



# Judaic Studies Newsletter




## 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UCF JUDAIC STUDIES PROGRAM



### President Hitt Honors Abe and Tess Wise upon Establishing an Endowed professorship in Judaic Studies

The Judaic Studies Program at the University of Central Florida held a luncheon to honor Tess and Abe Wise upon the establishment of the newly endowed professorship in Judaic Studies named after them. The luncheon was attended by President John C. Hitt, Provost Terry L. Hickey, Dean Kathryn Seidel, the Honorable Judy Albertson, UCF Trustee, other university administrators, contributors, students, and community guests.

#### **In This Issue:**

- **Endowed Professorship**
- **Upcoming Courses for Spring 2005 Semester**
- **Judaic Studies Lecturer Series**
- **Luncheon Photo Album**

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Editor: Avi Locke

The occasion also marked the 20th anniversary of the Judaic Studies program. Judy Albertson opened by greeting the audience.

President John C. Hitt spoke about UCF achievements and presented the Wises a special scroll in recognition of their contribution to UCF's Judaic Studies. It was accompanied with a symbolic gift of an artistic tapestry made by an Israeli artist with the title "Lion of Juda."

Tess Wise responded by thanking the community and the university for their help in establishing the endowed professorship.

Dean Kathryn L. Seidel of the College of Arts and Sciences spoke of the importance of the endowed professorship and presented Dr. Moshe Pelli, the named Abe and Tess Wise Professor of Judaic Studies, a plaque commemorating his appointment to the endowed professorship.

*(Continued on page 5) / Hitt*



*Dr. Hitt presents Abe and Tess Wise with a "Lion of Juda" tapestry.*

### Pelli Named "Abe and Tess Wise Professor of Judaic Studies" at UCF

Professor Moshe Pelli, director of the University of Central Florida's Judaic Studies program, was appointed last month as the "Abe and Tess Wise Professor of Judaic Studies" at UCF. Orlando residents Abe and Tess Wise donated more than half of the \$100,000 used to set up the newly endowed professorship, which demonstrates the commitment of both the public and the university to support the Judaic Studies program and its curriculum. The endowment is eligible for \$50,000 of matching funds from the state.

The Wises founded the Holocaust Memorial Resource and Education Center of Central Florida. Tess Wise is the center's board chairman and has been its executive vice president. The Wises have been members of UCF's Judaic Studies Advisory Board since that program began in 1984.

*(Continued on page 5) / Pelli*

### Spring Semester Courses

Members of the community are invited to enroll in our upcoming courses for the Spring semester, 2005.

*(See page 2 for details)*



## Members of the Community Are Invited to Enroll

HBR 1121

### ELEMENTARY MODERN HEBREW LANGUAGE AND CULTURE II

Elementary modern Hebrew for the second semester is designed to teach major language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing, and to introduce the student to Israeli culture and Jewish civilization. First semester Hebrew or its equivalent is prerequisite. The course is open to students and members of the community who have had some background in Hebrew, equivalent to one semester.

Section: 0001 Tue & Thu 16:30-18:20 4-credits (code: 12200) COMM 147 Instructor: D. Avni

Section: 0002 Tue & Thu 13:30-15:20 4-credits (code: 19104) TA 116 Instructor: D. Avni

JST 3402

(code: 19105) THE HISTORY OF JEWISH PEOPLE II

Students will learn of life and history of the Jews in the medieval and modern worlds, including topics such as the Jewish-Christian relations; development of Jewish philosophy and mysticism; Jewish life in Eastern Europe and in the Arab countries; the Holocaust; modern Israel; and Jews and Judaism in North America.

Tue 18:00-20:45 3-credit course CH 202 Instructor: K. Hanson

JST 3751

(code: 19394) LITERATURE OF THE HOLOCAUST

*This course is a study of the traumatic experience of the Holocaust in Europe as expressed and depicted in contemporary Jewish and Hebrew literature (in translation). Authors to be studied include: Elie Wiesel, Primo Levi, Aharon Appelfeld, Ka-Tzetnik, H. Bartov, G. Gouri, Y. Amichai, and J. Kosinski.*

Tue & Thu 10:30-11:45 3-credit course ED 190 Instructor: M. Pelli

JST 3820

(code: 19188) MODERN HEBREW CULTURE: THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

This course is designed to teach about the development of the State of Israel: political and ideological struggle for the establishment of the State of Israel, with emphasis on forces which shaped contemporary Israeli society and politics, its culture, literature, and science. (Knowledge of Hebrew not required).

Mon 18:00-20:50 3-credit course MOD9 101 Instructor: K. Hanson

JST 3930.1

(code: 19106) ST: BIBLICAL PROPHETS

A study of the biblical prophets, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel in their writing against the backdrop of their times. Biblical poetic devices, such as parallelism, as well as social and ethical issues and criticism are to be discussed.

Tue & Thu 9:00-10:15 3-credit course BA 121 Instructor: K. Hanson

JST 3930.2

(code: 19107) ST: CLASSICS OF JUDAISM

Study of the classics of Judaism, introduction to Biblical and post-Biblical Rabbinic writing starting with Scripture, Qumran documents, the New Testament, Mishnah, Tosefta and the two Talmuds. In addition, the Siddur is reviewed as well as Jewish mysticism.

Tue & Thu 12:00-13:15 3-credit course CL1 103 Instructor: R. Sherwin

JST 3940

INTERNSHIP

Internship: with Dr. Pelli's permission

3-credit course CNH 201E Instructor: M. Pelli

JST 3905.3

(code: 82593) INDEPENDENT STUDY

Independent Study: with Dr. Pelli's permission

3-credit course CNH 201E Instructor: M. Pelli

- **Judaic Studies Courses as a Minor or Electives:** Students may take the courses as electives or as required courses to satisfy requirements for a Minor in Judaic Studies (18 credits of upper division courses).
- **Judaic Studies Certificate:** Certificate in Judaic Studies is available for students completing 5 courses in Judaic Studies.
- **Foreign Language Requirements:** Hebrew language courses may satisfy foreign language requirements.
- **Liberal Studies - Minor in Judaic Studies:** Liberal Studies students are encouraged to take a Minor in Judaic Studies.
- **Religious Studies Minor, Humanities Minor, or Middle East Studies Minor:** Students who take a Minor in Religious Studies, Humanities, or Middle East Studies are encouraged to take courses in Judaic Studies. Most of our courses may be counted toward their Minors.
- **Registration for Non-Degree Students:** Members of the community may take the courses as non-degree students or may audit the courses. Registration is required of non-degree students; call the Registrar's office at (407) 823-3100 for details.
- **Tuition Fee Waiver for Senior Citizens:** Persons 60 years of age or older who meet Florida residency requirements may register for classes without payment. Senior citizens should call Linda Scaglione at (407) 823-3531 (lscaglio@mail.ucf.edu) or Kelly Shilton at (407) 823-2842 (kshilton@mail.ucf.edu), to obtain registration forms in advance.

Registration for degree students: November 1, 2004-January 9, 2005. Registration for non-degree students: January 7, 2005. Non-degree students are kindly requested to call the Judaic Studies Program Office prior to January 7, 2005, to be listed for registration. Classes begin January 10, 2005.

For information, please call Dr. Moshe Pelli, Director, Judaic Studies Program, (407) 823-5039; or: 823-5129, 823-2296.

Judaic Studies Program, University of Central Florida, P.O. Box 161992, Orlando, FL 32816-1992



## **Distinguished Lecturer Series on Myths of the Hebrew Language**

### **Dr. Shmuel Bolozky: The Hebrew Language**

Dr. Shmuel Bolozky, one of the most known experts in Hebrew language and linguistics, presented two lectures on “Hebrew in the 21st Century: Past, Present, and Future,” and “Myths and Facts Regarding the History and Nature of the Hebrew Language” on Monday, October 18, 2004 and Tuesday, October 19, 2004, respectively, as part of the UCF Judaic Studies Distinguished Lecturers Series.

Dr. Shmuel Bolozky is Professor of Hebrew at the Department of Judaic and Near Eastern Studies, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, since 1978. Prof. Bolozky had served as the department chair from 1985-1990, and from 1995-1998. He edited the textbook *501 Hebrew Verbs*, published in 1996.

Prof. Bolozky is the immediate past



*Dr. Shmuel Bolozky lectured on “Hebrew in the 21st Century.”*

President of the National Association of Professors of Hebrew (2001-2003), was its Vice President 1998-2001, and has been a member of the Program Committee of the International Conference on Hebrew Language and Literature since 1993. He is the Chair of the Modern Hebrew Divisional Committee of the Na-

tional Association of Professors of Hebrew, and ex-officio member of its Advisory Council (1995-1998). He is currently working on a grant from by the U.S. Department of Education for a National Middle East Language Resource Center, 2002-2006, and is also the Associate Director of its Resource Center.

Prof. Bolozky has a Ph.D. in Linguistics, Department of Linguistics, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois, 1972, an M.A. in English Language from the University of London, 1968, and a B.A. in English Literature and Middle Eastern Studies from Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 1965.

These lectures are sponsored by the Judaic Studies Program at UCF, with the cooperation of Liberal Studies and the Honors College.

## **From the Luncheon’s Album**



Clockwise starting from top left: 1) Abe and Tess Wise and Judy Albertson; 2) Dr. and Mrs. Hanson with Dr. Pelli; 3) Tapestry presented to Abe and Tess Wise; 4) UCF string quartet; 5) The Aleph, symbol of the Luncheon; 6) Luncheon guests.





## Memorable Quotes from the Professorship Luncheon

### The Following Individuals and Families Have Given Graciously to the Program :

#### Benefactors:

Abe & Tess Wise  
(Abe O. Wise & Tess Wise  
Philanthropic Fund)

Barbara Weinreich

#### Sponsors:

David & Judy Albertson

Hy & Harriett Lake

Sherman, Jordan & Barry Miller  
(Thelma Shefner Miller  
Memorial Fund)

Abe & Tess Wise and Zelig &  
Bobbi Wise

(O Z Wise Family Trust)

Robert & Judith Yarmuth

#### Donors:

Siegmund & Marilyn Goldman

Alex & Sheila Greenspoon

Sy Israel

#### Contributors:

Avie Abramowitz

Roy & Patricia Ambinder

Hal & Victoria Kantor

Seymour Weiner

Robert L. Zlatkiss

#### Friends:

Victor & Ronit Eyal

Marc & Henrietta Katzen

Eli & Ina Porth

Gerald & Beth Rutberg

Stephen & Judy Schreiber

Marvin & Sonia Shey

### Dean Kathryn Seidel



*Dean Seidel speaks of faith in education.*

“Certainly the theme that I hear emerging so far in the remarks is the theme of faith. Faith in our program, of people from 20 years ago, faith in the future of the program, faith in the future of our University. It is truly a wonderful theme for us and it is really part of UCF’s destiny that we are associated with the future and all the good education can bring to that future.”

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*Want a Minor or Certificate in Judaic Studies? Inquire at our office:  
Colbourn Hall 201E.*

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### President Hitt

“20 years ago Abe and Tess Wise’s lifetime commitment to education led them to become founding partners of our Judaic Studies program.

“The Wises contributed over half of the total and were the driving force in helping Judaic Studies find friends and supporters help the program achieve its goal.

“The Abe and Tess Wise Endowed Professorship in Judaic Studies will expand and enrich its curriculum for the benefit of our students and community.”

### Dr. Pelli

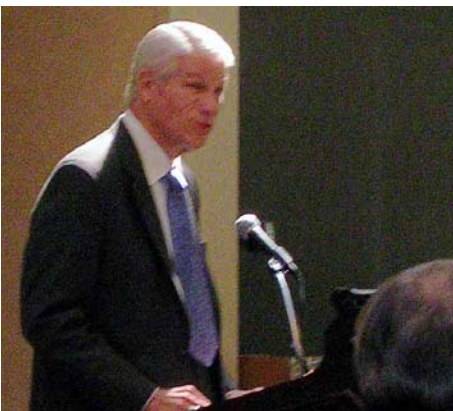
“Jewish scholarship may be traced from the first century to the present. Endowed professorship will allow the program to grow. To read a quote from the Jewish Bible, have a student finish a verse and tell you where it is from, is a reward of teaching and research. To cite from Pirke Avot: ‘The reward of good deed is the good deed itself.’ The reward of teaching is the very teaching itself.”



*Dr. Moshe Pelli remarks on the good deed of teaching.*



Hillel@UCF is led BY students FOR students to create exciting Jewish programming for the approximately 4,400 Jewish students at UCF. With events ranging from Singled Out dating shows to weekly Shabbat services, Hillel provides programs across the spectrum. Hillel@UCF is a part of Central Florida Hillel, the official local foundation of international Hillel. CFH serves all the campuses in Central Florida, including UCF, Rollins College, and the surrounding colleges. If you are a student interested in getting more involved with Hillel, or a parent or community member seeking to help support Hillel's efforts, visit [www.centralfloridahillel.com](http://www.centralfloridahillel.com) and e-mail us at [info@centralfloridahillel.com](mailto:info@centralfloridahillel.com)!



*President Hitt speaks on the contributions of Abe and Tess Wise.*



*(Continued from page 1) / Hitt*

Dr. Pelli, who has been director of the program for the past 20 years, spoke of the long tradition of Jewish Studies in history, and about the rewards of teaching and research at UCF.

Dean Abraham Pizam of the Rosen College of Hospitality Management, who was one of the founders of the program, and Dr. Shmuel Bolozky, of the University of Massachusetts, who was on a sabbatical at UCF at that time and helped establish the program, reminisced about the beginning of the program.

Ms. Judy Albertson and Tess Wise then awarded the donors artistically crafted commemorative crystal cubes with a hologram of the Hebrew letter Aleph at its center.

Rabbi Rick Sherwin of Congregation Beth Am gave the invocation following the UCF string quartet playing an interlude of Ernest Bloch's 'Prayer,' from Jewish Life No. 1. A multimedia presentation of sights and sounds, which highlighted the program's 20th anniversary and its achievements, followed the lunch.

Tess and Abe Wise have been pillars of the Orlando community for more than 50 years. They were among the "founding fathers" of the Judaic Studies Program 20 years ago and have been involved in the program since then. They are well known for their philanthropy, their public activities and commitment to education. Abe was a founding trustee in 1980 of the T.O.P. Foundation. In 1985, the Wises established the Holocaust Memorial Resource and Education Center of Central Florida. Tess, a 1972 alumna of UCF, has served as the center's executive director from its inception until recently.

In 2003/4, the Wises spearheaded a drive to fund a named professorship in Judaic Studies at UCF. With the addition of a professorship, the College of Arts and Sciences will allow



*Abe and Tess Wise speak at the well-attended Luncheon honoring their generous contributions to UCF.*

the program to expand and enrich its curriculum for the benefit of students and the community.

**Join Friends of UCF  
Judaic Studies Program**

**Graduation Announcements  
For Spring and Fall of 2004**

Marc Carrion, Erin Eichler, Rachel Feinman, Ariel Gardner, Max Garlick, Matthew Hosie, Bryan Kaufman, Avi Locke, Neil Shulman, Jennifer Rauscher, and Angela Rey graduated with a Minor in Judaic Studies.

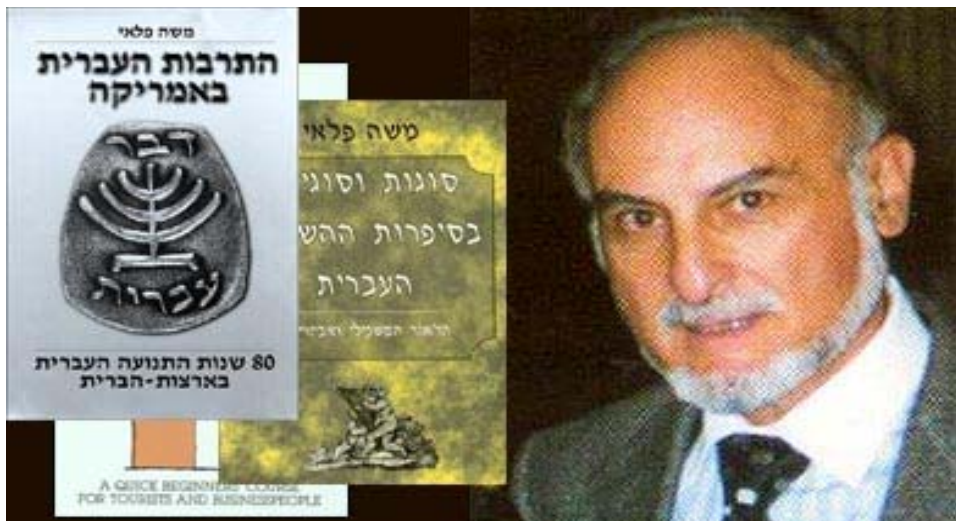
Congratulations and best of luck!

*(Continued from page 1) / Pelli*

Pelli is a leading scholar of 18th- and 19th-century Hebrew and Jewish Enlightenment (Haskalah) literature. He is the author of seven books on Hebrew Enlightenment, eight children's books, and many other books, articles and book reviews. In 1991, Pelli was awarded the Friedman Prize for his contribution to Hebrew culture in the United States by the Hebrew Language and Culture Association, and in 1996 he received the UCF Researcher of the Year award.

Pelli is on the editorial board of *Lamishpaha*, a Hebrew periodical, and he was just elected second vice president of the National Association of Professors of Hebrew in the USA. He has been the director of UCF's Judaic Studies program for 20 years.

The UCF Judaic Studies program focuses on Jewish civilization, the Hebrew Bible, history, culture, literature, and Hebrew language instruction. It sponsors a yearly Distinguished Visitors Series, which has brought to UCF and other Central Florida venues speakers such as Nobel Prize Laureates Elie Wiesel, Isaac Bashevis Singer and Zalman Shoval, Israel's ambassador to Washington.



*Dr. Moshe Pelli, the "Abe and Tess Wise Professor of Judaic Studies" at UCF, and jackets of some of his books.*