



לדעת חכמה ומוסר  
**School of  
Graduate  
Studies**  
להבין אמרי בינה

# Qol Hadash

Spring 2015

## From Nazi Europe to Cincinnati: *The Story of Hebrew Union College's Rescue Program*

by Eva Mwanika and Kurt Backlund



Ph.D. students Eva Mwanika and Kurt Backlund researched the role of HUC in rescuing European Jews prior to and during World War II for this year's Holocaust Remembrance event on the Cincinnati campus.

In 2005, the United Nations General Assembly designated January 27 — the date on which Auschwitz-Birkenau was liberated by Russian troops in 1945 — as International Holocaust Remembrance Day. In observance of this day, Hebrew

Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion hosted a series of events on January 25 and 26. Not only does this year mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, it is the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hebrew Union College. The events held on HUC-JIR's Cincinnati campus, therefore, sought to pay respect to both of these anniversaries by focusing on the role played by Hebrew Union College leading up to and during the years of World War II.

At the end of last summer, we were contacted by Dean Jonathan Cohen's office, inquiring as to whether we would be interested in conducting some research for these events. After meeting with the Dean and learning a little of this significant chapter in our school's history, we agreed that this was a project with which we wanted to be involved. While some research was done online, the vast majority of our work was conducted

at the Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives. We spent many days going through boxes of folders containing telegrams and handwritten letters between the individuals involved, as well as correspondences with the U.S. State Department, foreign consuls, and lawyers. The story that unfolded is, in broad strokes, as follows.

In 1934, the farsighted president of Hebrew Union College, Julian Morgenstern, began correspondence with several European Jewish leaders in an effort to identify some rabbinic students whom the school could extract from the increasingly hostile conditions in Germany. In 1935, despite the depressed economic situations that had left the school in a difficult position, sufficient funds were raised to offer scholarships to five rabbinic students from Germany. Over the next seven years, the tireless efforts of Morgenstern

*continued on page 4*



## News from the Director

by Dr. Nili Fox, Director, School of Graduate Studies



Dr. Nili Fox

The spring 2015 semester began in January with classes and commemorations. A two-day memorial program for International Holocaust

Remembrance Day (see Kurt Backlund and Eva Mwanika's article, "From Nazi Europe to Cincinnati," on page 1) served as a call for reflection. It underscored the imperative to take responsibility in the face of intolerance and evil.

With the current semester moving full speed ahead, it is my pleasure to review highlights from the fall semester and announce upcoming events for the spring.

### The 2014 Annual SBL Alumni Luncheon in San Diego

Sixty-five alumni, students, faculty, and friends of the SGS attended the

annual Society of Biblical Literature Alumni Luncheon on November 23, 2014. The luncheon was held in the San Diego Convention Center, allowing conference participants easy access to presentations prior to and following the luncheon. As in previous years, attendees reconnected with old friends and heard news of the SGS. John Kampen, president of the Graduate School Alumni Association, spoke passionately about the need for ongoing alumni support of the college, both as resource agents for students and financial contributors. (See Alumni Association News by Nancy Erickson on page 7.)

This annual meeting was especially productive for several of our graduate students and alumni who presented papers. (See Graduate Student Association Updates by Guy Ridge on page 5.) In one Ancient Near Eastern (ANE) session, among more than 50 attendees and presenters, I counted about 25% who

are SGS students and alumni. Clearly our graduate school has prominent visibility in the world of Bible and ANE scholarship. The College-Institute can continue to be proud of this accomplishment.

### Alumnus in Residence

I am happy to announce that Dr. Brian Webster is our Alumnus-in-Residence this year. Brian is Associate Professor of Old Testament Studies at Dallas Theological Seminary. Brian will be on the Cincinnati campus from March 16-18 to offer presentations and workshops to the HUC-JIR community. See the programs in the box below.

#### Monday March 16: **Academic Lecture**

12:40 p.m. - 1:40 p.m.

"The Shape of the Psalter:  
From Lament to Praise  
through Wisdom"

#### Tuesday March 17: **Student Workshop**

12:40 p.m. - 1:40 p.m.

"Teaching College  
Students and Beyond"

3:05 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

"Research and Writing"

#### Wednesday March 18: **Community Lecture**

12:40 p.m. - 1:40 p.m.

"The Ger and Immigration  
in the Bible"



Our alumni were all smiles at the SBL annual meeting.

## Recruitment and Admission News

It is that time of the year again when we review applications of prospective students. The SGS has received a sizeable number of applications to its Ph.D. and M.A. programs for the 2015-2016 academic year. As is typical, our applicants come from diverse backgrounds and represent a wide range of ethnic and religious diversity. Applications are currently being reviewed by faculty members and student representatives of the Graduate Student Association. At the March 9 Graduate Executive Committee meeting, members will make final admission decisions. Applicants will be notified by mid-March. New this year is a recently approved merit award for exceptional Ph.D. students. While the base annual Ph.D. stipend of \$10,000 remains in place, eligible students will be offered an additional award of up to \$5,000. Our goal is to continue to attract highly qualified students to the SGS Ph.D. program. Results of this year's recruitment and admission efforts will be posted in the fall edition of *Qol Hadash*.

## New Director of the School of Graduate Studies



Dr. Richard Sarason

As many of you already know, I am stepping down as director of the SGS at the end of this academic year (June 2015). I have served as director for five years and am now ready to resume my position as full-time faculty. Working these five years on behalf of the SGS and its students has been a labor of love. Certainly there were numerous challenges and frustrations, but also multiple rewards. I am proud to say that the SGS is sound, both academically and financially. We have 45 students enrolled, making it one of the largest Judaic Studies graduate-degree-granting institutions in North America.

But surely there is more important work to be done! The incoming director, Professor Richard Sarason, assumes the position July 1, 2015. We welcome Rick warmly. He is experienced working with students, faculty, and administration on every level. He cares deeply about the graduate school and its mission as an integral part of the College-Institute. He will be a strong advocate for our

students. Rick will need our ongoing support. I pledge him mine and urge you to do so too.

I whole heartedly wish our HUC-JIR family — students, alumni, faculty, administration, staff, and friends of the SGS — a sweet, tranquil, and fulfilling new year. And may spring come early!

## Alumni Notice

### ***We need your support!***

Alumni support is vital for student scholarships. Our goal is to accept more qualified students to the HUC-JIR's School of Graduate Studies, but without generous alumni support admission remains limited. Since we no longer ask for annual dues, please consider a gift specifically designated to the SGS Scholarship Fund. You can donate by mail or online at <https://donate.huc.edu/CNgrad>.

For more information, contact Shelly Goldfarb, Graduate School Administrative Assistant, at 513.487.3230 or [sgoldfarb@huc.edu](mailto:sgoldfarb@huc.edu).

## From Nazi Europe to Cincinnati

*continued from page 1*



HUC-JIR President Aaron Panken addresses the audience for this year's Holocaust Remembrance in Cincinnati.

succeeded in bringing eleven more individuals to Hebrew Union College to serve as professors and library staff. These professors had endured varying degrees of hardship prior to the time they were able to come to Cincinnati. Some had been dismissed from teaching positions in universities under the Nazi regime, though others continued to teach at Jewish seminaries despite the demotion in status suffered by their schools. Some of those who had left their previous posts escaped to unoccupied territories, while others were incarcerated in concentration camps before President Morgenstern was able to secure visas for them to enter the United States.

With each passing visit to the AJA, as we handled telegrams and letters from war torn Europe desperately written in the face of imminent deportation, the gravity of this moment in history became clearer. We saw not only the successful stories of rescue, but the stories of failure; the stories of individuals who

died in concentration camps despite the efforts of President Morgenstern and his collaborators. We saw requests for aid from people, such as a dentist from Berlin, whom HUC had no hope of adding to the faculty. Such somber cases reinforced the urgency of the work undertaken by HUC, and made the success stories all the more poignant.

These 16 individuals (no other institution in the United States succeeded in rescuing more) who made their way to Cincinnati played a variety of roles as academics and leaders in American Judaism after coming to the United States. The five students who had been offered scholarships went on to become well known rabbis, to serve pivotal roles in the Jewish youth camp movement, and even to teach at HUC-JIR campuses. Some of the professors, such as Franz Rosenthal, became well known scholars in their respective fields and held prestigious positions at other institutions. Several of the rescued scholars spent the rest of their careers at Hebrew Union College, and this influx of highly qualified faculty members was a significant factor in the founding of the School of Graduate Studies. A few of the students and professors even served in the American armed forces during the war as chaplains and translators.

The events hosted by Hebrew Union College this past January featured a discussion panel with U. S. Senator Sherrod Brown and Dr. Susannah Heschel, daughter of

Abraham Joshua Heschel. Following the discussion, there was a candle lighting memorial service for the individuals rescued from Europe by Hebrew Union College. Along with Susannah Heschel, it was an honor to have several other descendants of the memorialized individuals present to participate in this service. A dinner was held to end the evening, during which the descendants of the European scholars were invited to share personal recollections of those whose lives Hebrew Union College had preserved. In addition to the privilege of being part of these events, we had the (rather intimidating) opportunity to do interviews on television and radio. After months of poring over archived materials, much of it in German and Hebrew, it was especially rewarding to be able to share with a wider audience some of the details of this momentous achievement that is a part of our heritage as students of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.



U. S. Senator Sherrod Brown and Dr. Susannah Heschel participate in panel discussion on the Cincinnati commemoration of the Holocaust.

# Graduate Student Association Update

by Guy Ridge, GSA President



Guy Ridge

The fall 2014 semester has come and gone almost as quickly as autumn weather in Cincinnati.

Now, at the beginning of the spring 2015 semester, it is hard to believe so much took place over the previous five months. One of the highlights for many graduate students last fall was the annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) in San Diego. The conference ran from November 21-25 and featured several of our own HUC-JIR students as presenters.

Four of our current graduate students presented at SBL this past year — Will Dilbeck, Cody Eklov, Andrew Higginbotham, and me. An excellent cross-section of academic interests was represented by our students, as we presented in sessions ranging from Rabbinics, Biblical Lexicography, Biblical Political History, and Assyriology. Our presentations were well received, and a number of HUC-JIR alumni presented noteworthy papers as well. The meeting was a great experience for students; not only did it allow us the opportunity to present our research in front of

professional scholars, but it also gave us a chance to meet and network with future peers in a competitive academic field. And it certainly did not hurt having the beautiful city of San Diego as our backdrop for the conference.

Funding provided by the School of Graduate Studies and the Dean's office of our Cincinnati campus made the expensive flights and hotel accommodations affordable for participating students. We are very grateful for the subsidies, and appreciate the affirmation such funds provide for us as developing scholars. A nice showing by HUC-JIR students and alumni at the annual SBL conference is also excellent press for our institution. Many students are continuing the effort to represent the school and present their research at upcoming regional conferences over the following few months.

The Graduate Executive Committee is about to begin reviewing application materials for students applying to join the School of Graduate Studies for the 2015-2016 academic year. Current students genuinely enjoy meeting their new colleagues in the program at the end of each summer. The Graduate Student Association (GSA) is a tightly knit community

of scholars that improves with every additional student we gain, so we look forward to the results of the upcoming admissions process. Our diversity of interests, backgrounds, and personalities makes the GSA a welcoming and congenial group.

The spring semester ahead will surely present both familiar and unfamiliar challenges for us. Some will begin studying for their ominous comprehensive exams, while others will find they are a little more confident and settled in as they begin their second semester of coursework at HUC-JIR; regardless of the stage they are in, students will continue to receive support and assistance from the GSA as we persist in our efforts toward academic excellence.



## News from Hebrew Union College Press

Volumes 82-83 of the *Hebrew Union College Annual* are now available both in print and electronically. Visit [press.huc.edu/huca](http://press.huc.edu/huca) to find out more, including how to get your copy. In addition, the entire run of HUCA is now searchable at [jstor.org](http://jstor.org). Please direct any questions to Dr. Angela Roskop Erisman, Managing Director, at [aerisman@huc.edu](mailto:aerisman@huc.edu).

# Council of Alumni Association Report

by Dr. Joel Allen, Assistant Professor of Religion and Philosophy, Dakota Wesleyan University



Dr. Joel Allen

I had the pleasure of representing the School of Graduate Studies at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion Alumni Association meeting in New York on November 17-18. I was dropped off by the cab driver in the wrong place and pointed in the wrong direction in driving rain. So I arrived late, cold, wet, and in a bad mood indeed. But things improved, and I had a fantastic experience in all!

On Monday afternoon, our group

met with Liz Squadron, the newly appointed Vice President for Program and Business Development. We came away very impressed with her wisdom and professionalism.

On Tuesday, we spent over an hour with President Aaron Panken. It is safe to say that the whole of the AA feels confident that the future of HUC-JIR is bright indeed! We discussed the current financial situation of the college (which has improved dramatically), the strategies for new hiring, the role of the AA in President Panken's five-goal agenda, along with upcoming marketing moves.

One aspect pertinent to the SGS relates to President Panken's commitment to the four-campus system. After having examined the issue very closely, he finds no compelling reason to close any of the four campuses. We also discussed the Jerusalem campus and how its unique place in the HUC-JIR system can be enhanced.

If anyone is interested in more detailed information, I'm happy to email my notes — please contact me at joallen@dwu.edu.

Again, it was my privilege to represent you all at this meeting.

## Alumni Publications & More!

### Publications

Joel S. Allen

*Jewish Biblical Legends: Rabbinic Wisdom for Christian Readers.* Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2013.

Bill T. Arnold

*Introduction to the Old Testament.* New York and Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014.

"Deuteronomy 12 and the Law of the Central Sanctuary *noch einmal*." *Vetus Testamentum* 64/2 (2014): 236-248.

"The Holiness Redaction of the Flood Narrative (Gen 6:9–9:29)." *Windows to the Ancient World of the Hebrew Bible: Essays in Honor of Samuel Greengus.* Bill T. Arnold, Nancy L. Erickson, and John H. Walton, eds. Winona Lake, Ind.: Eisenbrauns, 2014.

"The Genesis Narratives." *Ancient Israel's History: An Introduction to Issues and Sources.* Bill T. Arnold and Richard S. Hess, eds. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2014.

Peter Bekins

*Transitivity and Object Marking in Biblical Hebrew: An Investigation of the Object Preposition 'et.* HSS 64. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2014.

"Object Marking on the Mesha Inscription," *KUSATU* 17 (2014): 37–63.

Lee M. Fields

"Succession Narrative." *The Lexham Bible Dictionary.* John D. Barry and Lazarus Wentz. Bellingham, eds. WA: Lexham Press, 2012.

Bernard H. Mehlman

"Selections from Arnold B. Ehrlich's Die Psalmen (The Psalms)." Co-authored with Dr. Gabriel Padawer. Winter 2015 issue of *CCAR Journal: The Reform Jewish Quarterly.*

Sung Jin Park

"Pointing to the Accents in the Scroll: The Functional Development of the Masoretic Accents in the Hebrew Bible." *Hebrew Studies* 55 (2014): 73-88.

Kenneth Roseman

*Of Tribes and Tribulations.* Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2014.

### Promotions

David Musgrave has been promoted to the rank of "professor" at Amridge University in Montgomery, Alabama.

### Birth Announcements

Kathy Noftsinger and Don Swank announce the adoption of their beautiful son, Joshua Gabriel Swank, born October 17, 2014.

Sarah and Phil Bollinger announce the birth of their beautiful son, David Alden Bollinger, on November 12, 2014.

# Alumni Association News

by Dr. Nancy Erickson, Alumni Association Vice President,  
Senior Editor of Biblical Languages and Reference, Zondervan Academic



Dr. Nancy Erickson

Greetings Dear Alumni!

I write this letter at the beginning of the semester and yet amidst piles of manuscripts that require an editorial

hand. With that said, it is with sweet delight that I reflect briefly with you on the School of Graduate Studies, the success of this past fall and the vision for the spring and summer.

## Annual Conferences

I had the privilege of organizing and attending the first annual coffee break at the annual meeting of The Evangelical Theological Society (ETS). This was a great chance for some of us to connect in a casual setting, amidst the busyness of sessions and meetings. Please keep the event in mind as you plan your schedules for next fall. We anticipate being able to formalize the gathering in conjunction with ETS. Stay tuned!

Likewise, the Alumni Luncheon at the Society of Biblical Literature and the American Academy of Religion annual meetings were once again a success and an especially warm time to share with colleagues. Dr. Nili Fox announced that her term as director for the School of Graduate Studies will come to a close this summer and that Dr. Richard Sarason will fulfill the duties of director upon her leave. We welcome Dr. Sarason with much enthusiasm and look forward

to his wisdom and vision for the SGS as we move forward.

## Mentorship Program

The SGS Alumni Association continues to advocate for the mentorship program that was implemented last year. Several graduates have offered their time to invest in this manner, but we are looking yet for more volunteers. I encourage you to consider functioning in this capacity. As a junior scholar myself, I readily see the benefit of such a relationship, especially considering the dynamic changes occurring across all institutions and the difficulty of securing a full-time post. I would be remiss not to mention the flood of adjunct teaching that is happening across the country — let's call it *adjunctification*. Solidarity among the SGS alumni, along with the encouragement and assistance that those in secure full-time academic positions can provide to those who are not in such positions, is very much needed. This includes helping graduates of HUC-JIR navigate new territory and acclimate to the changing seasons of academia. Perhaps this looks different for each of us, but the mentoring program is one such venue, one that has within its vision the future of the SGS. The expectations for mentors in the program include a commitment to regular consultation and contact with a graduate student. If you are interested in doing so or would like further information, please contact Shelly Goldfarb at [sgoldfarb@huc.edu](mailto:sgoldfarb@huc.edu) or 513.487.3230.

Finally, I remind you of the importance of your monetary giving. Others need to know how highly we value our education at HUC-JIR and that we are committed to its ongoing welfare and success. I encourage, especially, those of us who are newer graduates to consider gifting a small amount to the very important scholarship fund for the SGS. These donations make a significant difference and the sacrifice on your part is a small recognition of your own priceless experience. You may donate online at [huc.edu/donate/alumni-giving](http://huc.edu/donate/alumni-giving) or, again, by contacting Shelly Goldfarb.

If you haven't already, I also recommend connecting to the SGS Alumni Association online at [huc.edu/alumni](http://huc.edu/alumni). You can create a profile and maintain information about yourself, as well as connect with other alumni and serve as a resource.



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3101 Clifton Ave.  
Cincinnati, OH  
45220-2488

## Alumnus Dedicates Book to HUC-JIR Faculty



Dr. David L. Turner

Our Ph.D. graduate, David L. Turner, Professor of New Testament at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary, has a fine book

forthcoming entitled *Israel's Last Prophet: Jesus and the Jewish Leaders in Matthew 23* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2015). The foreword is written by our own Professor Michael J. Cook, Bronstein Professor of Judeo-Christian Studies. Of special pertinence, Dr. Turner offered a testimonial to our School of Graduate Studies, and has given permission for Dr. Cook's citation of

the last paragraph of the foreword to be quoted in our *Qol Hadash* newsletter. Here is that closing paragraph from Dr. Cook's foreword:

*"Turner's unusual dedication of his work to 'The Faculty of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Cincinnati' warrants explanation. As he has personally affirmed over the years, he often thinks of his days in residence at HUC as the most enlightening of his life, especially with Jews and Christians together studying biblical texts and their interpretation, producing miniature interfaith 'laboratories' enriching all enrolled. (Here one needs to note that Cincinnati's*

*campus is the only Jewish seminary in history requiring technical training in New Testament for rabbinical ordination.) He misses those days of transformative experience. His compliments are directed primarily toward our School of Graduate Studies, renowned in Christian-Jewish relations (since the 1940s), especially our Ph.D. program that has awarded over 300 doctorates in Judaica to Christians (in addition to many more to Jews). That Turner recalls us so fondly is a reinvigorating incentive for us all."*