



Judaic Studies Newsletter



Gary Kenzer speaks on "The Media and Israel: Finding Common Ground"

Gary Kenzer has been the National Executive Director of Honest Reporting since 2006. He has spoken at over 500 locations for Honest Reporting since 2006.

Prior to his current position, he was the National Director for Magen David Adom USA, the Israeli 'Red Cross.' Other Jewish agencies he has worked with include the Jewish Community Centers of

Chicago, and B'nai B'rith Youth Organization (BBYO). He is also a founding lay leader of the Community Foundation for Jewish Education's, Ta'am Yisrael, which takes post bar – and batmitzvah young people to Israel for their first experience every February for one week.

Kenzer has recently published an article on Israel advocacy in the Jewish Educa-

tors Journal. In addition, Kenzer has made presentations at many regional, national and international conferences on Jewish communal issues for well over 15 years. He graduated in 1984 from the University of Illinois College of Social Work and is certified by the Academy of Certified Social Workers (ACSW).



**Gary Kenzer National USA
Director for Honest Reporting**

In This Issue:

- **Judaic Studies Distinguished Lecturer Series**
- **Judith Baskin's Lecture – page 2**
- **Courses for Spring 2010 – page 3**
- **Hillel Happenings – page 4**
- **Dr. Pelli's New Book– page 5**

New courses!

The Judaic Studies Program will be offering 10 courses this Fall semester– some are offered every year, some have not been offered in several years, and some have never been taught before. See page 4 for details about this new course.

New Book!

With the recent publication of a new book, *Kerem Hemed – Hochmat Israel as the New Yavneh*, Dr. Moshe Pelli can add one more to his expansive list of work. See page 5 for more information about these studies.

Hilel participates in Alternative Summer Break 2009

UCF students joined together on August 11th-20th for a 10-day Short Term Service Program in Kharkov, Ukraine sponsored by The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC). They worked in con-

junction with Ukrainian Hillel members volunteering in the homes of Jewish elderly, donating their time, getting to know them, and helped them rebuild their homes.

(Continued on page 4)

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Gary Kenzer speaks on “The Media and Israel: Finding Common Ground”

On Tuesday, October 27, 2009 Gary Kenzer spoke to a group of about 100 students and community members about the media and how it affects the news between Israel and the Middle East. Kenzer gave facts and



Gary Kenzer talking to students during his lecture.

history to help the audience understand the issues regarding the media and how it has negatively affected Israel and how they portray the news out of context. A question and answer session followed.

The lecture was the fall 2009 lecture of the UCF Judaic Studies Program Distinguished Lecturers Series. The Judaic Studies Program, now in its 24th year at UCF, offered this lecture in conjunction with Central Florida Hillel and the Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation of Greater Orlando.

He focused on how the media shows the information out of context and makes people think of the issue in a negative way towards Israel. He was very enthusiastic about this lecture and was very credible when he shared his facts. He presented this lecture with the help of a slideshow which was an aid to his many image samples to get the audience’s attention and participation during his lecture. Members of the community as well as UCF students participated in his discussions and gained a more knowledgeable view about how the media portrays Israel.

Kenzer also talked about his job and what his purpose is in Honest Report-

ing. He explained how he always makes sure that people always get the most truthful information if an article comes out stating a falsified report on the story. Overall, his lecture was very informative and made people think twice when they read a newspaper article or watch the news.



Gary Kenzer at the October 27 lecture.

Distinguished Lecturer



From left to right, Jeff Golub, Donna, Moshe Pelli, Ken Hanson, Gary Kenzer and Rabbi Gary Perras of Temple Israel in Winter Springs.

Judith Baskin’s Lecture



Dr. Judith Baskin, the former President of the Association for Jewish Studies as well as director of the Judaic Studies Program at the University of Oregon, will be coming to UCF during the Spring Semester as part of our ongoing Distinguished Lecturers Series. A Women’s Studies expert, she will speak on a related topic. Previously, Dr. Baskin has also taught at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and at SUNY Albany. Dr. Baskin earned her PhD from Yale University and has published several books on women in Jewish History.


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.

Section: 0001	Tue & Thu	13:30-15:20	4-credits (code: 80402)	CL1 218	Instructor: D. Avni
Section: 0002	Tue & Thu	15:30-17:20	4-credits (code: 80822)	CL1 218	Instructor: D. Avni
Section: 0003	Tue & Thu	8:30- 10:20	4-credits (code: 81022)	CL1 218	Instructor: D. Avni

HBR 2200
(code: 81636)
INTERMEDIATE MODERN HEBREW I

Intermediate Modern Hebrew I, the third semester Hebrew course, is designed to continue the study of modern Hebrew; increase proficiency in conversation, reading and writing skills, and further expose students to Israeli culture. Elementary Modern Hebrew II (HBR 1121) or equivalent is prerequisite.

Tue & Thu	12:00-13:15	3-credit course	CL1 113	Instructor: D. Avni
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JST 3100
(code: 91016)
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, and medieval Hebrew poetry and prose in English translation. Special attention will be given to literary genres, themes and devices. Major biblical stories and figures^{3/4} 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 as perceived and portrayed in post-biblical literature.

Tue & Thu	10:30-11:45	3-credit course	VAB 111	Instructor: M. Pelli
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JST 3120
(code: 81084)
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 present a scholarly 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.

Wed	18:00-20:50	3-credit course	CL1 212	Instructor: TBA
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JST 3126
(code: 91014)
ROMANTIC LOVE IN THE BIBLE

This course deals with the dimensions of romantic love in biblical narrative. It 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.

Tue & Thu	15:00-16:15	3-credit course	CL1 309	Instructor: K. Hanson
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JST 3401
(code: 80447)
THE HISTORY OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE I

A historical, cultural and religious survey of the Jewish people from its inception in the biblical era through the Greco-Roman and Rabbinic periods. The course will examine such topics as the literature of the Bible, biblical law, prophecy and ethics, Babylonian exile, post-biblical Judaism, second Commonwealth Judaism, the Oral and Written Law, the Mishnah and the Talmud.

Tue	18:00-20:50	3-credit course	ENG 327	Instructor: K. Hanson
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JST 3701
(code: 80776)
HISTORY OF THE HOLOCAUST

This course is a comprehensive study of the Holocaust with an introduction 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 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.

Tue & Thu	13:30-14:45	3-credit course	CL1 309	Instructor: K. Hanson
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JST 3930.1
(code: 91013)
SPECIAL TOPICS: AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY

A survey study of the 350 years of Jewish presence in America and its influence on and contribution to American life and culture. Topics to be discussed: America's birth based on Jewish principles; support for America's revolution; immigration; acculturation; encountering anti-Semitism; interfacing religious dynamics with modern America; contributions in politics, economy, science and medicine; heroes of American Jewish life.

Thu	18:00-20:50	3-credit course	VAB 109	Instructor: J. Berger
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JST 3930.2
(code: 91015)
SPECIAL TOPICS: JEWISH ETHICS AND MORALITY

A study of Jewish ethics and morality from antiquity to modern times. Moral insights found in Scriptures and Rabbinic sources will be reviewed against the intellectual and social context of the 21st century. Discussion will also cover such topics as Jewish bio-ethics, sexual & family ethics, ecology, capital punishment, and Jewish political ethics.

Mon	18:00-20:50	3-credit course	VAB 111	Instructor: R. Sherwin
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JST 3930.3
(code: 91782)
SPECIAL TOPICS: OUTSTANDING WOMEN IN JEWISH HISTORY

This course will examine the historical and cultural role of women in Judaism from the Biblical age to the present. Through texts and films, the course will assess women in Jewish life and civilization. ENC 1102 is a prerequisite.

Tue & Thu	18:00-19:15	3-credit course	COMM 116	Instructor: D. Avni
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Registration for degree students: March 24, 2008-August 24, 2008. Registration for non-degree students: August 22, 2008. Non-degree students are kindly requested to call the Judaic Studies Program office on or after August 22, 2008, to be listed for registration. Classes begin August 25, 2008.



(Continued from page 1)

Students had the chance to learn about the lives of those they visited and hear about how the Holocaust and communism affected their lives. Those lost in the Holocaust were remembered through memorial services at Babi Yar and in Kharkov at Drobitsky Yar.

During their time with Kharkov's Jewish community, students had the opportunity to learn about the many social services being provided through the work of JDC. Students visited Hesed (or welfare) Centers

and organized activities for children-at-risk.

A large portion of the trip focused on raising students' awareness of challenges facing the Ukrainian Jewish community and engaging them in action to meet overseas Jewish needs. It was Hillel's hope that students would return from the trip advocates for the Jewish communities where they served and as invigorated, energized Jews who will take action with regard to what they did and what they saw.

Contact Central Florida Hillel

University of Central Florida
Student Union, 3rd Floor room 305
Phone: 407-382-2658 • Website: Gohil-



Hillel Volunteers in Alternative Spring Break 2009

Hillel volunteered their time in the annual Spring 2009 Alternative Spring Break. They traveled to New Orleans to help rebuild some of the homes that were damaged by Hurricane Katrina. While there, they helped to rebuild new homes, talk with members of the community and learn about the history as well as the current events of the Hurricane Katrina tragedy.

Brand New Judaic Studies course offered in the Fall

(Continued from page 1)

Ms. Julia Phillips Berger has been instructing a brand new course entitled "Outstanding Women in Jewish History". The course surveys leading women figures from the Hebrew Bible, Rebellious women of the Medieval and Enlightenment Eras who became stu-

dents of Talmud, and outstanding women of the 20th century using a wide variety of literature and film. Women discussed in the course include Deborah the Prophetess, the daughters of Rashi, and Golda Meir. The course also estimates a trajectory for where Jewish Women are going in America.

Pelli Publishes New Book

Kerem Hemed – Hochmat Israel as the New Yavneh

Prof. Moshe Pelli has just published his new book titled *Kerem Hemed – Hochmat Israel as the New Yavneh*. This monographs and annotated index on the Haskalah periodical been published in the Magnes Publishing House of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. This is Prof. Pelli's 13th scholarly book and the third in the series of the books on the Hebrew Periodicals of the Haskalah in the eighteenth and nineteenth century.

This new addition to his collection has been dedicated to Prof. Shmuel Werses, Dean of Haskalah scholars who is the Israel Prize laureate for the Study of Literature.

Kerem Hemed – Hochmat Israel As the New Yavneh is a monograph and an annotated index to *Kerem Hemed* (1833–1856), the journal of Hebrew Haskalah in Galicia and Italy.

It includes a comprehensive monograph on the journal and its writers, the subject matters discussed in it and

its editorial orientation as part of the Study of Judaism movement. The journal represents the creative efforts of the Hebrew scholars of 'Hochmat Israel,' the Study of Judaism, in the 19th century.

Kerem Hemed was mostly a scholarly journal devoted to the study of Judaism. Importantly, all articles and essays were written in the format of letters, namely, as correspondence between and among the scholars of 'Hochmat Israel' in Galicia and Italy.

Previously, it published *The Gate to Haskalah: An Annotated Index to Hame'asef*, the First Hebrew Journal of the Haskalah (1783–1811), 2000; and *Bikurei Ha'itim The 'First Fruits' of Haskalah: An Annotated Index to Bikurei Ha'itim*, the Hebrew Journal of the Haskalah in Galicia (1820–1831), 2005.

The monograph delineates the background of the publication of *Kerem Hemed*, its editors and its major writers, such as Shlomo Yehudah

Rapoport (SHIR), Shmuel David Luzatto (SHaDaL), and Nahman Krochmal (RaNaK), and its relations to periodicals published before and afterward.

The monograph discusses the variety of topics in Jewish Studies published in the journal, and the cross-referenced author-and-subject Index covers a variety of topics in Jewish Studies, such as Bible, biblical criticism and commentary, Talmud, Mishnah, their sages, and studies about them. The book also discusses studies on the Hebrew language, Jewish history, and newly discovered medieval Hebrew manuscripts, such as biblical commentary by noted biblical scholars as Abraham Ibn Ezra, talmudic interpretation and historical review of Judaism as presented by the scholars of Hochmat Israel, as well as some secular subjects and science.



Prof. Pelli hands over the book to Prof. Shmuel Werses (right), which is dedicated to him, at a special ceremony held as part of the Fifteenth World Congress of Jewish Studies, at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, August 2-6, 2009.

Cover of Pelli's book on *Kerem Hemed*





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