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INSTITUTE FOR JEWISH-CHRISTIAN STUDIES

The Kieval Institute  
for Jewish-Christian Studies  
at Siena College



*What We Learn  
When We Teach*  
מה למדנו בלמד

Scholars in residence:  
**Prof. Sarah Tanzer**  
**Prof. Ted Hiebert**

Twenty-second  
Annual Colloquium  
October 29-30, 2006  
Siena College



The Kieval Institute for  
Jewish-Christian Studies at Siena College  
Rabbi Bernard H. Bloom, Chair  
Peter S. Zaas, Director  
Rabbi Hayyim H. Kieval ז"ל,  
Founding Director

**What We Learn When We Teach**

It has been said of the British and the Americans that "they are two people separated by a common language". The same words can sometimes have very different meanings on each side of the Atlantic. So too can it be said of Judaism and Christianity that they are two religions separated by a common book.

What Jews call "the Tanakh" and Christians call "the Old Testament" is read very differently by the two faith communities. Indeed, we cannot really speak of "a common book" or "the two faith communities", because the Old Testament/Tanakh is not a book but a library, and there is no unanimity as to the contents of that library.

Jews and Protestants agree on which books constitute this collection, but disagree on their order – with the difference reflecting fundamental theological differences. Roman Catholics, the Eastern Orthodox churches, and the Ethiopian Church include additional books, but do not concur on which they should be.

In the United States, it can be said that individual Jews and Christians read these shared scriptures much as their two traditions have taught for the past two millennia. The Tanakh still provides the basis of Jewish religious practice in the home and the synagogue, from the dietary laws to the annual holy days. The Torah and the Prophets, the Tanakh's first two divisions, are read and interpreted weekly, while the Psalms -- the first and most important book of its third division -- are recited communally and individually. On a more personal level, the historical records and the stories of the men and women in the Tanakh serve Jews as a Family Album.

For Christians, certain Old Testament texts are understood as predicting the birth and career of Jesus. Many events and personalities in the scriptures are read either as examples for Christians to follow -- or avoid. Although the legal emphasis in the Old Testament is declared obsolete for Christians, some laws -- particularly the Ten Commandments -- are singled out as still relevant.

Most significant perhaps are those classic teachings rooted in the scriptures which became dogma in the early church, but which were never a part of Judaism -- such as the Fall of Man and Original Sin.

As important as it is to read the scriptures as they are taught in one's own tradition, it is also important in our multicultural era to appreciate how our neighbors read and interpret the same sacred books. Our two scholars-in-residence co-teach a course "Biblical Foundations for Jewish and Christian Difference" at McCormick Seminary. What have they co-learned in the process?

–Rabbi Bloom

## Program

### 1. Sunday, October 29, 2006, Serra Hall West Dining Room, Siena College (NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE)

2:30 p.m. **Remarks**  
Dr. Peter S. Zaas  
Director, Institute for Jewish-Christian Studies,  
Siena College

#### Welcome

Fr. Kevin Mackin  
President, Siena College

2:45 p.m. **Lecture**  
Professor Ted Hiebert  
McCormick Theological Seminary

3:45 p.m. **Lecture**  
Professor Sarah Tanzer  
McCormick Theological Seminary

4:45 p.m. **Discussion**

### 2. Monday, October 30, 2006, Serra Hall West Dining Room

#### Siena College

10:00 a.m. **Brunch and Discussion**  
Professor Tanzer  
Professor Hiebert  
Rabbi Bernard Bloom, Presiding

12:00 a.m. **Greetings**  
Bishop Howard Hubbard  
Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany



**Sarah Tanzer** attended Dickinson College, then received the MTS and PhD from Harvard University, with additional studies at Oxford University, the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. A member of the International Dead Sea Scrolls Team, she has extended her earlier Dead Sea Scrolls research to encompass the study of the New Testament. She is the author of "Ephesians," in *Searching the Scriptures: A Feminist Commentary* (ed. Elisabeth Schussler

Fiorenza), "Judaism of the First Century," in *The Oxford Companion to the Bible*, and "Salvation is for the Jews: Secret Christian Jews in the Gospel of John," in *The Future of Early Christianity*. Dr. Tanzer has taught at McCormick Theological Seminary since 1986.

## מה למדנו בלמד



After earning his undergraduate degree at Fresno Pacific University, **Ted Hiebert** earned the M.Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary and the PhD in Classical Hebrew and Hebrew Scriptures from Harvard University. He studied as well Albright Institute of Archaeology in Jerusalem, as an American Schools of Oriental Research/National Endowment for the Humanities Research Fellow. His publications include *The Yahwist's Landscape: Nature and Religion in Early Israel* (1996) and *God of My Victory: The Ancient Hymn in*

*Habakkuk 3* (1986), among many others. He has served as a Mennonite pastor, as well as a director of the Chicago Theological Initiative in Eco-Justice Ministry. He has served on the faculty of McCormick Theological Seminary since 1995, and was named the Francis A. McGaw Professor of Old Testament there in 2003.

## Registration Form

### What We Learn When We Teach

\_\_\_\_ I shall participate in the Colloquium

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