies together with the Jewish Genealogical Society and the Australian Jewish Historical Society. It is always invidious to single out particular visitors to a conference given the distinguished reputation so many of ours have! However, we are particularly honoured to have Sir James Gobbo open our conference. Sir James adds great distinction to this gathering not only by virtue of his stature but also by the fact that the theme of immigration is so close to his heart. We are also very pleased to have Professor Lillian Kremer of Kansas State University deliver our plenary address. Professor Kremer who is a well known scholar and whose field of writing and research covers many areas enriches our program and I welcome her to this conference and to Australia, even though she has been a hard task master in making me deliver publications on time for the Holocaust Literature Encyclopaedia which she is editing for Routledge Press.

I hope you will all take a moment to read my President's Report in your program and find out more about our Association. The academics that are attending and delivering papers at this convention are experts in many areas in Jewish Studies. They come from the direction of language, literature, history, politics, sociology and music. The Hebrew language itself is, of course, a miraculous phenomenon of modern times. Modern Hebrew, which was revived from Biblical Hebrew, has not ceased to cause people to marvel. Some time ago, the Los Angeles Times carried an article regarding the death of an old woman on an Indian reservation in Brazil. With the death of this woman a language died, she was the last UMUTINA person who could speak that language. The death of a language is no rare event these days and some linguists estimate that half the world's 6000 languages are moribund because they are no longer taught to children. This article struck me as being tragic. The death of a language means that we lose something of what it means to be human - when a language dies much of a culture dies with it and the world is diminished. The revival of Hebrew has indeed been a modern day miracle and the fact that it now boasts a rich and varied literature, which is being translated into almost every language, is almost unbelievable. Certainly we have witnessed a boom within the programs at our university, and I know that others have also. More and more students at all levels are taking Hebrew including Biblical Hebrew.

Australia is a nation of immigrants. Looking around this room we see many examples of the most successful results of people who have come to this country to begin a new life. Israel too, of course, has welcomed large numbers of immigrants who have made their home in a new land and have mastered its ancient/new language. The theme of migration, therefore, is very apt.

We are delighted to welcome academics and scholars from Israel, the US, the UK and NZ as well as participants from NSW, WA, SA and our colleagues from Monash University as well as The University of Melbourne who are all participating in this program. As well as being pleased to see scholars who have been founding members of this association we are happy to see some of our young post graduate and research students.



Young people are the most important resource for this enterprise and it is on them that we depend to continue and develop our areas of interest. So to those young academics who have come from Sydney, Melbourne and other places to participate and deliver papers - a very special welcome.

We are also glad to see some of the teachers from our Jewish Day Schools here today. It is a very important part of the aims of this organisation to encourage and prepare teachers of Hebrew and Jewish Studies for our day schools.

Last, but not least we welcome the members of the wider community who have braved the early morning hour on a Sunday to attend this conference. We do not wish to appear to be speaking from Elysian heights. Our contribution is hopefully aimed at all members of the community and should be of benefit to all. If the interest in these areas of study is aroused by these proceedings - then we have achieved many of our aims.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to thank my colleague, and vice president of this Association Dr. Dvir Abramovich *asher asa leilot keyamim* - (loosely translated - who worked indefatigably) and who has given enormous support and help with this conference. In the same breath I should also thank his wife Miry who has so willingly given of her time to type, e-mail and generally organise us. As you will see there are many others mentioned in my report whom I genuinely wish to thank.

I especially want to thank all of you for your continued interest in the Australian Association for Jewish Studies, were it not for your support we would have "closed up shop" a long time ago. In fact, the average attendance at conferences has been increasing and the attendance and participation of members of the Jewish Genealogical Society and the Jewish Historical Society boosts not only our numbers but also our morale. There will be a special edition of the Association's journal the AJJS with the proceedings of this conference.

Ziva Shavitsky  
AAJS President

**ELECTED TO OFFICE AT 14<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

President: Dr Suzanne Rutland

Vice-presidents: Dr Andrew Markus (VIC);

Michael Abrahams-Sprod (NSW)

Journal Editors: A/Prof Ziva Shavitsky & Dr Dvir Abramovich

Treasurer: Dr Marianne Dacy

**REMINDER**

Have you paid your membership subscription for 2002/3?

\$50 AU regular membership

\$60 AU institutional and overseas

\$15 AU full-time student/pensioner membership

Send fees to: Dr Marianne Dacy: Treasurer

PO Box 233, Holme Building, UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY NSW 2006.



## JEWISH STUDIES IN SYDNEY

### **News from the Department of Semitic Studies, University of Sydney Head of Department: Dr Suzanne Rutland**

The last two years have been a very active period for the Department. Following the restructure of the Faculty of Arts last year, we have taken our place in the School of European, Asian and Middle Eastern Studies led by Professor Tony Stephens who previously headed the School of Languages at the University of Melbourne. We continue to offer a broad program of Biblical Studies, Hebrew, both Modern and Classical, Jewish Civilisation, and Yiddish, as well as Arabic and Islamic Studies. As a result of this restructure in the Faculty of Arts, in 2003 we will become two departments: the Department of Arabic & Islamic Studies and the Department of Hebrew, Biblical & Jewish Studies. This will enable us to have a clearer identity within the School of Languages and Studies. There were a number of innovations introduced in 2001 and extended in 2002.

#### **Biblical Studies**

Two new courses were approved by the Undergraduate Committee to enable us to offer for the first time a major in Biblical Studies. These courses are 'Literature of Second Temple Judaism' and 'Jewish Apocalyptic Literature' and have been taught for the first time in 2002.

#### **Classical Hebrew at Sydney University**

Sydney University is unique among Australian universities in offering a full three-year pass and four-year honours course in Classical Hebrew. The course aims to cover both an introduction to traditional Jewish exegesis of the Biblical text and also modern critical scholarship on the Bible and the Hebrew language. One strong focus is on language scholarship, with students not only acquiring a thorough knowledge of Biblical Hebrew, but also relevant extra-Biblical sources. Thus students study Hebrew inscriptions, the Dead Sea Scrolls, and the Mishnah. It is possible to undertake additional study in related languages such as Aramaic, Syriac and Akkadian. A recent innovation is the provision of an advanced stream Biblical text program for those students with a good background in Hebrew before their enrolment at University.

These subject areas reflect the research interests and publications of the staff in the department. Professor Rifaat Ebied is an expert in Syriac. Dr Ian Young is a specialist in the language and text of the Hebrew Bible, and Northwest Semitic languages. Lucy Davey specializes in Biblical poetry and the Ugaritic language. This year Ruth Lewin has taught the new advanced text units, focussing on traditional Jewish exegesis of the Bible. In 2003, Dr Shani Berrin who has recently completed her doctorate at new York University, has been appointed to fill the position in post Biblical Hebrew and will teach the advanced strand.



**The Modern Jewish Experience: Nationalism and Statehood:** Explores the origins of modern Jewish nationalism, Zionism, in the mid-nineteenth century and charts its development through to the creation of the State of Israel in 1948.

**Jews in Modern Society:** Introduces students to the social scientific study of the Jews and their communities in the modern period.

**Jews, States, and Citizenship:** Examines tensions in the relationship of Jews to the governing principles of liberal states. Focuses on cases and controversies in France, Britain, Australia, Canada, the United States and Israel about the political recognition of Jewish religious practices and group interests.

**History of the Arab-Israeli Conflict:** Examines the Historical Background and present state of Arab-Israeli relations.

**The German-Jewish Experience:** The contribution of Jewish Germans' to the social, political and cultural life of Germany and Austria from 1900 to 1933. The impact of attempted integration as reflected in the work of Herzl, Schnitzler, Kafka, Buber,

**Women in Contemporary Judaism, Islam and Christianity:** Studies the role and significance of women in Judaism, Christianity and Islam. The focus is on feminist discourse both within and outside of these three traditions, and on the diversity of voices ranging from women who endeavour to overturn established paradigms to others who find new meanings in the rereading of ancient texts and the renewal of almost forgotten rituals.

**Holocaust and Genocide in Historical Perspective:** Introduces students to the field of genocide and Holocaust studies.

**The Australian Jewish Experience:** Jewish settlement in Australia began with European colonisation; the Jews were the first ethnic minority to emerge in Australian society. Focuses on issues of acceptance and discrimination; the key periods of Jewish migration (the 1890s, the 1930s and the post-1945 period); the contribution of Jews to Australian society, and comparisons with other English-speaking countries.

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