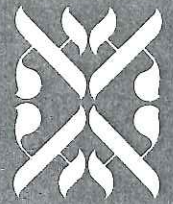


The Lehigh Valley Center for Jewish Studies



FALL 1986

Newsletter

VOLUME II, NO. 1

Berman Gift Establishes Four New Faculty Positions in Jewish Studies

An extraordinary gift from Philip and Muriel Berman has brought the Lehigh Valley Center for Jewish Studies to a major landmark in its development. This latest gift from the Bermans, whose original gift made possible the creation of the Center, provides four new faculty positions in Jewish Studies for a period of five years, beginning in September, 1987. Three new appointees, to be known as Philip and Muriel Berman Scholars, will be full time, tenure track faculty members in the departments of religion at Lafayette College, Lehigh University and Muhlenberg College.

These positions are to be cooperative appointments between the home institutions (Lafayette, Lehigh, and Muhlenberg) and the Center. The professional responsibilities of each appointee will be jointly assigned by the director of the Lehigh Valley Center for Jewish Studies and the appointee's department chair, and will include

teaching courses on their home campuses as well as in the religion departments of other LVAIC campuses (Allentown College of St. Francis de Sales, Cedar Crest College, and Moravian College). Under normal circumstances, an individual faculty member will not teach at more than two institutions in any given semester. The new courses will complement courses currently offered on several campuses in Jewish Studies in such areas as Hebrew language and Jewish history, and will enrich the minors' programs that exist on two campuses.

The Bermans' gift also provides for an annual visiting professor, most likely from Israel. The visiting professor will be based in various departments at different LVAIC schools on a rotating basis and will teach at several campuses in any given year. The visiting professor will also be available to the general community for lectures and seminars.

At the end of five years, the four cooperative positions will be evaluated by the administration of the respective institutions, the director of the Center, and the Bermans. If the evaluation is positive, the Bermans have agreed to permanently endow each position as a Philip and Muriel Berman Chair in Jewish Civilization or Jewish Studies.

The proposal for the new positions was developed by a task group appointed by the LVAIC Council of Deans and Provosts and was comprised of deans and faculty representatives from the six LVAIC institutions. The task group, which met regularly during the 1985-1986 academic year, was charged with the responsibility to develop the framework for a cooperative academic program in Jewish Studies within LVAIC. It was originally formed as an expression of the view shared by LVAIC administrators and faculty that if the Center were to achieve its full academic potential, additional faculty positions were necessary.

These appointments mark a major turning point in the history of the Lehigh Valley Center for Jewish Studies. During the first two years of its operation, the Center emphasized such co-curricular activities as lectures, films, plays, and concerts. The appointment of Dr. Myra Rosenhaus as full-time program administrator in 1985 resulted in a vastly expanded and improved program of activities. In addition to her programming activities, Dr. Rosenhaus is responsible for recruiting and processing students for the Center's study programs in Israel, including year long and semester programs at Hebrew University and Tel Aviv University, and summer programs at the Hebrew University and



Muriel and Philip Berman

continued on page 5

Programs Address Issues of Modern Israeli Life

Israel's foreign and domestic situations were examined in three separate programs during the spring semester. In two lectures in January at Lehigh University and Cedar Crest College, Zvi Ganin, Senior Lecturer in the Department of History at Tel Aviv University, focused on Israeli-Arab relations and the position of Meir Kahane in Israeli life and politics. In his Cedar Crest lecture, "Meir Kahane and the Tradition of Jewish Extremism and Radicalism," Ganin chronicled the rise of Kahane and the Kach party and pointed out the dangers they pose to the future of Arab-Israeli relations.

In his Lehigh University lecture, "The PLO and Israel: Prospects for Peace in the Middle East," Ganin discussed the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the significance of the PLO, and possible solutions to the problem. For both moral and security reasons, Ganin insisted, Israel can neither continue her military rule over the West Bank, nor establish an independent Palestinian state. Ideally, he suggested, Israel should disengage and turn the West Bank over to Jordan for governance.

In the Second Lehigh Valley Faculty Colloquium in Jewish Studies, which was held in May, Michal Palgi, Visiting Scholar, Center for Jewish Studies, Harvard University, and member of the Institute for Research of the Kibbutz at Haifa University, lectured on "Kibbutz as Social Experiment: Methodological Problems and Needed Research." Responding to Palgi's presentation, Donald Campbell, Professor of Social Relations at Lehigh University, raised a number of methodological problems relating to kibbutz research.

Palgi has published and lectured extensively in the field of Kibbutz Studies. With Menachem Rosner, she has edited *Sexual Equality: Israeli Kibbutz Tests the Theories* and co-wrote with Rosner, *Industrial Democracy in Israel*. A recent paper, "Attempts for Achieving Sex-role Equalization—Some Questions the Kibbutz Movement Has to Answer," formed the nucleus of her discussion with Campbell.

At the IAAP 21st International Congress of Applied Psychology, held in July in Jerusalem, Campbell led a series

of discussions focusing on experimenting societies, in which the kibbutz figured prominently. In his plenary address at the Congress, "Assessing the Impact of Social Experiments: Illustrations From Kibbutz Studies," Campbell explored ways to estimate the long-term effects of such experiments and their implications for developing public policy.

Another dimension of Israeli life was explored in the 1975 Israeli film "My Michael," based on the novel by Amos Oz, which was shown in March at Lafayette College and Lehigh University. The film, which is set in the Jerusalem of the 1950s, follows the slow but inexorable disintegration of the marriage between Michael, a scientist wholly engaged in his work, and Hanna, a woman cut off from life by her marriage and child. Hanna dreams of her childhood friendship with two Arab boys who, in her daydreams and nightmares, symbolize the lost excitement and drama of her youth. The film ends with a slow, sweeping panorama of Jerusalem, inviting the viewer to interpret Hanna's life as an allegory for Israel's.

Soviet Policy on Jewish Emigration Topic of Ginsburgs Lecture

The appearance at Lehigh University of George Ginsburgs, Distinguished Professor of Foreign and Comparative Law at the Rutgers Law School, was jointly sponsored by the Department of Government, the Department of International Relations, and the Center. In his March lecture, "The Ups and Downs of Jewish Emigration from the Soviet Union," Ginsburgs succinctly explained the Soviet government's policy, or lack of policy, concerning emigration of Soviet citizens. Ginsburgs emphasized how the capricious Soviet decision-making policy complicates the situation for Jews (and others) who want to leave the Soviet Union. Because of the sensitivity of the Soviet government to public embarrassment, Ginsburgs believes that any negotiations conducted on behalf of Jewish emigrants by the United States should be done without fanfare and out of the public eye. He further

continued on page 5

Maimonides Anniversary Commemorated



David Blumenthal

The 850th anniversary of the birth of Maimonides was commemorated in February at Lehigh University and Muhlenberg College with lectures by Emory University Professor David Blumenthal. The lectures were sponsored by the Center for Jewish Studies, the religion departments of Muhlenberg and Lehigh, and Lehigh's Science, Technology, and Society Program.

Blumenthal, the Jay and Leslie Cohen Professor of Jewish Studies at Emory, is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, and Columbia University. He is chairperson of the Department of Religion at Emory, a special advisor to the Chairman of the Holocaust Memorial Council, editor of the series *Etudes sur le judaisme medieval*, and a member of the Continuing Seminar on Zionist Thought. He has made several significant contributions to the field of medieval Judaic studies, including *The Commentary of Hoter ben Shelomo to the Thirteen Principles of Maimonides* and *The Philosophic Questions and Answers of Hoter ben Shelomo*.

In his lecture, "Maimonides: Astrophysicist, Philosopher, and Mystic," Blumenthal pointed out the convergence between Maimonides' philosophical teaching, and fundamental motifs in the Jewish mystical tradition. Describing the Maimonidean cosmology as a hierarchy of intelligences emanating from God, he emphasized the implicit mysticism that is found in the thought of the thinker who is usually seen as the epitome of medieval rationalism.



Center Director Laurence Silberstein; Karla Gibbs, Hillel representative; Chaim Potok; Darrell Jodock, Department of Religion, Muhlenberg College; and Walter Wagner, Chaplain, Muhlenberg College, at Wallenberg tribute.

Chaim Potok Highlights Second Wallenberg Tribute

Noted Author Chaim Potok was the keynote speaker at Muhlenberg College's second Raoul Wallenberg Tribute, held April 13. The lecture, jointly sponsored by Muhlenberg College, the Allentown Area Lutheran Parish, Jewish Federation of Allentown, the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod of

the Lutheran Church in America, the Muhlenberg and Cedar Crest Hillel chapter, and the Center, was attended by over 400 people. Potok spoke of Marc Chagall's use of the crucifixion to symbolize suffering, including the suffering of the Jews during World War. II. Developing themes intro-

duced in *My Name is Asher Lev*, Potok explained that, as the premier symbol of suffering in Chagall's inherited iconography, the crucifixion was the most appropriate and powerful visual image available to the artist, its Christian origin notwithstanding. According to Potok, Chagall's fusion of Christian images and Jewish themes is indicative of an imagination capable of reaching outside the boundaries of its own culture to assimilate other, radically different, cultural influences.

The Wallenberg Tribute, instituted at Muhlenberg College in 1985, commemorates Raoul Wallenberg's achievements by fostering cultural interchange between Jews and Christians in the Lehigh Valley. At the first annual tribute, Wallenberg was awarded the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, *Honoris Causa, in absentia*. The degree was received by Stig Hadenius, Press Counselor of the Swedish Embassy. In making the award, Jonathan Messerli, the president of the Lutheran-affiliated College, paid tribute to Wallenberg, a Lutheran who "opposed tyranny so that others could be free." "It is fitting," he stated, "that the Jewish community, a Lutheran college, and the Lutheran church join to honor this man and be inspired by his example."

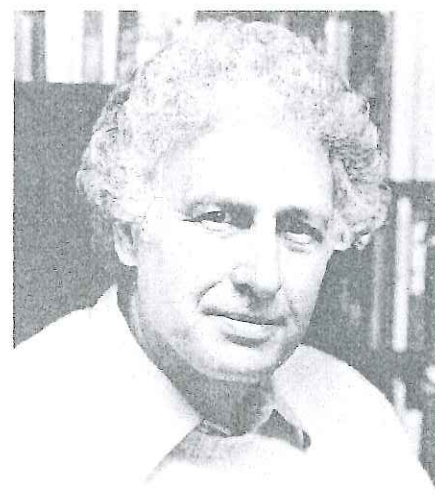
Situation of Jews and Judaism in the United States Addressed in Charles Silberman Lecture

"Equality is now a fact, not just an aspiration" was the central thesis of a talk given at Lehigh University in February by noted author Charles Silberman. Speaking to an audience of more than 150 people, Silberman elaborated on the theme of his recent book *A Certain People: American Jews and Their Lives Today*, in which he argues that American Jews are more fully accepted into the mainstream of American society and culture than at any time in our history. *A Certain People* is the culmination of work Silberman undertook as Director of the Study of Jewish Life, a research project of the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture. As evidence of the transition of the Jews from outsiders to insiders, Silberman pointed to the growing representation of Jews in leadership positions in industries and professions from which they were previously excluded.

In response to questions, Silberman, who serves on the Board of Trustees of the Society for the Advancement of Judaism, chairs the Reconstructionist

Prayerbook Commission, and is a director of the United Synagogue of America, readily admitted that anti-Semitism still exists in American society. Nevertheless, he insisted, over the past few decades, it has declined significantly and no longer represents a significant factor in the major institutional structures of American society and culture. Moreover, he insisted, one must distinguish between anti-Semitic attitudes, anti-Semitic behavior, and the institutional expression of anti-Semitism. While anti-Semitic attitudes continue to exist, there is a decided decline in anti-Semitic behavior, and anti-Semitism is rapidly disappearing as a significant force in social and political institutions. This claim of Silberman's has aroused much criticism from leaders of several American Jewish organizations since the appearance of his book.

No less controversial is Silberman's claim that Judaism in the United States is experiencing a period of rejuvenation. When he first began his study, Sil-



Charles Silberman

berman assumed that the dire warnings about the decline of Jewish life in the United States and the growing rates of intermarriage and assimilation were true. However, as a result of his research, Silberman is convinced that Judaism is flourishing in the United States. As evidence, Silberman pointed

continued on page 5

HOLOCAUST ART: Medium and Message

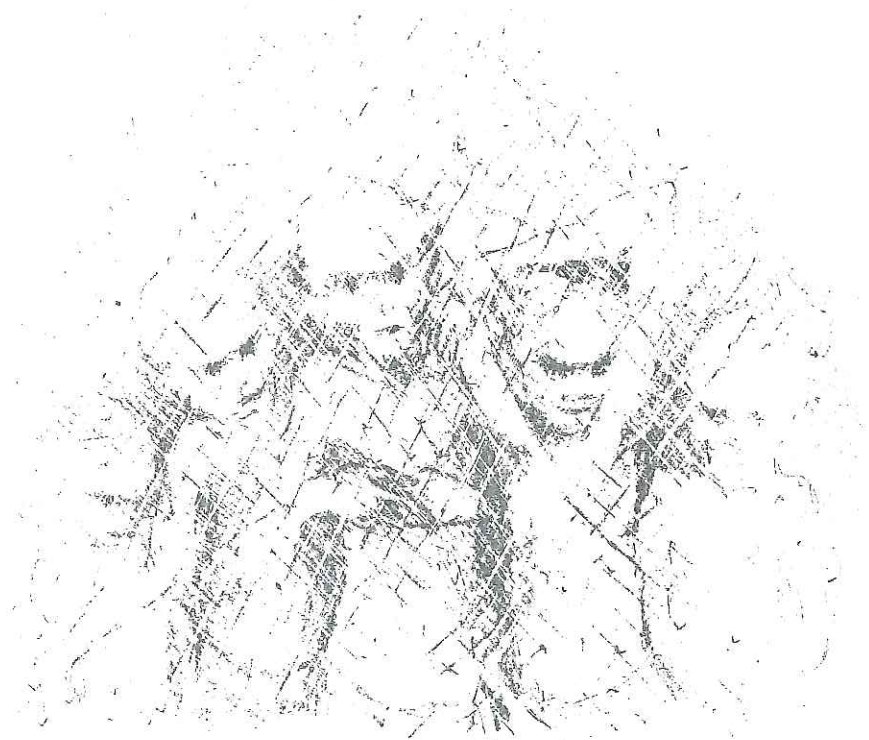
In a lecture given in March at Lehigh University entitled "Between Image and Experience: Artists' Responses to the Holocaust," Luba Gurdus, a survivor of the Majdanek concentration camp, and Mary Costanza, an American-born artist and educator, spoke from their individual perspectives about the capacity of art to interpret the Holocaust. Although they come from two different worlds, Luba Gurdus and Mary Costanza share a position, to keep alive the experiences of Holocaust victims and to speak through their art to a world ignorant of suffering. Each woman's work opens the way for a deeper understanding of the other's. Both speak about Holocaust art as a genre unto itself, and identified their own art as part of that genre. They also emphasized the role of Holocaust art in the lives of the artists who created it and its significance for the present-day viewer.

Luba Gurdus, who lived through the Nazi conquest of Poland, suffered



Deportation
Luba Krugman Gurdus

the loss of her parents and internment in Majdanek concentration camp. Her creative activity as an artist provided her with continuity through the most soul-killing situations, including the loss of her young son during the war. Her art represents a moving and powerful graphic record of her life experiences. Her works include "They Didn't Live to See," a portfolio published in 1949, now housed in the collection of the Yad Vashem Memorial Museum; *Painful Echoes. Poems of the Holocaust*; and *Death Train*. Her works have been widely exhibited, including showings at the Bezalel Museum in Jerusalem and The Jewish Museum in New York.



Butterfly Watchers: Terezin (Kaddish for Six Million), Mary Costanza

By contrast, Mary Costanza, artist and Assistant Professor of Art at Gratz College, came to Holocaust art through her commitment to art as an expression of social issues. Her book, *The Living Witness*, is a collection of and commentary on the works of Holocaust artists. The book contains many works never before published, which Costanza collected during three years of travel in Europe, Israel, and the United States. Her own work, including the lithograph series "Kaddish for Six Million," has been exhibited in galleries and museums in this country and at the Yad Vashem Memorial Museum. A forthcoming book, *Children's Roll-Call*, which is illustrated with art works produced in the ghettos and camps, deals with the fate of Jewish children during World War II.

In addition to their lecture, Gurdus and Costanza participated in classes at Lehigh University and Moravian College. Speaking to Professor Daniel Tereshko's art history class at Moravian, Costanza used art to introduce students to the experience of the Holocaust. Gurdus addressed the issue of art as resistance in Lehigh Professor Alice Eckardt's Holocaust course; the Holocaust class taught at Muhlenberg College by Professor Darrell Jodock and Rabbi Herbert Brockman came to Lehigh and joined Professor Eckardt's class for this occasion.

BERMAN *continued from page 1*

the Tel Migne-Ekron archaeological excavations, and the Hebrew University's kibbutz university program.

The new cooperative appointments will create in the Lehigh Valley a solid, diverse and comprehensive academic program in Jewish Studies usually found only at large urban universities. When added to the existing Berman Chair at Lehigh, this core of full time specialists in Jewish Studies, working cooperatively through the Center, will transform the Lehigh Valley into a recognized center of Jewish scholarship and teaching. The pioneering nature of this cooperative program is indicative of the readiness of LVAIC administrators and faculty to relinquish conventional ways of thinking and explore new and experimental educational alternatives.

The Bermans' philanthropic leadership in support of Jewish Studies was acknowledged and celebrated at a luncheon held on November 13 at Moravian College. The luncheon, hosted by Dr. Galey Godbey, LVAIC coordinator, was attended by the Center staff, the six LVAIC presidents, LVAIC administrators and faculty, and members of the Center's Board of Associates. Dr. Nahum Sarna, emeritus professor of Jewish Studies at Brandeis University and past president of the Association for Jewish Studies, was the keynote speaker. Dr. Roger Martin, president of Moravian College, the Reverend Daniel Gambet, president of Allentown College and chair of LVAIC's Board of Directors, and Center director, Dr. Laurence Silberstein also spoke. The closing address by Philip Berman was received enthusiastically by the group.

Seven LVAIC Students on Israel Summer Study Programs

In spite of a spring marked by terrorism, increased tension in Europe and the Middle East, and a general decline in LVAIC summer study programs abroad, seven students from LVAIC institutions spent the summer in Israel in a new program sponsored by the Lehigh Valley Center for Jewish Studies. The students, representing Lafayette College and Lehigh University, either studied at the Hebrew Uni-

versity, participated in the Hebrew University's kibbutz-study program, or participated in the Tel Migne-Ekron Archaeological Project. Five Lehigh students, Jeffrey Bram, Raymond Evans, Adam Riss, Susanne Rubenstein, and Samuel Rubin, studied at the



Robert Glennon, first LVAIC student at Tel Migne Ekron project.

Hebrew University. Mary Yoser, a student at Lafayette, participated in the combined Kibbutz-Hebrew University program. Robert Glennon of Lehigh was the first LVAIC student to work at the Tel Migne-Ekron excavations, a project co-sponsored by the Center together with the Hebrew University, the Albright Institute of Jerusalem, Brown University, and several other American institutions of higher learning. The Center's co-sponsorship of the Tel Migne-Ekron project is made possible by a gift from the Philip and Muriel Berman Foundation. Efforts are already underway to recruit students for the 1987 summer study programs in Israel and an increased number of participants is anticipated.

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Myra Rosenhaus

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Shirley Ratushny

EMIGRATION *continued from page 2*

believes that the United States or any other country entering into such negotiations should be prepared to literally pay in order to achieve its goals.

Ginsburgs received his Ph.D. from U.C.L.A. with a dissertation entitled "Theory and Practice of Neutrality in Soviet Diplomacy." He has written extensively in the field of Soviet law and Sino-Soviet relations, with particular emphasis on territorial issues. His most recent works include a book, *The Citizenship Law of the USSR* (1983) and articles on "aliens," "asylum," "citizenship," "displaced persons," and "emigration and immigration" in the 1985 edition of the *Encyclopedia of Soviet Law*. Before assuming his present position at the Rutgers Law School, he taught at U.C.L.A., the University of Iowa, and The New School for Social Research.

SILBERMAN *continued from page 3*

to the growing acceptance of Jewish Studies on college campuses, and the growing number of young Jews who are finding their way back to Judaism. Furthermore, Silberman believes that the claims about the high intermarriage rate have been grossly exaggerated.

While he is uncertain what shape Judaism will take in the future, Silberman believes that the overall impact of American pluralistic democracy on Judaism is positive. Rather than bemoan the loss of traditional forms, American Jews should celebrate the emergence of new forms of Jewish identity and acknowledge the resurgence of Judaism that is evident in many parts of the country.

Film Series Shows "THE WHITE ROSE"

The German film, "The White Rose," was shown in February as part of the Lehigh University Chaplain's film series. Released in 1983, the film depicts an aspect of the German resistance to Hitler not generally known, the brief history of a group of German students who organized demonstrations against the government, and were hanged for their actions. The group, organized in 1942 by siblings Hans and Sophie Scholl, took their name as a symbol of Christian love in opposition to, in their words, the "dictatorship of evil." A discussion, led by Professor Alice Eckardt, followed the screening.

FALL SEMESTER PROGRAMS

"Shoah," documentary film on the Holocaust (*September*)

Shown at Lehigh, Lafayette and Muhlenberg. Sponsored by the Center; the Lafayette, Lehigh, and Muhlenberg Chaplains' offices; Lafayette College; and the Jewish Federation of Allentown.

Richard Sarason, Associate Professor of Rabbinic Literature and Thought at Hebrew Union College (*October 30*)

"Rabbinic Understanding of Scripture," presented at Lehigh and Muhlenberg.

Trip to the Metropolitan Museum (*November 2*)

"Treasures of the Holy Land: Ancient Art from the Israel Museum." Open to all LVAIC students, faculty and staff.

Meron Benvenisti, director of the West Bank Data Project, and former Deputy Mayor of Jerusalem for Arab Affairs (*November 11-13*)

"Formative Myths and Current Realities in Israeli Society," Lehigh University. "Changing Reality and Settlement Policy on the West Bank," Cedar Crest College.

Third Faculty Colloquium in Jewish Studies (*January 1987*)

Professor Ilan Peleg, Associate Professor and Head, Government and Law Department, Lafayette College, will speak on his forthcoming book, *Begin's Foreign Policy 1977-1983: Israel's Move to the Right.*

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