THE LEHIGH VALLEY CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES: An Opportunity and a Challenge

During the past fifteen months, exciting developments have taken place in the field of Jewish Studies among the Lehigh Valley institutions of higher learning. A dramatic chain of events was set in motion when, in 1984, Philip and Muriel Berman established at Lehigh University the Philip and Muriel Berman Chair of Judaica, the Lehigh Valley's first full-time position in Jewish Studies. At the same time, the Bermans established the Lehigh Valley Center for Jewish Studies, to serve students and faculty at the six member institutions of the Lehigh Valley Association for Independent Colleges (LVAIC). Members of the association include Allentown College of St. Francis de Sales, Cedar Crest College, Lafayette College, Lehigh University, Moravian College, and Muhlenberg College.

The Lehigh Valley Center for Jewish Studies (LVCJS) was established to provide curricular and co-curricular programming in Jewish Studies at the LVAIC schools. The first incumbent of the Berman Chair, Dr. Laurence J. Silberstein, was appointed as the Director of the Center. During its first year of operation, the Center sponsored lectures, concerts and films on the campuses of various colleges in the Valley. In keeping with the Center's goal of serving both the general and the academic community, these events were widely publicized and open to the general public.

Organizationally, an Academic Advisory Board was formed from representatives of all six member institutions of LVAIC. This board meets regularly to advise the director regarding academic programs. In addition, a Board of Associates was formed. Made up of eighteen members of the Lehigh Valley Jewish community, the Board of Associates undertook a fund raising effort that generated sufficient contributions and pledges to guarantee the operation of the Center for the next three years.

A cooperative effort of this dimension between the academic world and the general Jewish community is considered by knowledgeable observers to be rare. While several centers of Jewish Studies have been established in large, urban universities, they are rarely found in areas like the Lehigh Valley or among a consortium such as LVAIC.

The growth of the Center during its first year of operation has greatly exceeded all expectations. Enthusiastically supported by the Lehigh Valley Jewish community and the member institutions of LVAIC, the Center's rapid growth made it necessary to engage a full-time program administrator. Following a search carried out by a committee comprised of representatives from several of the Valley colleges, Dr. Myra Rosenhaus was appointed and assumed her position in August, 1985.

In the second year of operations, the Center has greatly expanded its programming (see pages 4-5). Three summer study programs in Israel are among the most exciting programs initiated by the Center this academic year. The Tel Miqne-Ekron Archaeological Excavation will enable students from the Valley schools to participate in one of the major archaeological digs in Israel today. A second summer program will be held at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. In addition to the standard academic program, students will also have the option of selecting a kibbutz-study program where the first month is spent on a kibbutz and the second month at the University. The Hebrew University School for Overseas Students also offers regular trips and extra-curricular cultural events.

To initiate the Center's programming in Israel, deans, provosts and faculty (continues on page 5)

Business and Community Leaders Named to Center's Board of Directors

The Lehigh Valley Center for Jewish Studies Board of Associates, appointed in January, 1985, serves in an advisory capacity to the Center and works to develop and broaden the base of community support for the Center and its programs. The Board's Chairman is Fabian I. Fraenkel, Chairman of Penn Linen and Uniform Services, Inc.

Board members include Philip Ber- man; Dr. Muriel Berman; Maxwell E. Davison, Judge of the Lehigh County Court; Bernard Frank, attorney with the firm of Frank, Frank, Penn and Bergstein; Irwin Greenberg, President, Hess's; Bernard Kobrovsky; Linda Hertzberg; Norman Seidel, attorney with the firm of Saeid and Cohen; Ronnie Sheltel; Eileen W. Ullberg, and Dr. Edward Weiner, all of Allentown, PA. Also accepting appointments are Ira Born, President, Just Born, Inc., Bethlehem; Joel S. Spira, President, Lutron Electronics Co., Inc., Coopersburg, PA; Beryl Oppenheimer, New York City; and Morton Levy, President, Astro Apparel; State Senator Jeanette F. Reib- man, and Martin Zippel, President, Zippel & Company, all o' Easton, PA.
Center Co-Sponsors Archaeological Excavation

Through a generous contribution from the Muriel and Philip Berman Fund, the Center has become a co-sponsor of a joint American-Israeli archaeological excavation, the Tel Miqne-Ekron Project. The Project is directed by Dr. Trude Dothan, Professor of Archaeology at The Institute of Archaeology of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and Dr. Seymour Gitin, Director and Professor of Archaeology, the W.F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research in Jerusalem. Other sponsoring institutions include Brown University, Boston College, the Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, as well as the Albright Institute and the Hebrew University.

Now in its fifth season, the Tel Miqne-Ekron Project is an interdisciplinary research program excavating Ekron, one of the five Philistine capital cities. The main purpose of the Project is “to investigate the evidence for cultural exchange between Philistines, Canaanites, Israelites, and Assyrians” in the Iron I and II periods. To date, the excavation has yielded impressive results, including evidence that the site was one of the most important centers of olive oil production of the Ancient Near East.

Myra Rosenhaus Appointed Center’s Program Administrator

Dr. Myra Rosenhaus has joined the Center as Program Administrator, beginning in August, 1985. She received her Ph.D. from Indiana University in Comparative Literature, with a specialization in medieval literature and civilization. Dr. Rosenhaus has taught at DePauw University in the Department of Philosophy and Religion; from 1983-85 she was Director of Convocations at DePauw, with responsibility for planning and organizing the university’s lecture series and symposia.

In the course of her career Dr. Rosenhaus has combined teaching and scholarship with administrative activity in the area of conference management. In 1984 she participated in an NEH Summer Seminar entitled “History Writing in Ancient Greece, the Near East, and Israel,” during which she completed a structural study of the kingship narratives in 1 and 2 Samuel and 1 Kings. She has delivered several scholarly papers on the twelfth-century historian Geoffrey of Monmouth, as well as papers on Jewish feminism and the works of American-Jewish women writers of the immigrant generation.

Among the conferences she helped to organize were the 1976 “Medium Aevum Transdisciplinale: Approaches to the Middle Ages,” at Indiana University; the American Comparative Literature Association Midwest Graduate Student Conference, held in 1980 at Indiana University; the 1981 Jewish Feminist Spirituality Retreat, at Cornell, New York; and the ’84 Great Lakes Colleges Association Women’s Studies Conference.

While with the Center, Dr. Rosenhaus will plan and coordinate all co-curricular programs, including lectures, films, colloquia, and conferences. She will likewise supervise the recruiting of students from LVAIC schools for summer study in Israel, and will work in cooperation with the Academic Advisory Board in developing the Center’s interdisciplinary Jewish Studies program.

Ephraim Isaac Visiting Professor at Lehigh

Professor Ephraim Isaac has joined the Lehigh University Religion Studies Department as Visiting Professor for two years, beginning in the fall semester, 1985. Professor Isaac, a native of Ethiopia, has a Ph.D. from Harvard University in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. He has written extensively in the areas of Hebrew Bible, Judaism, and African religions, history, and literature. Among his recent work is The Book of Enoch: A New Translation from the Oldest Known Manuscript, with introduction and Notes, included in James E. Charlesworth’s edition of The Old Testament Pseudepigrapha. Other of Professor Isaac’s publications include A History of Classical Ethiopic (Ge’ez) Literature (1979) and the forthcoming A History of Religion in Africa, to be published by Oxford University Press.

Professor Isaac has been Visiting Professor at Bard College and Princeton Theological Seminary, and has taught as well at Harvard University and at Hebrew University in Jerusalem; in 1983-84 he was a Visiting Fellow at Princeton. A permanent resident of the United States, Professor Isaac retains both scholarly and political ties with his homeland. He has written numerous articles and lectured widely in this country and abroad on the traditions of Ethiopian Jews and the immigration and settlement of Ethiopian Jews in Israel. Last year, at the invitation of the Joint Distribution Committee, he studied and wrote a report on the social, cultural and political problems confronting Ethiopian Jews in Israel.

Professor Isaac is a member of the Institute of Ethiopian Studies, Societé Française pour les Etudes Ethiopienes, and the Institute of Ethiopian Studies. In 1966-67 and again in 1971-72, he served as Director General of the National Literacy Campaign of Ethiopia. While at Lehigh, Professor Isaac will teach courses in both Judaism and African religions.
LVAIC Educators Travel to Israel

On December 27, 1985, nineteen Lehigh Valley Association of Independent Colleges deans, faculty and spouses, accompanied by Center Director Dr. Laurence Silberstein and his wife Mimi Silberstein, embarked on a two-week trip to Israel. In addition to an intense whirlwind introduction to the country, the major purpose of the trip was to set the stage for the establishment, through the Center, of semester- and year-long study programs for LVAIC students. To this end, the LVAIC educators visited several Israeli universities and discussed the Israeli system of higher education with their faculty and administrators. The group also had the opportunity to meet with several political leaders, including the mayor of Jerusalem, Teddy Kollek; the mayor of Tiberias, Yigal Bibi; the chairman of the Knesset Committee on Education, Mr. Nahman Raz; and Dr. Subhi Abu Ghosh, the director of the Islamic courts in Israel.

Participants in the trip included Dr. George S. Diamond, Department of English, Moravian College; Mrs. Roberta Diamond; Professor William Falla, Department of Religion, Cedar Crest College; Mr. Galen Godbey; Coordinator, Lehigh Valley Association of Independent Colleges; Professor Norman Girardot, Associate Professor and Chair, Religion Studies Department, Lehigh University; Dr. James Heller, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Moravian College; and Mrs. Alice W. Heller; Dr. John Hunt, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, Lehigh University; and Mrs. Marjorie Hunt; Dr. William A. Jeffers, Jr., Dean of College, Lafayette College; Professor Darrell Jodock, Department of Religion, Muhlenberg College; Professor Steven Lammers, Department of Religion, Lafayette College; Dr. Joseph Martos, Chair, Department of Theology, Allentown College; The Reverend Alexander T. Pocetto, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Allentown College; Mrs. Kathryn Stephanoff, Director, Allentown Public Library; and Dr. Mark van der Heyden, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Cedar Crest College, and Mrs. Dana van der Heyden.

EDUCATORS REPORT ON TRIP TO ISRAEL

In discussing the academic programs in Israel, Dean John Hunt of Lehigh University writes:

Deans and faculty visiting Israel will arrange for Lehigh Valley students to study in summer, one-semester, or year-long programs at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Ben-Gurion University in Beer Sheva, and Tel Aviv University. In addition, students can combine these programs with work/study experiences carrying academic credit on a kibbutz or at the Tel Miqne-Ekron Archaeological Project, sponsored by the W. F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research.

All three universities have fully-staffed faculties in all of the major disciplines of the fine arts, humanities, social sciences, and the natural and physical sciences, and most offer professional and pre-professional programs as well. Because of its historical importance and the vibrancy of its people, perhaps because of its size, and certainly because of its problems as a still-new and beleaguered society, Israel offers a unique and valuable setting for American students who wish to study abroad.

Ivory head inlay, Tel Miqne
Minor Concentration in Jewish Studies Available on Several Lehigh Valley Campuses

Students at Lafayette College and Lehigh University have the opportunity to elect a minor concentration in Jewish Studies. Students electing the minor may choose among courses in Hebrew language, Bible, religion, history, Israel and the Middle East, American Jewish literature, Hebrew literature in translation, and Jewish thought. Muhlenberg College, which does not currently offer a minor, provides a number of courses including Hebrew, Bible, Holocaust, Jewish-Christian relations, and modern Jewish history.

The following Jewish Studies courses are offered at LVAIC schools:

**BIBLE**
- Advanced Topics in Scripture (All.)
- Hebrew Bible in Translation (All., Leh., Muhl.)
- The Prophets (All.)

**HEBREW LANGUAGE**
- Elementary Hebrew (Laf., Leh., Muhl.)
- Intermediate Hebrew (Laf., Leh., Muhl.)
- Advanced Hebrew (Muhl.)

**HISTORY**
- American Jewish History (Laf.)
- Early History of the Jews (Muhl.)
- The Holocaust and its Impact (Leh., Muhl.)
- Modern Jewish History (Laf., Muhl.)

**ISRAEL AND THE MIDDLE EAST**
- Cultural Mosaic of Israel (Leh.)
- The Middle East in World Affairs (Leh.)

ISRAEL/MIDDLE EAST (continued)
- Politics of the Middle East (Laf.)
- Zionism and the Renewal of Judaism (Leh.)

JEWISH THOUGHT
- Jewish Thought Since the Enlightenment (Leh.)
- Jewish Thought Since the Holocaust (Leh.)

MODERN JEWISH THINKERS
- The Israeli Short Story in Translation (Leh.)
- Jewish Literature in America (Laf., Leh.)
- Literature of the Holocaust (Leh.)

RELIGION
- Introduction to Jewish Tradition (Leh.)
- The Jewish-Christian Encounter (Leh., Muhl.)
- Judaism and the Feminist Critique (Leh.)
- Modern Judaism (Leh.)
- Religions of the World—Judaism (C.)

URBAN STUDIES
- The American Jewish Community (Leh.)

RELATED COURSES
- Ancient Near East (Muhl.)
- Contemporary Theology (Leh.)
- Judaism, Catholicism and Protestantism (Mor.)
- Medieval Philosophy (Leh.)
- Religion in American Culture (Muhl.)
- Religions of the World (Leh.)
- Religious Rituals and Symbols (Muhl.)

Tradition of Holocaust Studies Remains Strong in the Lehigh Valley

It is a significant but little known fact that some of the pioneering work in the field of Holocaust Studies was carried on in the Lehigh Valley by Lehigh University professors Alice and Roy Eckardt. Through their courses, lectures and articles, the Eckardts helped to establish the academic field of Holocaust Studies. The tradition they began is currently being continued and developed by the member institutions of the Lehigh Valley Center for Jewish Studies. At Muhlenberg College, Professor Darrell Jodock, Chair of the Department of Religion, and Rabbi Herbert Brockman of Allentown congregation Keneseth Israel, offer a course entitled “The Holocaust and Its Impact.” At Lehigh University, Professor Alice Eckardt offers courses on the history and literature of the Holocaust, while Professor Laurence Silverstein teaches a course titled “Jewish Thought Since the Holocaust.”

Through the LVAIC libraries and media centers and the Holocaust library at the Jewish Community Center in Allentown, students have access to extensive primary and secondary resources relating to the period of the Holocaust. Recently, the Center acquired three tapes from the Yale Video Archive for Holocaust Testimony, which are available for use in relevant courses at the six colleges.

In the Fall semester, the Center sponsored three programs which increased...
CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES (continued from page 1)

representatives from the six LVAIC schools participated in a two-week academic mission to Israel this winter led by Dr. Laurence J. Silberstein and his wife, Mimi. (see page 3) During their visit, the academicians met with their counterparts at Israeli universities and learned about Israeli academic life firsthand. They were also briefed on various aspects of Israeli society, politics and culture.

In his recently published study of American Jews, A Certain People, Charles E. Silberman points to the "explosive growth in the number of Jewish Studies courses and programs" on American college campuses as one indication of the vitality of American Jewry. As a center for higher learning, the Lehigh Valley was not untouched by the Jewish Studies phenomenon. During the past decade, course offerings in Hebrew language and literature, Jewish thought and Jewish history have greatly increased on the campuses of colleges in the Valley. At two of those campuses, Lehigh and Lafayette, a minor concentration in Jewish Studies is available to students. However, the establishment of the Lehigh Valley Center for Jewish Studies has created possibilities for students and faculty at participating schools that were unavailable a short time ago.

EDUCATORS TRAVEL (continued from page 3)

Mordechai, on the Golan Heights, or before the Good Gate of Metulla.

We were a mixed group of Jews and Christians with interests in the religious sites of both traditions. As such, we could have spent our two weeks in Jerusalem alone, but we did not. We ventured out into the Israeli countryside and found there a tapestry as rich as in Jerusalem. The starkness of the Judean wilderness, the community at Qumran, the fortress at Masada, all served to emphasize the lessons we had learned in Jerusalem. Biblical stories became clearer as we saw the Sea of Galilee, Capernaum, and Jericho. It opened our eyes to see the size of ancient Caesarea, and we caught a glimpse of our heritage from the heights of Mt. Carmel and Megiddo.

It is impossible to express all that we heard, felt, and saw in those two weeks. The land tells us so many stories, of ancient and modern history, diverse and divergent peoples. Suffice it to say that the stories we took away with us have left an indelible impression. We are not the same as we were nor will we be again.

HOLOCAUST STUDIES (continued from page 4)

the regular course offerings in Holocaust Studies. Richard Kostelanetz, American writer and media artist, presented and commented on his film "Ein Verlorenes Berlin/A Berlin Lost," on the Lafayette, Muhlenberg and Lehigh campuses. Each showing was attended by university and community members.

The documentary, produced in conjunction with German filmmaker Martin Koberger, presents Jewish life in Berlin through images of the great Jewish cemetery Weissensee. The film's soundtrack records the voices of former Berliners now living abroad as they remember the lives they led in Germany's capital.

In a second program, David Wyman, Professor of History at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and author of The Abandonment of the Jews: America and the Holocaust, 1941-45, spoke at Cedar Crest College. This program was jointly sponsored by the Center, Cedar Crest College, and the Northeast Pennsylvania Judicatoires.

The Center and Lehigh University's Division of Speech and Theater jointly sponsored Shimon Winzelberg's play about the Lodz ghetto, "Resort 76." The play was staged by Theater at Lehigh under the direction of Lehigh University faculty member Annie-Laurie Wheat. In addition to six performances at Lehigh, the play was presented at the Jewish Community Center in Allentown. Professor Alice Eckardt served as advisor to the production and led discussions after several of the performances.

"Resort 76" is a unique play which utilized the comedic modes of irony, sarcasm, and black humor to dramatize the situation of a diverse group of people struggling to survive in a decaying Nazi rug factory. The play centers on a series of moral dilemmas which confront the characters in their desperate daily lives.

The dramatic presentation was enhanced by an art exhibit mounted in Lehigh's Wilbur Drama Workshop by artist Sandy Rels. Rels exhibited paintings, collages and constructions from his Holocaust Haggadah.

Beyond the Wall

During the month of November, the English Department and Hillel organization of Lafayette College sponsored a showing of the controversial Israeli film, "Beyond the Wall," directed by Uri Barbash and starring Arnon Zadok and Muhammad Bakri. Set in a maximum security prison in Israel, the film shows how Arab and Jewish prisoners caught in the system temporarily overcome their mutual hostility to join in protesting the sadistic, manipulative practices of their jailers. In spite of the controversy surrounding it, the film was Israel's submission to the Venice film festival, and was nominated, in 1984, for an Academy Award as Best Foreign Film.
SPRING SEMESTER PROGRAMS

Zvi Ganin, Dept. of Jewish History, Tel Aviv University
"Mair Kahane and the Tradition of Jewish Extremism and Radically" and "The PLO and Israel: Prospects for Peace in the Middle East."

Charles Silberman, author of A Certain People
"The Great Transformation: Christians and Jews in an Open Society."

"The White Rose," Chaplain's Film Series
Sponsored by the Chaplain's Office, Lehigh and the Center.

David Blumenthal, Dept. of Religion, Emory University
"Maimonides: Astrophysicist, Philosopher, and Mystic." Sponsored by Muhlenberg College, the Dept. of Religion Studies and the Science, Technology, and Society Program, Lehigh and the Center.

Luba Gardus, Mary Costanza
"Between Image and Experience: Artists' Responses to the Holocaust." Sponsored by the Depts. of History and Religion Studies, Lehigh and the Center.

"My Michael," film version of Amos Oz novel
Sponsored by Lehigh Hillel, the Chaplain's Office and Freshman Seminar Program, Lehigh and the Center.

George Gussburgs, Distinguished Professor of Law, Rutgers University
"The Ups and Downs of Jewish Emigration from the Soviet Union." Sponsored by the Depts. of Government and International Relations, Lehigh and the Center.

Chaim Potok, Second Annual Tribute to Raoul Wallenberg
"An Evening with Chaim Potok." Sponsored by the Center, Muhlenberg College, Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the Lutheran Church in America, Jewish Federation of Allentown, Allentown Area Lutheran Parish, and Hillel Chapter, Muhlenberg and Cedar Crest.

Second LVCJS Faculty Colloquium
Kibbutz as Social Experiment: Methodological Problems and Needed Research. Participants: Donald Campbell, Lehigh University; Michal Paig, Haifa University. Sponsored by the Center and the Dept. of Social Relations, Lehigh.

Academic Advisory Board

Prof. Laurence J. Silberstein, Dept. of Religion Studies, Lehigh University, Director
Prof. Mary Faith Carson, Dept. of Religion, Moravian College
Prof. Alice Eckardt, Dept. of Religion Studies, Lehigh University
Prof. William Falka, Dept. of Religion, Cedar Crest College
Prof. Norman Girardot, Dept. of Religion Studies, Lehigh University
Mr. Gaten Godby, Lehigh Valley Association of Independent Colleges
Prof. Darrell Jodock, Dept. of Religion Muhlenberg College
Prof. Stephen Lamers, Dept. of Religion, Lafayette College
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Dr. Joseph Martos, Dept. of Theology, Allentown College of St. Francis de Sales
Dr. Myra Rosenhaus, Program Administrator, Lehigh Valley Center for Jewish Studies
Prof. Robert Weiner, Dept. of History, Lafayette College
Prof. Arvid Ziedonis, Jr., Dept. of Foreign Language, Muhlenberg College

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To obtain further information concerning the Center and its programs, or to be added to our mailing list, please write to:
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