From The Head

Dear Alumni and Friends,

It is my pleasure to greet you on behalf of the UC Department of Judaic Studies. This past year has been a productive and exciting year despite the difficult times for the State of Ohio and for institutions of higher education. We have moved forward and have accomplished a lot. Our Center for Jewish Cultures and Ideas is growing due to the generous gift from the Kim and Gary Heiman Family Foundation. Two of our long-term associates, Professor Shannon Schaffer and Dr. Dana Greg Griffith, have worked at the Center to create cutting-edge online courses in Bible and to build up our newly established Religious Studies Certificate in Judaic which attracts a large number of students, locally and nationally. We also put in place the newly approved Joint UC-Hebrew Union College Graduate Certificate in Judaic Studies, and the program is ready now to enroll UC, HUC, and community graduate students.

We hired two new tenure track Assistant Professors. Professor Ari Finkelstein came to us from Harvard and Professor Matthew Kraus is now in a tenure track position as well. Judaic Studies’ Professor, Adi Gordon, and HUC Professor, Haim Rechnitzer, teamed up to teach a very successful interdisciplinary course entitled Israeli Songs and Nationalism. Drs. Cynthia Crane, UC Blue Ash and Bea Oppengart from the English Department joined the ranks of our affiliate faculty, bringing the total number of affiliates in Judaic Studies to nineteen.

The Judaic Studies faculty has again excelled this past academic year. We presented scholarly lectures at national and international conferences, engaged in active research, published in professional journals, taught a wide range of Judaic Studies courses, and continued to mentor our students who became engaged in research as well. In response to the new national and global educational demands, we produced a Strategic Master Plan which will align us further with our College and with the UC mission.

This year, we partnered with the Cincinnati Museum Center, The Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati, The Jewish Federation, The Jewish Community Center, The Ohio Center for the Humanities, and the Taft UC Foundation, to bring a very successful Jacob and Jennie Lichter Lectures Series, which was dedicated to the Dead Sea Scrolls. Likewise, we partnered with the CHHE, The Hillel Student Foundation, Taft, and Women Gender and Sexuality Studies to bring additional four first rate scholars to our department and to our Cincinnati community.

The Judaic Studies Department is committed to keeping in touch with you, our friends and alumni. We invite you to attend our lectures and events—which are open and free to the public—and to visit our Judaic Studies website http://www.artsci.uc.edu/collegedepts/judaic/. To find out more about UC Judaic Studies, please contact me and let me what you think or need. I will do my best to deliver.

Gila Safran Naveh, Ph.D.
Professor and Department Head
Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati Chair
gila.naveh@uc.edu
(513)-556-2300

May 2013
Department News


Ari Finkelstein has been awarded the 2013 Taft Summer Research Fellowship and will go this summer to Israel to conduct intensive research. His article, “The Use of Jews in Julian’s Program: ‘Dying for the Law’ in the Letter to Theodorus – A Case Study” was accepted as part of the forthcoming edited volume Religious Competition in the Third Century CE: Jews, Christians and the Greco-Roman World, edited by Nathan DesRosiers, Jordan Rosenblum and Lily C. Vuong. He is finishing a review for H-Judaic on: Beth A. Berkowitz, Defining Jewish Difference, from Antiquity to the Present, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012. Finkelstein – who delivered the talk "Dying for the Law: Jewish Martyrdom in Emperor Julian’s Imperial Project” at our Judaic Studies Welcome Event this fall – delivered two additional public lectures in March 2013: "Emperor Julian’s use of Jews in his imperial program: the case of Jewish sacrifice” at Indiana University, and “Sects and Parties in the Second Temple Period” at the Skirball Museum.


Matthew Kraus lectured at Notre Dame University on “The Bible as an Interpreter of Late Antiquity: Jewish Exegetical Traditions in Jerome's Translation of the Bible.” He published a review in H-Judaic on Ishay Rosen-Zvi’s Demonic Desires: Yetzer Hara and the Problem of Evil in Late Antiquity and is completing the “The Vulgate Pentateuch” for the forthcoming A Textual History of the Bible. Together with Steven Bowman, Matthew Kraus coordinated this fall one of the best attended lecture series in our department's history: the Lichter Lectures on the Dead Sea Scrolls. In addition to courses on the Dead Sea Scrolls at the Jewish Community Center and Rockdale Temple, Kraus taught a Basic Judaism mini-course for the Community of the Good Shepherd Catholic Church. Kraus also enjoyed writing and performing in the podcast Dead Sea: Hot Dry Air: an interview with Flavius Josephus (Flavius Josephus part 1 of 2) at http://classics.uc.edu/index.php/podcasts/193-hot-dry-air.

Gila Safran Naveh has published an article entitled "From Performance to New Perception and Empowerment: Jewish Salons", Eds. Karen Haworth, Jason Hogue, and Leonard Sbrocci, in Semiotics 2012, New York Toronto, Ottawa: LEGAS. She presented a scholarly paper entitled “A Semiotic of Retrospection: The Holocaust and Strategies of Desire in Thayne Rosenbaum’s Elijah Visible and Second Hand Smoke”, at the Annual International Meeting of SSA, Toronto, Canada. In addition, Naveh has completed a manuscript review for Penn State University Press and has conducted research at the Paris Centre de Documentation Juive Moderne for her book dealing with Women in the Holocaust and healing processes through writing and memorializing.

A Fellow of the Academy of Teaching and Learning, Department Head Dana Gregory Griffith, “Dr. G.” is currently the coordinator of the Religious Studies Certificate Program, and teaches the courses “Introduction to the Study of Religion,” and “Buddhism: History and Thought” as part of the Certificate. He will also teach new
courses in "Suffering and Death in World Religions" during the 2013 McMicken Maymester and an "Honors Seminar in Religious Intolerance" in the fall semester of 2013. In addition to creating and teaching these course offerings, he served on the Judaic Studies Graduate Certificate Proposal committee, and is currently drafting a Biblical Studies Certificate for Judaic Studies. He is also working on a cross-campus collaborative Symposium on personal theology with Hebrew Union College and UC affiliate faculty member Haim Rechnitzer, titled Speaking of Gods and Other "Sacred" Creatures, which will begin in the fall of 2013. His book of poetry, titled Collected Tunes of the Blues Buddha is forthcoming from I-Beam Press. Dr. Griffith is a member of the Gaden Samdrupling Tibetan Buddhist monastery and the International Association of Buddhist Studies. Griffith is also on faculty in the UC Department of English and is affiliate faculty in the UC Asian Studies Program. He was nominated for the 2012-2013 University President's Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Award for excellence in teaching.

Michael S. Porte was listed in Who's Who in Academia and in Who's Who in America. He is teaching "Jews in American Film" and developing a new course in Cinema "diviniti; Religion and the Bible on Film". Porte prepared the index for The Hijacking of Jesus; How the Greeks Stole Jesus from the Jews and Made Him a Second Christian God by Leland Miles.

Cynthia A. Crane, an Associate Professor of English at UC Blue Ash College, is a new affiliate faculty in Judaic Studies. Crane was a finalist for Creative Nonfiction in a national contest (the David B. Saunders Award). Her poem, "Baking," was published in Adrienne Rich: A Tribute Anthology (Split Oak Press, 2012), edited by Katharyn Howd Machan. She gave a paper ("The Extraordinary and the Ordinary/The Public and the Private: Which woman's life is which") on a Jewish Studies panel at the Midwest Popular Culture & American Culture Association Conference. In addition to multiple community talks, she was a guest speaker for a Women's Literary Group. Together with Professor Krista Sigler, Crane planned and a public event, "Stories from the Holocaust: Survivors and Liberators," in partnership with The Center for Holocaust and Humanity Education. The event drew over 500 attendees.

Bea C. Opengart, a Professor Educator of English and Comparative Literature, is a new affiliate with our department. Her most recent publications are a chapbook of poems entitled This Day, published by Finishing Line Press, and a full-length collection entitled In the Land, published by Dos Madres Press. This Day was inspired by the sequence of daily blessings in the Jewish liturgy, and In the Land grew from a trip she made to Israel and from reading she did before and after the trip. "I am very pleased to be a member of the Judaic Studies Department's affiliate faculty as of Fall 2012. [...] This summer I will be researching grants that might fund travel to the town in Poland that was my paternal grandfather's birthplace. Hopefully I will be able to see it firsthand within the next few years".

Adrian L. Parr has spent the year as a Taft Center Fellow and made significant developments on a new book that critically examines key social and environmental conditions of urban life in the 21st century. The proposal is complete along with a few chapters. The Department of Sociology organized a book launch this semester for her recent release: The Wrath of Capital: Neoliberalism and Climate Change Politics (Columbia University Press, 2013). She delivered a book talk at Arup Engineers Shanghai Office and Shanghai University, with talks scheduled for Duke University, The Chicago Arts Club, and Gage Gallery Chicago in April. Parr and Professor Michael Zaretsky were awarded a grant from the Faculty Development Council to host two workshops on 'Future Cities; Livable Futures'. She and Associate Dean Jana Braziel were appointed as co-Chairs to lead a task force on independent research at the University of Cincinnati.

Haim Otto Rechnitzer, an affiliate member of our department faculty, has a new book out: Prophecy and Perfect Political Order: The Political Theology of Leo Strauss (Bialik Institute Publishing House, 2012). He completed two new shorter publications: "From Honolulu via Mt. Gilboa to Tel-Aviv: the Rise and Fall of Shlonsky's Messianic Halutz" for Hebrew Studies (forthcoming 2013); and "Narrative and Imagination - four annotated poems by Haim O. Rechnitzer" for the University of Toronto Journal of Jewish Thought, Arts Section (forthcoming 2013). Rechnitzer spent March and April 2013 in Israel, where he conducted research on his current project – The Theology of Modern Hebrew Poetry – and delivered talks (e.g.: "Between Anarchism and Orthodoxy - Leo Strauss and the Political Theology of Exile, The Open Beit Midrash, Modi’in, Israel; "Leo Strauss Political Theology and the State of Israel" The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, April 2013).

Roger M. Selya delivered a paper, "The State of the American Jewish Community", to a group of students at the Hillel at Oberlin (On February 12). Professor Selya served on many Judaic Studies committees, ranging from advisory committees to hiring committees.

Steven J. Cahn, our affiliate faculty from College-Conservatory of Music, is NY on sabbatical this year. He is giving a talk for the 16th World Congress on Judaic Studies about the mid-nineteenth century composer Salomon Jadassohn, and also had a recent publication of interest to Judaic Studies in the Journal of the American Musicological Society.

Jason Kalman was on sabbatical for much of the year. He recently published a new book titled Hebrew Union College and the Dead Sea Scrolls (Cincinnati: Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion, 2012).
Going “Glocal”: Judaic Studies Students & Faculty Travel at Home and Abroad

Matthew Kraus Takes Students to Israel and Jordan

Professor Kraus is leading a group of students to Israel and Jordan on a three week travel-study trip exploring the interaction between antiquity and modernity. In collaboration with UC International, the Judaic Studies Experiential Studies Program offers a transformative experience for students, some of whom have never been abroad. In addition to the usual sites such as the Old City of Jerusalem, Masada and Tel Aviv, highlights of the trip include a visit to Kibbutz Lotan in the Aravah to explore creative Jewish approaches to community life and sustainability, three nights in Jordan with visits to Wadi Rum, Petra, Medaba, Amman and Jerash, and a five night homestay in Cincinnati’s sister city of Netanyah with a tour and a seminar at Netanyah Academic College. Students will have the opportunity to study the Dead Sea Scrolls in situ at Qumran, experience the poetry of Yehudah Amichai while walking the streets of Jerusalem, and analyze the Talmud in the reconstructed Talmudic village of Katzrin.

In the fall, Dr. Ingrid Moen Epstein took the students of her Freshman Seminar to the exhibit "A Blessing to One Another: Pope John Paul II and the Jewish People" at the Skirball Museum at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.

In the spring, Professor Adi Gordon took the students of his “History of Jewish Civilization” on a daytrip to The Isaac M. Wise Temple on Plum Street. The photos are courtesy of our Judaic Studies Major, Ronique Morsby.
Are The Dead Sea Scrolls Dead?
The 2012-2013 Jacob and Jennie L. Lichter Series

The 2012-2013 Lichter lectures were an extraordinary success with over 750 total attendees at three lectures. These presentations offered new perspectives on what is considered the most significant discovery from Jewish antiquity in the 20th century.

The series began with Carol Newsom, Charles Howard Candler Professor of Old Testament, Emory University, Candler School of Theology and recent president of the Society for Biblical Literature. Newsom addressed a packed auditorium at the Cincinnati Museum Center on the topic of "Angels and Demons in the Dead Sea Scrolls." Author of The Self as Symbolic Space: Constructing Identity and Community at Qumran, Brill, 2004, Newsom brings Bakhtin and Foucault into the conversation about these texts, providing, what one scholar has called an enriching and "pioneering study...opening up a new angle of vision on these intriguing texts." Focusing on the texts themselves and the inner world of the group that produced and read them, her lecture mapped the geography of the supernatural without dismissing the authors of the Dead Sea Scrolls as idiosyncratic sectarian.

The next speaker was Hershel Shanks, President of the Biblical Archaeology Society, founder and editor of Biblical Archaeology Review. Shanks has been a pivotal actor in the modern history of the Dead Sea Scrolls, expediting the publication of the Scrolls in the 1990s. This involved Shanks in Qimron v. Shanks, a case of copyright infringement that reached the Supreme Court of Israel. Speaking at the Mayerson Jewish Community Center about "What Do the Dead Sea Scrolls Really Say?", Shanks charmed the audience with delightful anecdotes about the Dead Sea Scrolls during the controversies of 1980s and 1990s. Notwithstanding his self-proclaimed status as an archaeological "outsider", he mesmerized the crowd with wonderful "insider" stories about the scrolls and the scholars who worked on them.

The series ended with Norman Golb, Ludwig Rosenberger Professor of Jewish History and Civilization, University of Chicago lecturing at the beautifully designed Annie Laws Hall on the UC campus. Golb is well-known in Dead Sea Scrolls research for arguing that Qumran was a fortress, with no connection to the Scrolls. In his lecture, "The Dead Sea Scrolls and the Popular Imagination," Golb challenged the audience to reexamine the prevalent view among scholars that the scrolls are Essene compositions intimately connected with the archaeological site of Qumran. The crowd left the lecture stirred, if not shaken. Administered in partnership with the Cincinnati Museum Center and Taft Research Center, with support from the Ohio Humanities Council, Jewish Federation of Cincinnati, and the Mayerson Jewish Community, the Lichter lectures vastly exceeded expectations. Thus, "Are The Dead Sea Scrolls Dead?" provided updated and seasoned scholarly analysis of the significance of the Scrolls and archaeological excavations, illuminating what we know and cannot know about religious life and biblical texts and interpretations in Israel from approximately 150 B.C.E. to 150 C.E. The series stimulated the mind and revealed new ways of thinking about antiquity to a diverse mixture of faculty, students, and community members.

Engagement with the Dead Sea Scrolls transcended the Lichter lectures. The series topic was selected in connection with the Cincinnati Museum Center’s exhibition “Dead Sea Scrolls: Life and Faith” which opened in the fall of 2012. The Department of Judaic Studies was involved with the DSS exhibit on a variety of ways. The faculty served as consultants during the early planning stages, trained docents, provided courses and lectures to the community, produced supplementary podcasts, and led a number of tours through the exhibit. Over 80 students registered for a course on the Dead Sea Scrolls offered in both the Fall and Spring Semesters. The students volunteered to work at the exhibit and have done research in the area. Creative projects produced by students were featured in a “Qumran Corner” at the annual Undergraduate Research Conference in April. Projects included “How to Judge a Book by its Cover” by Aimmie Calhoun on the complex criteria for evaluating an individual’s pre-determined nature, “Phar-ly [pronounced ‘fairly’] Demonized?” by Jamie Farris, a spoken-word reassessment of the New Testament and Dead Sea Scrolls’ negative portrayal of Pharisees, and “Qumran Calendars” by Michele Leicester, a painting symbolically representing the conflict between the Wicked Priest and Teacher of Righteousness about the Lunar v. Solar calendars.
Standing on the Shoulders of Giants:
In Memoriam: Henry Winkler and Milton (Milt) Orchin z”l

The Department of Judaic Studies celebrates the lives of two of its founding fathers and lifelong supporters who passed this year--President Emeritus Henry Winkler and Professor Emeritus Milton Orchin. The two giants, Henry Winkler and Milton Orchin, were strong advocates of Judaic Studies and have worked tirelessly to foster the Department and empower it to become a center of scholarly and teaching excellence at UC. Both men embodied the ideal of prominent scholars also committed to leadership in their respective communities. We will miss them both dearly. A Judaic Studies memorial event honoring Henry Winkler and Milton Orchin took place on Monday, April the 15th, 2013, from 4PM- 5:30PM, in the Max Kade Center.

President Emeritus Henry Winkler, A&S ’38, MA (A&S) ’40, HonDoc ’87, died on Dec. 26 at the age of 96. A leading historian of 20th-century Britain, educator and administrator, he is the only UC alumnus to serve as the university’s president. After graduating from UC, Winkler served in the U.S. Navy as an intelligence officer in the Pacific with a specialty in Japanese language. He earned his PhD from the University of Chicago.

In 1977, he became the 23rd president of the University of Cincinnati. In 1984, he left the president’s office and remained on faculty. “Dr. Winkler will be remembered for his leadership of UC during its first years as a state university,” said UC President Santa Ono, “He holds a special place in our collective heart as a kind and gracious member of the UC family.”

When Milton Orchin died on Feb. 14 at age 98, the chemistry department had indeed lost its most senior faculty member. “While Orchin was known for his career in chemistry, ”writes Cincinnati.com, ”his life story was just as interesting. He was born in Pennsylvania to Russian immigrants, and grew up in the Jewish Orphan Home in Cleveland after his mother died. He left the orphanage at age 16 and worked at a pawn shop to earn money for college, eventually receiving a scholarship from Fred Lazarus Jr., then president of the Lazarus Department Store in Columbus.

In 1953, Orchin joined UC in the Applied Science Laboratory after working as a chemist for the federal government with the Food and Drug Administration, the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Mines. At UC, he soon moved to the chemistry department, where he served as chair from 1956-62. After his 1981 retirement at age 67, he spent the next 25 years as director of the McMicken College of Arts and Sciences’ Hoke Greene Laboratory of Catalysis and collaborator on 47 more research papers. At age 92, he began writing a seventh book which was published six months after his 97th birthday.
A Letter from our Alumna, Rebecca Broder Egolf

I view the world through Jewish-colored glasses. No matter what I do, or where I am, my core identity frames my experiences and interactions in the world. As a teen I couldn’t imagine a single career path for myself, but when reflecting on my very favorite experiences, I realized that each one included the support of a close-knit community and a connection to Judaism. I couldn’t have found a more perfect combination of these than the UC Judaic Studies program. It was beshert!

The interdisciplinary structure of Judaic Studies at UC was what made it so right for me. I found I could put aside my Jewish glasses and study literature in the English department, or history in the history department, or I could leave my lenses on and study everything from the perspective of my people, the Jewish people. Likewise, as a student I discovered a parallel world of professions in the Jewish community, trying out journalism with a job at a local Jewish newspaper, public relations as a summer intern in the communications department of a Jewish hospital, and publishing as the editor of the Cincinnati Judaica Review, a literary magazine published by the Judaic Studies department at the time.

I pursued a career in the secular world in college admissions and higher education marketing and recruitment, for organizations as diverse as a public community college, a Methodist liberal arts college, and an elite Presbyterian-affiliated women’s college. I was successful, and happy, but something was missing. I put my Jewish glasses back on after work, becoming active in my synagogue and volunteering in the Jewish community. It wasn’t until I realized how I could keep my Jewish-colored glasses on all the time that I found the perfect match, putting my secular knowledge to work serving the Jewish community. I now manage a successful consulting practice, working with Jewish day schools across North America in the areas of enrollment management, admissions and marketing. My career is as interdisciplinary as my studies were, and this flexibility serves me well on each new project and with a diverse range of clients.

The department was quite a bit different in the early ‘90s than it is now – three professors and a handful of adjuncts taught me every class. These scholars became my family, my mentors, and my friends, and the lessons I learned from them continue to shape me to this day. This past summer, I scheduled a family vacation to include a detour through Cincinnati, to show my family the UC campus and to spend some time with Gila Naveh. It was as though only a day had passed since I saw her last (I swear she hasn’t aged in all these years!). Memories of my cherished mentor, Dr. Benny Kraut z”l, came flooding back as I toured the spacious new offices in French Hall and reminisced about the cramped basement quarters in McMicken I remembered so well. I had the chance to meet some of the new faculty who have joined the department, and who will nurture the next generation of scholars, leaders, and Jewish communal professionals. Many of us wear glasses, and I know that for all of us, the prescription in our lenses is a Jewish one.

Student & Alumni News

CONGRATULATION TO OUR GRADUATING STUDENTS!

Samantha Cari Gerstein
Judaic Studies Major & Religious Certificate

Ronique Ava-Gail Morsby
Judaic Studies Major

Jason Ariel Schapera
Judaic Studies Major

Grace Cannon Gilles
Judaic Studies Minor

Zachary Evan Michelson
Judaic Studies Minor

Judith Lynn Wertheim
Judaic Studies Minor

OFF TO THE RABBINICAL SCHOOL!
The Department of Judaic Studies is proud of Samantha (Sam) Gerstein who has been accepted and will join the Rabbinical School at the Hebrew Union College — Jewish Institute of Religion. “Sam,” says department head Gila Safran Naveh, “is joining a very proud group of UC Judaic Studies alumni, who went on to be ordained as Rabbis.” The list includes Rabbi Elena Stein, Rabbi Paul Friedfertig, Rabbi Hanna Yerushalmi, and several other former Judaic Studies majors who live now in Israel.

Student Internships/Independent Studies

RACHEL MEEKS:
Rachel interned at the Center for Holocaust and Humanities Education (CHHE) and the Cincinnati Museum Center. At CHHE, Rachel used her Judaic Studies skills in Hebrew and German to classify Judaica items on loan to the Center. At the Museum Center, Rachel has conducted “gallery talks” providing background information to visitors at the Dead Sea Scroll exhibit. “Since January,” Rachel tells us, “I have been working at the Cincinnati Museum Center as a special exhibits/events volunteer, specifically in the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit. My job is to enhance visitors’ experience and understanding of the scrolls, incorporating very nearly everything I learned from a semester of Dead Sea Scrolls as well as information from the Jewish Civilization series. I meet many inquisitive people at the exhibit and have had countless opportunities to turn a simple answer to a question into a full dialogue about Judaism, the community at Qumran, and the history that surrounds the time period in which the scrolls were written. Not only has this experience enabled me to share what I have learned, but has also solidified my own understanding of the material I’ve learned throughout the course of my academic career in Judaic Studies.”

JASON SCHAPERA
Jason is interning at the Cincinnati Museum Center working with the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit.

SAMANTHA GERSTEIN
Samantha is interning at Cedar Village to work with the Jewish elderly under the mentorship of Rabbi Gerry Walter. On Thursdays Sam teaches a class called Women in the Torah. On Fridays, and sometimes Saturdays, she observes Rabbi Walter as he leads the residents in Shabbat prayer.

BRETT MUSICK
Brett is combining his Judaic Studies Minor with his pursuit of a degree in Education to design a curriculum for high school students. He also participated in JCAT (the Jewish Court of All Time).

MICHAEL WAGNER
Mike is a Judaic Studies major who also works for the Cincinnati Jewish Federation. This has led to the following research project: “The Jewish Nation Today – Examining the responsibility of Jews in the Diaspora to the State of Israel.”
In addition to our very well-attended and impactful Lichter Lectures on the Dead Sea Scrolls in the fall, the department has offered multiple memorable public lectures throughout the past year, many of them in collaboration with our colleagues on campus and other partners.

On April 5th, 2012, shortly after our previous newsletter came out, the department of Judaic Studies hosted a stimulating talk entitled “The Arab Spring and Israel: A New Order in the Middle East”? by the German-Egyptian historian Omar Kamil, who studied in Israel. In light of the situation in the Middle East, professor Kamil, an expert on modern Jewish history, explained what influence the Arab Spring may have on Arab-Israeli relations.

Philosophers and physicians routinely extol the therapeutic virtues of laughter, and Yiddish is often associated with humor. In fact, Jews take great pride in their sense of humor. What accounts for this association? On June 12th, 2012 the Department of Judaic Studies hosted a talk with the title “What’s so Funny about Jewish Humor” by the leading scholar of Jewish literature, Ruth Wisse from Harvard University.

In early March 2013 we offered four different talks. Lawrence Baron delivered two talks. His first lecture, “The Wandering View: The Jewish Immigrant in World Cinema”, depicted Jewish immigrants. His second talk, “The Reluctant Rescuer from Schindler’s List to Hotel Rwanda,” explained the shift in the image of rescuers and depicted heroes such as Raoul Wallenberg, as well as characters like Oskar Schindler.

Judaic Studies collaborated with the Department of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) in bringing both Orit Avishai and Louise Bernikow.

On March the 7th Orit Avishai, Professor of Sociology at Fordham University, delivered the talk “Gendered Revolutions in Orthodox Judaism: It’s Not Just the Feminists.” Her talk examined how Orthodox Israeli Jews have responded to lagging observance and growing ambivalence towards niddah laws. Avishai documented the emergence, since the 1990s, of three types of women ritual experts in response to problems with the niddah tradition.

Finally, on March 13th, 2013, we had the pleasure of hosting Louise Bernikow, a writer and academic whose writings and lectures have reached millions worldwide. Bernikow has been a pioneer in the field of Women’s Studies, founding one of the very first programs at Hunter College in 1970. She is the author of many books, and essays. Bernikow presented her talk – “Organizing for Suffrage: The Importance of Place: New York and Cincinnati” – as a conversation about how suffrage activists, many of them Jewish, used their surroundings—geographic, cultural, political, ethnic—in their fight for the vote. The New York story revolves around landmarks, streets, and diverse women, Christian and Jewish.

Next year, we plan to bring to the Cincinnati community an equally intensive and engaging series of Judaic Studies lectures. New in the department will be a monthly symposium of Theology. This will be a cross-campus collaboration between UC Judaic Studies and HUC. Beginning in the fall of 2013, the Department of Judaic Studies and the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion will collaborate on a monthly Sunday afternoon symposium organized and lead by Rabbi Dr. Haim O. Rechnitzer, HUC, and Dr. Dana Gregory Griffith, UC Judaic Studies. Speaking of Gods and Other “Sacred” Creatures: Symposium/Roundtable of Theology will provide a space for conversation about religion, ethics and spirituality that bridges disciplines and beliefs. This innovative symposium will bring together intellectuals, scholars, artists and students from various faiths and philosophies to engage in a critical and open dialogue across the arts and academia.
Honor Roll of Donors

We thank the following individuals for their generous donations to the department from January 2011 to March 2012. These gifts fund scholarships, attract and retain the finest faculty, and enrich the experiences of our undergraduate and graduate students.

Mrs. Barbara Glueck
Richard A. Jolson, M.D.
Mr. Marvin H. Kraus
Beth S. Neman, Ph.D.
Mr. Morris H. Passer
Hon. Burton Perlman
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Gila Safran Naveh, Ph.D.

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To make a gift via credit card, please visit www.uc.edu/give. When prompted, please designate your gift to the Department of Judaic Studies and/or the specific fund of your choice!

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