



Philip and Muriel Berman Center for Jewish Studies



Volume 7, No.1
Spring 1993

Newsletter

Lehigh University
Bethlehem, Pa.

From the Director . . .

This academic year has seen continued progress on several existing projects at the Berman Center together with the initiation of several new and exciting projects. To consolidate and strengthen cooperative activities with Israeli colleagues, we have formed an Israeli Academic Advisory Board which parallels our local Academic Advisory Board, established in 1984.

The Israeli Board, whose members are listed on page 8, is comprised of all past Berman Visiting Scholars, as well as colleagues from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Tel Aviv University, the Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies, and the International Center for the Teaching of Jewish Civilization, all of whom have previously participated in joint ventures with the Berman Center.

The Israeli Board, which held its initial meeting at Mishkenot Shaananim in December, will advise the director on cooperative projects such as conferences, symposia, and publications, and assist in the annual search for the Berman Visiting Scholar.

Jewish Fundamentalism in Comparative Perspective: Religion, Ideology, and the Crisis of Modernity, the second volume in the Berman Center series New Perspectives on Jewish Studies, has been completed. Even as we await its publication by New York University Press in the next few weeks, Robert Cohn (the Berman Scholar at Lafayette College) and I are completing the editing of the papers from our 1992 conference on "The Other in Jewish Thought and History." Publication

continued on page 2

"The Other in Jewish Thought and History" Brings Jewish Studies Scholars to Lehigh



John Kishi IV

Laurence Silberstein (Berman Center), Colin Jones (New York Univ. Press), Sander Gilman (Cornell Univ.), and Peter Likins (Lehigh Univ.) at the opening reception.

"The Other in Jewish Thought and History" was the focus of a two-day international conference sponsored by the Berman Center for Jewish Studies last May. Sixteen scholars from the United States and Israel explored the categories, descriptions, and images by means of which Jews have defined other groups and, simultaneously, themselves.

The conference, attended by 100 people, opened with a reception and dinner for speakers, registrants, and guests. Welcoming remarks were made by Peter Likins, President of Lehigh University; James Gunton, Dean of the College of Arts and Science; and Laurence Silberstein, Director of the Berman Center.

Sander Gilman, Goldwin Smith Professor of Humane Studies at Cornell University, presented the keynote address, entitled "Are Jews White? Or, the History of the Nose Job." One of the first scholars to explore the concept of the "other" and its function in the formation of Jewish identity, Gilman examined the ways in which the category of race and body images in Western scientific and popular culture has shaped Jewish self-perception.

Conference speakers and their presentations included:

Daniel Boyarin, Hermann P. and Sophia Taubman Professor of Talmudic Culture, Univ. of California, Berkeley

continued on page 7

From the Director . . .

continued from page 1

of the latter volume is scheduled for early 1994. At the same time, our colleague Steven Kepnes of Colgate University is editing *Critical Jewish Hermeneutics*, which will also appear as part of our series. The Kepnes volume includes articles by a variety of scholars applying contemporary hermeneutics, literary theory, and discourse theory to the interpretation of Judaism. If we succeed in maintaining our current schedule, five volumes will have appeared in the series by the end of 1994. In addition to four multi-authored volumes, we are currently arranging to add volumes by individual scholars to the series.

Planning is already under way for our next conference, which will be undertaken in cooperation with the Philip and Muriel Berman Center for Biblical Archaeology of the Hebrew University. One segment of the conference, focusing on biblical archaeology, is to take place in Jerusalem in fall 1994. The other segment, devoted to archaeology and its relationship to the humanities, will be held at Lehigh University in May 1994. Further information will be forthcoming as the planning process proceeds.

Finally, as the Newsletter goes to press, I am pleased to announce that Professor Theodore Friedgut of the Hebrew University has been appointed as the Philip and Muriel Berman Visiting Scholar for 1993-94. Professor Friedgut, a scholar of international reputation in Soviet history and politics, has served as Chair of the Department of Russian and Slavic Studies at the Hebrew University and is the President of the Israel Slavic Studies Association. He is the author of four books and dozens of articles on the history and politics of the Soviet Union, and a noted authority on Russian Jews.

—Laurence J. Silberstein

Second Volume in Berman Center Series Available from NYU Press

Jewish Fundamentalism in Comparative Perspective: Religion, Ideology, and the Crisis of Modernity, the second volume in the Center's series New Perspectives on Jewish Studies, will be published in March 1993 by New York University Press. Laurence J. Silberstein, Philip and Muriel Berman Professor of Jewish Studies at Lehigh and Director of the Berman Center, edited the volume.

In this work, international scholars from fields such as religious studies, sociology, political science, history, and anthropology explore diverse dimensions of religious fundamentalism and relate it to a range of cultural and political issues. Although the focus is on fundamentalism in its Jewish guise, the methodological and comparative emphases of the book make it valuable to specialists in a variety of fields.

The original impetus for the volume arose out of a conference on "Fundamentalism as a Political Force in the Middle East," sponsored by the Berman Center at Lehigh in May 1989, and a seminar series on religious fundamentalism held at Lehigh during the 1988-89 academic year.

Table of Contents

Jewish Fundamentalism in Comparative Perspective

I. Religious Fundamentalism and Modernity: Theoretical Issues

Laurence J. Silberstein (Lehigh Univ.), "Religion, Ideology, Modernity: Theoretical Issues in the Study of Jewish Fundamentalism"

James Davison Hunter (Univ. of Virginia), "Fundamentalism: An Introduction to a General Theory"

Hava Lazarus-Yafeh (Hebrew Univ. of Jerusalem), "Contemporary Fundamentalism: Judaism, Christianity, Islam"

Susan Harding (Univ. of California, Santa Cruz), "Contesting Rhetorics in the PTL Scandal"

II. Fundamentalism and the Politics of the Middle East

James Piscatori (Univ. College of Wales), "Islamic Fundamentalism in the Wake of the Six Day War: Religious Self-Assertion in Political Conflict"

Elie Rekhess (Tel Aviv Univ.), "The Resurgence of Palestinian Islamic Fundamentalism in the West Bank and Gaza"

Ian S. Lustick (Univ. of Pennsylvania), "Jewish Fundamentalism and the Israeli-Palestinian Impasse"

Ehud Sprinzak (Hebrew Univ. of Jerusalem), "The Politics, Institutions, and Culture of Gush Emunim"

Menachem Friedman (Bar-Ilan Univ.), "Jewish Zealots: Conservative versus Innovative"

Gerald Cromer (Bar-Ilan Univ.), "Withdrawal and Conquest: Two Aspects of the Haredi Response to Modernity"

III. Religious Fundamentalism and Judaism: Selected Issues

Aaron Kirschenbaum (Tel Aviv Univ.), "Fundamentalism: A Jewish Traditional Perspective"

Menachem Friedman (Bar-Ilan Univ.), "The Market Model and Religious Radicalism"

Alan L. Mittleman (Muhlenberg College), "Fundamentalism and Political Development: The Case of Agudat Yisrael"

Jewish Fundamentalism in Comparative Perspective: Religion, Ideology, and the Crisis of Modernity

(ISBN 0-8147-7967-0/\$20.00 paper;
ISBN 0-8147-7966-2/\$40.00 cloth)

can be purchased from
New York University Press
70 Washington Square South
New York, NY 10012
Attn: Order Dept.
Phone (212) 998-2575
Fax (212) 995-3833.



Pictured at the B'nai B'rith Hillel Recognition Dinner are (left to right) David Bittker of the Hillel Commission, Mimi and Laurence Silberstein, Muriel and Philip Berman, and Eleanor Katz of Hillel.

Philip and Muriel Berman and the Berman Center Receive Hillel Award

The Berman Center for Jewish Studies recently received the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations' William Haber Agency Award in recognition of the Center's significant contributions to Jewish campus life. The award was presented to Philip and Muriel Berman at the First Annual National Recognition Dinner of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations held in Washington, D.C., in May. Also present at the dinner were Center Director Laurence J. Silberstein and his wife, Mimi.

The Bermans established the Center for Jewish Studies at Lehigh in 1984 to provide comprehensive educational programming in Jewish Studies for the member institutions of the Lehigh Valley Association of Independent Colleges (LVAIC).

These include Allentown College of St. Francis de Sales, Cedar Crest College, Lafayette College, Lehigh University, Moravian College, and Muhlenberg College.

The Bermans have endowed three chairs in Jewish Studies, two at Lehigh and one at Lafayette. In addition to their annual contribution to the Center's operation, they have provided scholarships for LVAIC students studying at the Oxford Centre for Postgraduate Hebrew Studies, Tel Aviv University, and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

In 1989, Lehigh's Board of Trustees honored the Bermans for their extraordinary generosity by naming the center the Philip and Muriel Berman Center for Jewish Studies.

Peace Process Discussed by Elie Rekhess

"The Israeli Elections, the Palestinians, and the Peace Process" was the topic of several lectures to Lehigh Valley audiences in September by Dr. Elie Rekhess, Senior Research Associate at the Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies at Tel Aviv University. Dr. Rekhess, who served as the Philip and Muriel Berman Visiting Scholar at the Berman Center from 1988 to 1990, specializes in Palestinian politics in the West Bank and Gaza, political activities of the Arab minority in Israel, and the Islamic resurgence in Israel and the occupied territories.

While Rekhess believes that the current discussions between the Israeli government and the Palestinians are a positive step, he is skeptical that there will be any instantaneous solutions to the conflict. In his opinion, the Intifada was the major factor that finally brought the Arabs and the Jews to the negotiating table. In the eyes of the Palestinians, the Intifada dispelled the myth of the invincibility of the Israeli Defense Forces and restored their pride and self-confidence. To the Israelis, it proved that holding the West Bank and Gaza did not guarantee security, that there was no military solution to the conflict, and that the confrontation could only be resolved politically.

The Gulf War was also a factor in the Palestinian decision to join the peace process, Rekhess said. The Palestinians were severely damaged

continued on page 7

Lehigh Student Awarded Oxford Centre Scholarship

Yoram Miller, a junior government major at Lehigh University, was awarded a scholarship from the Philip and Muriel Berman Foundation to study at the Oxford Centre for Postgraduate Hebrew Studies in England. He is currently enrolled in the Centre's One Year Program in Jewish Studies. Having completed his first trimester, Miller is enthusi-

astic about the opportunities available to him. He reports that the courses are challenging, the environment conducive to learning, and the atmosphere unique. He is particularly enjoying the opportunity to study with students from around the world.

Students at LVAIC consortium schools who wish to study at the

Oxford Centre may apply for the scholarship. To be eligible, students must have attained sophomore status, have a grade point average of 3.0 or better, and have taken two Jewish studies courses, including one at an upper level. For more information, contact the Berman Center at 758-3352.

BCJS Faculty

- **Laurence Silberstein**, Philip and Muriel Berman Professor of Jewish Studies, Dept. of Religion Studies, Lehigh University, *Jewish Thought since the Holocaust, Modern Jewish Thought, Sex and Gender in Judaism, Zionism and the Renewal of Judaism*
- **Robert Cohn**, Philip and Muriel Berman Scholar in Jewish Studies, Dept. of Religion, Lafayette College, *Hebrew Bible, Biblical Narrative, Jewish Response to Catastrophe*
- **Chava Weissler**, Philip and Muriel Berman Professor of Jewish Civilization, Dept. of Religion Studies, Lehigh University, *Jewish Folklore, Hasidic Tales, Modern Judaism, Mystical Tradition in Judaism, Sex and Gender in Judaism*
- **Alan Mittleman**, Muhlenberg Scholar in Jewish Studies, Religion Dept., Muhlenberg College, *Early and Modern History of the Jews, Judaism and the State, Jewish Ethics*
- **Gad Barzilai**, Philip and Muriel Berman Visiting Scholar, 1992-93 (Tel Aviv University), *Middle East Politics*

Affiliated Faculty

Lehigh University

- **David Amidon, Jr.**, Urban Studies, *American Jewish Community*
- **Elizabeth Fifer**, Dept. of English, *Jewish Literature*
- **Harriet Parmet**, Dept. of Modern Foreign Languages, *Hebrew Language and Literature, Israeli Culture*
- **Julius Simon**, Dept. of Religion Studies (adjunct), *The Holocaust*
- **Oles Smolansky**, Dept. of International Relations, *Middle East Studies*
- **Roslyn Weiss**, Dept. of Philosophy, *Jewish Philosophy*
- **Benjamin Wright III**, Dept. of Religion Studies, *Hebrew Bible, Judaism in the Greco-Roman World*

Lafayette College

- **Daniele Cohen**, Dept. of Foreign Languages and Literatures, *Hebrew Language*
- **Howard Marblestone**, Dept. of Foreign Languages and Literatures, *Hebrew Language*
- **Ilan Peleg**, Dept. of Government and Law, *Middle East Politics*
- **Robert Weiner**, Dept. of History, *Modern Jewish History*

Muhlenberg College

- **Martin Beifield**, Dept. of Religion, *The Holocaust*
- **Darrell Jodock**, Dept. of Religion, *The Holocaust*
- **Reba Marblestone**, Dept. of Foreign Languages and Literature, *Hebrew Language and Literature*

Faculty Notes

September 1991—December 1992

Laurence Silberstein presented a paper, "Otherness and Self in the Interpretation of Judaism: Theoretical Issues," at the Berman Center's May 1992 conference, which he co-chaired. His article "Benign Transmission Versus Conflicted Discourse: Jewish Studies and the Crisis of the Humanities" appeared in the Fall/Winter 1991 issue of *Soundings*. He presented a paper entitled "Culture, Identity, and the Postmodern Interpretation of Judaism" at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting in November. He edited and wrote the Introduction to *Jewish Fundamentalism in Comparative Perspective: Religion, Ideology, and the Crisis of Modernity*.

Gad Barzilai published *Democracy in Wartime: Conflict and Consensus in Israel* (Hebrew); *The Impact of Intercommunal Conflict: The Intifada and Israeli Public Opinion* (with G. Goldberg and E. Inbar); "The Political Economy of Military Actions: The United States and Israel," in *The Military Industrial Complex in the United States*; "Do Wars Have an Impact? Israeli Public Opinion after the Gulf War" in the *Jerusalem Journal of International Relations* (with E. Inbar), March 1992; "Cultural Orientations and Hero Images" in the *Newsletter of Israeli Studies* (with M. Keren), May 1992; "Israel—1990," *Contemporary Middle East Studies*, Vol. XIV, 1991; and "Mass Media and the Press," in *Kesher*, December 1991.

Robert Cohn presented a paper, "Before Israel: The Canaanites as Other in Biblical Tradition," at the Center's May 1992 conference, which he co-chaired. He also spoke on "Images of Self and Other: A 'Cluster' of Courses" at the annual meeting of the Association of Integrative Studies (with Profs. Marblestone and Byrd of Lafayette), and lectured on "Jerusalem as Sacred Center" at the "City of David" Exhibition at Lehigh.

Howard Marblestone lectured on "Jerusalem through Greek and Roman Eyes" at the "City of David"

Exhibition at Lehigh. He presented a paper entitled "Borrowed Words and Foreign Words: The Greek Substratum in Hebrew Throughout the Ages" at the 1992 Annual Pedagogical Conference of the National Association of Professors of Hebrew. He also published two review essays, one in *Hadoar*, September 1992, and the other in *Hebrew Studies*, Vol. 33, 1992.

Alan Mittleman was recently named the Muhlenberg Class of 1932 Research Professor for 1993-94 and was awarded an Alexander von Humboldt Foundation Research Fellowship for study in Germany. He published two articles, "Two Orthodox Jewish Theories of Rights: Isaac Breuer and Sol Roth" in *Jewish Political Studies Review*, Fall 1991, and "Christianity in the Mirror of Jewish Thought," in *First Things*, Aug./Sept. 1992. His article "Fundamentalism and Political Development: The Case of Agudat Yisrael" appears in the Berman Center's most recent volume, *Jewish Fundamentalism in Comparative Perspective*.

Harriet Parmet presented a paper entitled "An Approach toward the Inclusion of Women Writers in a Course on the Israeli Short Story" at the 1992 International Conference of the National Association of Professors of Hebrew. She co-authored (with Judy Lasker of Lehigh) "Religion and Views on Reproductive Technologies: A Comparative Study of Jews and Non-Jews," which was published in *Shofar*, Fall 1991.

Roslyn Weiss received the 1992 Idalee Friedman Award in Philosophy from Baltimore Hebrew University. She presented papers at the Association for Jewish Studies Annual Meetings in 1991 and 1992: "The 'Strange' Statement of R. Eliezer" and "Metaphorically Speaking: Maimonides on the Relationship between the Torah's Literal Text and Its Nonliteral Sense." She also translated S. Shokek's Hebrew essay *Jewish Mysticism and Jewish Ethics in the "Book of the Righteous"*. Her article "Maimon-

ides on the End of the World" appeared in *Maimonides Studies*, 1992.

Chava Weissler presented a paper, "Jewish Mystical Heresy and the Construction of Women as the Other," at the Berman Center's May 1992 conference. Her article "Mitzvot Built into the Body: Tkhines for Menstruation, Pregnancy, and Childbirth" appeared in *People of the Body*, and she translated and annotated "Four Tkhines" in *Four Centuries of Jewish Women's Spirituality*. She presented the Fifth Annual Hannah A. Quint Lecture in Jewish Studies at Middlebury College, and lectured at the Convocation on the Academic Study of Judaism and the Reform Rabbinate at Hebrew Union College.

Benjamin Wright III was awarded a Yad HaNadiv/Barecha Foundation Fellowship for the academic year 1992-93. He is spending the current academic year in Israel working on a Hebrew/Greek concordance and index to "The Wisdom of Yeshua ben Sira." He is also working with Professor Emanuel Tov, professor of Bible at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and co-chair of the Dead Sea Scrolls publication committee.

Berman Visiting Scholar Discusses Israel and Gulf War

Dr. Gad Barzilai, Philip and Muriel Berman Visiting Scholar at the Berman Center for the academic year 1992-93, critically analyzed the repercussions of the Gulf War on Israel in a lecture at Lehigh last fall entitled "Rally Round the Flag: National Security, Israel, and Desert Storm."

Barzilai began his presentation with a discussion of the theory known as "Rally Round the Flag." According to this theory, political elites, in times of security crises, manipulate the strategic environment in order to create loyalty to the government or political regime, influence the outcome of elections, or achieve other political goals. In

the case of Israel and the Gulf War, Barzilai said, the Shamir government became involved in the lives of its citizens in an effort to engender a social consensus regarding governmental policy. It initiated emergency regulations, imposed heavy censorship, and turned over control of the civilian population to the army. According to Barzilai, the national state of anxiety was exploited by the government to achieve certain internal political aims, especially in regard to the Palestinians residing in the occupied territories. In general, the military restrictions in the territories of Gaza and the West Bank were significantly more severe than before the eruption of the Gulf War.

In Barzilai's opinion, the "Rally Round the Flag" phenomenon was effective during the war only in mobilizing the public to support governmental policy. However, because of the protracted national security crisis and the possibility of a violent encounter between the Palestinians and Israelis, the long-term effects of the phenomenon were very limited.

Barzilai and his associates, Professors Efraim Inbar and Giora Goldberg, conducted several public opinion polls in Israel, before and after the war. They concluded that the public held virtually the same moderate attitudes toward the Israeli-Arab conflict after the war as it held before the eruption of hostilities.

Dr. Barzilai earned his Ph.D. at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and LL.B. at Tel Aviv University. An assistant professor of Political Science at Tel Aviv University, he specializes in security studies and comparative law in Middle Eastern societies, particularly Israel. He has published three books about the social aspects of Arab-Israeli wars (*The Impact of Intercommunal Conflict: The Intifada and Israeli Public Opinion*, with Giora Goldberg and Efraim Inbar; *A Democracy in Wartime: Conflict and Consensus in Israel*; and *Wars, Internal Conflicts and Political Order: A Jewish Democracy in the Middle East*) and is co-editor, with Aharon Kleiman and Gil Shidlo, of a volume about the Gulf War (*The Gulf Crisis and Its Global Aftermath*).

Lehigh Professor of Philosophy Lectures on Maimonides

Dr. Roslyn Weiss, Associate Professor in the Department of Philosophy at Lehigh, initiated her affiliation with the Berman Center with a lecture on "Maimonides: Philosopher or Man of Faith?" Focusing on the controversies surrounding the interpretation of Maimonides' *Guide of the Perplexed*, Weiss identifies with those who seek to resolve apparent contradictions in the Maimonidean corpus through philosophic argumentation. To support her view, she drew upon Maimonides' treatment of the problem of creation in the *Guide*, excerpts from the Muslim Kalam tradition, and Aristotle.

Weiss argued that Maimonides was unwilling to adopt that approach which rejected any view that seemed to conflict with traditional Jewish interpretations of the Torah. Instead, accepting the Aristotelian view of a miracle-free, natural world-order, Maimonides adopted a view of Creation that was compatible with this world-order. According to Weiss, "Maimonides comes as close as he can to being a full-fledged Aristotelian, save only for his unwillingness to decide definitively in favor of [the] eternity [of the world]."

Weiss, who earned her Ph.D. in Philosophy at Columbia University, is a specialist in Greek philosophy. She joined the Lehigh faculty in 1991, having previously taught at the University of Delaware and Hood College. She is the author of numerous articles which have appeared in such journals as *Ancient Philosophy*, *Maimonidean Studies*, *Journal of the History of Philosophy*, and *Jewish Quarterly Review*. In addition to her specialty in Greek philosophy, she has, in recent years, lectured and published on Maimonides.

We at the Berman Center are pleased to welcome her as an associate and look forward to her ongoing participation in our scholarly discussions.



Photograph found at Auschwitz

Yom Hashoah Commemorated with Screening of “Eyes from the Ashes”

Last April, as part of the Yom Hashoah commemoration at Lehigh, Ann Weiss, writer, photographer, and filmmaker, presented a video she produced and narrated along with an accompanying lecture. Entitled “Eyes from the Ashes,” the video is a poignant collage of photographs Weiss first saw while visiting Auschwitz in 1986. People who had been deported to Auschwitz brought these photographs of loved ones with them—not knowing where they were going or when they would return. The more than 2,000 photographs, secretly hidden away, had been lost for 40 years.

“These photographs are a most precious and unique view of the Holocaust; instead of focusing on what was, we see what might have been,” said Weiss, who is the daughter of concentration camp survivors. “The Holocaust is not something that happened to a mass of nameless, faceless people. It is something that happened to individuals with lives and hopes and dreams.” Weiss hopes some day to complete a full-length documentary based on these Auschwitz photographs.

Ann Weiss is finishing a graduate program at the University of Pennsylvania’s Annenberg School of Communication, concentrating on the aspects of the Holocaust and Communication. Her lecture was sponsored by Lehigh’s Hillel, the Office of the Chaplain, the Newman Center, and the Berman Center.

Preservers of Secret Judaism Topic of Lecture by Renée Levine Melammed

As part of the Berman Center’s spring program series, Dr. Renée Levine Melammed, Judaic Scholar-in-Residence at Franklin and Marshall College, spoke on “Preservers of Secret Judaism: The Role of Women in Spain after the Expulsion.” Her lecture was co-sponsored by the Berman Center, the Department of Religion Studies, and the Women’s Studies Program at Lehigh.

Dr. Melammed briefly summarized the events in 14th- and 15th-century Spain which led to the creation of a class of baptized Jews (*conversos*) and their descendants. Melammed believes that, in spite of the dangers involved, a significant community of these *conversos* remained faithful to Judaism and its traditions, an activity perceived by the Church as heretical. In 1478, the Inquisition was established to root out these “judaizers” or crypto-Jews.

After the Expulsion of the Jews in 1492, the only Jews remaining in Spain were these baptized *conversos*. The absence of rabbis and synagogues made the practice of secret Judaism more difficult. Jewish tradition had to be transmitted orally from generation to generation, and as time progressed, the memory of these traditions faded.

Women played a central role in

crypto-Jewish society, especially as teachers, Melammed stated, and many women were tried by the Inquisition because of their attempts to practice and preserve Judaism. In fact, in the Inquisition records that she examined (witness testimonies, accusations, and confessions), more women were tried than men. Comparing the seriousness of the charges brought against women to those brought against their husbands, Melammed concludes that women were the main perpetrators of Jewish tradition.

“What is clear here,” she said, “is that despite the risks involved, these women remained loyal to Judaism, maintained their commitment to their ancestral religion, and identified with and preserved their heritage.”

Dr. Melammed, who earned her Ph.D. at Brandeis University, taught at Ben-Gurion University from 1983 to 1990. In 1990-91 she was a fellow at the Annenberg Research Institute. Her recent publications include “Sephardi Women in the Medieval and Early Modern Period,” “The Conversos of Cogoludo,” “Some Death and Mourning Customs of Castilian Conversas,” and “Women in (Post-1492) Spanish Crypto-Jewish Society.”



Present at the first meeting of the Berman Center’s Israeli Academic Advisory Board were (from left to right) E. Belfer, G. Weimann, B. Wright, L. Silberstein, A. Margalith, A. Susser, E. Rekhess, J. Meskin, U. Bialer, H. Hever, and A. Ophir. Not shown: G. Barzilai, M. Davis, T. Dothan, G. Gilbar, N. Levzion, and D. Porat.

Gabriel Weimann Outlines Problems in Middle East Reporting

Gabriel Weimann, Associate Professor of Communications in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at the University of Haifa, and the Center's Philip and Muriel Berman Visiting Scholar for 1991-92, presented a lecture on "The Western Media and the Middle East" at Lehigh last spring. Using the concepts of mass communication analysis, including news selection, images, and "double standards," Weimann analyzed the reasons for the over-simplified and often distorted media presentations on the Middle East.

"No one is happy with the reporting of news from the Middle East," Weimann said, "not the Arabs, the Jews, or the American Jewish community. Everyone finds the reporting opinionated, even the media itself."

According to Weimann, there is an obsession to publish or broadcast news from the Middle East, especially from Israel, which leads to the reporting of issues and events which are only marginally "newsworthy." This obsession makes it easier to manipulate news-hungry journalists, he explained. There are 350 news organizations in Israel today, and terrorist groups and other organizations are eager to create news for them.

Even with the overabundance of news from the Middle East, glaring omissions and oversights in reporting "newsworthy" events often occur, Weimann said. He cited as an example the 1982 massacre of 20,000 Syrians, which was not reported by American journalists until a week later. He attributes these omissions to limited access to news sources, governmental or political pressure on the media, and ignorance or misunderstanding on the part of the journalists.

Weimann criticized American television, where the average news item is 20 seconds long, for oversimplifying the news. "Israel has 24 political parties," he explained. "How can an Israeli election be discussed in 20 seconds?"

Weimann, who earned his Ph.D. in Communications at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, specializes in the study of the mass media and its effects on terrorism, politics, voting, and images. He recently completed two books, *The Theater of Terror: The Mass Media and International Terrorism* and *The Influentials: People Who Influence People*.

Conference on "The Other..."

continued from page 1

ley, "There is No Jew or Greek in Christ": Paul's Discourse of the Other

Jonathan Boyarin, Visiting Scholar, Center for Studies of Social Change, New School for Social Research, New York, *The Other Within and the Other Without*

Robert Cohn, Associate Professor and Philip and Muriel Berman Scholar in Jewish Studies, Lafayette College, *Before Israel: The Canaanites as Other in Biblical Tradition*

Gerald Cromer, Senior Lecturer, Dept. of Criminology, Bar-Ilan Univ., *Arabs and "Arabs Within": The External and Internal Other in the Ideology of Meir Kahane*

Trude Dothan, Eleazar L. Sukenik Professor of Archaeology, and Director, Philip and Muriel Berman Center for Biblical Archaeology, Hebrew Univ. of Jerusalem, *The Philistines as Other: Biblical Rhetoric and Archaeological Realia*

Elizabeth Fifer, Professor, Dept. of English, Lehigh Univ., *People of Color as Other in Recent Jewish American Literature*

Steven Fraade, Mark Taper Professor of the History of Judaism, Yale Univ., *Defining the Anomalous: Non-Jews at the Intersection of Rabbinic Law and Narrative*

Hannan Hever, Lecturer, Dept. of Poetics and Comparative Literature, Tel Aviv Univ., *Territoriality and Otherness in Hebrew Literature of the Independence War*

Ross Kraemer, Visiting Associate Professor, Dept. of Religious Studies, Franklin and Marshall College, *The Other as Woman: Aspects of Polemic Between Pagans, Jews, and Christians in Greco-Roman Antiquity*

Peter Machinist, Professor, Dept. of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Harvard Univ., *Outsiders or Insiders: The Biblical View of Emergent Israel and Its Contexts*

Jacob Meskin, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Religion, Williams College, *Writing, Body, Politics: The Other in Levinas and Derrida*

Adi Ophir, Senior Lecturer, Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Ideas, Tel Aviv Univ., *Memory and Otherness in the Haggadah: From Pharaoh to Saddam Hussein*

Laurence Silberstein, Philip and Muriel Berman Professor of Jewish Studies, Lehigh Univ., *Otherness and Self in the Interpretation of Judaism: Theoretical Issues*

Chava Weissler, Philip and Muriel Berman Professor of Jewish Civiliza-

tion, Lehigh Univ., *Jewish Mystical Heresy and the Construction of Women as the Other*

Elliot Wolfson, Associate Professor, Skirball Dept. of Hebrew and Judaic Studies, New York Univ., *Woman—The Feminine as Other in Kabbalah*

The conference was co-chaired by Laurence Silberstein and Robert Cohn of the Berman Center. The conference proceedings will be published by New York University Press early in 1994 as part of the Berman Center series New Perspectives on Jewish Studies. Funding for the publication was provided by the Lucius N. Littauer Foundation.

Peace Process

continued from page 3

by the war, particularly economically, and it had a sobering effect on them. They were, to a large extent, compelled to go to the negotiations in Madrid out of weakness.

The negotiations are in a very preliminary stage, according to Rekheh. While both sides seem to have accepted the idea of Palestinian autonomy, there is widespread disagreement regarding the form self-government should take. In addition, problems such as elections, police and internal security, land registration, control of water and natural resources, emigration policy, control of the Jordan River bridges, taxes, and financial systems will undoubtedly arouse heated controversies. Taking into consideration the complexity of the issues and the many difficult problems remaining to be solved, Rekheh believes an interim agreement should be considered.

Dr. Rekheh's recent publications include "Initial Israeli Guidelines towards the Arab Minority, 1948-1949" in *New Perspectives on Israeli History* and "The Resurgence of Palestinian Fundamentalism in the West Bank and Gaza" in *Jewish Fundamentalism in Comparative Perspective*. Both volumes are part of the Center's series New Perspectives on Jewish Studies. Rekheh's forthcoming book, *Between Communism and Arab Nationalism: The Israeli Communist Party and the Arab Minority in Israel*, discusses the political orientations of the Arabs in Israel.

**Philip and Muriel Berman
Center for Jewish Studies**

Lehigh University
9 W. Packer Avenue
Bethlehem, PA 18015-3082

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Bethlehem, PA
Permit No. 230

BCJS Academic Advisory Board

- Laurence J. Silberstein, Berman Professor of Jewish Studies, Dept. of Religion Studies, Lehigh University
- G. Clarke Chapman, Dept. of Religion, Moravian College
- Robert Cohn, Berman Scholar in Jewish Studies, Dept. of Religion, Lafayette College
- George Diamond, Dept. of English, Moravian College
- Alice Eckardt, Dept. of Religion Studies, Lehigh University (Emerita)
- William Falla, Dept. of Religion, Cedar Crest College
- Galen Godbey, Lehigh Valley Association of Independent Colleges
- William Jennings, Dept. of Religion, Muhlenberg College
- Stephen Lammers, Dept. of Religion, Lafayette College
- Howard Marblestone, Dept. of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Lafayette College
- Reba Marblestone, Dept. of Foreign Languages and Literature, Muhlenberg College
- Alan Mittleman, Dept. of Religion, Muhlenberg College
- Bernard O'Connor, Dept. of Theology, Allentown College of St. Francis de Sales
- Harriet Parnet, Dept. of Modern Foreign Languages, Lehigh University
- Ilan Peleg, Dept. of Government & Law, Lafayette College

- Michael Raposa, Dept. of Religion Studies, Lehigh University
- Robert Weiner, Dept. of History, Lafayette College
- Chava Weissler, Berman Professor of Jewish Civilization, Dept. of Religion Studies, Lehigh University
- Arvids Ziedonis, Jr., Dept. of Foreign Languages and Literature, Muhlenberg College

Israeli Academic Advisory Board

- Gad Barzilai, Dept. of Political Science, Tel Aviv University*
- Ella Belfer, Dept. of Political Studies, Bar-Ilan University*
- Uri Bialer, Dept. of International Relations, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- Moshe Davis, International Center for the University Teaching of Jewish Civilization
- Trude Dothan, Philip and Muriel Berman Center for Biblical Archaeology, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- Gad Gilbar, Dept. of Middle Eastern Studies, University of Haifa*
- Hannan Hever, Dept. of Poetics and Comparative Literature, Tel Aviv University
- Nehemia Levtzion, International Center for the University Teaching of Jewish Civilization
- Amira Margalith, Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies, Tel Aviv University

- Adi Ophir, Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Ideas, Tel Aviv University
- Dina Porat, Dept. of Jewish History, Tel Aviv University
- Elie Rekhess, Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies, Tel Aviv University*
- Asher Susser, Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies, Tel Aviv University
- Gabriel Weimann, Dept. of Sociology, University of Haifa*

**Philip and Muriel Berman Visiting Scholars*

This newsletter is made possible by a grant from the Philip and Muriel Berman Foundation.

To obtain further information concerning the Berman Center and its programs or to be added to our mailing list, please write to the Philip and Muriel Berman Center for Jewish Studies, Lehigh University, 9 West Packer Avenue, Bethlehem, PA 18015-3082.

BCJS Staff

Laurence J. Silberstein, Director
Shirley Ratushny, Adm. Associate
Erica Nastasi, Secretary/Coordinator