

PROJECT JUDAICA UPDATE:  
JANUARY 1993

Fall 1992 Program of Instruction

26 students

Fall 1992 was the third semester of PROJECT JUDAICA's joint program of instruction in Jewish Studies at Russian State Humanities University (RGGU), co-sponsored by the Jewish Theological Seminary of America (JTS) and the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research (YIVO). The program's twenty-two Jewish studies majors and four auditors were enrolled in the following course:

1. Intermediate Yiddish  
Instructor: Sheva Zucker, Duke University.  
15 weeks, 6 hours per week.
2. Introduction to Judaism  
Instructors: Yossi Pnini, Rabbi Moshe Tutnauer, and Rabbi Nathan Reisner, Seminary for Judaic Studies, Jerusalem.  
8 weeks, 6 hours per week.
3. Modern Jewish History, 1492-1914  
Instructors: Shmuel Feiner, Bar Ilan University, and David E. Fishman JTS and YIVO.  
7 weeks, 6 hours per week.
4. English Readings and Practice in Judaica  
Instructor: Tatyana A. Markielova, RGGU.  
15 weeks, 2 hours per week.

After three semesters of intensive Yiddish language study, the students' knowledge has advanced to the point where they are able to read unedited texts, listen to lectures, and converse spontaneously in Yiddish. It is now nearly as easy to communicate with some of the students in Yiddish as in English.

The course entitled "Introduction to Judaism" provided a systematic, in-depth examination of the Jewish festivals, life-cycle, and religious rituals, as well as a survey of rabbinic literature (Midrash, Mishna, Talmud). Students appreciated the course's sympathetic, but non-dogmatic approach to Judaism, and several of them have since introduced religious rituals into their personal lives (i.e. lighting Sabbath candles and attending synagogue services on the holidays).

After one-and-a-half years of course-work and research, the students of PROJECT JUDAICA have accumulated an impressive pool of knowledge in all areas of Judaica. They fully appreciate the uniqueness of their training, and have developed a strong group-identity and a sense of mission. Several of them have expressed an interest in entering the field of Jewish education.

Two students (Galina Eliasberg and Lev Krichevski) have exhibited particular potential for becoming original scholars of Judaica. Eliasberg has been admitted to RGGU's Graduate School as the University's first Doctoral student in Jewish Studies, and has begun working on her dissertation, on the life and works of Israel Zinberg (1873-1937). Krichevski will be admitted to RGGU's Graduate School next year, following the completion of his undergraduate studies.

#### Extra-Curricular Programs and University Outreach

PROJECT JUDAICA's academic program was enriched by a variety of extra-curricular activities and programs. The students paid a study-visit to the main Moscow synagogue on Arkhipova Street, under the direction of their Judaism instructor Yossi Pnini. They also conducted, outside of class-time, a tour of places of Jewish interest in Moscow, and a theater-outing to a play based on the works of Sholem Aleichem.

The program's faculty developed a close personal rapport with the students, and invited two or three of them each week for Shabbat dinner. This provided an opportunity for students to experience a Shabbat atmosphere first-hand, and for them to get to know their professors in a more informal setting. Two Melave-Malka (Saturday night) parties were hosted by the faculty-team for the entire contingent of students, at which the films "Image Before My Eyes" and "Green Fields" (in Yiddish) were screened.

PROJECT JUDAICA sponsored a public Chanukah celebration at RGGU for the program's students, their parents, and for university faculty, staff, and students at large. Close to 100 people attended, including leaders of the RGGU Student Council and faculty members from the Program in Comparative Religion.

The 4,000 volume Judaica library continues to serve as an important means of outreach to the university community. Professors and students from various schools and departments have frequented the Judaica reading room to consult its encyclopedias, dictionaries, and reference works. The library, which is supervised by Mr. Mark Perl, is open Tuesdays through Fridays 2:30 PM to 8:30 PM.

The presence of PROJECT JUDAICA on campus has inspired a number of schools and departments to introduce Judaica courses of their own. A "History of Judaism" course was taught at the School of Museum Studies this past semester, by Professor Sergei Liezov, a scholar who has championed the cause of Jewish-Christian dialogue and understanding. Next semester, The Department of the History and Theory of Culture will offer a course on "Jewish Literature in the Context of World Cultures", taught by PROJECT JUDAICA

faculty-member Professor David Roskies of JTS. The Program in Comparative Religion is currently finalizing its plans for a sub-specialization in Judaism. These courses and programs receive academic guidance and assistance from PROJECT JUDAICA, and utilize its library.

PROJECT JUDAICA's wide array of academic and extra-curricular activities were made possible thanks to the presence of a full-time Moscow co-ordinator, Mr. Yale Reisner.

#### Faculty and Students: A Community Resource

Although PROJECT JUDAICA's program of instruction is less than two years old, its faculty and students are already having an impact outside the university's walls.

Because of the exceptionally high caliber of our faculty, their teaching-services are in great demand. Most of our professors have found time to teach in Jewish community-education programs in Moscow, above and beyond their heavy teaching-load at RGGU. Sheva Zucker was engaged to teach Yiddish by the Moscow division of Touro College, and Yossi Pnini lectured on Judaism at the Free Jewish University of Moscow. Pnini and Rabbi Moshe Tutnauer also directed a series of seminars for teachers in Jewish day-schools and Sunday schools in Russia and other former Soviet republics. The seminars, which were sponsored by Midreshet Yerushalayim (Jerusalem), were held in Moscow and Chernovtsi, Ukraine.

PROJECT JUDAICA students have also become actively involved in Jewish communal and cultural life. Lev Krichevskii and Vasily Schedrin are the editors of a Jewish information bulletin called Yom Sheni, which reports on Jewish news throughout the Russian republic. After the publication of three experimental issues in the fall, Yom Sheni was awarded financial support from the Va'ad (The Confederation of Jewish Organizations and Communities in Russia), and has begun appearing regularly as a news organ of the Va'ad. Several other students are also involved in the production and distribution of Yom Sheni.

Matvei Chlenov (whose father, Mikhail Chlenov, is chairman of the Va'ad) and Ilya Dolgopolski are leaders of the Jewish Geneological Society of Moscow, which conducts occasional seminars on geneological subjects at the Israel Cultural Center. Larissa Vekselman taught Jewish history and tradition at one of Moscow's Hebrew schools last year. Ira Astashkevich conducts tours of Jewish Moscow (past and present) on behalf of the Jewish cultural organization "Tehiya." Several of the program's students plan to work as counselors at Camp Ramah, Moscow, this coming summer.

The Judaica curriculum for the new contingent will differ from that of the current cohort of students. Whereas the current group is being trained to be specialists in the history and culture of East European Jewry, the new group will be trained as scholars in the totality of Jewish literature and culture, from antiquity until modern times. Their program of study will be based on the "Coordinated Curriculum" employed at JTS: their first year will focus on the Biblical period, the second year will be devoted to the Talmudic periods, the third - to the Middle Ages, and fourth and fifth years - to the modern era. Students will study Hebrew first, and Yiddish later. Upon the completion of their studies, they will be awarded a RGGU degree in Jewish Literature and Culture.

The expansion of PROJECT JUDAICA will require an increase of our resident faculty from 2 professors per semester to 3 professors per semester. (Hebrew language instructors will service both the old and new contingents of students, thus obviating the need to double the faculty's size.) The program is currently seeking funding to enable it to bring this expansion-plan to realization.

#### Conclusion

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One-and-a-half years after its establishment, PROJECT JUDAICA has proven itself an excellent framework for the training of scholars in Judaica, and for the preparation of future intellectual leaders of the Russian Jewish community. Its students are already exhibiting the combination of knowledge, imagination, and initiative which is the hallmark of leadership. As they continue to grow in mind and in spirit, they represent a valuable investment in the future of Russian Jewry, and in the strengthening of cultural pluralism in Russia at large.

APPENDIX I:

RGGU Program in Jewish Studies  
Final Grades - Fall 1992

Courses:

"Intermediate Yiddish Language", Sheva Zucker, 15 weeks, 6 per week ["Yiddish"].

"Modern Jewish History 1492-1914", Shmuel Feiner and David Fishman, 7 weeks, 6 hours per week ["Modern"].

"Introduction to Judaism", Yossi Pnini and Moshe Tutnauer, 8 weeks, 6 hours per week ["Judaism"]

Grading System:

5 = excellent  
4 = good  
3 = satisfactory  
2 = unsatisfactory (failed)

Conversion Scale:

86-100 = 5  
71-85 = 4  
55-70 = 3  
under 55 = 2

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Yiddish</u>	<u>Modern</u>	<u>Judaism</u>
M	①. Astashkevitch, Ira	5 (A-)	5 (92)	5 (95)
M	②. Chlenov, Matvei	3 (C-/C)	4 (82)	3 (74)
	3. Dolgopolski, Ilya	<del>4 (B-/B)</del>	<del>3 (70)</del>	<del>3 (70)</del>
M	④. Dubrova, Ekaterina	4 (B-)	4 (77)	4 (79)
	5. Eliasberg, Galina	4 (B+)	5 (89)	4 (82.5)
E	⑥. Khanina, Anya	3 (C)	4 (75)	4 (77.5)
E	⑦. Kheifets, Karina	4 (B+)	5 (86.5)	5 (94)
	8. Kornilov, Aleksei	5 (A-/B+)	5 (87)	5 (89)
E	⑨. Krichevskii, Lev	5 (A)	5 (94.5)	5 (90)
E	⑩. Levitova, Anya	5 (A)	5 (87)	5 (93.5)
M	⑪. Malchikova, Anya	3 (C)	3 (56)	4 (80)
	12. Martinova, Yaroslava	3 (C)	3 (67)	4 (72.5)
M	⑬. Mogilova, Yulia	5 (A-)	4 (81)	5 (90.5)
E	⑭. Pichugin, Ivan	3 (C+)	3 (67.5)	3 (67.5)

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Yiddish</u>	<u>Modern</u>	<u>Judaism</u>
M	(15) Schedrin, Vasily	4 (B+)	4 (76.5)	4 (82)
M	(16) Shkolnikova, Elena	5 (B+/A-)	4 (77.5)	4 (78)
M	(17) Shternshis, Anya	4 (B+)	4 (72)	5 (94)
E	(18) Sidlin, Mikhail [medical absence; will take exams in February]	Inc.	Inc.	Inc. <i>ש'נ'ר 68'7</i>
M	(19) Sivertsev, Aleksei	5 (A-)	5 (96)	4 (83.5)
M	(20) Solntseva, Anya	5 (A)	4 (76)	5 (92)
E	(21) Tarutin, Pavel	3 (C-/C)	3 (67)	3 (69)
M	(22) Vekselman, Larisa	4 (B/B+)	3 (67)	4 (81)

Others (not Jewish Studies majors)

E	(1) Dunayevskii, Mikhail	4 (B+)	-	-
	2. Lashkievich, Mikhail [took only Yiddish in spring]	5 (A-)	-	-

Auditors in Jewish History

1. Sergei Korotich
2. Pierre Kalmanson (exchange student from France)

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Enrolled in program as majors:           22 students  
 Enrolled in courses as electives:       2 students  
 Auditors:                                       2 students

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Total: 26 students



APPENDIX II:

PROJECT JUDAICA CURRICULUM:  
SPRING 1993

1. Yiddish Literature  
Instructor: David G. Roskies, Jewish Theological Seminary of America.  
13 weeks, 4 hours per week.
  
2. Yiddish Readings and Conversation  
Instructor: Monya Shulman, Editor, Russian-Yiddish Dictionary (Ruskiy Yazik Publishing House, 1984).  
13 weeks, 2 hours per week.
  
3. The Jews of Eastern Europe II: 1800-1917  
Instructors: Samuel Kassow, Trinity College, and Steven Zipperstein, Stanford University.  
15 weeks, 4 hours per week.
  
4. Seminar in Jewish History  
Instructor: Rashid Kaplanov, Institute of History, Russian Academy of Science, et. al.  
15 weeks, 2 hours per week
  
5. English Readings and Practice in Judaica  
Instructor: Tatyana Markielova, RGGU.  
15 weeks, 2 hours per week.

Courses 1-3 will be offered twice: in the mornings, on the Nikolskaya St. campus of the Historical-Archival Institute, and in the evenings, on the Miuskaya St. main campus of RGGU.



# Приглашение

ПРЕПОДАВАТЕЛИ СПЕЦИАЛИЗАЦИИ ПО ЕВРЕЙСКИМ ЯЗЫКАМ,  
КУЛЬТУРЕ, ТЕКСТАМ И АРХИВАМ ПРИГЛАШАЮТ ВСЕХ  
ИНТЕРЕСУЮЩИХСЯ СТУДЕНТОВ И СОТРУДНИКОВ РГУ  
НА ТОРЖЕСТВО В ЧЕСТЬ ЕВРЕЙСКОГО ПРАЗДНИКА

Х А Н У К А

ЗАЖИГАНИЕ ХАНУКАЛЬНЫХ СВЕЧЕЙ И ПРАЗДНОВАНИЕ  
СОСТОЯТСЯ ВО ВТОРНИК, 22.12.92, В 18:30 Ч.,  
В КОМНАТЕ 240 В УЧЕБНОМ КОРПУСЕ НА МИУССАХ.

Д О Б Р О   П О Ж А Л О В А Т Ь ! !

МЫ БУДЕМ РАДЫ ПРАЗДНОВАТЬ ВМЕСТЕ С ВАМИ!

ХАНУКА  חנוכה

This notice was posted on bulletin boards of both campuses of the Russian State Humanities University, inviting the entire university community to a party hosted by Project Judaica on the fifth night of Hanukkah.



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января  
1993**'Jе рl'**11  
тевета  
5753Еженедельный информационный бюллетень "Йом шени" N 1 (6)  
Конфедерация еврейских организаций и общин Евро-Азиатского региона  
Выходит по понедельникам**Евреи и региональные проблемы****Северная Осетия**

В первой половине декабря состоялась встреча главы временной администрации Сергея Шахрая с представителями еврейской общины Владикавказа (еврейскую делегацию возглавлял доктор юридических наук Зельдов). Им была сформулирована и высказана позиция еврейской общины в осетино-ингушском конфликте.

Евреи Северной Осетии призвали враждующие стороны решать конфликт только мирными средствами, исходя из принципа "худой мир лучше доброй войны". Ради достижения мира необходимо отказаться от огульного обвинения ингушей в бандитизме и перестать квалифицировать межнациональный конфликт как агрессию со стороны ингушей.

Временной администрацией было заявлено, что такая позиция в настоящее время разделяется властями.

На следующий день в газете "Слово" была опубликована антисемитская статья некоего адвоката Цомартова, в которой содержались выпады против Зельдова, а также антисемитские обвинения в адрес владикавказского еврейского общества "Ша-

лом". Помимо традиционных обвинений евреев Северной Осетии в том, что они продались "сионизму и Израилю", автор статьи обвиняет евреев в занятии "односторонней позиции в межнациональном конфликте". Подобное обвинение прозвучало и спустя два дня по местному радио.

В ответ на это еврейское общество направило официальное письмо с протестом в Прокуратуру республики и главе временной администрации Шахраю. Двадцатого декабря, в первый день Хануки, на встречу с общиной города пришли председатель комитета Верховного Совета республики по национальной политике Цахимов, председатель аналогичного комитета при Совете Министров Кусов и председатель общества "Наша Осетия", объединяющего все национальные общества республики. На встрече, транслировавшейся по местному телевидению, Цахимов отмежевался от статьи в "Слове" и осудил позицию автора. После этого состоялось зажигание ханукальных свечей.

События, связанные с появлением антисемитской статьи, получили широкую огласку в республике. Через неделю на приеме в Верховном Совете представителей национально-культур-

ных центров, на котором присутствовало руководство Северной Осетии, председатель Верховного Совета Галазов также отмежевался от подобных статей и заявил, что такая позиция противоречит позиции Верховного Совета.

События, происшедшие на Хануку в Осетии, подняли престиж еврейской общины города и общества "Шалом".

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В канун Нового Года в еврейское общество во Владикавказе обратился корреспондент местного телевидения в Южной Осетии. По его словам, в Цхинвали до сих пор осталась группа евреев из 16 человек, которые находятся в критическом положении, не имея возможности даже достать хлеба. Стало известно, что они направили письмо с просьбой о помощи в еврейскую общину Владикавказа, но оно не дошло. Еврейское общество "Шалом" просит посольство Израиля организовать срочный выезд евреев Южной Осетии.

*Информация получена от председателя общества еврейской культуры "Шалом" Марка Петрушанского.*

**Алия****Москва**

Проблема "отказа" будет посвящена работа одной из секций запланированной на 19 - 21 февраля международной конференции "КГБ вчера, сегодня, завтра". Конференция организуется Общественным фондом "Гласность" (председатель - Сер-

гей Григорьянц) по поручению прошедшего в Москве в ноябре-декабре 1992 года Конгресса интеллигенции России.

В Организационный комитет конференции входят депутаты ВС России отец Глеб Якунин и Сергей Ковалев, Александр Яковлев, журналисты и писатели Алесь Адамович, Григорий По-

меранц, Павел Гутионтов и многие другие.

В работе секции большое место отводится сбору сведений об "отказниках" (как прежних, так и нынешних), анализу различных аспектов действующего законодательства и связанных с ними проблем, которые могут возник-

*Продолжение - на стр. 2*

The front page of a recent issue of the Jewish information bulletin *Yom Sheni*. All three members of its editorial staff are Project Judaica students; several others are involved in its production and distribution.