



Levine-Sklut Judaic Library and Resource Center



How to Read Biblical Text and the Haggadah with a Better Understanding Using Scriptural Reasoning and Science

By Amalia Warshenbrot, Director of Levine-Sklut Judaic Library and Resource Center

How is this year different from other year? For the past eleven years, UNCC (The University of North Carolina at Charlotte) has co-sponsored, with the Jewish community, one academic lecture. This year, we are fortunate to host two lectures. The first, titled "Tent

of Meeting for Jewish, Christian, and Muslim Scriptural Reasoners," is supported by the Alice Tate Fund of the Department of Religious Studies at UNCC. It will be held on Sunday, April 6, in Gorelick Hall. The speaker will be Peter Ochs, who has been Professor of Judaic Studies at the University of Virginia for the past ten years. (See story on page 1.)

The second, "The Exodus Decoded: Separating History, Myth, and Legend" will be held on Sunday, April 13, also in Gorelick Hall. The speaker will be the three-time Emmy award-winning director Simcha Jacobovici. Before the discussion there will be an opportunity to attend an exclusive screening of the History Channel documentary *The Exodus Decoded*. This program is sponsored by the Dwight L. Philips Lecture Fund. (See the story below.)

The timing of these events could not be any better. This year, when you read the Haggadah, you will gain a better understanding of the story of *Yeziat Mitzrayim* - the Exodus from Egypt.

Special thanks to Professor James Tabor and Professor Richard Cohen for their effort in brining these informal and

thought-provoking programs to the Charlotte Jewish community.

About the speakers:

Peter Ochs is Edgar Bronfman Professor of Modern Judaic Studies at the University of Virginia, co-director of the Scriptural Reasoning Research Group at the Center of Theological Inquiry in Princeton, and co-founder of the Society for Textual Reasoning, the Society for Scriptural Reasoning and the Children of Abraham Institute. He has authored, co-authored or co-edited several of books.

Simcha Jacobovici is a multi-award-winning documentary director and producer. He's also a best selling author and an award-winning journalist. As a filmmaker, his numerous awards include a Gold Medal from the International Documentary Festival of Nyon, a certificate of Special Merit from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in Los Angeles, a Genie Award, three U.S. Cable Ace Awards, two Gemini Awards, an Alfred I. Dupont-Columbia University Award, a British Broadcast Award, a Royal Television Society Award and the Edward R. Murrow Award. Mr. Jacobovici has also won the Emmy for "Outstanding Investigative Journalism" an unprecedented three times in 1995, 1996 and 2007.

Recent films include *Impact of Terror* (CNN), *Sex Slaves* (CBC, C4, PBS Frontline), and *The Exodus Decoded* (History Channel), which Mr. Jacobovici produced with James Cameron. *The Lost Tomb of Jesus* (Discovery Channel, Vision, TF1, ProSieben), broadcast in 2007, was also produced with James Cameron and continues to garner worldwide attention.

His first book *The Jesus Family Tomb* (Harper Collins 2007), co-written with Dr. Charles Pellegrino, is a companion book to the documentary film. It is an international best seller.

As a journalist, Mr. Jacobovici's

pieces have appeared in many of the world's top newspapers. Mr. Jacobovici has also been a guest lecturer on the campuses of Yale, Johns-Hopkins, UCLA, McGill and the University of Toronto, among others.

Mr. Jacobovici has made guest appearances on numerous television shows, including "The Today Show," "Oprah" and "Larry King Live." Presently, he's the host of the History Channel's top rated archaeology series "The Naked Archaeologist," now in its second season. ☆

Alice Tate and her legacy at UNCC

Alice Lindsay Tate was born in Charlotte, NC. She came from a prominent textile family. Alice Tate instituted several trust funds in support of UNCC. In 1968 she established scholarships for African American students. In 1969, she endowed a Professorship in Black Studies. In 1972, Alice Tate made a substantial endowment to support a Judaica and Hebraica Library Fund at UNCC. In the same year she also established the Judaic Studies Endowment to support the Isaac Swift Distinguished Professorship in Judaic Studies (a position currently held by Professor Richard A. Cohen), named after Rabbi Isaac Swift of Englewood, NJ, whom Tate came to greatly admire. Alice Tate spent most of her life in New York City. She died on May 2, 1987, and was buried in Elmwood Cemetery of Charlotte.

The Alice Tate Lectures in Judaic Studies are supported by the Office of the President of UNC-Charlotte, as well as by the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library and Resource Center. The series has established itself as one of the most distinguished lecture series in Charlotte. All lectures are free and open to the entire community. ☆

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The Exodus Decoded

Separating History, Myth and Legend

Exodus. The very word evokes an epic tale of Pharaohs and Israelites, plagues and miracles, the splitting of the sea, the drowning of an army, Moses and the revelation at Sinai. The story is at the very heart of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. But many historians argue that the Exodus is a myth. Others disagree.

The Exodus Decoded, produced by Simon Jacobovici for the History Channel (US) and Discovery Canada, is a unique television event that breaks new ground in both Biblical scholarship and the use of computer graphics. Israeli-born Canadian, Mr. Jacobovici has a BA in Philosophy from McGill University and a MA in International Relations from the



University of Toronto. He is the recipient of many awards including three Emmys and the Edward R. Murrow Award, and the prestigious Alfred I. DuPont-Columbia University Award.

The film will be presented on April 13 in Gorelick Hall at the LJCC. Screening 3:30-5:30 PM followed by a brief intermission. Director's discussion 5:30-6:30 PM, refreshments following.

Admission \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door. Students and seniors, \$5. Sponsored by the Dwight L. Phillips Lecture Fund, UNC-Charlotte and the Levine Sklut Judaic Library and Resource Center. ☆