

Yeshiva University Celebrates 100th Birthday Of Rachel Wischnitzer, Former Professor Of Art

At Age 71, She Founded Fine Arts Department At University's Stern College For Women; University Will Celebrate Its Own 100th Birthday In 1986



Professor Rachel Wischnitzer, Former Professor of Art at Yeshiva University's Stern College for Women, and Dr. Norman Lamm, President of the University, cut a cake in a celebration of Professor Wischnitzer's 100th birthday. During the celebration, Dr. Lamm presented Professor Wischnitzer with the University's Centennial Medallion, prepared to mark the institution's 100th birthday in 1986. Professor Wischnitzer established the Fine Arts Department at Stern College in 1956, when she was 71 years old. She taught there until 1968,

when she retired at the age of 83. Born April 15, 1885, in Minsk, Russia, Professor Wischnitzer is a renowned authority on synagogue architecture and the author of four books and numerous articles. On her birthday, she received congratulatory messages from a wide range of political figures, including President and Mrs. Reagan, New York Gov. Mario Cuomo, New York Senators Daniel Patrick Moynihan and Alfonse D'Amato, New York City Mayor Edward I. Koch, Rep. Charles B. Rangel of the 16th Congressional District of New York, and Manhattan Borough President Andrew Stein.

In a celebration marking her 100th birthday, Rachel Wischnitzer, former professor of art at Yeshiva University's Stern College for Women (SCW), was honored April 16 by University administrators, colleagues from her teaching days, and other friends -- on the eve of the University's own Centennial.

During the celebration, Dr. Norman Lamm, president of the University, presented Wischnitzer with a Centennial Medallion, prepared to mark the University's 100th birthday in 1986.

Professor Wischnitzer was born in Minsk, Russia, on April 15, 1885. She established the Fine Arts Department at SCW in 1956, when she was 71 years old. She taught there until 1968, when she was 83.

Dr. Israel Miller, senior vice president of the University, and Dr. Karen Bacon, dean of Stern College and a former student of Professor Wischnitzer, also spoke at the celebration.

Dr. Miller read from congratulatory messages sent to Professor Wischnitzer by President and Mrs. Reagan, New York Governor Mario Cuomo, New York Senators Daniel Patrick Moynihan and Alfonse D'Amato, New York City Mayor Edward I. Koch, Representative Charles B. Rangel of the 16th Congressional District of New York, and Manhattan Borough President Andrew Stein.

President and Mrs. Reagan sent a card saying, "We send our heartfelt congratulations. May

your cherished memories be a happy reflection of the fullness of your life."

Professor Wischnitzer said that, in her reply to the President, she wrote that "living to an old age is not in itself an accomplishment." In speaking of her message to the President, she said, "I wonder what Nancy had to say about that."

Governor Cuomo wrote, "Your longevity is a tribute to your spirit."

Senator Moynihan said in his message, "I recently spoke to one of your former students at Stern College who described in glowing terms your abiding zest for life. May the source of all blessings ensure that your next two decades be as fruitful, productive, and enriching as the first 10."

Mayor Koch said, "Your life stands as testimony to the triumph of the life of the mind over the madness and turmoil of the century."

Borough President Stein wrote in his letter, "As an educator, as a woman, and as a Jew, Professor Wischnitzer exemplifies those qualities of drive, dedication, and vision which we should attempt to teach our children. Quite simply, she is an inspiration."

Author of four books and numerous articles, Professor Wischnitzer is a renowned authority on synagogue architecture. At this time, however, she is working every morning on a major study of the late works of Pablo Picasso.

After her early studies in Warsaw, Professor Wischnitzer attended the Brussels Royal

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