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No. 2

Judaic Studies Newsletter



Prof. Nehama Aschkenasy Speaks on 'Eve's Journey' and on 'In the Footsteps of Job: Women Challenging God in Judaic Literature'



Prof. Nehama Aschkenasy spoke at UCF for the Judaic Studies Distinguished Lecturer Series.

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- **Judaic Studies Lecturer Series**
- **Upcoming Courses for Fall 2006 Semester**

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http://www.cas.ucf.edu/judaic_studies/
Editors: Shayna Udell and Helen Scott

"Women in Judaism" was the topic of the UCF Judaic Studies Distinguished Lecturers Series this Spring semester, which took place on January 30 and 31, 2006.

Prof. Nehama Aschkenasy of the University of Connecticut presented a lecture on "Eve's Journey: Feminine Images in Hebraic Literary Tradition" on Monday, January 30, 2006, at 7:30 P.M. in the Student Union. A second lecture, "In the Footsteps of Job: Women Challenging God in Judaic Literature," was presented on Tuesday, January 31, 2006, at 10:30 A.M. in the Student Union.



Aschkenasy's Book
Eve's Journey

A scholar in comparative literature, Judaic Studies, and Women Studies, Dr. Aschkenasy has taught and written in the areas of English literature, biblical literature, biblical influences on world literature, contemporary Israeli writings, and women in biblical and Judaic civilization.

She has published three books, the

(Continued on page 2/ Aschkenasy)

Fall Semester Courses

Members of the community are invited to enroll in our upcoming courses for the Fall semester, 2006.

(See page 4 for details)

Prof. Pelli Publishes Three Scholarly Books

UCF Judaic Studies director, Prof. Moshe Pelli, has published three scholarly books on Hebrew Enlightenment. It was the culmination of several years of research in rare book collections at research libraries throughout the world. Previously, Prof. Pelli published seven other books on the Hebrew Enlightenment and on Hebrew Culture in America.

In Search of Genre: Hebrew Enlightenment and Modernity is an innovative study of the beginning of modernity in Hebrew and Jewish letters, which reflected the emerging changes in Jewish society toward the end of the 18th century in Germany.

The author traces these changes
(Continued on page 2/ Pelli)



One of Prof. Pelli's books, *Bikurei Haitim*.



PROF. PELLI PUBLISHES THREE SCHOLARLY BOOKS

(Continued from page 1/ Pelli)

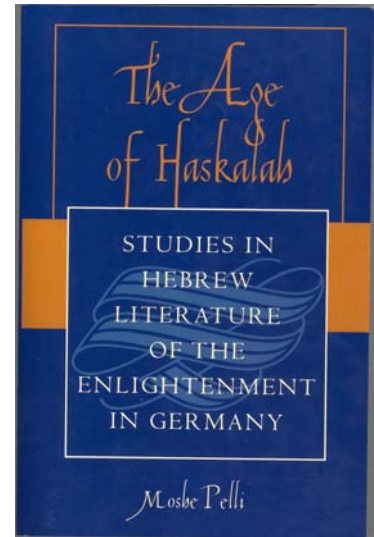
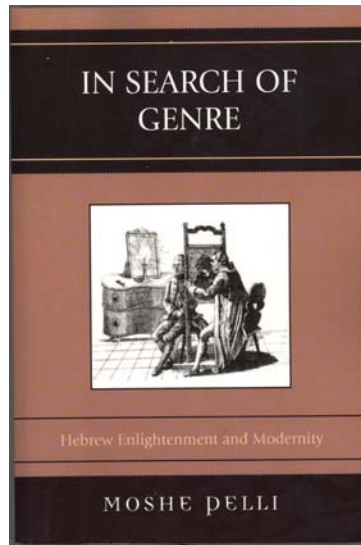
to the activities and articulations of young intellectual Hebraists, known as Maskilim (enlighteners), who adopted the ideas and ideals of European Enlightenment ideology, incorporating them into their revised and updated concept of Judaism, and actively aspiring to apply them to Jewish society. These writers undertook a new and daring mission: to revitalize the Jewish people by reviving the Hebrew language and Jewish culture. As part of their program they established a modern center for Hebrew language and literature in Germany and a literary movement known as Haskalah (Enlightenment).

Thus, they began to disseminate ‘modern’ Hebrew and Jewish literature, promoting new and revised Jewish culture. Their activities were expressed in several new and adopted literary genres. This was indeed a cultural revolution which incorporated the new and the old, the modern and the traditional.

The author identifies and analyzes for the first time in Hebrew criticism the use of new and revised genres, styles and literary conventions, thus offering new criteria for a revised assessment of modern Hebrew literature. His study argues that these new and renewed literary genres mark the transition from traditional Hebrew letters to modern Hebrew literature. Modernity in Hebrew letters is thus defined as the endeavor to emulate the contemporary European literatures and their prevailing aesthetics and poetics. The study explores various criteria for Hebrew modernism exemplified by attempts to redefine Judaism, revise Judaic values, present new perception of Jewish history, calendar and times, and by the search for happiness and the disregard for the religious precepts.

The Age of Haskalah is a seminal study of the beginnings of the Haskalah in Germany in the last quarter of the 18th century. The Haskalah was a literary and cultural movement that reshaped and reformed Judaism and the Jews in accor-

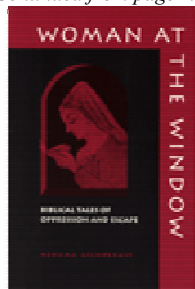
(Continued on page 4/ Pelli)



Prof. Pelli's books which were recently published: In Search of Genre and The Age of Haskalah: Studies in Hebrew Literature of the Enlightenment in Germany.

NEHAMA ASCHKENASY SPEAKS AT UCF

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Aschkenasy's Book Woman at the Window

groundbreaking, *Eve's Journey: Feminine Images in Hebraic Literary Tradition* (1986, 1994), winner of the *Present Tense Literary Award*; and *Woman at the Win-*

indow: Biblical Tales of Oppression and Escape (1998), and *Biblical Patterns in Modern Literature* (1984). She recently guest-edited a dedicated volume of the *AJS Review* (2004), titled *The Bible's Presence in Contemporary Hebrew Literature and Culture*, with invited articles from senior scholars in the field, to which she also contributed a methodological introduction and an article.

Dr. Aschkenasy is Professor of Comparative Literary and Cultural

Studies at the University of Connecticut and founding Director of the Center for Judaic and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Connecticut, Stamford. She holds degrees from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem in Judaic Studies and English and a Ph.D. in English and Comparative Literature from New York University. She has served for

(Continued on Page 4/ Aschkenasy)



Faculty and staff at a luncheon that followed Dr. Aschkenasy's second lecture



Members of the Community Are Invited to Enroll

- HBR 1120** ELEMENTARY MODERN HEBREW LANGUAGE AND CULTURE I
Elementary modern Hebrew for the first semester is designed to teach major language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing, and to introduce the student to Israeli culture and Jewish civilization. No prior knowledge of Hebrew or Hebrew alphabet is required. The course is open to students and members of the community who have had no background in Hebrew.
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|---------------|-----------|-------------|-------------------------|---------|---------------------|
| Section: 0001 | Tue & Thu | 13:30-15:20 | 4-credits (code: 82140) | CL1 119 | Instructor: D. Avni |
| Section: 0002 | Tue & Thu | 15:30-17:20 | 4-credits (code: 83296) | VAB 217 | Instructor: D. Avni |
| Section: 0003 | Tue & Thu | 17:30-19:20 | 4-credits (code: 88363) | VAB 107 | Instructor: D. Avni |
- JST 3120** (code: 89799) INTRODUCTION TO HEBREW SCRIPTURES
The aim of the course is to read and understand significant sections of the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament, in translation) in historical, social, religious, cultural, and literary contexts. This course will be a scholarly (i.e., non-parochial) approach to the most important book of western civilization, which will take into account the latest biblical and archaeological research. Certain biblical books, selected for their topic, genre, or style, will be read, analyzed, and discussed. Topics to be covered include: the nature of biblical prophecy, ethics in the Bible, wisdom, literature, and the concept of God in the Bible.
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|-----|-------------|-----------------|---------|-----------------|
| Wed | 18:00-20:50 | 3-credit course | MAP 109 | Instructor: TBA |
|-----|-------------|-----------------|---------|-----------------|
- JST 3100** (code: 80198) THE HEBREW CREATIVE MIND
A survey of the creative expressions of Hebrew civilization as found in the Hebrew Bible, Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha, the Mishnah, the Talmud, medieval Hebrew poetry and prose in English translation. Special attention will be given to literary genres, themes and devices. Major Biblical stories and figures -such as Abraham, the Binding of Isaac, Moses, David and Bath-Sheba, Ruth, Jonah and Job- will be discussed and analyzed as depicted in the Bible and a perceived and portrayed in post-Biblical literature.
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|-----------|-------------|-----------------|---------|----------------------|
| Tue & Thu | 10:30-11:45 | 3-credit course | CL1 220 | Instructor: M. Pelli |
|-----------|-------------|-----------------|---------|----------------------|
- JST 3126** (code: 88364) ROMANTIC LOVE IN THE BIBLE
This course will deal with the dimensions of romantic love in Biblical narrative. The course focuses on Biblical depiction of human feelings of romantic love and relationships, and will examine social norms and historical events which shed light on the role and nature of man-woman interactions in ancient Israel.
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|-----------|-------------|-----------------|----------|-----------------------|
| Tue & Thu | 12:00-13:15 | 3-credit course | COMM 115 | Instructor: K. Hanson |
|-----------|-------------|-----------------|----------|-----------------------|
- JST 3401** (code: 82207) THE HISTORY OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE I
A historical, cultural examine such topics as the literature of the Bible, Biblical law, prophecy and ethics, Babylonian exile, post-Biblical Judaism, second Command religious survey of the Jewish people from its inception in the Biblical era through the Greco-Roman and rabbinic periods. The course will on Judaism, the Oral and Written Law, the Mishnah and the Talmud.
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| Tue | 18:00-20:50 | 3-credit course | MAP 359 | Instructor: K. Hanson |
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- JST 3450** (code: 80199) MODERN JEWISH EXPERIENCE
The aim of the course is to acquaint students with a variety of modern Jewish experience as depicted in literature. This course will involve a survey of the pre-modern traditional life in Eastern Europe, including life in the Ghetto and the Shtetle (small Jewish town) life. As well, this course will deal with emergence of the Jews into modernity along with the rise of Jewish national movement in the end of the 19th century; the growth of the Zionism movement; immigration to America and to pre-state Israel (Palestine); the pioneers; establishing the state of Israel; war and peace; in gathering of the exiles; the Holocaust; and the current peace trends in the Middle East.
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|-----------|------------|-----------------|--------|-----------------------|
| Tue & Thu | 9:00-10:15 | 3-credit course | BA 122 | Instructor: K. Hanson |
|-----------|------------|-----------------|--------|-----------------------|
- JST 3701** (code: 88366) 20th CENTURY JEWISH HISTORY AND THOUGHT
Study of philosophers such as Buber, Rosenzweig, Kaplan, Heschel, Borowitz, Solovechik, within the historical context of European immigration to the U.S.
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|-----|-------------|-----------------|----------|------------------------|
| Mon | 18:00-20:50 | 3-credit course | CNH 207E | Instructor: R. Sherwin |
|-----|-------------|-----------------|----------|------------------------|
- JST 3701** (code: 83216) HISTORY OF THE HOLOCAUST
This course is a comprehensive study of the Holocaust with an emphasis on the historical roots of anti-Semitism. In addition to the antecedents of the Holocaust, the social, economic, and political unrest which marked post World War I Germany is examined. This study divides the Holocaust years, 1933-1945, into two distinct periods: the first, 1933-1939, encompasses the persecution of German Jews within the context of the prevailing German legal system; and the second, 1939-1945, marks the systematic annihilation of Jews in Europe. The scope and the meaning of this event in human history is discussed and analyzed.
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|-----------|-------------|-----------------|---------|-----------------------|
| Tue & Thu | 13:30-14:45 | 3-credit course | CL1 309 | Instructor: K. Hanson |
|-----------|-------------|-----------------|---------|-----------------------|
- **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@27, 2006- August 20, 2006. Registration for non-degree students: August 18, 2006. Non-degree students are kindly requested to call the Judaic@mail.ucf.edu), to obtain registration forms in advance.
- Registration for degree students: March Studies Program office on or after August 18, 2006, to be listed for registration. Classes begin August 21, 2006.
For information, please call Dr. Moshe Pelli, Director, Judaic Studies Program, (407) 823-5039; or: 823-5129, 823-2296.
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(Pelli/ cont'd)

dance with the needs of modern times, i.e., the European Enlightenment. Leaders of the movement were known as Maskilim and included the poet and grammarian, Naphtali Herz Wessely; the physician, Mordechai Gumpel Schnaber; the writer, Isaac Satanow; the rabbi, Saul Berlin; and the editor and writer Isaac Euchel. With detailed textual and historical evidence, author Moshe Pelli examines the backdrop of the Hebrew Enlightenment and the impact of the European Deism on the pundits of Haskalah. He further probes into early intimations of religious reform, the methodology of reform seen in the first reform temple controversy of 1818, and the attitude of the Maskilim toward the Talmud and the revival of the Hebrew language.

In this new edition of *The Age of Haskalah*, originally published in 1979, the author includes addenda that update the chapters and bibliography.

Bikurei Ha'itim the 'First Fruits' of Haskalah is An Annotated Index to *Bikurei Ha'itim*, the Hebrew Journal of the Haskalah in Galicia, that was published in Vienna from 1820 to 1831. It contains a monograph which examines the transition of Haskalah from Germany to Austria and to Galicia following the demise of the first Hebrew periodical, *Hame'asef*, and explores the literary contribution of the Galician Haskalah.

Applying computer programming prepared for his indexing and monographs of Hebrew periodicals projects, Pelli produced an updated, sophisticated bibliographical tool and comprehensive monographs in his two books on the journal *Bikurei Ha'itim*.

The background to the launching of the *Bikurei Ha'itim* is being ex-

amined in the book, such as the phenomena of the German-Jewish periodicals (*Sulamith*, 1809; *Jedidja*, 1817), the calendars and the almanacs published by Joseph Perl (1814–1816), and the Hebrew periodical in Holland (*Bikurei To'elet*, 1820) – which affected the planning of *Bikurei Ha'itim* as a literary almanac.

The books may be ordered at the UCF bookstore by calling 407- 823-2665, customer service. Assistance may be gotten by calling Jeff Golub at 407-823-5129.

(Aschkenasy/ cont'd)

sixteen years as Associate Editor for the *AJS Review*, the scholarly publication of the national and international Association for Jewish Studies.

These lectures were sponsored by the Judaic Studies Program at UCF, with the cooperation of Women Studies, the Women's Research Center, and Central Florida Hillel. They were funded by grants from Friends of Judaic Studies.

**Join Friends of
Judaic Studies.
See Page 5**

News and Upcoming Events From UCF Hillel

Another fun-filled and busy month has past at Central Florida Hillel. Jewish Greek Life hosted its kick off event, "Jewish Greek Life Bar Mitzvah." The event took place at Friendly Confines in Waterford Lakes. Students attended a bar and the mitzvah was to bring an uninvolved Jewish student to the event. Exactly 88 students were in attendance and they had a great time. Getting the Jewish Greek leaders active in Jewish Greek life has been very successful.

This semester engagement programs have been added and changed in order to attract and meet new students where they are. Taxi Tuesdays will hopefully enable our JCSC Fellow to meet those individuals, especially freshmen who live in the residence halls and don't have a car. Hillel will be offering free rides to Super Target, Wal-Mart, and Publix. In addition, Natura Thursdays will attract upper classmen. Natura is an extremely popular café in the UCF area.

Hillel@UCF is one of 20 student

groups that are co-sponsoring a Darfur Awareness Week for campus. Speakers, events, and materials will help spread information about the ethnic cleansing that is happening. Funds for the program are from Hillel International Grants, Student Government, and other organizations.

Torah on Tap is starting in February. Rabbi Chizever from Temple Israel will meet students at the on-campus sports-bar to talk about Torah and Jewish issues; Hillel will provide appetizers and students will purchase beverages.

Hillel@UCF's Tu B'Shvat event will be a fair of many environmentally friendly student groups. This will also be a follow-up event for our successful iNEGEV campaign.

Knights for Israel will be holding their annual Israel Awareness Week in March coinciding with the Israel elections. The students will be finalizing the events this week.

For information on Hillel@UCF, contact Joshua Katz at 407-362-3317, or email info@centralfloridahillel.com.



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- I would like to take a course this coming semester
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 or \$_____ to help Judaic Studies in its cultural and
 educational activities
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 Studies [Please mail it to the Judaic Studies office listed above]

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