

OCHJS NEWS BULLETIN NO 30 : JULY 2006

More Recognitions! ● Recent Lectures ● Summer Events ● Au Revoirs

MORE RECOGNITIONS!

Barely had the signatures dried on the document establishing the Centre as a Recognized Independent Centre of the University, than Recognition of Distinction was awarded by the University to two of the Centre's Fellows: Glenda Abramson has become Professor and Joanna Weinberg Reader, both in Hebrew and Jewish Studies. We offer our heartiest congratulations on these excellent accolades!

RECENT LECTURES

Ambassador Dennis Ross delivered the 10th Isaiah Berlin public lecture at St Anne's College on 30th May, on "Camp David and Beyond: The Missing Peace". A scholar and diplomat, Ambassador Ross served as Director of the State Department's Policy Planning Staff in the first Bush administration and then as Special Middle East Co-ordinator under President Clinton. He played a leading role in shaping US involvement in the Middle East peace process for more than twelve years. He has published extensively on the Former Soviet Union, arms control and the greater Middle East. His lecture was based upon his most recent book, *The Missing Peace: The Inside Story of the Fight for Middle East Peace*.

On Sunday 25th June Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg of the New North London Synagogue gave a compelling lecture at Yarnton on "Refugee Rabbis and their Contribution to Progressive Judaism in 20th-century Britain". This event, preceded by a reception, was in celebration of the Library's custodianship of the Hugo Gryn Collection. Numerous members of the Gryn family were present. Rabbi Gryn's books are on the library's shelves. The sorting of his archive is expected to be completed by the end of the summer.

SUMMER EVENTS

The end-of-year **Students' Party** on 21st June caught just about the only chilly day in a prolonged spell of warm weather. (Consolations included a television specially installed in the Seminar Room to enable football addicts to keep abreast of the World Cup.) The President commented on the high calibre of this year's group, and the view of their tutors that they had been a particular pleasure to teach. The students for their part presented a hamper

to minibus driver Brian Beeney and a bouquet to Martine Smith-Huvers for miscellaneous help received.

Professor Irven Resnick (of the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga) is back in town with another **Summer Institute** at Yarnton, courtesy of the (U.S.) National Endowment for the Humanities. The subject being studied by the 30-or-so participants (university faculty members and independent scholars) from 11 July to 15 August is "Representations of the 'Other': Jews in Medieval Christendom."

AU REVOIRS

The year-end party involved a special note of celebration for Glenda Abramson, who announced her retirement only a few weeks before. Glenda became a Fellow of the Centre in 1981, and succeeded David Patterson as Oxford University's Cowley Lecturer in Postbiblical Hebrew in 1990. She has taught modern Hebrew literature to successive cohorts of under-graduates and graduates and her numerous publications include *Drama and Ideology in Modern Israel*, (Cambridge University Press 1998), *Modern Jewish Mythologies*, (Ed.)(HUC Press 2000), and *The Encyclopedia of Modern Jewish Culture* (Ed.) (Routledge 2005). Amongst other scholarly and cultural activities, Glenda edits the *Journal of Modern Jewish Studies*, and was recently (May 2006) shortlisted in Orange/Harper's Bazaar Short Story Writing Competition from 500 entries worldwide.

We thank her for her enormous contribution over the years and wish her a long, happy and (undoubtedly) hyper-active retirement! Glenda's replacement in the Hebrew Literature field will be announced shortly - watch this space....

Emanuele Ottolenghi, Leone Ginsburg Fellow in Israeli Law, Politics and Society at the Centre, is leaving us to become Executive Director of the Transatlantic Institute in Brussels, a new organization to advance understanding of international issues, free of political partisanship and institutional bias. Emanuele's thoughtful and effective organization of the Isaiah Berlin lectures (see above - Dennis Ross) was particularly appreciated. Likewise his carefully considered legacy to the Centre - a donation towards the setting up of an Israeli (and also Yiddish) film library. We congratulate him on his appointment and wish him every success.

Finally, we must record that Madhavi Nevader's three-year Kennicott Hebrew Fellowship is now- sadly- at an end; but - happily - she will remain in Oxford and continue to teach for the MSt.