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Queen Esther : Role Model for the Touro Woman

by Dean Sara E. Freifeld

Mordechai nurtured Esther with the intense *Emunah* of the *Zaddik*. His role in Esther's development is linked with her alternative name, Hadassah. Hadassah is fragrance, the myrtle scent that symbolizes the *Neshoma*, godliness, the part of the self that is hidden from the world of reality. That essence is the most creative part of the



human being. In it, an immense power is hidden - the power to believe in something, to visualize it and to make it real.

The essence of *Emunah* is creativity, dynamism, energy. *Emunah* is not a passive posture within the soul, but rather its most creative stance. It is the vital link with our Creator - both because it allows us to believe in Him and because we

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Touro

THE TOURO COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

Number 4

Adar 14, 5754

Friday, February 25, 1994

Health Sciences Offers Program For Engineers

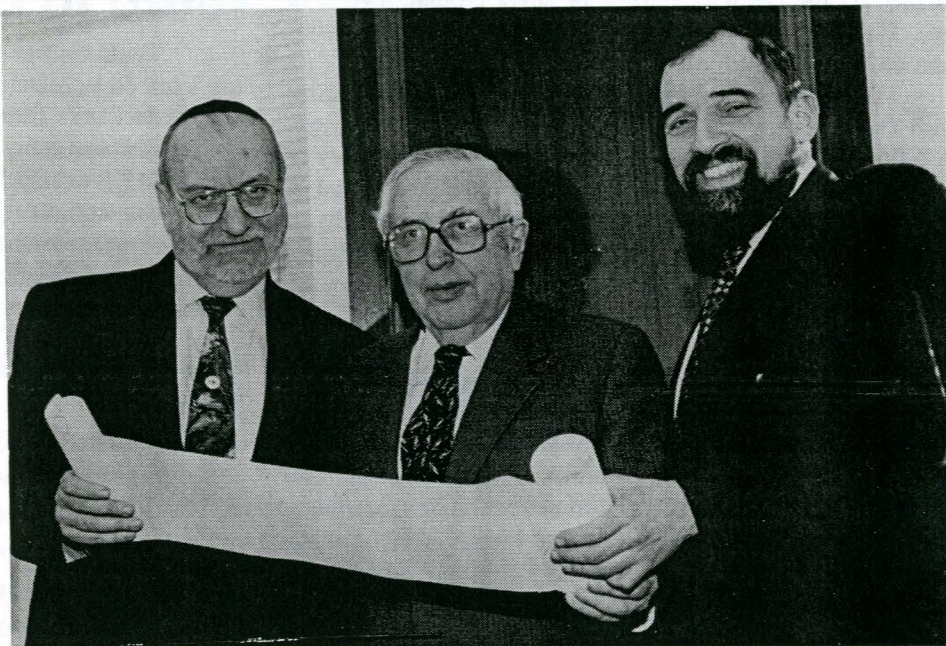
In an effort to change the unemployment status of engineers on Long Island, the College's School of Health Sciences has instituted a retraining program in clinical engineering and biomedical technology.

For program candidates who are residents of Suffolk County and who meet county and program requirements, tuition and all other ancillary expenses for the one-year retraining program will be funded through a grant from the Suffolk County Labor Department. Non-residents of Suffolk County may avail themselves of traditional college and university funding opportunities.

Individuals holding undergraduate degrees either in engineering, technology or applied sciences are eligible for enrollment.

Students in the program, one of the first of its kind in the nation, will learn the basic technologies applied to biomedicine as well as the unique characteristics of the medical market place. They will be counseled for effective job placement in hospitals, office or industrial positions.

The program is under the direction of Dr. Gerald Leisman.



President Bernard Lander (center) reading the Megilla, the story of the beautiful young Queen Esther and her sagacious, pious uncle Mordechai, who saved the Jewish people from the genocidal plans of Haman the Wicked. Listening with delight are, from left, Rabbi Elihu Marcus, Executive Assistant to the President, and Rabbi Dr. Stanley Boylan, Dean of Faculties. A most joyous festival of the Hebrew Calendar, Purim began last night and will be celebrated today with *shaalot manot* and a *seudah*.

Graduate Faculty Publishes and Lectures

The faculty of the Graduate School of Jewish Studies - New York Center - enjoyed another productive year of professional activity, reports Dean Michael Shmidman.

Dr. Judith Bleich lectured on "Modernity and Tradition in the Writings of Rabbi Yehiel Yaakov Weinberg" at the Eleventh World Congress of Jewish Studies in

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Graduate Faculty Publishes

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Jerusalem in June, and presented another paper on the writings of Rabbi Weinberg at the Fifth Orthodox Forum Conference in New York in March. Both papers have been accepted for publication.

Dr. Samuel Hoenig's highly acclaimed book, The Essence of Talmudic Law and Thought, was published by Jason Aronson Press.

Dr. Monty N. Penkower published "Great Britain and the Holocaust" in S. Friedman, ed. Holocaust Literature (Greenwood Press); "The Klukowski Chronicle," the introduction to G. Klukowski, Diary from the Years of Occupation, 1939-44 (Univ. of Illinois Press); and "Job and Suffering Humanity" in Jewish Spectator; and reviewed Reluctant Ally: U.S. Foreign Policy toward the Jews from Wilson to Roosevelt in American Jewish History. He also lectured on "Distance and Dependence: American Jews and Israel in the 90's" at the Association for Israel Studies convention in Atlanta. He also chaired the judges' panel for the 1993 National Jewish Book Awards in the category "Israel and Zionism."

Dean Shmidman co-authored a two-volume work Law and Philosophy: Perspectives on Maimonides' Teaching, published by the Open University of Israel (volume two is in press). Harvard University invited him to participate in a colloquium on "Issues in Modern Jewish Culture" in October.

Dr. Moshe Z. Sokol published "How Do Modern Jewish Thinkers Interpret Religious Texts?" in Modern Judaism, and "Mitzvah as Metaphor: Towards a philosophical Theory of Ritual Mitzvot" in A People Apart: Chosenness and Ritual in Jewish Philosophical Thought, ed. D. Frank (State University of New York Press); and reviewed In Partnership with G-d by B. Sherwin in AJS Review. He also presented the following papers: "Modernity and Traditionalism in the Life and Thought of Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik" at the Fifth Orthodox Forum Conference in New York in March, which he chaired; "What Does a Jewish Text Mean? Theories of *Elu ve- Elu Divrei Elokim Hayyim* in Rabbinic Literature" at the Academy for Jewish Philosophy Annual Conference in Evanston in June; and "Maimonides on Freedom of the Will and Moral Responsibility: A New Approach" at the Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference in Boston in December. Dr. Sokol will edit the proceedings of the Orthodox Forum conference in a volume to be published by Jason Aronson Press.

Rabbi Dr. Strickman Delivers Paper

Rabbi Dr. H. Norman Strickman, professor of Judaic Studies, delivered a paper at the Annual Conference of American Association of Jewish Studies in Boston on "Abraham Ibn Ezra - and Maimonides - Similarities and Differences."

INSIDE TOURO

is published by the Office of College Affairs. Its purpose is to disseminate news of the Touro Universe. Copy deadlines for the next issues are: March 3 and March 17. To place items of interest, contact Tracy Waller, Room 536C, EXT 201 or Yosefa Silverstein, Room 527, EXT 203.

TRANSITIONS

Mazel Tov to:

□ **Dr. Monty Penkower** (Professor and Chair of the Social Sciences Division) on the weddings of his son Avi & daughter Talya. Both children are studying psychology at Bar Ilan University in Israel. Both of their spouses are also students at Bar Ilan. Avi's wife, Rochelle, majors in Land of Israel Studies and Archeology; and Talya's husband, David Roth, is studying logistics.

□ **Batya Salomon** (PELL Coordinator) on the birth of her daughter, Ariella Brocha Salomon, born on Ms. Salomon's own Jewish birthday, Feb. 20.

Congratulations to:

□ **Professor Barbara Swartz** (Fuchsberg Center) on being named first Bruce K. Gould Distinguished Professor of Law. Gould '84, head of Gould Publishing of Binghamton, endowed the school's first Faculty Chair.

Condolences to:

□ **Dean Leon Perkal** (Taino) on the loss of his mother, Helen Perkal.

Touro to Lobby Legislature

Touro College will join with other independent colleges in New York State, March 8, in lobbying the legislature for improvements in the State's Tuition Assistance Program (TAP).

Because many Touro students are from modest circumstances, TAP is extremely important to them.

Six students representing several divisions and campuses of the College, accompanied by Stephen Adolphus, Vice President of Community Education, will call upon key legislators to present important facts and personal experiences.

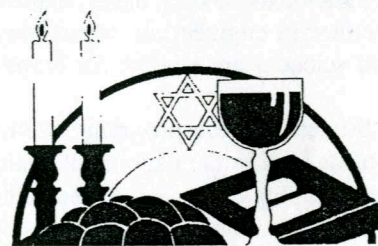
Queen Esther: Role Model

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can, like Esther, fashion and change reality with it. The creative force that allows us to perceive our Creator, allows us also to imagine a better, more royal self.

The Touro woman is nurtured in the tradition of Esther to empower her with her spiritual intellectual potential. Like Esther, each of our students must affirm her identity as a Jew in order to actualize herself and serve her people in our day.

Shabbos Candles



Kindle Lights

Friday, February 25 at 5:25 PM

On March 4 at 5:33 PM

On March 11 at 5:40 PM