Farewell

In November 2009, I announced my intention of retiring from my position at the Israel Studies Forum at the end of this volume, after serving for a decade as its Editor-in-Chief. The President of the Association for Israel Studies followed this announcement by forming a search committee to identify my successor and at the time of writing the search is moving toward a successful conclusion.

As my term of office nears its completion, let me sum up the developments of the ISF between 2000–2010. Over the course of this decade, a number of major initiatives have been implemented: a) our publication (which began as a newsletter) changed its character by becoming a full-fledged, peer-reviewed scholarly journal; b) to reflect this transformation, we changed our name from “Israel Studies Bulletin” to “Israel Studies Forum: An Interdisciplinary Journal”; c) while we started as a self-produced publication, in 2005 we created the AIS-Berghahn partnership and began publishing with Berghahn Books of Oxford and New York, a move that not only brought us online but has above all allowed us significantly wider exposure and enhanced our reputation; d) we were successful in raising tens of thousands of dollars from several institutions of higher learning to finance our expanding operation; e) the Forum was able to publish the works of prominent and established scholars in the field, as well as newer and emerging scholars, and thereby expanded its coverage across large areas of Israel Studies in both the Social Sciences and in the Humanities.

Under my editorship, the ISF published 100 original articles, several hundreds book reviews (edited ably by Laurie Z. Eisenberg) and a significant number of review essays (coordinated and edited by Dov Waxman). The topics covered by the ISF included Zionism and Post-Zionism; many aspects of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict (including the Intifadah, the Oslo process, and Camp David II); elections and education in Israel; issues related to women and gays in Israel; national identity and citizenship; the Holocaust and national narrative; and more. Furthermore, as an editor with a Social Science background, I particularly encouraged publication by scholars in the Humanities. And, indeed, we published essays on “Spinoza as a Zionist”, trends in Israeli cinema, Israeli literature and political responsibility, liberal houses of Torah learning in Israel, the writings of Kenaz and Shaham, the stereotypes of immigrant women, and other issues.

As editor, I initiated several “Special Features” at the ISF including two issues dedicated to the State of the Field of Israel Studies, an issue dealing with the Pales-
tinian Vision Documents, a debate about the time factor and the future of Israel, and more.

I would like to conclude by thanking my two Associate Editors, all those who contributed papers, review essays, and book reviews to the ISF, and particularly my loyal readers who succumbed to my “pleadings” to read submitted articles.

I wish the next editor and associates all the best in moving the Israel Studies Forum forward into its next decade.

Ilan Peleg