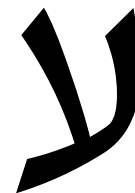




Judaic Studies Newsletter



Prof. Robert Eisenman spoke on "The True Story of Freeing the Dead Sea Scrolls: An Insider's Account"

On Tuesday, January 19, 2010, Dr. Robert Eisenman spoke to a group of about 100 students and community members about "The True Story of Freeing the Dead Sea Scrolls."

Dr. Eisenman gave facts, stories and history of the Scrolls to help the audience understand how this all came about and informed the audi-

ence about the background of the Dead Sea Scrolls. A question and answer session followed.

The lecture was the Spring 2010 lecture of the UCF Judaic Studies Program Distinguished Lecturers Series. The Judaic Studies Program, offered the lecture in conjunction with Central Florida Hillel.

Members of the community

as well as UCF students participated in his discussions and gained a more knowledgeable view about the Dead Sea Scrolls.

Dr. Eisenman also talked about his personal experience and trips he made to the Dead Sea area, as well as anecdotes to entertain the audience about his topic. His lecture was very informative and

made people more appreciative about the Dead Sea



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New courses

The Judaic Studies Program will be offering one course in Summer 2010 and 10 courses next Fall 2010 semester. Some courses are new. See page 2 for details about the courses.

New Books by Faculty

Dr. Moshe Pelli published his new book, *Kerem Hemed - Hochmat Israel as the New Yavneh*. Dr. Kenneth Hanson's book *Blood Kin of Jesus* was published recently. See page 2 and 5 for more information.

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

Dr. Gary Kenzer, National Director of Honest Reporting, spoke on Tuesday, October 27th, 2009, on "The Media and Israel." It was the fall 2009 UCF Judaic Studies Program Distinguished Lecturers Series. The Judaic Studies Program offered this lecture in conjunction with Central

Florida Hillel and the Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation of Greater Orlando.

Mr. Kenzer focused on the way the media present information out of context and consequently readers or viewers get the wrong impression of Israel. He

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Editor: Maia Bater.



Members of the Community Are Invited to Enroll Courses for Fall Semester, 2010

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-credits (code: 80822) TBA Instructor: M. Pelli
 Section: 0002 Tue & Thu 15:30-17:20-credits (code: 81121) VAB 111 Instructor: M. Pelli
 Section: 0003 Tue & Thu 08:30-10:20-credits (code: 81251) BA 110 Instructor: M. Pelli

HBR 2200

(code: 81538) INTERMEDIATE MODERN HEBREW I

Intermediate Modern Hebrew I 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 or equivalent is prerequisite.

Tue & Thu 10:30-11:45 3-credits CL1 220 Instructor: K. Hanson

JST 3005

(code: 91875) TENETS OF JUDAISM

This course is a study of the basic tenets of Judaism as they have evolved from ancient times to the modern era, including the values, practices and beliefs that define Judaism as a religious civilization. The course of study will involve a multi-level approach using both primary and secondary sources.

Mon & Wed 9:30-10:45 3-credit course TBA Instructor: J. Berger

JST 3210

(code: 91876) KABBALAH: JEWISH MYSTICISM

This course will trace and evaluate the development of Jewish Mysticism from its earliest roots in the prophetic age of Israelite history, through the flowering of the movement called “Kabbalah” in medieval Spain and the Land of Israel, down to various expressions of mystical thought in the pietistic movement known as Hasidism.

Tue & Thu 15:00-16:15 3-credit course COMM0108 Instructor: K. Hanson

JST 3401

(code: 80863) 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 CL1 309 Instructor: K. Hanson

JST 3450

(code: 91878) MODERN JEWISH EXPERIENCE

The aim of the course is to acquaint students with a variety of modern Jewish experiences 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. This course will also deal with the 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 Zionist movement, immigration to America and to pre-state Israel (Palestine), establishing the State of Israel, war and peace, in-gathering of the exiles, the Holocaust, and the current peace trends in the Middle East.

Mon & Wed 11:30-12:45 3-credit course CL1 320 Instructor: J. Berger

JST 3701

(code: 81092) 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.

Tue & Thu 13:30-14:45 3-credit course COMM0108 Instructor: K. Hanson

JST 3551

(code: 93460) INTRODUCTION TO SECULARISM IN JUDAISM

The course will undertake to trace, explore and understand the cultural, religious, and social processes that led from traditional (Orthodox) Judaism to the beginning of the ‘secular’ age in 18th- and 19th-century European Jewry, and eventually also to modernity in Judaism. The course will examine the introduction of secularism and secular ideas into Judaic thought and life. It will do so by examining the gradual changes in attitudes, practices and outlooks found in the primary source materials of the period, thus setting working criteria for the study of modernism. It will further explore the religious climate in Europe, especially the intellectual and religious works of late 17th- and 18th-century Deism.

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

Registration for degree students: March 22 - August 22, 2010. Registration for non-degree students: August 20, 2010.
Classes begin August 23, 2010.

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

Visit our web site at www.cah.ucf.edu/judaic_studies



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

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was informative in this lecture and was very credible when he shared his facts. He presented this lecture with the help of a slideshow with 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 the discussions and gained a more knowledgeable view about how the media portray Israel.

Kenzer also talked about his job and what his purpose is in Honest Reporting. He explained how he always makes sure that people 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 when they read a newspaper article or watch the news.



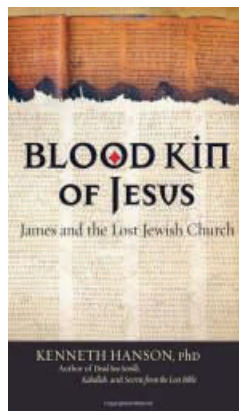
Gary Kenzer talking to students during his lecture on “The Media and Israel”

Distinguished Lecturer Gary Kenzer Visits UCF



Faculty and members of the community attended Gary Kenzer's lecture on Tuesday, October 27th, 2009. Some of the members of faculty and staff of Judaic Studies included (from left) Jeff Golub, Donna Render, Dr. Moshe Pelli, Dr. Ken Hanson, Gary Kenzer, and Rabbi Gary Perras of Temple Israel in Winter Springs.

Hanson's Book Traces the History of the Family of Jesus



Kenneth Hanson's new book *The Blood Kin of Jesus: James and the Lost Jewish Church* from Council Oak Books traces the history of the family of Jesus following his death and the legacy of his family within Judaism. Using recent discoveries and original research, Hanson investigates the fate of Jesus's mother, brothers, sisters, and closest followers. According to Hanson, the Jerusalem Church led by his brother James spearheaded a powerful revival of devotion within Judaism, profoundly influencing the subsequent development of the Jewish faith.

Courses for Summer “B” Semester, 2010

June 28, 2010 – Aug. 6, 2010

Members of the Community Are Invited to Enroll

JST 3120 (code: 59914) 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.

Section B001 MTWR 10:00 - 11:50 3-credit course ENGR 427 Instructor: K. Hanson



Hillel Volunteers in Alternative Summer Break 2009

UCF students joined together on August 11th-20th, 2009 for a 10-day Short Term Service Program in Kharkov, Ukraine, sponsored by The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC). They worked in conjunction with Ukrainian Hillel members volunteering in the homes of Jewish elderly, getting to know them, and helping them rebuild their homes.

Students had the chance to learn the lives of those they visited and hear how the Holocaust and Communism had affected their

lives.

A large part 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 advocating for the Jewish communities where they served, and as invigorated, energized Jews to be active in their own community in similar projects.

Robert Eisenman spoke on: "The True Story of Freeing the Dead Sea Scrolls: An Insider's Account"

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Scrolls.

Robert Eisenman is a professor of Middle East Religions and Archaeology and the Director of the Institute for the Study of Judeo-Christian Origins at California State University,



Prof. Eisenman at the January 19, 2010 lecture.

Long Beach.

He has a Ph. D. from Columbia University in Middle East Languages and Cultures and Islamic Law.

Dr. Eisenman is a Visiting Senior Member of Linacre College at Oxford University, a member of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and a Fellow at the Albright Institute of Archaeological Research in Jerusalem. He is also a Senior Fellow at the Ox-

ford Centre for Postgraduate Hebrew and Jewish Studies.

He has written many books, such as *James the Brother of Jesus: The Key to Unlocking the Secrets of Early Christianity and the Dead Sea Scrolls* (1998), *The Dead Sea Scrolls and the First Christians* (1996), *Islamic Law in Palestine and Israel: A History of the Survival of Tanzimat and Shari'ah* (1978), and is co-editor of *The Facsimile Edition of the Dead Sea Scrolls* (1989) and *The Dead Sea Scrolls Uncovered* (1992).

In 1991-92, he was the Consultant to the Huntington Library in San Marino, California, when it decided to open its historical documents and allow free access for all scholars to the previ-



Prof. Robert Eisenman speaking to students and members of the community about the Dead Sea Scrolls..

Contact Central Florida Hillel

University of Central Florida
Student Union, 3rd Floor room 305
Phone: 407-382-2658
Website: Gohillel.org



Hillel students interacting around campus with other students at UCF.



Students gathering at an event to celebrate My Big Fat Jewish Wedding.



Members of Hillel getting together for My Big Fat Jewish Wedding event.

Upcoming events– Save the date!

Wednesday April 21, 2010
Hillel Fundraising Event
(7:00pm – 8:00 pm)

Dr. Pelli Publishes New Book

Kerem Hemed – Hochmat Israel as the New Yavneh

Prof. Moshe Pelli published his new book titled *Kerem Hemed – 'Hochmat Israel' as the New Yavneh*. This monograph and annotated index on the Haskalah periodical was published by 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 centuries.



Cover of Pelli's book on *Kerem Hemed*

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 Hebrew 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, Magnes Press 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 Luzzatto (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.



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