

### In Memoriam

**JaFran Jones**, chair of the music department at the University of Toledo and an ethnomusicologist, died on March 1, 1997 in her home after a two-year battle with cancer. Surviving is her sister, Sharon Jones. A native of Holdrege, Nebraska, JaFran Jones became chair of the music department in 1993. She had been a professor of ethnomusicology at Bowling Green State University from 1978 to 1993, served as chair of the Department of Composition and History during many of those years, and established and directed the gamelan ensemble at BGSU. Jones was a specialist in the music of Tunisia, Egypt, Turkey, Morocco, Spain, and Greece. A 1962 graduate of Ottawa University in Ottawa, Kansas, Jones received her Ph.D. in ethnomusicology from the University of Washington in 1977. In 1983, Jones was awarded a Fulbright senior research grant to study music and religious sects in northern Africa. As part of the grant, she spent a year in Tunisia, Egypt, and Morocco to study the relationship of music to their cultures. An avid traveler, Jones sailed around the world on a teaching ship as part of an academic program called Semester at Sea, operated by the University of Pittsburgh.

MARILYN SHRUDE

*Bowling Green State University  
The Toledo Blade, March 3, 1997*

**Yedida Kalfon Stillman**, distinguished ethnologist and teacher of the folkways and material culture of the Middle East died from cancer at the age of 52 on February 22, 1998. Yedida had been Professor of History, Near Eastern Languages, and Women's Studies at the University of Oklahoma since 1995. She previously taught in the Department of Judaic Studies and History and was also Director of Hebrew Studies at the State University of New York, Binghamton, where she received the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching (1978).

Yedida was born in Morocco and grew up in Israel. She did her undergraduate work in Israel and received her B.A. (1967) from the Hebrew University, where she specialized in the folk literature and material culture of Sephardi and Oriental Jewry. She received her M.A (1968) and Ph.D. (1972) in Oriental Studies from the University of Pennsylvania. Her dissertation was on the wardrobe of a Jewish bride in medieval Egypt, based on research on materials from the Cairo Geniza. In 1967 she married Norman Stillman, a fellow student at the University of Pennsylvania and specialist in the history and culture of Middle Eastern Jewry. During their thirty one years of marriage, they found a unique way to combine marriage and family life with their academic careers and research. They published two books together: *Travail in Arab Land: Samuel A. Romanelli* (Jewish Publication Society, 1989) and *From Iberia to Diaspora: Studies in Sephardic History and Culture* (Brill Academic Publishers, 1998).

Very early in her academic career she became fascinated with the costumes and textiles of the Middle East and devoted a great part of her research to these topics. Among her early scholarly projects was a study of the collection of

Palestinian costumes and jewelry in the Museum of International Folk Art and the International Folk Foundation of Santa Fe, NM. The project, which was supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, resulted in a major exhibition and catalogue in 1979. In the following years she was a guest curator and consultant at a number of institutions in the United States and abroad, including the Smithsonian Institution, Jewish Museum in New York, Jewish Museum of Greece, Joods Historische Museum of Amsterdam, and Beth haTefutzot Museum of the Diaspora in Tel Aviv. She was on the board of various international organizations and learned societies, including the International Society for Judeo-Arabic Studies and Centre de Recherche sur les Juif du Maroc. Yedida was awarded many grants and honors from private and public foundations, including the National Endowment for the Humanities, Littauer Foundation, American Philosophical Society, American Research Center in Egypt, Institute of Turkish Studies, and Ben-Zvi Institute in Jerusalem. Generous support from the Bradley Foundation enabled her to devote the last eight years of her life to research on Middle Eastern and North African costume history. In 1994-1995 Yedida was senior Fulbright research scholar at Muhammad V University in Rabat, Morocco, where she conducted a study on Moroccan women and modernity. In addition to the books published in collaboration with her husband, she published two more books, most recently (with George K. Zucher) *New Horizons in Sephardic Studies* (Albany, State University of New York, 1993). Two major books were in progress at the time of her death: a history of Arab dress and an encyclopedic dictionary of Arab clothing. Yedida was the author of many scholarly articles, encyclopedia entries, popular articles, and reviews of books, catalogues, and exhibitions in several languages. She was also a dedicated and devoted teacher. Yedida was a colleague and a friend and will be remembered and missed by her many informants, scholars, and students all over the world. Yedida is survived by her husband and her two children, Enan and Maia.

SHIFRA EPSTEIN

*Visiting Scholar, The University of Michigan*

I first met **Yedida Kalfon Stillman** and her spouse-colleague Norman in Tel Aviv during my Fulbright year at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem from 1992-1993. Shortly thereafter, I enrolled at SUNY Binghamton and for two years worked closely with Norman as his student and with Yedida as her project assistant on the *Encyclopaedic Dictionary of Arab Dress*, a work which singularly exemplifies her years of devotion to Arabic and Islamic culture and history. Amidst the many demanding and enjoyable hours spent on the project, Yedida, Norman, and I always managed to find the time to read and discuss Judeo-Arabic and Hebrew texts at their home over tea and coffee. Between chairing the Judaic Studies department, teaching, and other countless responsibilities, Yedida, who was vivacious, generous, and always smiling managed to find time for her students and friends. Yedida suggested I teach an Arabic-for-Hebrew-Speakers course in which she took a personal interest. She always made me feel welcome in their home as she did over the years with her countless other friends and colleagues.

She was not only a student of the history, peoples, and cultures of the Middle East. Her Israeli-Moroccan heritage, her speaking a number of languages at home, her personal outlook on life, her splendidly furnished home with eastern and western motifs, and her fabulous Moroccan cooking embodied the quintessential harmony between East and West and her deep appreciation for Jewish and Islamic culture. Amidst the gloomy turn of political events in the Middle East in recent years, her love of family and work provided the impetus for believing in a genuine peace and co-existence between Israelis and Palestinians and an end to violence and extremism, ideals which make imperative further dissemination of the cultural and historic ties which bind as well as divide Jew and Arab.

JOSEF W. MERI

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### Corrections

In *Bulletin* 32:2 (Winter 1998), p. 156, line 30, an important word was omitted from Arun Kapil's review essay on the Algerian civil war. The line should read: "...resources that the Algerian government was able to marshal to shore up its position. The..."

In *Bulletin* 32:2 (Winter 1998), p. 223, the publisher of Eric Mercier's *Aden: un parcours interrompu* was misidentified. The joint publisher is Centre Français d'Études Yémenites (CFEY) and Centre de Recherches et d'Études sur l'Urbanisation du Monde Arabe (URBAMA).