



The Orion Newsletter

The Orion Center for the Study of the Dead Sea Scrolls and Associated Literature

מרכז אוריון לחקר מגילות מדבר יהודה והספרות הקרובה להן

November 2019

Twenty-Fifth Issue

Letter from the Director

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I am thrilled to open this letter with the most heartfelt congratulations to the founder of the Orion Center, Prof. Michael E. Stone, upon his well-deserved election this year to the prestigious Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities. Michael continues to inspire us with his ongoing publication of new Armenian manuscripts related to biblical heroes, the books of his own poetry, and much more. I believe that I speak for the entire international scholarly community in wishing Prof. Stone many more years of brilliant research and publication in good health, עד מאה ועשרים. 2020 will mark a quarter of a century since the founding of the Orion Center. Plans are already underway to celebrate this milestone at the Seventeenth Orion International Symposium, to be held during the 2020–2021 academic year.

This Fall, the Orion office staff is undergoing a major transition with the upcoming retirement of our longtime office manager, Ariella Amir, and the new hire of her successor, Ruchama Roth. On behalf of myself personally, the Orion staff, and the Orion community of scholars worldwide, I wish to thank Ariella immensely for her dedicated, first-rate organization of the 1998–2018 Orion international symposia as well as the year-long academic programs, and for her ongoing, day-to-day running of the Center. We warmly welcome Ruchama, who brings years of experience with the Vidal Sassoon International Center for the Study of Antisemitism. We are happy for this partnership with Sassoon and grateful to Ruchama for taking the helm at Orion.

We also bid farewell and extend all good wishes to our student research and office assistants, Shiran Shevah and Efrat Ben-David. We are currently interviewing graduate students to take over work on the Orion Bibliography under the direction of our talented Head of Orion Publications, Dr. Ruth Clements.

I am particularly pleased to welcome Dr. Michael Johnson to Orion for this academic year. Michael recently completed his doctorate at McMaster University (Canada) and won both the competitive Azrieli and SSHRC (Canadian) fellowships to pursue postdoctoral research at the Hebrew University. In addition to his own project (see p. 3), Michael and I are collaborating on the digital reconstruction of the *Words of the Luminaries*, a large scroll of weekly prayers from Qumran.

In closing, I would like to extend my personal thanks to the Orion Academic Committee, Profs. Steven Fassberg, Paula Fredriksen, Menahem Kister, Michael Segal, Emanuel Tov, and Dr. Noah Hacham, for their counsel and guidance. We are grateful for the ongoing, generous support of the Orion Foundation and the Hebrew University, as we begin the next quarter of a century of Orion Center activities.

Best wishes to all for a rewarding and peaceful year,
Esther Chazon

The Orion Center for the Study of the Dead Sea Scrolls and Associated Literature

Mandel Institute of Jewish Studies

Rabin World Center of Jewish Studies

The Hebrew University, Mt. Scopus || Jerusalem 91905 Israel

Tel: 972-2-588-1966 || Fax: 972-2-588-3584

E-mail: orioncenter@mail.huji.ac.il

Website: <http://orion.mscc.huji.ac.il>

Changing the Guard at the Orion Center: Spotlight on Ariella Amir

After some twenty years of running the Orion Center office, administrator Ariella Amir is saying farewell. Although she had formally retired, Ms. Amir has stayed on at Orion through a period of change, making sure that Orion programs—including our most recent international symposium—are run with her usual quality and care. In December, she will be leaving to enjoy “real” retirement, but she leaves her mark on the Center.

Ariella joined Orion merely two years after it began, in 1997, and has seen (and herself helped to establish!) many changes in the organization and running of Center activities.



Ariella graduated from the Hebrew University, with a BA in General and Jewish History and teaching certification. Before Orion, she worked in the very different world of hotel management, where she filled a variety of positions, including front office manager, reservations, marketing and sales (completing a program in hotel management studies along

the way). In her initial interview with Orion founder and director Prof. Michael Stone, he remarked that she seemed “overqualified” for the Orion position; but she put those qualifications to very good use. Stepping into an office that ran by the good graces of student volunteer interns and part-time employees, Ariella began organizing from scratch—filing systems, budgeting, mailing lists, publicity. Over the years she has seen us through many procedural and technological changes, including the mammoth project some years ago of computerizing our mailing lists, a move that has proved financially sound and has helped us keep in touch more efficiently with wider and wider audiences. She has provided continuity through a succession of Orion directors who have appreciated her knowledge and counsel.

Ariella has enjoyed through the years the scope for initiative in her administrative role, and the Center has benefited accordingly. Among her many innovations were the production of the Center’s Hebrew brochure and the initiation of the *Yedion*, Orion’s Hebrew newsletter, along with other publications in Hebrew. She managed and expanded the Orion Associates program, the network of colleagues in Israel and abroad who support the Orion Center.

The most exciting aspects of Ariella’s tenure at Orion have been, on the one hand, getting to know personally the historical world of the Dead Sea Scrolls, and on the other, coming to know the people who make up the community of Scrolls scholars. Everyone who has come through the Center has been greeted by her smile and has benefitted by her assistance; from her point of view, she stresses what a pleasure it has been to work with such an appreciative group of scholars, particularly the Orion directors and the members of the Academic Committee.

Thank you, Ariella, for all you have done to further the work of the Center and for each of us. We wish you all the best in the coming years.

Prof. Michael Stone Honored

On December 24, 2019 (the third night of Hanukkah), Prof. Michael Stone, Orion Center founder and Gail Levin de Nur



Professor of Religious Studies and Professor of Armenian Studies (emeritus), will be inducted into the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities. He has been elected to the Academy in recognition of his major contributions to the study of Second Temple Judaism (including the Dead Sea Scrolls) and Armenian studies.

A primary focus of Prof. Stone's work in both arenas has been what he has termed "embroidered Bible"—that is, retellings and expansions of the stories of the Hebrew Bible, across cultures and languages—tracing the "afterlife" of Second Temple traditions as well as later narrative innovations. This present honor is a fitting tribute to his pathbreaking scholarship as well as to his mentoring of younger scholars, which together have shaped the course of research in both Second Temple and Armenian studies, in Israel and internationally, for the years to come.

More Center Highlights

◆ *Seminars and Presentations:* A year of exciting programs led off with a seminar given by Prof. Timothy Lim of the University of Edinburgh. Prof. Lim is working on a new commentary on the *Habakkuk Peshet* (due out in the Spring!); he shared one of the new readings that have emerged from his research. During the remainder of the year we were graced by a stimulating series of presentations and seminars by the younger scholars who comprised last year's group of scholarship recipients. Anna Shirav, with an MA from the Department of Jewish History and Biblical Studies at the University of Haifa, shared her research on 4Q18 (4QInstruction). Adam Lloyd-Alfia, a master's student in the Bible Department at Tel Aviv University, presented on 4Q171 (*Psalms Peshet*). Richard Medina-Ramos, finishing up his doctorate in the Department of Hebrew Language at Hebrew University, spoke on the position of the direct object in Qumran Hebrew. Joshua Matson, a PhD student in Florida State University's Department of Religion, shared some of his results on material reconstructions of Qumran manuscripts of the twelve prophets. Ari Silbermann, completing his PhD in Bar-Ilan University's Department of Bible, spoke about the cultural context of 4Q184 (*Sapiential Admonitions A*, aka "Wiles of the Wicked Woman"). A seminar by Postdoctoral Fellow Dr. Hillel Mali (Hebrew University), "Double Impurity from Qumran to Rabbinic Literature," wrapped up the year. Thanks to everyone for sharing your work and we wish you success in your upcoming endeavors! For this year's programs, see the **Calendar**, page 4.

◆ *Scholarship Recipients:* This year we are happy to welcome three new Orion doctoral researchers. Oren Ableman, a doctoral student in the Hebrew University's Department of Jewish History, is the 2019/2020 Matlow scholar. As a master's student, Oren was part of the Orion Bibliography (Updating) Project, sponsored in conjunction with the Israel Antiquities Authority; since 2013, he has worked as Curator-Researcher at the DSS Unit of the IAA, while pursuing his doctorate. His research focuses on the historical question of responses to the Roman conquest of Judea in 63 BCE in the Dead Sea Scrolls. Avigail Aravna is a doctoral student through the PhD Honors Program in the Mandel School for Advanced Studies at the Hebrew University. She is researching the reception

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Orion Interns—Ready, Set, Go!

Since the Orion Center began, volunteer interns, mainly from the Rothberg International School, have been an integral part of it. Through the years, interns have (among other things) helped with Orion programs, composed the Newsletter (or parts of it!), and, of course, helped to compile the Orion Bibliography. In earlier years, that task involved traipsing to libraries such as the National Library and the École Biblique, to chase down new entries for the Current Bibliography page. Now, with the availability of books and articles on the internet, and the transformation of the Online Bibliography to a self-contained search connected to an online Drupal database, the interns' tasks have changed but the goal remains—to keep the Orion Bibliography on the forefront of Scrolls scholarship. (*cont. p. 4*)

Meet Ruchama Roth!

Ruchama Roth comes to Orion with many years of Hebrew University experience. She studied statistics and education at



the university, and in 1984, took a position in the Harman Institute of Contemporary Jewry. In 1986, she joined the staff of the Institute's newly founded Vidal Sassoon International Center for the Study of Antisemitism, where she held various positions before becoming the administrative director in 2002. Like Orion, the Sassoon Center mounts international

conferences as well as running local seminars, and it has a well-established program of international visiting fellows. Ruchama is thus well-versed, as an administrator, in handling precisely the kind of programming that Orion does. She is very pleased to be joining the professional staff of the Center, and she is looking forward to working with us. We will surely benefit by her skills and expertise, and we welcome her to the Orion team.

More Highlights (*cont.*)

of Isaiah 24–27 in biblical and postbiblical literature. Daniele Minisini, a doctoral student from Sapienza University (Rome), will join us in the Spring. He is writing on the figure of John the Baptist in light of Enochic Judaism and the Qumran texts. We look forward to hearing more about these diverse projects over the course of the academic year.

◆ *Orion Visiting Scholar:* Dr. Michael Johnson (McMaster University) will be in residence at Orion this year as an Azrieli International Postdoctoral Fellow and recipient of a Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council fellowship. See p. 3 for more on his current research project.

◆ *Interns:* After last year's highly successful interns program (see separate article), we are happy to welcome another stellar group of interns from the Rothberg International School: Joyce Leung (Hong Kong), returning from last year; Glory Choi (South Korea); Iñaki Marro (Spain); Paula Rem (Croatia); Isaiah Rhodes (Arkansas); Charles Stover (Ohio). We will enjoy getting to know you all this year.

◆ *Transitions:* This is a year of a number of personnel changes. In addition to Ariella Amir (see p. 1), we will also be saying goodbye to Shiran Shevah, Orion Bibliography assistant, who has been keeping the Online Bibliography in stellar condition since 2016; and Efrat Ben-David, who has been serving as administrative assistant in the Orion office. We thank you both for your many contributions to the life of the Center, and we wish you all the best for the next stages. We'll miss you!

Orion Center Academic Committee

Prof. Steven Fassberg, Chair; Prof. Esther Chazon;
Prof. Paula Fredriksen; Dr. Noah Hacham;
Prof. Menahem Kister; Prof. Michael Segal;
Prof. Emanuel Tov.

Pathways of Orion Researchers

The first Orion grant recipients were in residence at the Center during the 1996/1997 academic year. Every year since, an average of three or four doctoral students or postdoctoral fellows (along with the occasional master's student) have graced the Orion Scholars' Room, made use of our resources, and shared their work in Center seminars. Many of those early fellows have gone on to prestigious academic posts and have significantly advanced Scrolls scholarship in diverse ways. We asked two more recent Orion Matlow Scholars, Arjen Bakker and Michael Johnson, to reflect on the ways their Orion year impacted their present scholarly activity.

Dr. Arjen Bakker:

I spent six months at the Orion Center as a Jean Matlow Scholar, in 2012–2013. I was working on my doctorate at the University of Leuven, under the direction of Prof. Eibert Tigchelaar. Prof. Menahem Kister was the Director of the Center at the time, and he was a generous academic host and teacher. At the Hebrew University, I also studied with Profs. Esther Chazon, Michael Segal, and Michael Stone. While in Israel, I developed a connection with Scrolls scholars at other universities as well, particularly Prof. Jonathan Ben-Dov at the University of Haifa. Thus, after finishing my PhD at Leuven (2015), on wisdom in the Dead Sea Scrolls, I returned to Israel for postdoctoral research at the University of Haifa, where I worked with Prof. Ben-Dov on the Book of Enoch. One outcome of that research was a presentation on Enoch in that year's Haifa Workshop on the Dead Sea Scrolls, which was subsequently published in the journal *Meghillot* (in Hebrew). I did a second postdoctorate with Mladen Popović at the Qumran Institute of the University of Groningen, on asceticism and the Hellenistic context of the Dead Sea Scrolls.

Since 2017, I have been a lecturer in Hebrew Bible at Oriël College, Oxford, and I am also working closely with Prof. Hindy Najman as program coordinator in her Centre for the Study of the Bible in the Humanities at Oxford. I continue to be interested in the ways texts and traditions transform over time, and how they shape culture and society from antiquity to the present. I am working now on a project on the Book of Isaiah that examines the transition from the latest stage of the book's redaction to the early stages of its interpretation, as attested in a variety of sources from the Second Temple period. My stay at the Orion Center continues to be significant for my

development as a scholar, especially because it has allowed me to benefit from Israeli scholarship and to establish longstanding relations with scholars in Israel who have deeply enriched my own research and will continue to do so in the future.

Dr. Michael Johnson:

I received the Jean Matlow research scholarship from the Orion Center at a critical phase in my PhD work in 2016–2017. I was transitioning from researching to writing my dissertation, which proposes an alternative to the Teacher Hymn–Community Hymn schema for categorizing the psalms in the *Hodayot* tradition. This stage of dissertation writing is challenging because it requires a shift from gathering information and considering possibilities to settling on a single direction and articulating a position. My Orion Center presentation, “Morawe's Hymnic Confession Songs in the *Hodayot*,” was a first step toward proposing genre as a more useful organizing principle for these texts than authorship or the persona of the speaker. The opportunity to pitch a part of my project in a new setting helped to overcome the inertia of the transition to writing. It was especially valuable to have feedback from Scrolls scholars outside of my dissertation committee, who could evaluate my project with fresh eyes and offer new insights.

Moreover, my stay in Jerusalem enabled me to lay the foundation for my current project as an Azrieli (Israel) and SSHRC (Canada) International Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Hebrew University. During my earlier visit, I was able to discuss with Prof. Esther Chazon, my current supervisor, the possibility of doing postdoctoral work with her, and I visited the Shrine of the Book and the IAA to examine 1QH^a and 4QH^a, respectively, with such a prospect in mind. In my current project, “Piecing Together the Dead Sea Scrolls: 1QHodayot^a and 4QHodayot^a,” I am using digital imaging and other advanced technology to re-evaluate the material reconstructions of 1QH^a and 4QH^a; this will provide a new material basis for exploring how the sequences of liturgically-oriented psalms in these manuscripts add to our understanding of the emergence of Jewish liturgical texts in the Second Temple period. While here, I am collaborating with Prof. Chazon on a similar project of digital reconstruction of the *Words of the Luminaries* from Cave 4. In sum, my time at the Orion Center provided an impetus both to move forward with my dissertation, and to chart a course and lay the groundwork for subsequent research.

***Meghillot*: Advancing Scrolls Scholarship in Hebrew**

The journal *Meghillot* was established in 2003 with the aim of providing a platform for the publication of studies in Hebrew on the Dead Sea Scrolls. Its founding editors were Prof. Devorah Dimant (University of Haifa) and Prof. Moshe Bar-Asher (Hebrew University). Many of the articles published in *Meghillot* were initially presented as lectures in the Haifa Workshops on the Dead Sea Scrolls, which began in 2002 as a series of annual two-day (at present, one-day) scholarly conferences at the University of Haifa, initiated and run by Profs. Dimant and Bar-Asher. The aim of both the workshops and the journal was to redress the longstanding lack of a venue for the extensive Israeli scholarship engaged with the Scrolls and Second Temple literature, a literature which is part of Hebrew and Jewish culture. Thus, from its inception, the journal has always provided a platform for all Israeli Scrolls research; albeit both the workshops and the journal occasionally feature papers by international scholars, in either Hebrew or English.

The journal was initially launched in a partnership between the University of Haifa and the Bialik Institute in Jerusalem. To date, eleven issues have appeared, three of which comprise double volumes. Starting from volume 10 (2013) the journal has become a cooperative endeavor of the University

of Haifa's Faculty of Humanities, the Orion Center (as part of the Mandel Institute of Jewish Studies, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem), and the Bialik Institute. The present editors are Prof. Jonathan Ben-Dov (University of Haifa) and Prof. Menahem Kister (Hebrew University).

Meghillot covers a wide spectrum of subjects relating to the Scrolls and other Second Temple literature: text editions and commentaries; textual and linguistic studies; philology; history; theology; halakha; and the occasional book review. Many of the articles investigate the connections between Second Temple texts and other literary corpora: Near Eastern writings, rabbinic works, early Christian literature, medieval Jewish and Christian texts.

On January 6, 2020, in celebration of the publication of *Meghillot* 14, the Orion Center and the Mandel Institute are hosting an afternoon Dead Sea Scrolls Colloquium at the Hebrew University (see the **Calendar**, p. 4, for the lecture titles). The theme of the colloquium is, “New Readings in the Dead Sea Scrolls”; the presentations slated for the gathering (including one in English) highlight both the cutting-edge quality of the research published in *Meghillot* and the significance of the journal for international scholarship. We hope to see you there!

Orion Center Calendar 2019/2020*

December 12. Jonas C. Greenfield Scholars' Seminar 12:30–14:00. **Dr. Michael Brooks Johnson**, Azrieli International and SSHRC Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Orion Visiting Scholar: "Farewell to Teacher Hymns and Community Hymns: A Generic Reassessment of the *Hodayot*" (in English)

January 6, 2020. Dead Sea Scrolls Colloquium, in conjunction with the Mandel Institute of Jewish Studies 16:00–19:00. "New Readings in the Dead Sea Scrolls: Lectures Celebrating Volume 14 of Meghillot"

Prof. Michael Segal, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Hebrew University, Opening remarks (in Hebrew)

Prof. Eibert Tigchelaar (KU Leuven)

"A Garland of Newly-Identified Fragments of the Dead Sea Scrolls" (in English)

Dr. Eshbal Ratzon (Ariel University)

"How Many Calendars at Qumran? New Evidence from a Digital Reconstruction of 4Q318" (in Hebrew)

Asaf Gayer (doctoral student, University of Haifa)

"New Joins in the Section on 'Wisdom of the Hands' in 4QInstruction and their Implications for the Structure of the Composition" (in Hebrew)

March 25. Jonas C. Greenfield Scholars' Seminar 12:15–14:00. **Oren Ableman**, doctoral student, Department of Jewish History, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem; Orion Matlow Scholar: "Identifying the 'Kittim' in the *Pesharim* and War Texts" (in Hebrew)

May 13. Jonas C. Greenfield Scholars' Seminar 12:15–14:00. **Avigail Aravna**, doctoral student, Department of Bible, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem; Orion scholarship recipient: "Exegesis and Reception of Isaiah 24-27 in the Bible and in Postbiblical Literature" (in Hebrew)

Stay tuned to the Orion website for additions and updates.

*Please note: Unless otherwise specified, Orion programs are held in the Mandel World Center of Jewish Studies (Rabin Building), the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Mt. Scopus.

Other Upcoming Events

Spring, 2020 (Date TBA)

Haifa Scrolls Workshop

University of Haifa

<http://megillot.haifa.ac.il/index.php/en/events?start=0>

May 24–27

International Conference: *The Origin of the Sectarian Movement in the Dead Sea Scrolls*

Organizers: Yale Divinity School & the Department of Old Testament Studies, University of Pretoria

<http://orion.mscc.huji.ac.il/resources/doc/pretoria2019.pdf>

Contact: John Collins (john.j.collins@yale.edu) OR Ananda Geyser-Fouché (ananda@up.ac.za)

IOQS News

The 10th Meeting of the International Organization for Qumran Studies was held in Aberdeen, Scotland in August 2019. Thirty-three papers addressed the topic, "The Dead Sea Scrolls in the Context of Hellenistic Judea." Esther Chazon was re-elected to the IOQS Steering Committee, with Jutta Jokiranta, President; Molly Zahn, Secretary; Charlotte Hempel, and Daniel Falk.

Orion Research Scholarships

The Orion Center awards research scholarships to young scholars once a year. Priority is given to research that can be done uniquely in Jerusalem or at the Hebrew University, and integrates the new information gleaned from the Dead Sea Scrolls into the broader picture of Second Temple Judaism. Please see <http://orion.mscc.huji.ac.il/educate/fellowships.shtml> for application information, deadlines, and forms.

Orion Publications

Just out!

Meghillot 14. Edited by Jonathan Ben-Dov and Menahem Kister. University of Haifa, Hebrew University, and the Bialik Institute, 2019.

In preparation:

The Texts of the Bible from the Dead Sea Scrolls to the Biblical Manuscripts of the Vienna Papyrus Collection: Proceedings of the Fifteenth International Symposium of the Orion Center for the Study of the Dead Sea Scrolls and Associated Literature, 10–13 April, 2016. Edited by Armin Lange, Russell Fuller, Paul Mandel, Ruth A. Clements. Studies on the Texts of the Desert of Judah. Leiden: Brill.

The Dead Sea Scrolls at Seventy: "Clear a Path in the Wilderness": Proceedings of the Sixteenth International Symposium of the Orion Center for the Study of the Dead Sea Scrolls, Cosponsored by the University of Vienna, New York University, the Israel Antiquities Authority, and the Israel Museum, 29 April–2 May, 2018. Edited by Esther G. Chazon, Ruth A. Clements, Armin Lange, Adolfo Roitman, Lawrence H. Schiffman, and Pnina Shor. Studies on the Texts of the Desert of Judah. Leiden: Brill.

Orion books online:

All Orion volumes published by [Brill Academic Publishers](http://brill.com) are now available as E-books (as well as through the inexpensive MyBook softcovers program). Volumes published in 2007 and later are available as full-access downloads, with institutional or individual subscription; individual chapters from these volumes may now be accessed online through the Brill site. Check it out!

Interns (cont. from p. 2)

With the coming of Shiran Shevah as Orion Bibliography Assistant (2016), we have rethought and finetuned the interns program in a number of ways, which have helped the interns to help both the Center and (we hope) themselves, giving them tools towards their own future scholarly careers.

Since the introduction of the new Drupal database in 2014, the focus of the interns' work has been "back-updating"—that is, adding to the database items published before 1995, when the Center was founded and the Bibliography began. We have mainly addressed this by having interns work on specific journals or series, searching through them (usually online) for relevant articles. For the 2017/2018 intern year, Shiran developed a new resource for training the interns in the use of the Drupal database, which has helped in reducing errors and making the system more efficient. Although internet resources make it possible to enter data from virtually anywhere, we have reinstated and maintained the policy of having everyone work in the Center itself, on a regular schedule of internship hours. This has ensured that Orion staff are available to assist and has also fostered a nice sense of camaraderie among the interns.

We have tried as well to give the students tools with wider use—tours of online resources for scholarly research; a physical tour of the National Library; crash courses in Second Temple literature. The interns also have the opportunity to assist in various ways with the running of Orion programs, including international conferences—we aim to help them see these events not only as information sessions, but as opportunities to get to know the faces behind the bibliography, scholars they may want to work with in the future. We have seen a great increase over the past several years in the responses to the internship announcement (culminating in thirteen applications this Fall!); we are looking forward to working with this year's interns and to continuing to develop the program as a mutually beneficial resource for the students and the Center.

Become an Orion Associate—

and help the Center foster innovative research on the Scrolls! Visit <http://orion.mscc.huji.ac.il/orion/associates.shtml> for a printable associates form. A special thanks to our current Associates—your interest and support are vital to the work of the Center!