



Happenings

Newsletter of Yeshiva University Libraries

Spring 2024

Editor: Hallie (Chaya Sarah) Cantor

Doing our Part

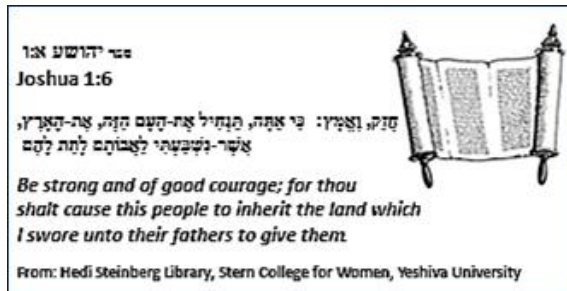
The war in Israel rages on. Our nation reels from the number of soldier and civilian lives lost, the number of remaining hostages, and the shocking underground discoveries in Gaza.



In addition, Stephanie wrote to New York Senator Kirsten Gillibrand in protest of the horrific outbreaks of antisemitism and attacks on Israel. The Senator sent a [reply](#), affirming her condemnation of violence and her commitment to Israel’s safety and military aid.

In conjunction with YU student Yiskah Lindell, **Hindishe Lee** collected discarded or uncatalogued library *sefarim* to send to Israeli soldiers. “This is for my mom,” Hindishe said. “She always enjoyed helping people.” Yiskah arranged the logistics of sending the materials. To date six boxes have been packed: 74 books, 5 packs of *parshah* [Torah portion] pamphlets; and nearly 100 Hebrew-Russian *Bereishit* [Genesis] booklets. In addition to the bookplates (below) were “bookmarks,” small strips of paper inside each book with the verse from Deuteronomy 20:4: “For it is your G-d Who marches with you to do battle for you against your enemy, to bring you victory.”

In response, YU students made a huge turnout among the 300,000 participants at the “March for Israel” rally, held Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2023, in Washington DC. Thanks to **Stephanie (Sarah Leah) Gross**, this rally has been preserved: [Responding to history's invitation \(yu.edu\)](#)



Furthering her activism, Hindishe shared a [list of anti-Israel propaganda books](#) with the Association of Jewish Libraries.

He’s Back!

With gratitude to G-d, we welcome back **Justin Thomas**. Thanking everyone “all again for the abundant kindness, well wishes, prayers, warm thoughts, and good vibes,” during his hospital stay, Justin mentioned additional good news: completion of his latest album, *The Chemo Sessions*, which we can [stream and/or download it here](#).

Departures

For years she was the welcoming face behind the front desk, Pollack Library. A retirement party was held Thursday, Dec. 28, 2023, for Circulation Associate **Bernice Katz**.



He was a true British gentleman—a gentle presence at Technical Services. After years as Cataloging Associate, **Yosef (Gerald) Cohen** said “Cheerio” to YU. A retirement party was held Thursday, Feb. 1, 2024, in his honor.

We thank both Bernice and Yosef for their years of service, and we wish them both all the best in their futures.



(Photos by J.B. Holderness)
Top row, left to right: J.B. Holderness, Paul Glassman, Marlene Schiffman, Yosef Cohen, Avrom Shuchatowitz, Rebecca Malamud.
Middle row, left to right: Shuli Berger, Ella Ruderman.
Bottom row, left to right: Carla Hanauer, Marlene Austin-Francis, Shulamis Hes.

Paul Glassman is stepping down from his position as Director of Scholarly and Cultural Resources. “I’ll be pursuing some new opportunities, including teaching English language learners,” Paul announced. “It’s been a real privilege to work with all of you in Yeshiva University Libraries. You make it an exceptionally collegial work environment.”



Among Paul’s innovations:

- Catalog of University Authors
- Annual Report to Provost
- Library blog and newsletter
- Mini-Symposium
- SMART/Strategic plans
- Lunchtime Learning
- Cataloging print theses/dissertations
- Book Talks
- YU Student Research Awards
- Upgrades (new screens, 3D printers)

“Paul, you will be dearly missed!” **Stephanie (Sarah Leah) Gross** wrote. “In 2018 you took the initiative to create our institutional repository, YAIR, and have given **Hao Zeng** and me every support for making it a resounding success . . . I will be forever in your debt.”

And from **Hindishe Lee**: “Working under your guidance has been a great pleasure, sir! Wishing you luck in your future endeavors.”

Living Legacy

YU Libraries was well represented at the annual “Staff Recognition,” held Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2023, for employees who had been with YU in five-year increments:

Ella Ruderman (35), Paul Glassman (25), Moshe Schapiro (25), Carla Hanuaer (20), Shulamis Hes (20), and Sara Saiger (10).

Moshe (right), one of the event speakers, reminisced over life and times during his exceptional work with reference librarianship at Mendel Gottesman Library.



The biggest honoree – and highlight of the afternoon -- was **Edith Lubetski**, who reached a milestone 60 years at Yeshiva University! Indeed, YU was an active part of her life. An alumna as well as employee, and a mother and grandmother to YU students, Edith (pictured below with YU president Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman) gave a heartfelt [speech](#) describing her lifelong commitment to the flagship institution, contributions to Hedi Steinberg Library, and gratitude to her support staff.

“In real estate people say the three most important factors are location, location, location,” she declared. “I say that the three most important factors in working at YU are appreciation, appreciation, and appreciation.”

Photos by Tina Weiss



Library Notes

On Wed., Nov. 29, 2023, **Rina Krautwirth** presented an overview on creating interactive polls for library instruction classes: [Lunchtime Learning - Interactive Polls in the Classroom \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...).

Justin Thomas created, at the request of **Paul Glassman**, an [OER guide](https://www.yu.edu/library/oer) for faculty. It is also featured on [YU's faculty resources page](https://www.yu.edu/library/faculty-resources).

Additional Holocaust-themed books were donated to Hedi Steinberg Library from Arne and Bonnie Gurewitsch—the latter a Holocaust scholar, as well as friend and classmate of **Edith Lubetski**. Many of these books are being used for the current course at Stern on the Holocaust.

In her [short video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...) “Scholarship is a Conversation” **Wendy Kosakoff** discussed how we share ideas, shape knowledge, and hope to inspire students to offer new insights and discoveries.

Stern College students can take home some reading pleasure over Passover. **Rina Krautwirth, Emily Apterbach, Hindishe Lee, Rebecca Martin, and Hallie (Chaya Sarah Cantor)** compiled a list, both [general](https://www.yu.edu/library/general) and [Judaica](https://www.yu.edu/library/judaica), of recommended fiction titles available in all YU libraries.

From YAIR

- **Undergrads:** YU Libraries have received print copies of YU's *Undergraduate Catalogs* going back many years, e.g. 1964. They include mostly Wilf campus, but Stern College and Sy Syms as well. **Andrew Hobden** has been scanning them and **Stephanie (Sarah Leah) Gross** has been posting them to YAIR.
 - **New Collection:** *Verapo Yerape* created by RIETS and the AECOM synagogue, has been added to both the RIETS and AECOM YAIR Collections. Hat tip to Racheline Habousha of AECOM library for her support!
 - **YU President:** “From the Desk of Ari Berman.” Stephanie has posted many of his newsletters, which contain not only text but moving photos and videos of the current Gaza war.
 - **Sacks Herenstein Center:** Weekly Bible portions from both Dr. Erica Brown and Dr. Mordechai Schiffman.
 - **Sefarim Sale:** YU SOY was contacted to allow us to distribute informational flyers on YAIR.
 - **YC Dramatics Society:** YAIR, which has received program bills, has been in communication with students.
- In addition to YAIR, both Stephanie and **Hao Zeng** have updated readings to E-Reserves (links and PDFs) due to changes that were made in online journals and database subscriptions. Plus . . . finding time among all her activities, Stephanie has continued to attend webinars regarding institutional repositories as well as trends in scholarly communication and AI.



Cairo Geniza II by Zvi Erenyi

On Thursday, Feb. 1, 2024, we were privileged to host the second in a series on the Cairo Geniza, “Rambam and Other Treasures, Part II,” by Professor Elazar Hurvitz, Emeritus Professor of Bible and Curator of the Eli Michael Micro-film Center for Genizah Studies at Yeshiva University. The event, moderated by David Berger—former Ruth & I. Lewis Gordon Professor of Jewish History and Dean of Revel—took place at Mendel Gottesman Library.

Prof. Hurvitz played a crucial role in preserving the corpus of Genizah fragments, to which he had access, and in facilitating their scholarly study. His courses were, to some extent, based on the material from the Cairo Genizah, as were some of the theses and dissertations of his students. He even invited students to go to the Jewish Theological Seminary on Thursdays to study Genizah fragments, large numbers of which were (and are) kept there.

Prof. Hurvitz described his efforts to preserve and organize the myriad fragments recovered from the room in the Ben Ezra synagogue in Old Cairo, where the Genizah originally rested. One such episode took place in Cambridge (UK), where the bulk of Genizah fragments ultimately came to be stored. Professor Hurvitz became aware that small fragments were about to be disposed of. When he objected, he was given the option of saving them in return for financial support to preserve them. After appealing to

then YU President Dr. Samuel Belkin, ז”ל, he was able to secure the necessary funding.

Another instance of Prof. Hurvitz’s crucial intervention involved the material which was housed in Russian institutions (Leningrad – now St. Petersburg -- and Moscow). Here, by means of persistent negotiations with local librarians, he persuaded them to microfilm the texts (for which he secured funding) and obtained copies for YU and other institutions.

One time, during his stay in Leningrad, Prof. Hurvitz was asked to visit a small synagogue to help complete a *minyán* (quorum) for prayers. When it came time for the prayer for the government, those present asked him to recite it; however, he refused to pray for the welfare of the Soviet Politburo. What to do? He came up with a compromise: he would recite the text of the prayer itself—but when it came to inserting the names of the members of the politburo, someone else would utter the names of Brezhnev, Kosygin, et al.

Professor Hurvitz emphasized the libraries’ crucial role in both making the fragments available to study and guiding students in their use. The Genizah presented an unsurpassed cache of original primary sources.

For example, the Genizah made it possible to try to answer questions, such as:

- How did Maimonides come to write this or that particular sentences in his works?
- What was the role of marginal notes on fragments in his own handwriting?
- Did Maimonides play a role in the physical shape of specific fragments?

The fragments allow us to observe that Maimonides often revised the text he was composing. To be sure, we at YU Libraries are proud to do our part in preserving his legacy.

Mini-Symposium



Photo by Tina Weiss

Scholars, Greek and modern. Plus a few copycats.

These were the subjects covered in our “Mini-Symposium 2024: Student Success,” held Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2024, at Pollack Library. The event, organized by **Justin Thomas**, featured three keynote speakers. In “Defining and Responding to Plagiarism: Lessons

from the Citation Project,” Sandra Jamieson (Faculty, Drew University) discussed the pervasive problem of students’ theft of content and displayed both glaring and subtle examples of clues within class papers. Rachel Ebner (YU Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychology) described the standards of assessment, a highly relevant topic as YU Libraries seeks renewal of Middle School accreditation. Last, but not least—in “Professor Fitzgerald’s Authorship: Plato to Wikipedia” **Moshe Schapiro** discussed his work in guiding Lauren Fitzgerald (YC Professor of English) through her syllabus and methods of class research.

Recordings of the Mini-Symposium are available here:

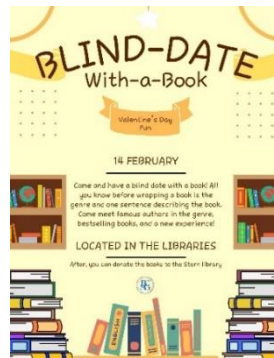
- [Sandra Jamieson](#)
- [Rachel Ebner](#)
- [Moshe Schapiro](#)

Perfect Match?

It was love at first sight. For devotees of the printed word, Hedi Steinberg’s “Blind Date with a Book,” held Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2024, created quite a romantic experience.

The *shidduch* (match) was initiated by Talia Feldman, with the support of Beren Campus Student Government – and HSL, which at Talia’s request provided the space for the books in the North Wing and second floor and brought students into the library.

“I was thinking of an event to run, and I came up with this idea,” Talia explained. “I would



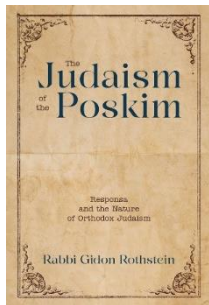
use my discretionary budget as a Representative of BCSG and buy books of all genres that I would then wrap in wrapping paper. I would write the genre and a 1-2 sentence blurb on the outside of the book, and then people would be able to come and pick up a book.

“The point of the initiative is to encourage reading in general, but also reading new things that you would not necessarily read based on the cover.”

Legacy of our Fathers – and Mothers!

From the yeshivas of medieval Europe to the Congressional halls of 1990s Washington D.C., the YU Book Talks, organized by **Shulamis Hes**, covered a lot of ground—plus more!

Roots of Orthodoxy



Modern legal responsa came to life Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2023, with *The Judaism of the Poskim: Responsa and Nature of Orthodox Judaism* (Mosaica Press, 2022). Rabbi Gidon Rothstein—graduate of YU and RIETS—in his seventh and latest book, explained the unifying themes within the massive body of rabbinic literature that repeatedly animated these scholars, as well as the sources of their shared ideas.

From Zion to Washington

On Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2024, Leonard Grunstein—board member of Revel and founder of Teaneck, NJ’s Project Ezra and Beit Midrash



—and Farley Weiss—father of YU alumnae, chairman of the Israel Heritage Foundation; and former president of National Council of Young Israel—discussed the riveting political drama behind their book *Because It’s Just and Right: The Untold Back-Story of the U.S. Recognition of Jerusalem as the Capital of Israel and Moving the US Embassy to Jerusalem*

(Grunstein and Farley, 2003).

Integrating sources from the Bible, Jewish history, and U.S. and international law, the two

authors fielded questions from moderator Jeffrey S. Gurock (Libby M. Klaperman Professor of Jewish History, Revel) about the diplomatic maneuverings behind the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995, which was first promulgated by former Arizona Senator John Kyl and finally passed by an overwhelming bipartisan majority of Congress.

Tzporah Breitman Lee, a”h

She was a brilliant woman, whose Manhattan studio was a hub of fellow artists, writers, and musicians. On Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2024, in conjunction with Stern College Club Hour, **Hindishe Lee** showcased the exquisite artwork of her mother Tzporah Breitman Lee, a”h, from the [website](#) Hindishe created.

Amid a stunning array of PowerPoint slides, Hindishe discussed Tzporah’s religious upbringing, Western education, precocious range of talents, and artistic training and influences. The website includes around 100 sketches on a wide array of themes, from the Biblical to the foreign



Finding of the Infant Moses by Tzporah Breitman Lee

or mythical, with figures both sensuous and angular. There are also portraits Tzporah painted of relatives of HSL staff. But the main focus was on her black and white “soul sketches” and Hindishe’s careful colorization techniques employed to realize the grandeur that her mother intended to capture on canvas.

Recordings of both the Book Talks and Club Hour are available:

[Library Book Talks - YouTube.](#)



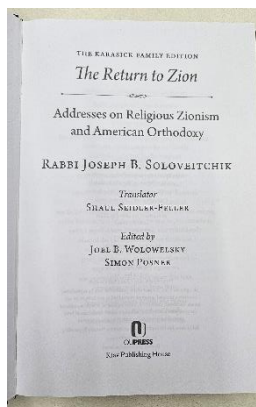
S'Wonderful

A brilliant composer of Broadway and Hollywood, George Gershwin (1898-1937) catapulted to musical fame 100 years ago with his *Rhapsody in Blue*, a fusion of symphonic jazz. Gershwin's concert appearance in 1930 to fundraise for the Yeshiva College Women's Organization has been recorded in a [blog post](#) by **Shuli Berger** and the program bill included in YU's archives.

Hatzlachah Rabba!

Her Masters in Education (Hunter College) completed, **Rebecca Martin** will be stepping down from her position as HSL Circulation Associate to start her career in the high school classroom. However, she hopes to keep in touch with HSL. We wish Rebecca the best of luck and success.

In Appreciation



When Rabbi Shaul Seidler-Feller, translator of Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik's *Return to Zion: Addresses on Religious Zionism and American Orthodoxy* (Ktav/OU Press, 2023), showed up at Gottesman Library, he was asked by **Carla Hanauer** for an inscription inside MGL's Reserve copy. He gallantly agreed:

It is only fitting that the Gottesman Library—the intellectual nerve center of the institution with which The Rav is most closely associated, and one of my own spiritual homes—should own a copy of this new book. Please accept it as a small token of my deep gratitude and appreciation for all you do to sustain me and support my work.

Bebukara ubeharacha [with appreciation and regard],
Shaul

Maimonides Tour



YU library staff made its presence felt at the Association of Jewish Library's New York Metropolitan Area (NYMA) chapter, which, after a four-year hiatus, reconvened Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2024, at the Yeshiva University Museum (YUM).

Welcoming new and veteran members, outgoing NYMA Chair **Rina Krautwirth**, along with incoming NYMA chair **Emily Apterbach**, discussed future activities to reunite the large and diverse group of Judaica librarians in New York City.

Edith Lubetski—founder and first president of NYMA—gave further welcome via Zoom. Other past presidents **Shuli Berger**, **Marlene Schiffman**, and **Tina Weiss** were in attendance, as well as **Stephanie (Sarah Leah) Gross**, **Ella Ruderman**, **Avrom Shuchatowitz**, and **Hallie (Chaya Sarah) Cantor**. The meeting was followed by a guided tour of YUM's exhibit "The Golden Path: Maimonides across Eight Centuries featuring Highlights from the Hartman Family Collection of Manuscripts and Rare Books"—rare and illuminated manuscripts and early printing press editions on loan from famed repositories in Europe, Israel, and the U.S.



More Odd Couplings from the Secret Files of Marlene Schiffman

Management/ by Richard L. Daft

The Cambridge factfinder/ David Crystal

Nonviolence/ Doris A. Hunter

Effective Public Relations/ Scott M. Cutlip, Allen H. Center, Glen M. Broom

Traces of understanding/ Patrick L. Bourgeois, Frank Schalow

Arguing with historians: essays on the historical and the unhistorical / Richard Nelson Current

Look to the mountain / Le Grand Cannon

Arcana mundi: magic and the occult in the Greek and Roman worlds / Georg Luck

Clore: the man and his millions / David Clutterbuck

How to clean practically anything / Monte Florman

The essential Dracula/ ed. By Leonard Wolf

Earthquakes / Bruce A. Bolt

Politics of clean air / Eric Ashby

*Lovesickness in the Middle Ages /*Mary Frances Wack

Photo courtesy of [International Jerusalem Post](http://InternationalJerusalemPost.com)

Chag Kasher v'Sameach - Happy Kosher Passover!

