

# Institute for Judaic Studies

## Spring Newsletter

### 24<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

The 24<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Institute for Judaic Studies was held on March 5, 2007 at Congregation Beth Israel. Rabbi Michael Cahana, the new rabbi of the congregation, delivered the annual Roscoe C. Nelson Jr. Memorial Lecture, an absorbing and informative talk on the developing nature of higher Jewish education in the course of history. The attendance was the highest of all our annual meetings.

The following officers and board members were elected:

President	Barb Schwartz
President Elect	Mark Kalenscher
Vice President	Merridawn Duckler
Secretary	Lynn Bonner
Executive Board	Robert Epstein Sylvia Frankel Jane Goldhamer Toinette Menashe Ella Ostroff Howard Rubin
General Board	Jerry Brem Jordan Epstein Helen Herner Robert Liebman Merritt Linn Michael Weingrad

Plans are being launched for a celebratory 25<sup>th</sup> annual meeting this coming year. The financial report was not complete at the meeting. Below you will find a summary of our income and expenses for the calendar year 2006. This should give you a picture of our financial situation which remains healthy.

### FINANCIAL UPDATE

#### Institute for Judaic Studies Income and Expense Statement January - December 2006

<b>Income</b>	
Contributions-IJS	590.00
Total Interest Income	7,168.39
PJFF	6,600.00
Total Spec. Events & Activities	28,033.22
Total Writers & Scholars Income	7,267.00
Incidental Income	15,884.00
<b>Total Income</b>	65,542.61
<b>Expenses</b>	
Compensation-Director	8,289.60
Professional Fees	692.00
Total Taxes Payroll	1,477.68
PJFF Consultation Fees	2,400.00
PJFF Expenses	3,232.72
Total Writers & Scholars Expenses	8,996.86
Incidental Expenses	21,652.51

Other Expenses	4,790.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>51,531.37</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$14,011.24</b>

#### WEEKEND IN QUEST

Our first annual Weekend in Quest was held at the Holiday Inn Express in Astoria, Oregon February 9-11, 2007. The theme was Islam from A Jewish Perspective and our Scholar in Residence was Dr. Steven Wasserstrom, Moe and Izetta Tonkin, Professor of Judaic Studies and the Humanities at Reed College. The weekend was a huge success. A sold out group of 65 eager students attended with a significant waiting list that unfortunately could not be accommodated. The lectures were all extremely well received and appreciated and an exciting Jewpardy game was enjoyed on Saturday night. The final winner was Emily Simon.

Kudos to the wonderful committee, co-sponsored with Congregation Neveh Shalom that planned the event, Barb Schwartz, Sheri Cordova and Mary Goldhammer. We hope to co-sponsor with additional organizations in the future.

Plans are already under way for next year's weekend and any member who would like to join the planning committee is most welcome. Please call us at (503) 246-8831 ext. 112.

#### THE REPORT ON THE WORLD CONFERENCE ON REFORM IN ISLAM

On Shabbat afternoon, May 19, 2007, at 4:30 PM, Professor Steven Wasserstrom of Reed College provided a first hand report on a historic meeting in which he participated in Morocco ,called by the King of Morocco to explore possible reforms in the Moslem faith. Dr. Wasserstrom was the only Jewish scholar to play an active role in this conference and described the conference itself and its significance to the world today.

When Steve lectured at our Week End in Quest, he informed the gathering that he would soon be leaving for Morocco and now all of our members and guests had the opportunity to hear his report.

#### PORTLAND JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

The 15<sup>th</sup> annual Portland Jewish Film Festival ran from January 18 through the 29, 2007 under the joint sponsorship of our Institute and the Northwest Film Center, headed by William Foster. A total of 16 films from 8 different countries were shown at the Portland Art Museum's Whitsell Auditorium. The attendance ranged from 262 to 89, with an average of 145. Merridawn Duckler again served as the overall chair of this event and we are grateful for her continued dedication to this program.

We will, of course, continue this superb element of local Jewish cultural life next year. The partnership with the Northwest Film Center has proven to be greatly beneficial to both parties. We are also most grateful to the Portland Jewish Review for its media sponsorship and to the Portland Jewish Federation for its assistance in the preparation of our program.

This coming year, the Institute is planning to create a Jewish Film Society under the leadership of Diane Solomon to expand opportunities to explore Jewish film studies in our community.

#### THE CODES AND COMMANDS: EMERGING LAW AND RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS IN THE TREATMENT OF ANIMALS

The 10<sup>th</sup> bi-annual Jonathan Newman Law and Ethics Conference, in cooperation with the Oregon Law Institute, took place on Friday, May 4, 2007 at the Mark Hatfield US Courthouse. The full day conference featured the National President of the Humane Society of the United States, Wayne Pacelle, prominent religious leaders, including our own Rabbi Stampfer, attorneys, and experts in the field of animal care. A special luncheon session on the recent crisis in pet food safety was added to the luncheon period.

#### MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

As we prepare for the Silver Anniversary year, one of our goals is to strengthen the Institute with a healthy rise in membership. Please consider sharing this newsletter with a friend and enthusiastically encourage membership. We have achieved a great deal over the years and an exciting year of Jewish life awaits us. Our website is up and running and we will be adding more new features so please watch for updates. Check us out at [judaicstudies.org](http://judaicstudies.org).