

Preface to Issue Nine of *Israelis*

The ninth issue of *Israelis* includes six articles in Hebrew and English as well as three sections on a variety of subjects related to the field of Israel Studies.

The article by Omer Berkman seeks to reexamine some of the myths surrounding the rescue of the Jews of Denmark and discusses their causes. Adi Isha's article delves into the work of Shoshana Shababo, known as the first Hebrew Sephardic novelist, and her pursuit of an alternative to the Zionist-patriarchal points of view that characterized her generation. Eyal Ginsberg's article investigates the phenomenon of personal ads and matchmaking via newspapers during the first decade of Israeli statehood, treating it as a unique prism through which to examine Israeli society and its daily life during this formative era.

The English portion of this issue includes three articles. The article by Yuri Keum presents two polarized responses to news of the Holocaust within the American-Jewish community, and analyzes the intense struggle between the group associated with Rabbi Steven Weiss and the group led by Hillel Kook (Peter Bergson). Amir Locker-Biletzki's article addresses the representation of homosexual soldiers in the films of Eytan Fox and applies the concept of homonationalism to the Israeli case. Finally, the article by Claudia Dietrich examines the various memories of Jewish Israeli citizens from Iran regarding the 1979 Revolution.

In addition to the above articles, this issue features three long-standing sections: the Interview Section, "From the PhD Dissertation Shelf", and, following its absence from the past several issues, the "From the Archive" section.

Opening the current issue is an interview with former president of the Supreme Court of Israel, retired Justice Dorit Beinisch. The context of this interview is the ongoing, escalating conflict surrounding the role of the Supreme Court and its relationship with Israel's executive and legislative authorities. Beinisch discusses the historical origins of this debate and addresses the inflammatory issue of "unconstitutional

constitutional amendments” in relation to the Basic Law: Israel as the Nation-State of the Jewish People.

“From the Archive” presents excerpts from the personal diary of a participant in the “Columbus Operation” (1951), during which a group of Israeli naval soldiers sailed two vessels to North America to accompany David Ben-Gurion on his first visit to the United States as Israel’s Prime Minister. While there, Ben-Gurion visited the major American-Jewish communities and launched the Development Corporation for Israel (Israel Bonds). The diary, published for the very first time in this issue, offers a fascinating personal perspective on the nascent relationship between Israel and American Jewry.

“From the PhD Dissertation Shelf”, which concludes the Hebrew portion of this issue, introduces yet another selection of short abstracts from noteworthy doctoral dissertations written on Israel and Zionism in recent years.

We extend our gratitude to the young scholars and research students who have sent us their articles, some of which are included in the current issue. *Israelis* accepts articles by research students and those whose dissertations were approved no more than five years ago. Submissions for the upcoming issue of *Israelis* should follow the guidelines on our website: www.bgu.ac.il/israelis. Articles are subject to the standard review process of academic journals.