

אגרת

איגוד הפרופסורים לעברית בארצות-הברית

Newsletter of the National Association of Professors of Hebrew

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Editor: Zev Garber, Los Angeles Valley College

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Presidential Perspective



"אם ראשונים בני מלאכים..."

My perspective goes back over 40 years ago, to the exciting 1960s, when NAPH was young, as I was, and it was run by some of the then 'elders' – leaders of the Hebrew academic scene: the founder of NAPH, Prof. Abraham I. Katsh, Prof. Jacob Kabakoff, Prof. Harry Blumberg, Prof. Israel Naamani, Prof. David Rudavsky, and later, Prof. Menachem Mansoor, among others. Most of these scholars, former presidents of NAPH, are no longer with us (with the exception of Kabakoff, "Yibadel lechayim arukim").

NAPH was then a fledgling association, established by Katsh in 1950 to promote Hebrew scholarship in colleges and universities. It published a journal titled *Hebrew Abstracts* from 1954 to 1975, which was followed by *Hebrew Studies* (1976 –). In 1969-1970 NAPH published one issue of *Journal of Hebraic Studies*. At that time, most of NAPH's members specialized in classical Hebrew and only some in modern Hebrew. Its conferences were held as part of the annual conferences of the Society of Biblical Literature.

Looking at NAPH from this perspective, I am impressed by the giant leap forward we have made since those 'primordial' times.

NAPH is becoming an impressive international Association of scholars from all over the world. We are especially very proud of the participation of scholars from Israel and their role in the association and in its conferences and periodicals.

For the past decade, we have had a steady membership of some 400 scholars. This is about double the number of members we had 20 years ago. This figure constitutes a strong representation of scholars and teachers working in the field of Hebrew language and literature in institutions of higher education throughout the world.

The distribution of scholars between the two sections, the modern and classical periods, which was uneven years ago, is now equal.

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The fact that the membership has remained stable indicates that the younger generation of scholars and teachers are joining NAPH as the older generation retires.

One of the most important endeavors of NAPH is the annual International Conference of the modern section. It is becoming really international. The 2008 conference took place in Canada following last year's conference in Sydney, Australia. Our next International conference will come to University College, London.

If you draw a map of the cities and countries where the conferences took place in years past, you will get very impressive sites of the academic map of Hebrew throughout the USA and moreover in many cities all over the world: from the eastern part of the US to the western, from Israel, to Australia, Mexico, and recently, Canada.

This envisioned map will show not only where Hebrew language is taught, but also cognate subjects: modern and ancient Hebrew literature, in Hebrew and in translation, Hebrew Bible, as well as topics in Jewish studies: History, philosophy, Israel studies, etc.

The conferences of the classical section continue to meet with the SBL as they have been for so many years.

The progress we have made is noticeable also in our other undertakings: NAPH continues to publish the scholarly journal, *Hebrew Studies*, now in its 48th year, which is edited by Marvin Sweeney. Its scope, depth and size, and number of writers are indeed impressive. Our newsletter, *Iggeret*, which is edited Zev Garber, continues to be the source for news and information about the association and its members. *Hebrew Higher Education*, our journal for Methodology and Pedagogy in teaching the Hebrew language, edited by Adina Ofek, published its 12th volume in 2007.

And above all, the most impressive aspect of NAPH in its current development is the outstanding work done by its active members, namely, conferences organizers, coordinators, especially the International Conference coordinator, Esther Raizen, and committee members, and our very efficient national office at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, run by Gilead Morahg.

Looking forward to the future of NAPH and its members, with some nostalgic view of its past, one is even more impressed by the scope, originality, and quality of the literary and linguistic research, analyses, and criticism in members' studies. The creative output of NAPH's members in scholarly books and articles is indeed impressive, as is attested to in the subsequent pages of *Iggeret*. Not only in the house organ, *Hebrew Studies*, do our members publish their studies, but in many other academic journals in the US, Israel and Europe, issued by the prestigious universities, and books published in USA, Israel and Europe.

When compared to the literary harvest of the last generation of NAPH scholars, we can be very proud of our members' achievements. With the scholarly tools that the age of knowledge has provided us, the multi-lingual computer programs, accessibility of scanned manuscripts, rare books, and periodicals, and research libraries catalogues, contemporary Hebrew scholars have access to more research tools than the previous generation of Hebrew scholars.

Are the new generations of lesser stature than the older ones? How do we answer the question "Nitma'atu hadorot"? (נתמעטו הדורות?) (Do we agree with the statement "Im rishonim bnei malachim anu bnei anashim")...אם ראשונים בני מלאכים אנו בני אנשים?) (with its implications?)

I think we have all the potentials to excel, and we do.

Moshe Pelli, University of Central Florida, pelli@mail.ucf.edu

Notes From Here & There

I. Israel, Then and Now

About 1890, the term Zionism first appeared in print, though the Zionist idea is an integral part of Judaism from which it springs. The view of Zionism as a success story is often postulated by the role it played in bringing about the State of Israel as the fulfillment of Jewish national self-determination. However, the centrality and significance of Eretz (Land) Israel in Jewish history and memory is contested in the Arab Middle East due to the turbulent history of Arab-Israeli conflict, particularly, the clash of nationalism between Zionism and Palestinianism, and exacerbated in the post 9-11 era by charges of terror and countercharges of state terror by the belligerents.

For decades scholars have opined on the culture, faith, and fate of biblical Israel vis-à-vis its surrounding neighbors of the southern Levant and against the broad sweep of the historical currents of the Ancient Near East. Topics include environment and ecology, historical and chronological setting, rise and fall of Levantine cultures, economics, social organization, politics, religion and ideology, material culture, and intellectual accomplishments, such as monotheism. A prevalent feature in biblical exegesis is the question of scriptural historiography in light of extra-biblical literary texts and findings from the ground. How factual is biblical data? What role does extra-biblical evidence play in proofing the veracity of Israelite religion? Are the Patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and the leaders of the Exodus, Moses and Aaron, and the Judean Kings David and Solomon real people or composite figures? How reliable are the recorded biblical episodes, e.g., the Exodus? Artifacts unearthed by the spade either question Biblical facts or affirm their veracity. On the latter, consider the 2008 find of the royal seal bearing the name of Gedaliah, the son of Pashur [Jeremiah 38:1], who served Judah's King Zedekiah in the final days before Jerusalem was conquered by King Nebuchadnezzar in 586 BCE. Also, the discovery of the remains of the southern wall of Jerusalem on Mt. Zion that was built by the Hasmoneans, destroyed during the Jewish revolt against the Romans in 66 CE. The wall unearthed confirms the centrality of the Temple for Jewish pilgrims during the Second Temple period, and its well-preserved structure speaks against the denial of a Jewish Jerusalem by the chief Moslem cleric of the Palestinian Authority, Mufti Ikrama Sabri, who stated in 1997, "The claim of the Jews to the right over [Jerusalem] is false, and we recognize nothing but an entirely Islamic supervision." Finally, aspects of archaeology and recent research in historical linguistics and sociolinguistics challenge the minimalist view of biblical history.

For the greater part of the twentieth century and spilling into the twenty-first century, Jewish/Israeli-Arab disputes have agitated the Middle East and have shaken the foundations of global balance. Efforts to end these discords depend largely on a full understanding of how this conflict originated, developed, and intensified. Part of the problem is the approach involved: one sees the history of the Middle East in the form of a tapeworm which grinds forth period after period, and the other is the theory which considers the Middle East culture self-contained with a life-cycle as predetermined as that of a eucalyptus tree. Most reactionary are viewpoints obsessed by images of Arab and Jewish nationalisms driven along a collision course toward a no-return summit. As I see it, to avoid the catastrophic, we need to understand the historic role played by nationalism, politics, and religion in shaping today's volatile Arab – Israeli situation. This entails the Arab world acceptance of the sovereignty of the State of Israel, the question of permanent borders, the status of the West Bank (occupation, the settlement policy), the status of Jerusalem, and the issue of refugees. The undercurrent of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is a misunderstanding between the belligerents generated by self-pride in a nation's past, lack of empathy to the outsider, realized fears and prejudice, and the inability to commit to a trust in *Shalom-Salam*. Of current conflict, think the disastrous fallout from the Gaza disengagement, know the condemning report by the Winograd Commission on Israel's inept preparedness during the Second Lebanon War (Summer 2006), and contemplate the if-what-ever paradox of the exchange of living murderous terrorists for two dead Israeli heroes.

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Notes from Here & There (continued)...

Lema`an artsinu, for the sake of the Land, with or without peace now, the pledge of the Hatikvah needs to be perpetually said, heard, and never forgotten. Eternal “Hope” is the sane way to traverse the crooked path to the “bloodiest, longest running, and most intractable regional disputes in world history.” Learning the complexity of the historical, religious, cultural, psychological, and political factors of the Palestinian national movement is imperative for Israelis. Similarly, Palestinians must come to realize that Jewish self-pride as expressed in peoplehood, religion, and the statehood of Israel are answers to Jewish identity, survival, and virulent anti-Semitism. And the details are not in confrontation but in discussion.

II. The *Shekhinah* Weeps

From the Torah of Moses (Lev 19:34) to the *torah* of Moses Maimonides (*Mishneh Torah, Hil. Issurei Biyah* 12:17); from the biblical-rabbinic attitude of seeking converts openly to the medieval Jewish position of not seeking proselytes aggressively; from the open door of European emancipation to the sealed door of Nazi Europe, to the open gates of the State of Israel accepting thousands of non-Jewish spouses and siblings under the Law of Return, there have always been non-Israelites in every era of Jewish wandering and settlement, voluntarily or by persuasive pressure, desiring to cast one’s lot “under the wings of the *Shekhinah*.”

Furthermore, in the post-Auschwitz age, when Jews suffer from unparalleled shrinking numbers due to attrition, low birth rate, intermarriage and assimilation into the general culture, it may well be that a quality Jewish life now and in the future physically, spiritually and culturally will depend on the successful ingathering of Jews by choice. Judaism offers a bold ethical manifesto to a “this worldly” life enshrined with rich symbolism, sensuality, mysticism, and rationalism. Hence, the shockwaves on Israel’s 60th birthday when Rabbi Avraham Sherman, an ultra-Orthodox judge on the High Rabbinical Court in Israel, questioned the *halakhic* conversion of thousands of *gerim* done under the supervision of Zionist rabbinical courts thereby affecting their and their descendents legal status in the State. To be sure, not the final word, but enough to see the paradox of a religious *Kulturkampf*. In sum, “who will be a Jew?” is grounded in the enigmatic question, “who is a Jew?” And the *Shekhinah* weeps.

III. Thus Spawns Demiurge

In the dog days of August, the book notice arrived at my home computer. It came from a prestigious book publisher that targets academics. Great said I, why not reward myself with a leisurely read for a satisfactory summer course I just completed teaching. And three titles came floating down from cyberspace: *Open*, *Skinny Bitch: Bun in the Oven*, and *Born Digital*. The first speaks of the author as your average next-door neighbor, a suburbanite mother to whom married life is not her cup of tea nor her husband’s biscuit. She argues for the validity of the open marriage between consenting adults as a viable alternative to the conventional marriage and more honorable to spousal cheating in all the high places. The second offers some sassy advice to healthy pregnancy and motherhood by condemning the horrors of the industry that caters to mom and baby but why cheapen the sanctity and beauty of bringing forth life by the jive title *bitch and bun*? The third speculates on the psychological and sociological effect in the coming of age of the digital generation. In spite of its merits, and they are many, the virtual world has spawned into the real world a myriad of complex legal problems, private and public, including, identity theft, costly phishing scam, and rampant plagiarism. Also, skewed albeit entertaining presidential debates involving God politics, and evangelical proposals to remove Christian children from government (Caesar) schools. Yep, our inquiring mind, nurtured in the “four civil rights,” has willed the electronic demiurge, and America and the world are its territory.

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Notes from Here & There (continued)...

IV. Stepping Down, Coming In

A well-earned *todah rabbah* to Professor Frederick E. Greenspahn who has completed with distinction his two-year tenure as President of NAPH. Also, heartfelt kudos to Professor Esther Raizen for her informative column in *Iggeret* on Hebrew and technology. We appreciate their dedication, creativity, and wisdom. We extend wishes of good tidings to our new president, Moshe Pelli, and welcome Hadassah Nemovicher, who will enlighten us on Hebrew in the computer age.

Zev Garber, Los Angeles Valley College and American Jewish University, zevgarber@juno.com

Meetings and Conferences

NAPH ANNUAL MEETING IN CONJUNCTION WITH AAR/SBL

Minutes of the 2008 Annual Meeting of NAPH Officers

Boston

November 23, 2008

Gilead Morahg presided. Officers present: David Baker, Michael Fox, Zev Garber, Edward Goldman, Harris Lenowitz, Pamela Scalise, Marvin Sweeney, Ziony Zevit, Bruce Zuckerman.

1. Gilead Morahg, NAPH Executive Vice President, presented the following report: The Association is continuing to do very well and has undertaken a number of new initiatives. Membership has grown somewhat. We now have 420 individual members and 72 institutional members, up from 401 individual members and 51 institutional members in 2006. Income from membership dues and *Hebrew Studies* subscriptions keeps NAPH operating in the black. *Iggeret* will come out in December, according to its new schedule. All of the copy, except for the minutes of this meeting, is ready and we continue to be grateful for **Zev Garber's** diligent work on the newsletter and on the program for the NAPH sessions at the SBL meeting. Putting this program together was more difficult than usual this year, and it may be useful to form a program committee to assist Zev. The 2008 issue of *Hebrew Studies* is out and has been mailed to the members. It is another wide-ranging, well balanced, high quality volume and a true tribute to the initiative and effectiveness of its editor, **Marvin Sweeney**, its associate editor **Smadar Shiffman**, and the fine editorial board they have put together. Marv will present report soon and I'm sure he'll join me in commending **Rick Painter**, the *Hebrew Studies* veteran production manager who continues to keep the journal on track and who outdid himself this year by bringing it out in record time. Another pillar of the Association is our office manager, **Jared Henson**, who continues to do an outstanding job. One of our projects this year has been to make all 49 volumes of *Hebrew Studies* available online through a number of virtual library providers. All the volumes have been digitized and we have contracted with Proquest, Gale and EBSCO to include *Hebrew Studies* in their service. They are still working on getting the material into their systems. Once this is complete, NAPH will receive a percentage of the income from every article that is downloaded by someone. I hope this will be significant but, in any event, it is good to be able to free the journal from its physical confines and have it out in the vast expanse of the virtual world. Project Muse is also considering including our journal, but we will not have an answer for several months. The 2008 NAPH Conference on Hebrew Language, Literature and

Culture in Montreal was another great success. 117 scholars and teachers from around the world participated in a wide range of lively sessions. **Esther Raizen**, the NAPH Conference Coordinator, did an excellent job in constructing the program together with the subcommittees chaired by **Shmuel Bolozky** and **Hannah Naveh**. **Nancy Berg** performed her traditional magic in locating and assigning the conference sessions chairs. The conference was held under the auspices of McGill University and **Leah Fima**, the Conference Chair, was a superb host and an impeccable organizer. A full report on the conference will appear in the upcoming issue of *Iggeret*. The 2009 conference will be held on July 7-9 at University College, London, chaired by **Tisla Ratner**. The 2010 conference will be held on July 5-7 at Stern College, New York, chaired by **Zafrika Lidovsky-Cohen**. The 2011 conference will be chaired by **Eric Zakim** at the University of Maryland. As many of you know, the Dorot Foundation had to discontinue their annual grant of \$5,000 in support of graduate student participation in the summer conferences. In an effort to keep this program alive, we have instituted a new category of institutional membership in NAPH. The annual fee for an institutional membership is \$500. Eight programs have already responded positively to the initial call and there are good signals from a few more. Soon we will put out a general call for institutional members and I trust that our individual members will do their best to make their numbers grow.

2. **Zev Garber** reported that the next issue of *Iggeret* is ready and will be published according to the new December schedule. He urged members who submit information about publications, innovations and promotions to adhere to the required format. Zev also reported on the difficulties encountered in filling the NAPH sessions at the SBL conference. The outcome of this effort was a very successful program but it was evident that it would be better for the work on subsequent programs will be aided by a committee that he will form for this purpose. He also announced that a *festschrift* in his honor, titled *A Maven in Blue Jeans; A Festschrift in Honor of Zev Garber*, is forthcoming from Purdue University Press in January, 2009.
3. **Marvin Sweeney** reported on the successful completion and publication of Volume 49 (2008) of *Hebrew Studies*. The 17 articles and many book reviews cover a wide range of topics from both the biblical and modern periods. He noted the wonderful work done by his Associate Editor, **Smadar Shiffman**, in increasing both the number and the quality of articles on Modern Hebrew literature. He thanked **Rick Painter**, the *Hebrew Studies* production manager, for doing an incredible job and he commended the excellent work of the book review editors, **Shachar Pinsker** and **Pamela Barmash**. Marvin commented on the need for more representation of the rabbinic and medieval periods. He called attention to the fact that next year will mark the 50th anniversary of *Hebrew Studies*.
4. **David Baker** reported the a new chapter of EBR, the NAPH Hebrew Honors Society, was established at Middlebury College and that the chapter at Wheaton College, which had been dormant for a while, has now resumed its activities.
5. There was a general discussion of strategies to increase the number of younger faculty members in NAPH.

Prepared by: Gilead Morahg
Executive Vice President

NAPH 2008 Annual Meeting

The NAPH 2008 Annual Meeting was held in conjunction with the annual meeting of SBL in Boston, MA. Sessions of the 2008 NAPH Meeting are below ...

Boston, MA --- November 23-24, 2008
Sunday, November 23

NAPH23-1

National Association of Professors of Hebrew

7:00 AM to 9:00 AM

11/23/2008

Room TBD

Annual Breakfast and Business Meeting

Gilead Morahg, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Presiding (120 min)

NAPH23-34

National Association of Professors of Hebrew

9:00 AM to 11:30 AM

11/23/2008

Room TBD

Angelology in Classical Hebrew Literature

Edward Goldman, Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion, Presiding

David L. Everson, Hebrew Union College

Fallen Angels: From 1 Enoch to Pseudo-Jonathan (20 min)

Edward A. Goldman, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion

Some Functions of Angels in the Rabbinic Literature (20 min)

Jason Kalman, Hebrew Union College, Jewish Institute of Religion

The Devil is in the Details: On the Changing Depiction of Satan in Jewish Exegesis of the Book of Job (20 min)

Mayer Gruber, Ben Gurion University of the Negev

The Rejection of Angels in Modern Judaism (20 min)

Zev Garber, Los Angeles Valley College

Michael and Samael: Experiencing Angelosophy (20 min)

Discussion (50 min)

NAPH23-83

National Association of Professors of Hebrew

1:00 PM to 3:45 PM

11/23/2008

Room TBD

Communicative Language Learning for Biblical Hebrew

Pamela Scalise, Fuller Theological Seminary, Presiding (5 min)

Paul Overland, Ashland Theological Seminary
A Starting Point for Communicative Biblical Hebrew (5 min)

Diana Pulido, Michigan State University
The State the Art: Principles of Second Language Acquisition and Communicative Language Learning for Modern Languages (20 min)

Jennifer Quast, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion and J. Dwayne Howell, Campbellsville University
Outfitting Biblical Hebrew for Communicative Language Learning (20 min)

Hélène Dallaire, Denver Seminary
Demonstration of a Sample Module from a Communicative Classroom (20 min)

Lee M. Fields, Roanoke Bible College, Robert Stallman, Northwest University and Peter T. Vogt, Bethel Theological Seminary
How Students and Teachers are Responding (15 min)

Randall Buth, Biblical Language Center, Israel
Hebrew Training and Teaching: The Next Generation (10 min)

Paul Overland, Ashland Theological Sem
Conclusions and Implications (10 min)

David B. Levenson, Florida State University, Respondent (25 min)

Paul Overland, Ashland Theological Seminary, Respondent (10 min)

Discussion (25 min)

NAPH23-134

National Association of Professors of Hebrew

4:00 PM to 6:30 PM

11/23/2008

Room TBD

Zev Garber, Los Angeles Valley College, Presiding (5 min)

Esther Fuchs, University of Arizona

The Israelite Woman's Body as National Border: Intermarriage, Hybridity, and Gender (30 min)

Harris Lenowitz, University of Utah

Gad Sarfatti and the Study of Hebrew Script in Christian Art (30 min)

Discussion (30 min)

Monday, November 24

NAPH24-31

National Association of Professors of Hebrew

9:00 AM to 11:15 AM

11/24/2008

Room TBD

Naama Zahavi-Ely, College of William and Mary, Presiding (5 min)

Karyn L. Traphagen, University of Stellenbosch

Learning and Teaching Biblical Hebrew: The Priority of End-Use Goals (30 min)

George Athas, Moore Theological College

New Aspects on Old Verbs: A Verbal Aspectual Suggestion for the Hebrew Verb System (30 min)

Naama Zahavi-Ely, College of William and Mary

The Literary Use of Dialect in the Hebrew Bible (30 min)

Discussion (40 min)

2009 NAPH Annual Meeting

The 2009 Annual Meeting of NAPH will be held in New Orleans, LA during the annual meeting of the SBL, November 21-24, 2009. Members in good standing are invited to submit titles and abstracts of papers to be read at the meeting. Papers must be in the area of, or have a bearing on, Biblica, Hebraica, or Hebrew teaching methodology. The length of the paper should be 20-25 minutes. If you propose to read a paper, send the title and a summary of 100-150 words after January 1 but no later than March 1, 2008, to: Professor Zev Garber, Program in Jewish Studies, Los Angeles Valley College, 5800 Fulton, Ave., Valley Glenn, CA 91401-4096. Phone, (818) 947-2384; Fax, (818) 947-2620; e-mail, zevgarber@juno.com.

HEBREW LANGUAGE, LITERATURE AND CULTURE CONFERENCE

2009 Spring Conference on Hebrew Language and Culture

The 2009 NAPH Conference on Hebrew Language, and Culture will be held at University College London July 6-8. It will be chaired by Tsila Ratner. A Call for Papers will be sent to all NAPH members and posted on the NAPH web-site.

REPORT OF THE 2008 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HEBREW LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, AND CULTURE

McGill University, Montreal, Canada, June 30-July 2, 2008.

NAPH's 26th International Conference on Hebrew Language, Literature, and Culture was held at McGill University (Montreal) between June 30 and July 2, 2008. Planned and chaired by Lea Fima of McGill's Department of Jewish Studies, the conference began on June 29 with a day-long tour of Montmorency Falls and Quebec city that was cheerfully welcoming, having celebrated its 400th anniversary. The conference was organized in eleven sessions, with some seventy talks on different topics in pedagogy, language, linguistics, Biblical Hebrew, drama, and literature. It drew some 125 participants, ten of them local. The first day of the conference ended with a festive dinner that culminated with an address by the conference's keynote speaker, Professor Ruth Wisse from Harvard University, who spoke about "The Hebrew Novel We Are Looking For" and responded to questions about the current state of Hebrew and Jewish literatures. Participants and local supporters and donors were greeted by the Honorable Consul General of Israel in Montreal, Mr. Yoram Elron and others, among them NAPH President Moshe Pelli (University of Central Florida) and Executive Vice President Gilead Morahg (University of Wisconsin-Madison).

The conference business meeting, held on July 1, opened with a report on NAPH finances and was dedicated primarily to a discussion on the question of whether lectures at the conference should be given primarily in Hebrew. Another issue that came up in the conversation was the possibility of providing an electronic version of *Hebrew Higher Education* and *Hebrew Studies* through Project MUSE and similar venues that would provide a broader readership as well as possible income.

Gadi Kviatek's documentary *Now I am Free* (2006) was screened on the evening of July 1. Participants were treated to a report on cultural activities within the Jewish community of Montreal, particularly the Montreal Israeli Theatre, followed by a tour of McGill. Conference participants enjoyed a post-conference tour of Ottawa (July 3).

Congratulations, Lea, for a well organized and inspiring conference, and many thanks for your warm hospitality and enthusiasm! Kudos to Joseph Fima, who, in addition to delivering an exciting talk, took care of our technical needs and difficulties throughout the conference.

The conference committee for 2007 included Ruth Adler-Ben Yehuda (Brown University), Emmanuel Allon (Beit Berl College), Nancy Berg (Washington University at St. Louis), Shmuel Bolozky (University of Massachusetts at Amherst), Nancy Ezer (University of California, Los Angeles), Benjamin Hari (Emory University), Gilead Morahg (University of Wisconsin-Madison), Hannah Naveh (Tel Aviv University), Adina Ofek (State University of New York, Binghamton), Miriam Petruck (University of California, Berkeley), Esther Raizen (University of Texas), Vardit Ringvald (Brendeis University), Renana Schneller (University of Minnesota, Minneapolis), Vered Shemtov (Stanford University), and Eric Zakim (University of Maryland).

Photos from the conference can be viewed at http://www.utt-pedagogical-center.com/NAPH_08_@_McGill_Webpage/Photos_Videos_NAPH_2008_McGill.htm

The 2009 NAPH Conference will be held on July 6-8 at University College London. It will be chaired by Tsila Ratner.

Esther Raizen, The University of Texas at Austin, raizen@mail.utexas.edu Conference Organizer

News From Our Members

Recent Publications

Bill T. Arnold, Asbury Theological Seminary: *Genesis* (The New Cambridge Bible Commentary; Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 2008); “Old Testament Eschatology and the Rise of Apocalypticism,” in Jerry L. Walls, ed. *The Oxford Handbook of Eschatology* (Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2008), 23-39; *Encountering the Old Testament: A Christian Survey*, with Bryan E. Beyer (Second Edition; Encountering Biblical Studies Series; Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Academic, 2008).

Hamutal Bar-Yosef, Ben-Gurion University: “Recreating Jewish Identity in Haim Nahman Bialik’s Poems: The Russian Context”, in B. Nathans and G. Safran, eds., *Culture Front: Representing Jews in Eastern Europe* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2008) 176-195; *Mistika ba-shira ha`vrit ba-meah ha-esrim* (Mysticism in 20th Century Hebrew Poetry) (Tel Aviv: Yediot Aharonot, 2008) (H); *Night, Morning: Selected Poems*, translated from Hebrew by Rachel Back (Sheep Meadow, 2008) (parallel text Hebrew-English).

Ehud Ben Zvi, University of Alberta: ed., *Perspectives in Hebrew Scriptures II: Comprising the Contents of Journal of Hebrew Scriptures, Volume 5* (Piscataway, NJ: Gorgias Press, 2007); ed., *Perspectives in Hebrew Scriptures III: Comprising the Contents of Journal of Hebrew Scriptures, Volume 6* (Piscataway, NJ: Gorgias Press, 2008); “A House of Treasures: The Account of Amaziah in 2 Chronicles 25—Observations and Implications,” *Scandinavian Journal of the Old Testament* 22 (2008) 63-85; “Reading Hosea and Imagining YHWH,” *Horizons in Biblical Theology* 30 (2008) 43-57; “Who Knew What? The Construction of the Monarchic Past in Chronicles and Implications for the Intellectual Setting of Chronicles,” in O. Lipschits, G. N. Knoppers and R. Albertz, eds., *Judah and the Judeans in the Fourth Century B.C.E.* (Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2007) 349-60; “Biblical Books and Texts as Self-Contained Sources for the Study of Ancient Israelite History,” *Religious Studies and Theology* 25 (2006) 211-27; ed., “Rereading Oracles of God: Twenty Years After John Barton, *Oracles of God: Perceptions of Prophecy in Israel after the Exile* (London: Darton, Longman and Todd, 1986),” *Journal of Hebrew Scriptures* 7 (2007); available online at <http://www.jhsonline.org>; “A Prototype for Further Publication Development of the Journal of Hebrew Scriptures and Other Open-Access Journals,” *SBL Forum* 5/8 (2007) <http://www.sblonline.org/Article.aspx?ArticleId=722>

Shmuel Bolozky, University of Massachusetts Amherst: “Mirkuz hatnu`a *i* ba`ivrit hameduberet (Centralization of the Vowel *i* in Colloquial Hebrew),” in Aharon Maman, Shmuel Fassberg and Yohanan Breuer, eds, *Sha`arey Lashon: Research on Hebrew Language, on Aramaic, and on Jewish Languages, Presented to Moshe Bar-Asher* (Jerusalem: Bialik Institute, 2007), vol. 3, 51-54 (H); “Israeli Hebrew Morphology,” Chapter 14 in A. S. Kaye, ed., *Morphologies of Asia and Africa (including the Caucasus)* (Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2007) 283-308; “Metaphors in Hebrew slang, and Their Parallels in Hebrew Literature and in the Sources,” *Hebrew Studies* XLVIII (2007) 269-290; “Keycad lehorot `et hamorfologya šel binyan *hitpa`el*: *basis`exad*, `o šloša digmey mišne (How to teach the morphology of the *hitpa`el* binyan: one base, or three sub-patterns?),” *Hebrew Higher Education* 12 (2007) 65-74 (H); “Te`ur hacliliyut bafonolofya šel ha`ivrit hayisre`elit besifro šel xaiim rozén *Ha`ivrit Šelanu* (The Description of Sonority in the Phonology of Israeli Hebrew in Haiim B. Rosén’s *Ha`ivrit Shelanu*),” *Ha`ivrit ve`axyoteha* VI-VII (2006/2007) 239-248 (H).

Oded Borowski, Emory University: Completed directing the second field season of the Lahav Research Project: Phase IV at Tell Halif near Kibbutz Lahav. Results of the first season (2007) were published in *Israel Exploration Journal* 58.1 (pp.100-103) and in *Hadashot Arkheologiyot: Excavations and Surveys in Israel* 120 (2008).

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Yael Feldman, New York University: "On the Cusp of Christianity: Virgin Sacrifice in Oz and Pseudo Philo," *Jewish Quarterly Review* 97:3 (Summer 2007) 379-415; "Lama ahava Rivka et Yaakov?" *Keshet Hahadasha* 19 (March 2007) 128-137 (H); "Mi-'mot qedoshim' le-'osher aqedah," *Israel* 12 (Tel Aviv Univ., Fall 2007) 107-153 (H); "Shel mi haqorban haze la-azazel?" (1942-1958), *Mikan* 9 (Ben-Gurion Univ., 2008) 125-157 (H); "Let Us Not Die as Sheep Led to the Slaughter?: From the Hasmonean Revolt to Ghetto Vilna," *Haaretz Literary Supplement*, December 7, 2007 (with Steven Bowman) (H).

Daniel Frank, The Ohio State University: (Co-edited with Matt Goldish), *Rabbinic Culture and Its Critics: Jewish Authority, Dissent, and Heresy in Medieval and Early Modern Times* (Wayne State University Press, 2008)

Zev Garber, Los Angeles Valley College and American Jewish University: Guest Editor and contributor, *USC Casden Annual Review* 6 (in press); "Post-Shoah Dialogue: Confronting Moses and Paul in Auschwitz," and "It is Not in Heaven: Interpreting Romans 3 and 10 in Light of Deuteronomy 30," *Mentalities/Mentalités* 21.2 (2007), 1-2, 16-22; "Abubus," "Achior," "Alchimus," "Antipas," "Antipas Antipater," "Antipas Herod," "Antipater, Son of Jason," "Antipas, Father of Herod," in *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception* (Walter de Gruyter: Berlin and New York, 2008); Reviews in *ARBA*, *Choice*, *Hador*, *RBL*, and *Shofar*.

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Lev Hakak, UCLA: *A Pious Man Faces Sinners -The Book of Moral Reproof by Ezra Habavli* (Hakibbutz Hameuchad, 2008) (H)

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Arthur M. Lesley, Baltimore Hebrew University: "Giving Birth to the Hebrew Author: Two Compositions by Johanan Alemanno," in Giuseppe Veltri and Maria Diemling, eds., *The Jewish Body: Corporeality, Society and Identity in the Renaissance and Early Modern Period* (Brill: Leiden, 2008) 273-299; "Abarbanel, Judah," "Alemanno, Yohanan b. Isaac (15th c.)," in *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception* (Walter de Gruyter: Berlin and New York, 2008); reviews in *The Thomist* (2008), and *Renaissance Quarterly* 61.1 (Spring 2008), 61.3 (Autumn 2008).

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Yaron Peleg, George Washington University: "Zionism and Postcolonialism in Y. H. Brenners' Short Story 'Avla'" *Hador* 2 (2008) 103-107; "From Black to White: The Changing Image of Mizrahim in Israeli Cinema, 1960-2000," *Journal of Israel Studies* 13.2 (Summer 2008) 122-145; "Love, Suddenly: Etgar Keret and the Emergence of Hebrew Romance" (forthcoming in *Hebrew Studies* XLVIX (2008).

Moshe Pelli, University of Central Florida: *The Shadow of Death: Letters in Flame* (Lanham: University Press of America, 2008); "Das Zentrum der Haskala in Deutschland schlägt einen neuen Zugang zur hebräischen Litertur vor," *Trumah*, 16 (2006) 35-47; "Language and Creativity: The Revival of Hebrew Literature and the Awareness of Language in the Perception of Haskalah," in A. Maman, S.E. Fassberg, and Y. Breuer, eds., *Sa'arei Lashon: Studies in Hebrew, Aramaic and Jewish Languages Presented to Moshe Bar-Asher*, III (Jerusalem: Bialik Institute, 2007)173-186; "An Editor's Memoirs: The Early Beginnings of the Renewed NIV, Journal of Young Writers in USA," *Kesher*, 36 (Fall 2007) 167-171; "Hebrew Haskalah in Germany: A Literary Movement that Created a Modern Literature – The Revival of Hebrew in Its Relation to the Revival of Hebrew Literature," *Leshonenu La'am*, LVI (No. 2, 2007) 57-70; "An Unknown 'Measef' That Came in the Heels of Hame'asef – the Manuscript 'Keter Torah Hame'asef,' 1815-1816," *Iggud, Mivhar Ma'amarim Bemadei Hayahadut*, III (Jerusalem, 2008) 117-136: "Mordechai David Brandstaedter's Short Story 'Mordechai Kizowitz' Depicts A Maskil Becoming an Enlightened Rabbi," *Hador* (2008) 138-147; Review in *Kesher*.

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Nancy Rozenchan, Universidade de S. Paulo: *Israelenses e palestinos na literatura hebraica – a visao de Ronit Matalon* in Helen Lewin, ed., *Judismo e Modernidade: suas Multiplas Interelacoes* (Programa de Estudos Judaicos, UERJ, Rio de Janeiro, 2007) 219 -227; *Conflito armado como pano de fundo na literatura hebraica* in Celeste Ribeiro de Sousa, ed., *Poeticas da violencia – Da bomba atomica ao 11 de setembro*, ed.(Humanitas, USP, S. Paulo, 2008),151-166; *Penn, pena maldita?* in Diana Luz Pessoa de Barros & Jose Luiz Fiorin, eds., *A fabricação dos sentidos – Estudos em homenagem a Izidoro Blikstein*, (Humanitas, USP, S. Paulo, 2008) 427-447.

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Naomi Sokoloff, University of Washington: "Gila Almagor's *Aviyah*: Remembering the Holocaust in Children's Literature," in Elizabeth Goodenough and Andrea Immel, eds., *Under Fire: Childhood in the Shadow of War* (Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2008) 197-206; "Life/Writing: Aharon Appelfeld, Autobiography, and the Modern Jewish Canon," in Justin Cammy, Dara Horn, Alyssa Quint and Rachel Rubinstein, eds., *Arguing the Modern Jewish Canon* (Cambridge: Harvard Center for Jewish Studies, 2008).

Marvin A. Sweeney, Claremont School of Theology and Claremont Graduate University: *1 and 2 Kings: A Commentary* (Old Testament Library; Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2007); *Reading the Hebrew Bible after the Shoah: Engaging Holocaust Theology* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2008); Editor, *Hebrew Studies*.

Aryeh Wineman, Northampton,MA: "Hewn from the Divine Quarry -- An Examination of the Isaac of Radvil's *Yitshak*," *Hebrew Union College Annual*, Vol. 77 (2006),179-207.

Ghil'ad Zuckermann, The University of Queensland, Australia, <http://www.zuckermann.org/>: *Israelit safa yafa* (Israeli, a Beautiful Language) (Tel Aviv: Am Oved (2008, in press); "Realistic Prescriptivism': The Academy of the Hebrew Language, its Campaign of 'Good Grammar' and Lexpionage, and the Native Israeli Speakers," *Israel Studies in Language and Society* 1.1(2008) 135-154; "farmaskirte antlayung: yidishe leksishe hashpoe af ivrit" (Camouflaged Borrowing: The Lexical Influence of Yiddish on Israeli), *Yerusholaimmer Almanakh (Journal of Yiddish Literature, Culture and Society)* 28 (2008), 418-428 (Yiddish); "Icelandic: Phonosemantic Matching," in Judith Rosenhouse and Rotem Kowner,eds, *Globally Speaking: Motives for Adopting English Vocabulary in Other*

Languages (Clevedon, Buffalo, Toronto: Multilingual Matters (with Yair Sapir, 2008), 19-43, References, 296-325; "di isroeldike shprakh: hebreish lebt vider, yidish lebt vayter" (The Israeli Language: Hebrew Revived, Yiddish Survived), *Afn Shvel* 337-338: 24-27 (2007) (Yiddish); "Comparative Constructions in 'Israeli Hebrew'," *Melilah* 2006/2 (2007) 1-16; "hasafa haisraelit kemusa mekhkar atsmi: khashivut gishato shel rozen lademistifikatsya shel 'tkhiat haivrit'" (The Israeli Language as an Object of Independent Study: The Importance of Rosen's Approach to the Demystification of the 'Hebrew Revival'), *Iton* 77 Literary Monthly 319 (2007), 20-28 (H); "israeli, daber israelit - muflaut hasafa haisraelit" (Israeli, Speak Israeli! - The Marvels of the Israeli Language), *Iton* 77, Literary Monthly 318 (2007), 16-21 (H); "A New Vision for Israeli Hebrew: Theoretical and Practical Implications of Analysing Israel's Main Language as a Semi-Engineered Semito-European Hybrid Language," *Journal of Modern Jewish Studies* 5.1 (2006), 57-71; "Complement Clause Types in Israeli" in R. M. W. Dixon and Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald, eds, *Complementation: A Cross-Linguistic Typology* (Explorations in Linguistic Typology, vol. III) (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006) 72-92; "Direct and Indirect Speech in Straight-Talking Israeli," *Acta Linguistica Hungarica* 53.4 (2006) 467-481; "'Etymythological Othering' and the Power of 'Lexical Engineering' in Judaism, Islam and Christianity. A Socio-Philo(sopho)logical Perspective," in 'Tope Omoniyi and Joshua A. Fishman, eds, *Explorations in the Sociology of Language and Religion* (Discourse Approaches to Politics, Society and Culture series) (Amsterdam: John Benjamins, 2006) 237-58; "Hebrew, Israeli" in Volume 5 of Keith Brown, ed., *Encyclopedia of Language & Linguistics*, 2nd Edition (14 vols) (Oxford: Elsevier, 2006), 265-268; "Working with Words: Imagine New Ways," *ACQuiring Knowledge in Speech, Language and Hearing (ACQ)* 8.3, 133-136 (with Beverly Joffe, 2006); "Shir Du-Leshoni" (Bilingual Poem), *Ho!, Literary Magazine* 3 (2006) 256-257 (H, Italian); 'Lexical Borrowing', *Australian Style* 14.2:(2006) 4-5; "Diaspora Influences on Israeli (a.k.a. Modern Hebrew)" in M. Avrum Ehrlich, ed., *Encyclopedia of the Jewish Diaspora* (Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO (in press). Further publications: <http://www.zuckermann.org/>.

Current Research in Progress

Yael Feldman, New York University, study of the provenance, psychology, and gender of martyric and sacrificial tropes in Hebrew discourse of the 20th century (from "*mot qedoshim*" to "*osher aqedah*" and back) is nearing completion; "From Martyr to Warrior: Re-Inventing the Aqedah as a Heroic Trope in Early Zionist Discourse," is to be published in *The Martyr in Various (Religious) Cultures*, Zentrum for the Study of Literature, Berlin (in press).

Paul Overland, Ashland Theological Seminary, served as director for the collaborative three-year Communicative Hebrew Learning and Teaching Project (CoHeLeT Project). By adapting principles from Second Language Acquisition the project seeks to enhance introductory Biblical Hebrew pedagogy. Comprised largely of NAPH members, the eleven-person team will report to NAPH in the Boston SBL Session #23-83 later this year.

Yaron Peleg, George Washington University, is co-editing an anthology of essays on Israeli cinema with Miri Talmon-Bohm, titled *Identities in Motion* (Texas University Press).

Moshe Pelli, University of Central Florida, is doing an annotated, computerized index on *Kerem Hamed* (1833-1856), the third volume in his series of monographs and annotated indices of Hebrew Haskalah periodicals of Haskalah.

Peursen, W.Th. (Wido) van, Leiden University, is director of the project “TURGAMA: Computer-Assisted Analysis of the Peshitta and the Targum: Text, Language and Interpretation.” He is currently engaged in a research project on the interrelationship of language and interpretation in the Peshitta and Targum Jonathan on Judges

Naomi Sokoloff, University of Washington, is currently working on “Jewish Character? Stereotype and Identity in Fiction from Israel by Sayed Kashua and Aharon Appelfeld,”

Recent Promotions or Change in Position

Mayer I. Gruber, Ben-Gurion University in the Negev, was Visiting Scholar at Lady Doak College in Madurai, India November 1, 2007-February 28, 2008 and Visiting Scholar in the Centre for Jewish Studies at the University of Manchester, UK March 1-June 30, 2008. He has accepted a Visiting Scholar appointment at Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth, Texas for November 1, 2008-February 28, 2009.

Yael Halevi-Wise, McGill University, promoted to Associate Professor with Tenure (2007).

Roy L. Heller, Perkins School of Theology/ Southern Methodist University, was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor with Tenure in May 2007.

Hannah Pressman, a PhD candidate in Modern Hebrew Literature at New York University, was named the 2007-2008 Hazel D. Cole Fellow in Jewish Studies at the University of Washington.

Ora R. Schwarzwald, Bar Ilan University, completed her tenure as President of the Israeli Chapter of the European Linguistic Society; changed into President of the Israeli Linguistic Society (2001-2007), and President of the Israeli Association for the Study of Language and Society (2004-2007). Currently, she is an advisory member in the Hebrew Language Academy (2005-)

Curriculum Innovations and Awards

Ehud Ben Zvi, University of Alberta, was awarded a 2008-2009 Killam Annual Professorship.

Shiri Goren, Yale University, was awarded an Instructional Innovation Grant (IIG) from the Center for Language Studies at Yale, to develop a Web-Based Resource for Authentic and Student-Created Hebrew Materials. She also received an award from the U.S. Department of Education and the Council on Middle East Studies to create a course on Israeli Politics and Media. The A. Whitney Griswold Faculty Research Fund has extended its support in her research project: “The Home Front: Literary Engagement with Political Crises in Israel, 1993-2006.”

Ghil'ad Zuckermann, University of Queensland, gave a course on Language Revival at the Indigenous Languages Institute, LingFest 2008, Koori Centre, University of Sydney. His up-to-date email is gz@uq.edu.au.

In Memory

Howard Marblestone Z"L (1942-2008)

Shalom,

Having been members of NAPH for many years, I would like the organization to know that my beloved husband, Howard Marblestone, passed away suddenly at the end of January, 2008. He was about to teach his last semester at Lafayette College---his 34th year there---- just before his anticipated retirement.....after 40 years of college teaching.

Howard was a very warm, humble, gentle, caring man---and a brilliant teacher. Over 400 people from our community attended his funeral, including the President of Lafayette, his entire staff and hundreds of his colleagues and our friends. In a most touching eulogy, the Rabbi concluded that Howard was a "Lamed Vavnik," one of "The 36" most righteous and saintly of beings. EVERYONE agreed.....

A Memorial Service at Lafayette College in early March brought hundreds of Howard's former students and colleagues back to the campus to speak publicly about the influence and impact that he had on their lives...That, too, was an incredible tribute to the man I loved "at first sight" and was blessed to be married to for 41 years. He has left the richest of meaningful legacies to me, our 2 daughters and our 5 loving grandchildren. His life was a blessing; no one could be more loved or respected than he was.

Zecher Tzaddik l'vracha.

Sincerely,
Reba Marblestone

Eta Beta Rho Honor Society

Pamela Barmash, faculty advisor, reports that the following students were inducted into Eta Beta Rho at Washington University in St. Louis in 2005: Corey Helfand, Marilyn Kincaid (MA graduate), Callie Richman, Navit Robkin, Joy Rosenthal, Evan Weiner.

Sari Harris, Hebrew Studies Coordinator, enthusiastically reports that Eber, chapter *yod dalet*, has been established at the University of Kansas. Robert Fishkind, Drew Elite, and Sara Jean Coughlan have been inducted as full members.

Gloria Metz, coordinator of faculty support and associated services, reports that the following students were inducted into Eta Beta Rho at Bethel Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota: Janet K. Hamilton, Andrew P. Pederson Michelle Hienz, John Warren Reed, James F. Jordan, and Matthew Wade Wassnik

ETA BETA RHO National Scholastic Honor Society for Students of Hebrew Language and Culture Chapters

(* = inactive or non-responsive)

1. *Alpha* *Hunter College
2. *Beta* *New York University
3. *Gamma* *Butler University
4. *Delta/Dalet* University of Maryland, Nili Levy nlevy@umd.edu
5. *Epsilon* *Temple University
6. *Zeta* *Rutgers University
7. *Eta* Wheaton College, Illinois
8. *Theta* *Immanuel School of Religion, Milligan College
9. *Iota* *Lehman College Zelda Newman
ZELDA.NEWMAN@lehman.cuny.edu
10. *Kappa* *Los Angeles Valley College
11. *Tav* *University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Bruce
Rosenstock brsnstck@uiuc.edu
12. *Mu* *Western Conservative Baptist Seminary
13. *Nu* *University of Wisconsin
14. *Heh* *Cincinnati Christian Seminary
15. *Vav* *Yeshiva University
16. *Zayin* *Florida Christian College
17. *Heth* *Sterns College
18. *Chi* Indiana University, Steven Katz katzs@indiana.edu
19. *Tet* *Columbia Bible College and Biblical Seminary
20. *Yod* Bethel Theological Seminary, Paul Ferris
paul-ferris@bethel.edu
21. *Kaph* Ashland Theological Seminary, David Baker
dbaker@ashland.edu
22. *Lamed* University of Utah, Harris Lenowitz kathar7@comcast.net
23. *Mem* *Brigham Young University
24. *Nun* Bluefield College, Timothy Crawford
TCrawford@bluefield.edu
25. *Samekh* *Cumberland College

- | | | |
|-----|--------------------------|---|
| 26. | <i>'Ayin</i> | University of Arizona, J. Edward Wright
edwright@email.arizona.edu |
| 27. | <i>Peh</i> | Brandeis University, Vardit Ringwald |
| 28. | <i>Tsadeh</i> | Washington University, St Louis, Martin Jacobs
mjacobs@wustl.edu |
| 29. | <i>Qoph</i> | University of Minnesota- Twin Cities, Bernard Levinson
levinson@tc.umn.edu |
| 30. | <i>Resh</i> | Asbury Seminary, Bill Arnold
Bill_Arnold@asburyseminary.edu |
| 31. | <i>Shin</i> | University of Mary Hardin– Baylor, Stephen Von Wyrick
swyrick@umhb.edu |
| 32. | <i>Yod-aleph</i> | George Washington University, Yaron Peleg
ypeleg@gwu.edu |
| 33. | <i>Yod-beth</i> | University of Oklahoma, Ori Kritz okritz@ou.edu |
| 34. | <i>Yod-gimel</i> | City College, New York, Michael Waxman
mwaxman@ccny.cuny.edu |
| 35. | <i>Gimel-dalet-lamed</i> | *Waldorf College |
| 36. | <i>Yod-dalet</i> | University of Kansas, Sari Havis shavis@ku.edu |
| 37. | <i>Tet-vav</i> | Middlebury College, Nathan Devir ndevir@middlebury.edu |

Inquiries about the society should be addressed to its national director: Professor David W. Baker, Ashland Theological Seminary, Biblical Studies, 910 Center Street, Ashland, OH 44805; dbaker@ashland.edu.

TECHNOLOGY and עברית

The 28th International Conference on Hebrew Language, Literature and Culture (Montreal June 29-July 2, 2008) provided several presentations which focused on using the technology and multimedia in teaching Hebrew:

- “Sabra Sound –Learning to Pronounce Hebrew like a native
Esther Delshad and *Carmia Shoval* (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem) demonstrated a courseware for improving students’ Hebrew pronunciation. Divided into five subjects, each containing a learning module and an exercises module, the courseware is rich in activities and graphics. The tool is still in the testing stage. Once the work is complete the site will be made public.
- Hebrew Electronic Workbook-Rigorous Grammar Practice
Nancy Ezer (The University of California, LA) presented her E-Workbook project, an interactive, web-based set of grammar exercises developed using the university’s Learning Management System (Moodle). It provides the students with numerous drilling opportunities and immediate individualized feedback. Since it is a web-based tool, the students can practice outside of the classroom, thus freeing up instructional time. The E-Workbook can be used as an enriching supplement to any textbook.
- A Tool for Assessing Oral Proficiency in Hebrew
Haya Feig (University of Pittsburgh) gave a demonstration of the university Oral Proficiency Language Assessment Instrument (UPOLA). This tool measures the students’ oral proficiency according to ACTFL levels. It allows large groups of students to be

tested simultaneously. The questions are accompanied by graphics and recorded by native speakers

- Using SRS with PowerPoint and SmartBoard Technology
Joseph Fima (Herzliah High School Montreal) demonstrated the benefits of using SRS (Student Response System) in teaching Judaic Studies. By clicking on a small, easy-to-use hand-held device, the students respond to the teacher's multiple choice questions. In this way the instructor can ensure that everyone is engaged in the lesson. . We were able to use the tool during the presentation. . The utility software (by Turning Point) integrates with PowerPoint, a familiar tool to most of the teachers
- On-Line Hebrew Interactive Audio Assignments
Hadassah Nemovicher (The Jewish Theological Seminary, NY) talked about using internet based (on-line) audio assignments. By using these tools the instructor can prepare audio assignments and check them at home. Students can record the answer from any computer equipped with internet access. Two inexpensive tools were presented: Audacity (audacity.com) and AudioAssignments (Audioassignments .com). They both integrate well with the institution's LMS (Learning Management System)

Hebrew and Learning Managements Systems

With the advance of web based technologies we see more and more universities embracing the use of LMS (Learning Management System). You probably recognize the name Blackboard, Web-CT, Sakai, Angel or Moodle. These are all LMS's.

What is an LMS? An LMS is software which provides tools to upload course materials on the internet. Thus they can be accessed from anywhere (e.g., pc with an internet connection).

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Learning_management_system#Learning_content_management_system

The major benefits of an LMS from an instructor's point of view are:

- Communicating with students by posting announcements, calendar events and sending emails
- Posting course materials in an organized manner
- Building on-line quizzes and practices
- Creating assignments which integrate with the grade book
- Creating collaborative assignments by using the discussion Board (Blog) or the Wikis tool

LMS and Hebrew: I have working experience with several LMS's but unfortunately none is geared to working with Hebrew. You can write using Hebrew fonts but very often you will receive gibberish. Furthermore, it is a challenge to write from right to left with the right punctuation.

However, this should not deter you from using the LMS. You might not be able to use the collaborative tools (Blog and Wikis) but you can upload course materials and resources in Hebrew as attachments. If you can communicate with your students in English , then by no means post announcements and send emails. Hopefully, new versions of LMS will be more compatible with Hebrew

Moodle (<http://moodle.org/>) is the only LMS that I know of that works well with Hebrew. The whole course Look and Feel (menus, titles, buttons etc) is written in Hebrew. It is an open source (that is, it is free, but you still need to invest dollars in technical support). Worth checking!

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