

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Levana Aronson, B.Ed. M.S.W., lecturer II of Middle East studies in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on April 30, 2023.

Ms. Aronson attended Concordia University in Montreal, Canada, where she earned a Bachelor of Education degree in teaching English as a second language in 1981. She then attended the University of Michigan to complete her Master of Social Work degree in 1990. She taught in the School of Social Work at Wayne State University from 1999-2005. She joined the faculty at the University of Michigan as a lecturer I in 2009, and was promoted to lecturer II in 2013.

Ms. Aronson has been an invaluable member of the Department of Middle East Studies. She taught first and second year Hebrew courses (beginners and intermediates), and in Winter 2016, she taught a third-year course (advanced learners) for the first time, under the supervision of Prof. Barzilai. Having received extensive training for several semesters when she was first hired, Ms. Aronson worked independently for 12 years (since Fall 2011). Ms. Aronson was a highly conscientious and well-prepared instructor. She spent a significant amount of time devising interesting and effective lesson plans, drawing both on prepared materials and creating her own exercises. Ms. Aronson enhanced the curriculum of first-year Hebrew by incorporating oral presentations and integrating the instruction of the past tense with the present tense in the first year. Ms. Aronson used online tools (Quizlet and Voki) to augment her homework assignments. She took great care with her homework instructions, using new vocabulary in her online announcements. Ms. Aronson's teaching evaluations attest to her teaching excellence. The evaluations were consistently high, with responses to Q1 receiving an average response of 4.7 and 4.85 to Q2. Ms. Aronson was nominated for the 2015 Golden Apple Award, which honors instructors who "strive not only to disseminate knowledge but to inspire and engage students in its pursuit." She has served on the ombudsman committee and has devoted attention to the well-being of our graduate students. Ms. Aronson has also volunteered and served on the board of Ann Arbor community organizations including the Jewish Community Center, the Hebrew Day School, and Food Gatherers.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Levana Aronson, lecturer II emerita of Middle East studies**.

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.
Vice President and Secretary of the University

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