

## Milton Feder

Milton Feder, Professor of Government Emeritus at Beloit College, died March 19, 2000, at the age of 77. Milt was a New Yorker; born in the Bronx and raised in Brooklyn. He served in Air Force Intelligence during World War II, and saw combat in Italy. Later, he enrolled at the University of Michigan, where he was awarded the B.A., M.A., and, in 1957, the Ph.D. in political science, specializing in international politics and Near Eastern studies.

In 1955, Milt joined the faculty of the department of government at Beloit and stayed until his retirement in 1992. He was promoted to full professor in 1967, and was the inaugural appointee to the Anger Family Chair in International Relations. Milt was an exemplary colleague, earning the respect and appreciation of his fellows through his frequent and outspoken service on key committees and his caring encouragement of other faculty and staff, especially younger people. He inspired genuine affection, not only in his colleagues but in all sorts and conditions of other fellow citizens. He was a man of tough mind, tender heart, and considerable ironic humor. One of his greatest joys in life was taking sabbatical leaves to study in London, a place dear to his heart.

Milt was primarily a teacher, both in the classroom and out. He was a close follower and shrewd, realistic analyst of international affairs. He held his students to rigorous standards of scholarship, which he inspired them to achieve. He was an extraordinarily empathetic mentor and counselor. He sent into the worlds of diplomacy, teaching, and business dozens of successful professionals, and many hundreds of other appreciative, liberally educated citizens. He was twice chosen teacher of the year at Beloit College.

Milt is survived by his wife, Miriam, two daughters, two grandchildren, a brother, a sister, and

many grateful colleagues and students.

Harry R. Davis  
Beloit College

## Joseph R. Fiszman

Joseph Fiszman, a noted scholar and Professor Emeritus of Political Science at the University of Oregon, died on April 17, 2000, at Sacred Heart General Hospital in Eugene, Oregon. He was 81 years old, and died from complications related to diabetes.

Fiszman devoted much of his professional life to studying and writing about comparative and East European political systems from the period following World War II up to the dismantling of the Soviet system and the opening of the Iron Curtain throughout Eastern Europe.

He was born in 1918 in Siedlce, Poland, into a family of writers and publishers. His family moved to Warsaw when he was two. As a young man, he was an active member of the Jewish Labor Bund.

In 1939, in the face of the Nazi invasion of Poland, Fiszman, together with his father, Jacob, fled eastward to Vilnius in what was then the Soviet-occupied northeast corner of prewar Poland. Under the terms of the Hitler-Stalin Pact, the Soviet Union had turned the city, claimed by the Lithuanians as their ancient capital, over to Lithuanian control in exchange for military bases throughout the country. Lithuanian-controlled Vilnius was sympathetic to Jewish cultural autonomy, and Fiszman, together with many other Jewish refugees, remained there until the summer of 1940, when the Red Army occupied Vilnius and annexed Lithuania. At this point, he resumed his flight eastward.

Fiszman and his father were able to obtain safe conduct certificates from the British ambassador in Lithuania that reaffirmed their status as Polish citizens at a time when both Hitler and the Soviets had de-

clared Poland nonexistent. From Chiune Sugihara, the now-recognized Japanese *charge d'affaires* in the Lithuanian capital of Kaunas, he was able to obtain a Japanese transit visa, stamped directly onto the British-issued safe conduct certificate, which granted him permission to travel to Curaçao via Japan. He traveled the Trans-Siberian railroad across the Soviet Union to Kobe, Japan, where subsequent developments made further travel to Curaçao impossible. He stayed in Kobe until the summer of 1941, when, following the Nazi attack on the Soviet Union, the Japanese government ordered the Polish Embassy in Tokyo to close. The Polish ambassador took up residence in the Polish Consulate in Shanghai, and many Polish Jewish refugees, including Fiszman and his father, followed him from Kobe to Shanghai.

Fiszman spent the remaining war years and the immediate post-war years in Shanghai, which was occupied by the Japanese in December 1941, following the attack on Pearl Harbor. The Jewish community trapped in Shanghai was large, highly politicized, and relatively well organized, with large populations from Poland, Russia and Soviet-occupied Europe, Germany, and Austria. During this time, Fiszman worked as a reporter for several Yiddish newspapers then in existence in Shanghai, including the *Unzer Velt*, and he published many short stories.

In the immediate postwar years, Fiszman worked in Shanghai for the International Refugee Organization, an agency of the United Nations responsible for the repatriation and resettlement of displaced persons and refugees. He left Shanghai in 1949 for New York City in the face of the Chinese communist conquest of the city.

After spending several years in New York City, Fiszman earned a master's degree from Emory University in Atlanta and a Ph.D. from Michigan State University. He moved to Eugene, Oregon, in 1959