



Program in Judaic Studies
Brown University
Providence, Rhode Island 02912-1826
401 863-3900

Jacob Neusner
Co-Director
University Professor
The Ungerleider Distinguished Scholar of Judaic Studies

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My dear friend, Walter,

I have thought of you fondly many times since last May, even though we have not had a chance to see one another very often. I hope that things go well for you and that the causes of unhappiness on your local scene have faded. For my part, I cannot remember enjoying life so much ever. We are now free to do and be whatever we can, and all of us are finding life sweet and pleasant, I mean, every day, not in the abstract. Part of the pleasure, of course, is my co-director, Ernest Frerichs, surely among the truly effective personalities I have known. We really work with two full-time chairmen, and the Program shows the result. The University gave us, without endowment, a complete, tenured, full-professorship to fill, in Judaic Studies and Sociology; this gets our social science-wing of the interdisciplinary curriculum under way in a large scale. We have applications for it (the appointment begins in 1984-5 semester II) from lots of top people. So the administration showed what they really think of us. The hell of Religious Studies is over. The pleasure -- you have to see it to believe it -- is the disintegration of the Department since we left. Their secretary resigned just now, on two weeks notice, after eleven years. Still sweeter, the present chairman is going on leave for a year, and will not be replaced; he has publicly said he wants to leave Brown. Both of their assistant professors are taking half a year's leave, also without replacement. We will give, next year, not only more courses than they will (that we did this year), but I think a third more courses. What a sweet prospect, not only to win, but to see the enemies lose every day, in every way. As I said, I wish the same for you.

I am writing for a more mundane purpose. Larry O'Connell asked me for an article, as part of a JAAR issue based on our conference. I sent it to him. It has not been acknowledged. Is the project dead? Did you send an article?

Bill Bennett is the Vice President of the Walter Capps Fan Club. I am president, and Jonathan is chairman of the board.

Love,