



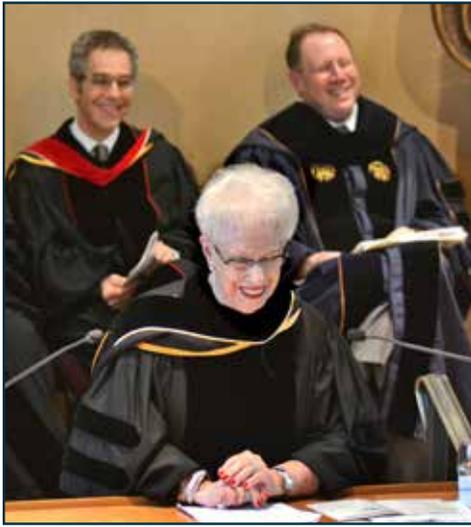
לדעת חכמה ומוסר
**School of
Graduate
Studies**
להבין אמרי בינה

Qol Hadash

Fall 2015

Be Strong and of Good Courage!

by Ms. Joan Pines, Chair, HUC-JIR Central Region Board of Overseers, and Member, Board of Governors



Commencement speaker Joan Pines addresses the 2015 graduation class.

On Sunday, May 31, Ms. Joan Pines gave the graduation address for the Cincinnati campus of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. Following are excerpts of her address.

Today is certainly not about me; it is about you, the graduates, but I would

like to share briefly some of my strong sentiments about the College-Institute in Cincinnati, about your journey here and mine, which have coincided to some degree in time and space. My time here has opened my eyes to ideas and relationships that have greatly enriched my life, and changed many ideas I have held about education and Jewish life. I have had the good fortune to be closely involved with outstanding administrators, devoted and magnificent faculty, and inspiring students and volunteers. All of them are willing to give of themselves, lead by example, and exhibit a great depth of knowledge—academic, practical, and life-transforming.

In addition to our work promoting the College-Institute, we Overseers are privileged to study, at every meeting, as you have done, with our outstanding faculty. We have the opportunity to delve deeper into our tradition and texts, instructed

by professors who have spent years researching, thinking, and turning our tradition over and over to bring us new and fresh insights, and mental challenges to what we have learned up until now in other places. Many of the ideas are unique, unsettling, and provocative, but I can no longer say that I learned everything I needed to know in Sunday School. Every time I leave the campus, I appreciate how fortunate I am to have exposure to this wonderful institution and its outstanding resources. What an atmosphere for continued growth of the mind and spirit, and the creation of special new friendships! I am sure your experience here as students has mirrored mine.

When I first became a member of the Central Region Board of Overseers in 2001, I had a basic understanding that HUC-JIR trained rabbis, cantors, educators, and other Jewish professionals. Over time, I

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News from the Director

by Dr. Richard S. Sarason, Director, School of Graduate Studies



Rabbi Richard S. Sarason

Dear Students, Faculty, Alumni, and Friends of the School of Graduate Studies,

I am pleased and privileged to greet you at the start of the academic year as the new

director of the School of Graduate Studies. I want to express my sincere appreciation, on behalf of all of us at the SGS, to my predecessor, Dr. Nili Fox, for the exemplary work that she has done in this position for the past five years, as well as my personal gratitude for all of her assistance during the period of transition, and her ongoing availability to consult at present. Nili is enjoying a well-deserved sabbatical this semester, then resumes full-time teaching in the spring.

Pines Gift

Our most important and exciting news at the SGS is the recent receipt of a transformative gift from Joan Pines and her family, through the Phillip and Joan Pines Charitable Foundation. Many of you have come to know and admire Joan as chair of the Central Region Board of Overseers, member of the Board of Governors, and a staunch supporter of the SGS. Joan gave the commencement address at graduation exercises this past May (you can read an edited version of her address beginning on page 1), and was recognized at the SGS alumni luncheon when the Society

of Biblical Literature met in Chicago in 2012.

The Pines family gift creates an endowment that will secure the School of Graduate Studies. It also provides funding for several annual prize fellowships that will allow us to compete with other excellent graduate programs for the strongest possible candidates. In recognition of the depth of the Pines family's commitment, the School of Graduate Studies in the future will be known as the Joan and Phillip Pines School of Graduate Studies. The Pines gift will be recognized at the annual tribute dinner in Cincinnati on October 25. The dedication and naming ceremony will take place on October 26 as part of the fall meeting of our Board of Governors. Dean Jonathan Cohen will brief us further on the Pines gift and its implications at this year's SGS alumni luncheon at the SBL annual conference in Atlanta in November (see page 9). You will want to be present.

Graduation 2015

The culmination of formal graduate education, launching our newly-minted scholars into their professions of life-long learning, is, of course, our graduation exercises, which took place this year on May 31. At that time, we were pleased to award the Ph.D. degree to four of our students: Jeffrey R. Duerler, Carl Elliot Pace, Christine Elizabeth Palmer, and Vadim Putzu. Dr. Duerler is doing adjunct teaching this year, together with full-time ministerial work. Dr. Pace now

serves as acquisitions editor at Hebrew Union College Press, adjunct instructor in the Theology Department at Malone University, and an online instructor in religion for Bethel University. Dr. Palmer is teaching Hebrew Bible and Cognate Studies at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. Dr. Putzu is Assistant Professor of Post-Biblical Judaism in the Department of Religious Studies at Missouri State University.

Additionally, three students received their Master of Philosophy (M. Phil.) in Hebraic and Cognate Studies, signifying their completion of all program requirements except for the dissertation. They are Thomas Will Dilbeck, Jordan Wesley Jones, and Michael Charles Lyons.

The Master of Arts in Jewish Studies was awarded to Brian James Sullivan.

Professor John C. Reeves was awarded the Graduate Medallion in recognition of his twenty-five years of distinguished service to the academy and his continuous support of the SGS. Prof. Reeves's reflections on the impact of his experiences as a student in the SGS appear on page 6 of this newsletter.

As noted above, this year's graduation speaker was Ms. Joan Pines, whose impassioned charge to the graduates was well reflected in the title of her address, "Be Strong and of Good Courage." We were delighted to extend to her this honor, through which she honored us.



Receiving their Ph.Ds at the 2015 graduation ceremony at HUC-JIR Cincinnati are, from top clockwise: Jeffrey Duerler, Carl Pace, Christine Palmer, Vadim Putzu.

Admissions to the School of Graduate Studies for 2015-2016

This year we welcome ten new students to the SGS—a record number for recent years. Six are pursuing the Ph.D. degree (one part-time), and four are M.A. students. Of the six Ph.D. students, two are in the program in Hebrew Bible; three are in Jewish and Christian Studies in the Greco-Roman World; and one is in Jewish Liturgy and Ritual. All six have previously earned Master’s degrees, five from universities and seminaries in the United States, and one from the University of Haifa in Israel.

Of our four entering M.A. students, two are recent retirees who want to further their serious Jewish learning (a trend we would like to see continue in the future!) One is Joseph Mangano, an SGS “legacy” student, the son of Professor Mark Mangano, who received his Ph.D. from the SGS in 1990; and one,

Lev Rooks-Rapport, is a Rabbinical School “legacy” student, the son of Rabbis Gaylia and Joe Rooks-Rapport (c. 1984). Lev’s sister Yael was ordained at HUC–JIR in New York this past year.

I cannot overstate the importance to our recruitment and admissions work of direct personal contact with you, our alumni and friends. Many of our current students (including our newest ones) first thought about applying to the SGS because of the personal interest and advisement of an instructor who is a SGS alumni or because of a book they had read that was authored by one of our alumni. Never underestimate the power of your influence for good and on our behalf! This pertains both to recruitment of new students and to networking about job possibilities and placement of new graduates. In my new position, I look forward to working with all of you in these areas and others.

Other News

We will continue to work this year on the implications of the Wabash Teaching Initiative consultation. We want to enhance mentored teaching opportunities and experiences for our students, as well as regular workshops dealing with teaching and other areas of professional training (presenting papers at scholarly meetings, professional networking, academic publishing, and job placement). If you are willing to mentor a graduate student, please be in touch with our SGS administrative assistant, Shelly Goldfarb, at sgoldfarb@huc.edu. In that context, we also look forward to welcoming back in March Professor Ruth Langer, who will be this year’s alumni-in-residence. She will make an academic presentation, as well as give two workshops in areas of professional training.

Additionally, I am happy to report that six of our students will be making presentations at the upcoming annual meetings of the Society of Biblical Literature and the Evangelical Theological Society in November and/or the Association for Jewish Studies in December.

We are also just beginning planning for this coming year’s Summer-in-Israel program, which affords students a hands-on (literally!) opportunity to learn about archaeology in the land of Israel and to experience life in the modern state of Israel, as well as to study at our Jerusalem campus.

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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, SGS administrative assistant, at 513.487.3230 or sgoldfarb@huc.edu.

Hebrew Union College Press

The Jews in Christian Europe: A Source Book, 315-1791



First published in 1938, Jacob Rader Marcus's *The Jews in The Medieval World* has remained an indispensable resource for its comprehensive view

of Jewish historical experience from late antiquity through the early modern period, viewed through primary source documents in English translation.

In this new work based on Marcus's classic source book, Marc Saperstein has recast the volume's focus, now fully centered on Christian Europe, updated the work's organizational format, and added seventy-two new annotated sources. In his compelling introduction, Saperstein supplies a modern and thought-provoking discussion of the changing values that influence our understanding of history, analyzing issues surrounding periodization, organization, and inclusion.

Through a vast range of documents written by Jews and Christians, including historical narratives, legal opinions, martyrologies, memoirs, polemics, epitaphs, advertisements, folktales, ethical and pedagogical writings, book prefaces and colophons, commentaries, and communal statutes, *The Jews in Christian Europe* allows the actors and witnesses of events to speak for themselves.

Hebrew Union College Press is co-directed by David H. Aaron and Jason Kalman. Dr. Aaron is the director of History of Interpretation with the HUC Press, as well as Professor of Hebrew Bible at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. Dr. Kalman holds the Gottschalk-Slade Chair in Jewish Intellectual History.

Learn more about the Press and gain access to its publication list at press.huc.edu.

Be Strong and of Good Courage!

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came to discover and appreciate an exciting program of the College-Institute that was not as well known to me, nor perhaps to others—the School of Graduate Studies. Through conversations with our directors, Drs. Samuel Greengus and Nili Fox, I was able to gain valuable insight into the uniqueness and importance, not only of our Rabbinical School, but of the School of Graduate Studies—important not only to the College-Institute, but also to the larger world of graduate studies in religion. The SGS allows HUC-JIR to be accredited at the highest level of study, the Ph.D. Not an insignificant entitlement. . . .

We are, of course, a Jewish seminary by definition and mission, but the majority of our Ph.D. candidates are not Jewish; they are mainly Christian, but not *only* Christian. They come to study with our outstanding faculty, and learn about the Jewish roots of Christianity, the influence Judaism has had on other religions, and to deepen their own religious commitments and knowledge. These young men and women, upon receiving their doctorates, teach at secular universities, colleges, and religious seminaries. Some are clergy, and we encourage and value this endeavor among our non-Jewish students. Upon graduation, one of our hopes for them—and for us—is that they become advocates for HUC-JIR and for interfaith understanding in the non-Jewish world. While reading the short biographies each of the Ph.D.

News from the Director

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In my new capacity, I was invited to deliver the convocation address at the ceremonies marking the start of the academic year here in Cincinnati. I spoke about the crucial role that the SGS fills in furthering the mission of the College-Institute, and of the importance of life-long study and learning to the students and graduates of all our programs.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the SBL and/or AJS conferences later this semester, and, as I've indicated, to working with all of you to extend the reach and quality of our programs and professional training. Let me also take this opportunity to wish you all a healthy, productive, and stimulating new academic year.

candidates has prepared, I was deeply impressed with the important work in which they have already engaged, and with their dreams for the future. For three years, our Ph.D. candidates study with rabbinic students, some of whom are receiving their master's degree today, and hopefully, each group comes to understand the other in profound ways. I believe deeply that this kind of exposure to Jewish students and faculty, by mainly non-Jewish students and vice versa, in an interfaith context of learning, produces people who can ultimately make a difference in the world, by mutual action. We know that education is not only a means of escaping dire social conditions, but enriches the life of the spirit and opens our eyes to all the possibilities of life. It also offers us opportunities to join others in healing our world, so that all humankind may receive the benefits of what life has to offer. *Tikkun Olam* (repairing the world), an obligation that falls upon *all* of us, takes on major significance when people of good will, of all persuasions, come together and take action. We are witnesses to this at HUC-JIR. I pledge that as long as I continue to be part of the College-Institute, I will work to strengthen the bonds between our Board of Overseers, the SGS, and the Rabbinical School, so that all Overseers come to appreciate the significance and importance of our institution, of supporting

our students and the contributions they make to our world on so many levels. . . .

Charlie Munger, a name you may not know, is the right-hand man to Warren Buffett, a name you do know. He said this at a recent graduation ceremony at the University of Southern California, in response to the unique difficulties for our present world, and offering one possible panacea:

Wisdom acquisition is a moral duty. It is not something you do just to advance in life. As a corollary to that proposition, which is very important, it means that you are hooked for lifetime learning. And without lifetime learning, people are not going to do very well. You are not going to get very far in life based on what you already know. You will advance in life, and contribute, by what you learn after you leave here.

In no way does this negate the value of what you have learned here, but at all ages there is so much to learn, and the need is ongoing. What you have learned here at HUC-JIR has helped to prepare you to face this new and challenging world. The education you have received during your life, and especially here at HUC-JIR, prepares you to give expression to certain enduring values and timeless truths that the world needs to hear and see in action

on an ongoing basis—with all the challenges and change that this entails. Do not allow cynicism to overtake you. Your charge is to advance that which is timeless and enduring and, through learning and teaching and example, spread this valuable wisdom that we embrace for the good of humankind. This is not an easy task, but it is a sacred obligation for all of us, as it is one of the pillars of all religion. I know you are up to this charge. . . .

I congratulate all of you on your outstanding accomplishments, and wish you worthy and blessed lives, and success in your sacred task. I leave you with one of my favorite quotes from the Hebrew Bible, the Book of Joshua 1:9, words of inspiration, enduring value, and, of course, timelessness:

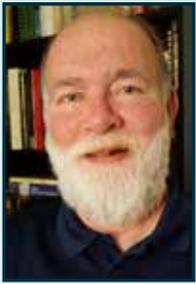
Be strong, and of good courage, be not afraid nor be dismayed; for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

Kein yehi ratzon!

May this be God's will!

An Apprenticeship: A Model for Scholarship

by Dr. John C. Reeves, Alumnus, School of Graduate of Studies



Dr. John C. Reeves

When I arrived on the campus of Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati in the summer of 1982, I was chasing a rather inchoate

dream of earning a doctoral degree in the study of Bible and its cultural background. I had a rudimentary background in biblical languages, had read just enough ancient history and literature to make me eager for more sophisticated treatments, and was becoming increasingly drawn to the history of religions in the ancient eastern Mediterranean world. My scrutiny of the graduate catalogue suggested to me that it would be possible to expand my linguistic capabilities and multicultural expertise at HUC-JIR in ways that did not seem likely at other graduate schools. And this indeed proved true, though not in any of the ways that I had first anticipated.

Toward the end of my second semester of course work in the spring of 1983, I was approached by a graduating student about becoming a research assistant to Dr. Ben Zion Wacholder (of blessed memory), Professor of Talmud and Rabbinics, and a world-renowned expert in the study of ancient chronography, Graeco-Jewish literature, and the Dead Sea Scrolls. This was shortly after the publication of *The Dawn of Qumran*, his provocative study of the so-called Temple Scroll from Qumran

Cave 11. I was informed that working with Prof. Wacholder would be intensely time-consuming, but that the intellectual rewards I might reap as a result of this collaboration should outweigh any concerns that I might have about progress toward achieving my degree. I decided to sign on, and spent the remaining six years of my time at HUC–JIR juggling course obligations, writing my dissertation, and assisting Prof. Wacholder with his multi-faceted, wide ranging research agenda. It is no exaggeration to say that, as a result, my intellectual world was utterly and irreversibly expanded and transformed.

I learned two particularly valuable lessons from Prof. Wacholder that have had a major impact upon the way I approach scholarly work and university teaching, and that I very much doubt I would have received from the other institutions (Yale, Toronto, and UCLA), whose invitations I declined in order to study at HUC-JIR. First and foremost, I learned that mastery of primary texts in their original languages, whether these be Bible, Bavli, or Shakespeare, was the *sine qua non* for responsible philological work: the digests, arguments, claims, and representations comprising the secondary literature discussing these texts must never usurp or substitute for what “the text itself” might say. Of course, “the text itself” can simultaneously communicate a multiplicity of meanings, something the Sages repeatedly admit (e.g., b. *Sanh.* 34a; *Num. Rab.* 13:15). I still recall our extraordinarily brief

discussion about how I should go about preparing for that portion of my comprehensive exams that he would grade. “You should be able to read these texts with no lexical aids,” said Prof. Wacholder, which he then went on to list. I waited for him to give me a short roster of “canonical” secondary works arguing about issues dear to the discipline (as of the mid-1980s), as had my other examiners, but he remained silent. I finally ventured to ask: “Any scholarship?” to which he replied in an incredulous tone: “I already assume you will control the scholarship; what I care about is seeing how you think with these texts!” His critical embrace of textual hermeneutics, along with his disdain for derivative mimicry and his rejection of the uncritical advocacy of eroding consensuses, continue to guide the ways I read and teach about primary texts and the penumbra of commentary that surrounds them.

The second valuable lesson that I learned from Prof. Wacholder is that a scholar should always strive to say something new or provocative—preferably both. Otherwise what one produces is simply a waste of time for both the author who produced it and the targeted audience to whom it is presented. “What’s the *hiddūsh*?” was the terse syntactic mash-up he constantly posed to me and to the scholarly pronouncements that we read or heard together, a question that still sounds in my head today whenever I hear an academic paper or skim a newly published journal

Orientation: Meeting Keshers

Students new to the HUC-JIR campus in Cincinnati met their keshers (buddies) during orientation. Pictured above are, first row: Yuliyán Filipov, Will Dilbeck, Mark Goldstein, Sharon Love, Mark Shaffer, Keith Belden, Ari Ballaban, Guy Ridge; second row: Kurt Backlund, Andrew Higginbotham, Cameron Sapaugh, Ofer Sabath Beit-Halachmi, Lev Rooks-Rapport, Jared Saltz, Joseph Mangano, Jesse Pruett, Eric Barrios.



article or ponder some freshly minted monograph dealing with topics in which I have some interest. *What is new about this piece of scholarship that warrants our attention?* When one only parrots or repackages the same material that is already expressed in the standard reference works or classic surveys, then what exactly has one accomplished by these labors? Are new questions being asked? Can one provoke some meaningful responses? Did one potentially advance the discipline? “Authors of encyclopedia articles,” he once confided to me with a conspiratorial grin, “only copy each other,” and when I expressed skepticism, he triumphantly demonstrated the truth of his judgment. Push against the boundaries of what is supposedly known, and strive to say something new that will provoke a wider discussion within the field. There is nothing wrong with advancing bold or even controversial positions as long as the evidence justifies the formulation of what might seem at first glance to be counterintuitive, and indeed, astonishing, conclusions.

I remain deeply grateful for the opportunity afforded me by HUC-JIR to sit at the feet of teachers like Prof. Wacholder and to drink in the wisdom of their words. In memorializing this apprenticeship and the model for scholarship that were provided to me, I hope to perpetuate in one small way the precious legacy that he and the school have bequeathed to me.

Dr. John C. Reeves is Blumenthal Professor of Judaic Studies at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.



Presentations, Publications, Promotions, Births

Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia

Bill T. Arnold

“Reexamining the ‘Fathers’ of Deuteronomy’s Framework”

Kurt Backlund

“Priestly Mourning Prohibitions in Leviticus 10”

Peter Bekins

“The Difficulty with Diagnosing Learned Objectives”

Kristine Henriksen Garroway

“Book Session on Children in the Biblical World: Research Shaping a New Field”

Michael Graves

“Jerome’s Epistle 106: Text-Critical and Exegetical Studies in the Psalter”

“Stylistic Criteria in Nöldeke’s Chronology of Qur’anic Material in the Context of 19th-Century Biblical Studies”

Kyle R. Greenwood

“Ahab’s Death Twice Told: The Identity of the ‘King of Israel’ in 1 Kings 22”

Andrew W Higginbotham

“Expansionism and Endogamy in the Entry to the Promised Land”

Jordan Jones

“The Image of the Ideal King in the Psalm of David: An Analysis of 2 Sam 23:1-7 in Light of Ancient Near Eastern Parallels”

Ryan Korstange

“Problem-Based Learning as a Method of Revitalizing Introductory Courses”

Michael D. Matlock

“Shaping the Narrative of 1-2 Chronicles Through Prayer: Rhetoric and Embodiment for Communal Participation”

Evangelical Theological Society Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia

Hélène Dallaire

“Textual Evidence of Jewish Christianity from the 13th to 20th Centuries”

J. Michael Thigpen

“‘For I am God, not man’: Divine Self-Disclosure in the Motive Statements of Hosea”

Richard S. Hess

“Marriage and Family in Ancient Israel: The Onomastic Evidence”

Jordan Jones

“Suspected Adultery in Codex Hammurabi and the Bible Revisited”

Benjamin Noonan

“The Patriarchs’ Building of Altars as a Claim to Land?”

Association for Jewish Studies Conference, Boston, Massachusetts

Andrew W Higginbotham

“For Whoever Disputes the Legitimacy of the Priesthood Immediately Falls’ (*Sifre Devarim* 352): A Proposal for the Evolution of Rabbinic Status”

“Boundaries of Text, Gender, and Space in Mishnah Bikkurim” roundtable session, along with HUC-JIR alumna Pratima Gopalakrishnan

Jared Saltz

“Hellenistic Evil in the Treatise on the Two Spirits”

Mark Shaffer

“‘I Seer-iously Hate That Guy!’: Parallel Stories of Kings and Diviners in I Kings and the Iliad”

Publications

Bill T. Arnold

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

Bill T. Arnold and Bryan E. Beyer
Third edition of *Encountering The Old Testament: A Christian Survey*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Academic, 2015.

Bill T. Arnold, Nancy L. Erickson, and John H. Walton, eds.
Windows to the Ancient World of the Hebrew Bible: Essays in Honor of Samuel Greengus. Winona Lake, Indiana: Eisenbrauns, 2014.

Bill T. Arnold and Richard S. Hess, eds.
Ancient Israel's History: An Introduction to Issues and Sources. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Academic, 2014.

Hassell Bullock
Psalms, Volume 1 (Psalms 1-72). Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Academic, 2015.

Kristine Henriksen Garroway
Children in the Ancient Near Eastern Household. Winona Lake, Indiana: Eisenbrauns, 2014.

Michael Graves
The Inspiration and Interpretation of Scripture. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans, 2014.

Richard Hess co-editor with Don Carson, Douglas Moo, and Desmond Alexander
NIV Zondervan Study Bible. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 2015.

Ruth Langer
Jewish Liturgy: A Guide to Research. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman and Littlefield, 2015.

Kerry M. Olitzky
New Membership & Financial Alternatives for the American Synagogue. Woodstock, Vermont: Jewish Lights Publishing, 2015.

J. Michael Thigpen
Divine Motive in the Hebrew Bible: A Comprehensive Survey and Analysis. Piscataway, New Jersey: Gorgias, 2015.

David Turner
Israel's Last Prophet: Jesus and the Jewish Leaders in Matthew 23. Minneapolis, Minnesota: Fortress Press, 2015.

Promotions

Michael Graves has been promoted to the rank of professor at Wheaton College, Illinois. He is now Armerding Professor of Biblical Studies at Wheaton College.

Birth Announcements

Michael and Erin Lyons announce the birth of their beautiful son, Josiah Patrick Lyons, on February 28, 2015.

Jared and Kathryn Saltz announce the birth of their beautiful daughter, Abigail Andreia Saltz, on March 1, 2015.

Matt and Nykki Boersma announce the birth of their beautiful daughter, Salome Erenae Boersma, on July 23, 2015.

Annual Luncheon



Our annual School of Graduate Studies luncheon, held every year at the annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, will be on Sunday November 22, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Hanover Hall, Room F, of the Hyatt Regency, 265 Peachtree Street NE, Atlanta, Georgia. We welcome students, faculty, and alumni of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, and look forward to sharing a meal with colleagues and friends.

Students and faculty of the College-Institute are invited as guests. As a thank you, alumni who have supported the SGS Scholarship Fund with a contribution in 2015 are also invited as guests. For others, the cost is \$55 per person.

For more details and to reserve your place, contact Shelly Goldfarb, SGS administrative assistant, at 513.487.3230 or sgoldfarb@huc.edu.

The SGS Alumni Association will also host a gathering for coffee and dessert at the meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society, immediately following the Society's annual banquet and presidential address. The event is sponsored by the ETS. It will be in Room 207 of the Hilton Hotel, 255 Courtland Street NE, beginning at 9:15 p.m. on Wednesday, November 18. If you have questions please contact Nancy Erickson, vice president of the SGS Alumni Association, at erickson.nancy@gmail.com.

The SGS will also be present at the annual conference of the Association for Jewish Studies in Boston, Massachusetts, December 13-15.

Governor's Report

by Dr. James Bowley, Governor, HUC-JIR



Dr. James Bowley

Greetings fellow SGS alumni, students, faculty, and friends,

The Board of Governors of Hebrew Union College-Jewish

Institute of Religion is grateful for the smooth transition in the directorship of the School of Graduate Studies, where Dr. Richard Sarason has followed Dr. Nili Fox.

Dr. Fox was our outstanding leader for five years, perhaps most notably working to improve the financial situation of the SGS, and not during easy financial times! We thank

you, Nili, and wish you all the best enjoyment of the classroom and of research as you again become “just” a faculty member.

I also want to honor Ms. Joan Pines, and not just for her and her family's transformative gift to the SGS. Joan has long served HUC-JIR on the Central Region Board of Overseers and on the Board of Governors. She “gets it.” She gets the SGS. In her elegant address at the Cincinnati graduation exercises, she said, “For three years, our Ph.D. candidates study with rabbinic students and, hopefully, each group comes to understand the other in profound ways. I believe deeply

that this kind of exposure to Jewish students and faculty by mainly non-Jewish students, and vice versa, in an interfaith context of learning, produces people who can ultimately make a difference in the world, by mutual action. We know that education is not only a means of escaping dire social conditions, but enriches the life of the spirit and opens our eyes to all the possibilities of life.”

We all have much for which to be grateful, and the work of Nili and Joan on behalf of our SGS is surely at the top of our HUC-JIR list.

I look forward to seeing you (second person plural, y'all) in Atlanta.

Graduate Student Association Update

by Andrew Higginbotham, GSA President



Andrew Higginbotham

My name is Andrew Higginbotham. I am a Ph.D. student, focusing on early rabbinic literature with Dr. Richard Sarason, in my comprehensive

exam year at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. As the 2015-2016 president of the Graduate Student Association, I look forward to another year of collaboration and learning here in Cincinnati, which the faculty and students continue to foster together.

One of the GSA's initiatives for this semester is to encourage our

students both to attend and to make presentations at academic conferences. Since this year's Society of Biblical Literature annual meeting is being held in Atlanta in November, SGS students have a very accessible opportunity to participate. Also, efforts have been and are being made by the GSA leadership team to assist students in identifying conferences that serve their interests and in preparing proposals and papers for those meetings. This emphasis follows last year's very helpful “mini-conferences” that enabled students who were presenting at the 2014 SBL to have their papers improved by the faculty and fellow students in attendance.

Already the School of Graduate Studies of HUC-JIR boasts four students and recent alumni who are presenting at SBL and three students presenting at the Association for Jewish Studies conference in Boston this December. In the past few years, several SGS students have made presentations at the regional SBL conferences and the Enoch Graduate Seminars. We hope to continue this level of participation in academic conferences in the coming years as well.

A Message from the President of Alumni Association

by Dr. John I. Kampen, President, Graduate School Alumni Association



Dr. John I. Kampen

The new academic year has begun at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, as I write this, is about to celebrate

Rosh Hashanah. Shanah Tovah to all!

This new year marks the beginning of what I think will be a very promising era for the School of Graduate Studies. We look forward to the leadership of Dr. Richard Sarason as its director. We anticipate that his academic vision, his administrative abilities, and his passion for learning will prove to be a powerful combination as the SGS positions itself for the next decade. We are very fortunate that Dr. Nili Fox has left the SGS in very good condition after five years of service as director. Those of us who have developed our careers benefitting from our status as graduates of the College-Institute are very grateful for the quality of the leadership that has been evident throughout. It is an important indication of the level of commitment the College-Institute has demonstrated to the SGS and to that portion of its mission.

My vantage point as a resident of Cincinnati permits me to participate in the programs of HUC-JIR on a more regular basis than is possible for the majority of the alumni. Here I regularly see how the school reaches out to the Cincinnati community and invites its residents on campus for literary, artistic, and academic programs. The HUC-JIR Ethics

Center and the Skirball Museum also promote programs of broad interest. The increased visibility of the College-Institute within the extended Cincinnati area is of considerable benefit to the SGS and to its graduates.

This higher visibility is evident in the experience of the students presently enrolled in the SGS. As most of you are aware, graduate schools have been under pressure to improve the quality of preparation for the teaching role central to graduates who will proceed to careers in higher education. The network of schools in Cincinnati, Dayton, and Columbus in which graduate students are presently engaged is impressive. This is one product of the partnerships that HUC-JIR has been developing in an admirable manner.

We need to do our part to assure that the SGS is sustained at the high academic level we experienced. We do this by providing students, funding, and mentoring. In the highly competitive academic market, the SGS needs us to recommend students who would benefit from the unique array of textual studies that has characterized the program in the past and will continue to mark its particular contribution to higher education in the coming decades. This is the reputation upon which most of us have built our academic careers. The school also needs our financial support for the scholarship program. Scholarships are an integral element for attracting the highest level of students for study in this program.

The financial support of the SGS alumni also is an absolutely necessary way of demonstrating to HUC-JIR and its supporting constituency how important we feel the SGS is to the field of higher education.

The Executive Committee of the Alumni Association believes that mentoring is an integral part of the program for helping to assure the competitiveness of the SGS in the marketplace of higher education. Assisting in the development of the classroom competence of our graduates is one piece of this program. Just as significant is helping students position themselves for the academic market and then to be one of those people who points a student towards those openings for which they will be a good "fit." Finally, the mentor may be called upon to make crucial phone calls within his or her own network assuring prospective colleagues of the high level of competence and potential of a graduate of HUC-JIR.

This is a really good time for the SGS and we need to do our part to assure its future.

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