

WE REMEMBER OUR COLLEAGUES

GILA RAMRAS- RAUCH 1933–2005

Mark Dwortzan



No catchphrase can adequately sum up the extraordinary depth and breadth of the life of Dr. Gila Ramras-Rauch. She was a gifted teacher who inspired her students to the full range of their potential; a brilliant literary scholar and author; a loving wife and mother; and a generous friend and respected colleague.

At Hebrew College, where Dr. Ramras-Rauch taught Hebrew, biblical, Jewish, and modern Israeli literature for twenty-three years,

and was named the Lewis H. and Selma Weinstein Professor of Jewish Literature, she exuded a powerful presence in the classroom. Placing her subject matter in the context of the broader field of literary theory and expression, she enabled countless students to decipher and analyze complex texts.

Internationally renowned for her scholarship in Hebrew, Israeli, and Holocaust literature, Dr. Ramras-Rauch was a leading authority on the works of Aharon Appelfeld and the author of six books of literary analysis—many that explored new literary terrain. Her books *Aharon Appelfeld: The Holocaust and Beyond* (1994)—the first book in English on Appelfeld’s work—and *L.A. Arieli: Life and Works* (1991), in Hebrew, helped bring prominence to her subjects. *The Arab in Israeli Literature* (1989) was among the earliest Israeli books to focus on the depiction of the Arab as the Other.

Born in Tel Aviv in 1933, Dr. Ramras-Rauch served in the Israeli army, completed her early education at a teacher’s college, and taught Hebrew and cultivated *olim* in Toronto and Detroit as a *shlichah* for the Israeli government. She subsequently received her master’s degree from Hunter

College, City University of New York, and her doctorate from Bar-Ilan University in Israel. During her career, she taught at Bar-Ilan University, the University of Texas, Ohio State University, Brandeis University, and Indiana University. In Indiana, she married the late Dr. Leo Rauch, a philosophy scholar specializing in the work of Georg Hegel.

Dr. Ramras-Rauch will be deeply missed by the many people whose lives she touched. May her memory be a blessing.

Mark Dwortzan is a Boston-based writer and editor who serves as senior editor of Hebrew College Today in the College's Marketing and Communications Department. Department director Evelyn Herwitz and former public relations manager Elizabeth Lawler contributed to this article.

HURRICANE KATRINA

The AJS expresses its heartfelt sympathies to our members and their families who were affected by the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. Those members who, in the wake of the hurricane, require financial assistance to attend this year's conference should please contact the AJS office at 917.606.8249 or ajs@ajs.cjh.org.