NAHUM GLATZER TEACHING SCHOLAR AWARD TO PROFESSOR JOHN PLOTZ

Jonathan D. Sarna

The Nahum Glatzer Teaching Scholar Award, established by my Brandeis classmates, Susan Feigenbaum and Dr. Jay Pepose, honors one of the founders of Jewish Studies at Brandeis, Professor Nahum Norbert Glatzer.

Professor Glatzer, a legendary scholar, teacher and mentor, studied with the great Jewish philosopher Franz Rosenzweig, about whom he later wrote a famous book, as well as with the eminent scholar Martin Buber. He succeeded Buber at the University of Frankfurt, and then fled Germany in 1933. He arrived at Brandeis in 1950 and remained until forced to retire in 1973, teaching huge classes and helping to train a generation of Jewish Studies Ph.D.s.

When we talk, as we did at last month's faculty meeting, about Brandeis' distinctive Jewish heritage and character, we are talking in part about Nahum Glatzer: author and editor of some 260 books and articles mostly on Jewish topics, and also, for those of us privileged to have known him, a living link to the great tradition of German-Jewish learning and scholarship destroyed by the Nazis, and later recreated in some measure here to Brandeis.

Approximately every other year, we award the Nahum Glatzer Teaching Scholar Award, to a tenured Brandeis faculty member who is also an outstanding teacher and mentor, "exhibiting the humility, kindness, integrity, and good humor that characterized Prof. Glatzer's interactions with his students and colleagues."

Finding someone who matches those precise characteristics is, as you can imagine, no easy task. This year, with a slight touch of irony that Prof. Glatzer would have appreciated, the award goes to our distinguished colleague, **John Plotz**, Professor of English and Barbara Mandel Professor of the Humanities: scholar, teacher, mentor, public intellectual, a humanist who like Professor Glatzer himself creates new knowledge and also brings the values of his scholarship to a thoughtful lay readership.

Congratulations and, if I may say so, mazal tov!