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The Bornblum Judaic Studies Newsletter

Fall 2009



Dr. Sara Abosch

BJS Welcomes This Year's David Bornblum Visiting Scholar in Judaic Studies

Bornblum Judaic Studies is very pleased to welcome **Dr. Sara Abosch** as this year's David Bornblum Visiting Scholar in Judaic Studies. With a Ph.D. in modern Jewish history from SUNY Buffalo, Dr. Abosch is an experienced teacher and an accomplished scholar. Her classes include a variety of courses on Jewish history, with focuses on Europe and Israel. On **Sunday, February 21, 2:00 p.m., at the Memphis Jewish Community Center** she will present a public lecture on "How the Jews Became English: Fashioning a community after Exile and Readmission," Of particular interest is her special topics course **JDST 4720 The American Jewish Experience**, which she will teach in the **Spring 2010** semester.

Judaic Studies Enrollments Hit New Highs

With more than 325 students enrolled in courses taught by BJS faculty in Spring 2009, the enrollment hit an all-time high for a single semester. Projections for the Fall 2009 semester are around 300, which is an all-time high for the fall term. In the last ten years enrollments have more than doubled. Among the most popular courses are JDST 2580 Religions of Abraham, JDST 4511 Holocaust Studies, and JDST 3661 Old Testament.

Congratulations to Jordan McDugle, a major in Judaic Studies and the 2009 recipient of the Outstanding Student in Judaic Studies Award.

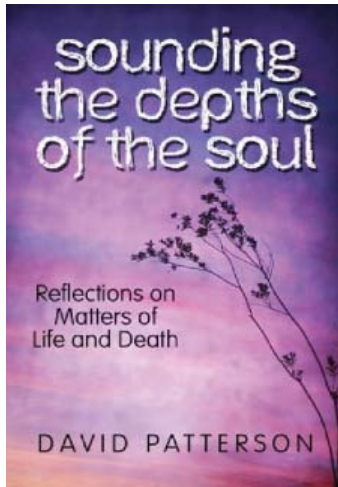
BJS Scholars' Activities

Dr. Shaul Bar's new ground-breaking book *I Deal Death and Give Life: Biblical Perspectives on Death* will soon be published by Gorgias Press.

Dr. Stephen Benin was an invited participant at the annual Philosophy

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(BJSScholars continued from Page 1) Conference of the Hartman Institute in Jerusalem and presented a paper at the World Congress for Jewish Studies in Jerusalem on the topic: “John Spencer, Maimonides and Jewish History.”



New Book by Dr. David Patterson

Dr. David Patterson recently won the National Jewish Book Award for his book *Emil L. Fackenheim: A Jewish Philosopher's Response to the Holocaust* and is the 2009 recipient of the Alumni Association Distinguished Research Award in the Humanities. He has given invited lectures at the University of Oklahoma and the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs and presented papers at the World Congress for Jewish Studies in Jerusalem and the American and Holocaust Literature Symposium in Salt Lake City. Recently published volumes that include chapters by Dr. Patterson are *Confronting Genocide: Judaism, Christianity, Islam* (edited by Steven Jacobs), *A Festschrift in Honor of Zev Garber* (edited by Steven Jacobs), and *Genocide in Elie Wiesel's Night* (edited by Louise Hawker). Dr. Patterson has also served as scholar-in-residence for teacher workshops held by Facing History and Ourselves in June and has just published a new book called *Sounding the Depths of the Soul: Reflections on Matters of Life and*

Judaic Studies to Co-Host Distinguished Guests, Events

This year Bornblum Judaic Studies joins with various campus and community partners to host several outstanding events. The first program features **Bluma Zuckerbrot**, whose topic will be “Shifting Landscapes: The Obama Administration, Israel, and the Middle East” on **Sun., Sept. 6, 2:00 p.m., at the Memphis Jewish Community Center (MJCC)**, co-sponsored by the Memphis Jewish Historical Society (MJHS) and the JCC. The second program, also co-sponsored with the MJHS, is a lecture on the Holocaust by noted scholar Alan Rosen on **Thurs., Oct. 22, 7:30 p.m., at the Fogelman Executive Center (FEC)**.

Next, on **Sun., Jan. 17, 2:00 p.m., at the MJCC BJS**, the MJHS, Dr. Hillel Kieval of Washington University in St. Louis will deliver a lecture on “Czech Jewry.” On **Sun., Feb. 21, 2:00 p.m., at the MJCC** Dr. Sara Abosch, the David Bornblum Visiting Scholar in Judaic Studies, will speak on the topic “How the Jews Became English: Fashioning a community after Exile and Readmission.” Finally, BJS, the MJHS, and the MJCC will present the docudrama *West of Hester Street*, a film on Jewish immigrant life in the early 20th century, on **Sun., Apr. 18, 2:00 p.m., at the MJCC**.



From West of Hester Street a film to be shown on April 18, 2:00 p.m., MJCC

Mark Your Calendar for These Upcoming BJS Activities 2009–2010

1. **Wed, Sept 2, 11:30 am-1:00pm, 226 Library:** Discussion of *The Ethics of Our Fathers* (Pirke Avot) by David Patterson
2. **Sun, Sept 6, 2:00 pm, MJCC:** “Shifting Landscapes: The Obama Administration, Israel, and the Middle East” by Bluma Zuckerbrot
3. **Wed, Oct 14, 11:30 am-1:00pm, 226 Library:** Discussion of Hasidic tales from *Greatest Jewish Stories* by David Patterson
4. **Thurs, Oct 22, 7:30 pm, FEC:** Holocaust lecture by Alan Rosen
5. **Wed, Nov 4, 11:30 am-1:00pm, 226 Library:** Discussion of Martin Buber’s *I and Thou* by David Patterson
6. **Wed, Dec 2, 11:30 am-1:00pm, 226 Library:** Discussion of Elie Wiesel’s *Night* by David Patterson
7. **Sun, Jan 17, 2:00 pm, MJCC:** “Czech Jewry” by Hillel Kieval
8. **Sun, Feb 21, 2:00 pm, MJCC:** “How the Jews Became English: Fashioning a community after Exile and Readmission” by Sara Abosch
9. **Sun, Apr 18, 2:00 pm, MJCC:** Docudrama *West of Hester Street*

BJS AND U OF M LIBRARY TO PRESENT DISCUSSION SERIES ON JEWISH CLASSICS

BJS and The University of Memphis Libraries are presenting a four-part series of discussions on selected classics, both old and new, from the Jewish tradition. Led by Dr. David Patterson, the discussions will take place on Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in 226 McWerther Library on:

- » September 2: *Ethics of Our Fathers* (Pirke Avot)
- » October 14: Hasidic tales from *Greatest Jewish Stories* by David Patterson
- » November 4: *I and Thou* by Martin Buber
- » December 2: *Night* by Elie Wiesel

The program is free and open to the public.

Look for these courses in Judaic Studies Spring 2010

HIST 3275	History of the Jewish People	JDST 3801	Jewish thought
JDST 4511	Holocaust Studies	JDST 4671	Jewis Literary Texts
JDST 4720	American Jewish Experience	JDST 4830	Israeli/Palestinian Conflict
JDST 4900	Independent Study	JDST 7796	Independent Study
HEBR 1020	Elementary Hebrew	HEBR 2020	Intermediate Hebrew

Find Out What the Bible *Really* Says Learn Hebrew

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