

Scholars Corner – Issue 9
News, Reviews & Publications

Prof. David Burrell, C.S.C *on his work and publications on comparative issues in philosophical theology in Judaism, Christianity and Islam.*



Rev. Dr. J. Stephen Perotti *reflecting on his time at Tantur and upon the impact between the John the Baptist movement and the Jesus movement on the development of the early Church.*



Dr. Debbie Weissman *on the background that led her to a humanist religious Zionism.*



**Tantur Ecumenical Institute for
Theological Studies**

PO Box 11381
91113 Jerusalem
Israel

Ph: int +972 2 676 09 11 Fax: int +972 2 676 09 14
e-mail: tantur@netvision.net.il
Website: www.tantur.org

Follow us on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/Tantur.Jerusalem>



Scholars Corner – January 2013
Issue 9

Prof. David Burrell, C.S.C.

Professor Emeritus in Philosophy and Theology, The University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana, USA.

David Burrell C.S.C., Theodore Hesburgh C.S.C. Professor Emeritus in Philosophy and Theology at the University of Notre Dame, served there from 1964 to 2007 and has subsequently served the Congregation of Holy Cross District of East Africa as Professor of Comparative Theology at Tangaza College, Nairobi, Kenya.

His work since 1992 in comparative issues in philosophical theology in Judaism, Christianity and Islam evidenced in *Knowing the Unknowable God; Ibn-Sina, Aquinas* (Notre Dame, 1986) and *Freedom and Creation in Three Traditions* (Notre Dame, 1993), *Friendship and Ways to the Truth* (Notre Dame 2000) and translations of Al-Ghazali: *Al-Ghazali on the Ninety-Nine Beautiful Names of God* (Cambridge: Islamic Texts Society, 1993), and with Elena Malits he co-authored *Original Peace* (New York: Paulist, 1998), and with Mary Louise Gude, C.S.C. and Gerald Schlabach, translated Roger Amaldez: *Three Messengers for One God* (Notre Dame, IN : University of Notre Dame Press, 1998)

He apprenticed in Jewish-Christian-Muslim understanding in Jerusalem at Tantur Ecumenical Institute (where he served as Rector in 1980-81) and in Cairo at the Dominical Institute for Oriental Studies, with Georges Anawati OP.

Recent interfaith publications include *When Faith and Reason Meet* (2009). Soranton University published *Learning to Trust in Freedom: Signs from Jewish, Christian and Muslim Traditions* (2010) while Blackwell published *Towards a Jewish-Christian-Muslim Theology* in 2011. David Burrell is also a recipient of an honorary doctorate in Theology from Lund University (Sweden) 2008, Aquinas medal from American Catholic Philosophical Association (2008) and John Courtney Murray award from the Catholic Theological Society of America (2009). For further information please feel free to contact David Burrell at **208 Fatima House, Box 929, Notre Dame IN 46556, USA** or email him on David.B.Burrell.1@nd.edu

Rev. Dr. J. Stephen Perotti

Ordained Minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) with a Doctorate from Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington DC, USA.

As an ordained minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) for the past 26 years, Rev. Dr. J. Stephen Perotti discovered a renewal of spirit and breath of life amidst the fellowship of the Tantur community. While he came with the intention to study and reflect upon the relationship between the early John the Baptist movement and the Jesus movement and its impact on the development of the early church, Steve found something even more profound than his studies: the Spirit of Christ, alive and well within the Tantur community. From Father Tim to the amazing staff to his peers who came from all over the world, Steve discovered a relationship more alive, relevant and profound to his spiritual journey than anything he could ever find in a book or lecture. While he celebrated the opportunity to delve into the resources of Tantur to pursue a topic of great interest to him, it is the fellowship of the Tantur community that he carries with him back to his congregation in Nampa, Idaho where he is Senior Pastor. Gleaning from his Tantur studies, he is hoping to offer a course at Northwest Nazarene University (NNU) on the Jesus and John movements. The focus will be on the Fourth Gospel where we see Jesus was apprenticed to John for an unspecified time, that some of Jesus' disciples came from John's followers, and that Jesus continued the baptizing practice of John. The course will consider Johannine evidence that Jesus performed miracles while John did not. Within this core historical data, the Fourth Evangelist systematically subordinates John to Jesus, defining John's role as a key witness to Jesus. Another key area of consideration in the course will be the tone that is found in the Fourth Gospel that is apologetic and polemical, possibly aimed at the Baptist sectarians and other Jewish groups in the Johannine community that opposed the early church and tried to elevate John above Jesus

Dr. Debbie Weissman

Doctorate from the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel.

I come from a secular Zionist home in the US, having grown up in the 1950's and 1960's. My family instilled in me a deep sense of Jewish identity, not so much involving religious belief and practice, but more concerned with humanism, social justice and what has come to be known as *Tikkun Olam*, "mending the world." They were all socialists or social democrats, who identified with the Labor Zionist ideology.

I was very active in a Zionist youth movement called Young Judaea, which espoused many of these values. Religiously, the movement was pluralistic, but through it, I came to a traditional observance of Judaism. I spent what is now called "the gap year"—i.e., a year between high school and university—in Israel, on the Young Judaea Year Course. During that year, I spent three months on a religious kibbutz—in those days, still a bastion of socialism—and from then on, I became a modern Orthodox or, at least, Orthoprax, Jew. I have remained politically and socially liberal in my outlook. I went back to the US for my university education. Three important factors that influenced me in those years—the late 60's and early 70's—were the civil rights movement; feminism, particularly Jewish religious feminism; and the movement to end the war in Vietnam. When I decided to move to Israel in 1972, it was obvious that I would join the peace movement in Israel.

I have been in dialogue with both Palestinians and Jewish settlers. I have found that the most fruitful arena for me seems to be inter-religious dialogue, both locally and internationally. I started teaching at Tantur in 2000. This has been a wonderful experience for me and, I hope, for my students, as well.

Debbie Weissman is a regular lecturer at Tantur Ecumenical Institute on our Continuing Education Programs.