



LIBRARY STAFF NEWS

Issue 1

Yeshiva University Libraries

March 2017

REPORTERS

At the last Lunchtime Learning session (Jan. 19) the Staff Development Work Group presented our vision for an internal library newsletter to feature reports on new initiatives or new projects, awareness of what other departments do, helpful hints for solutions to everyday problems, personal and professional news, achievements, humor, announcements of upcoming events, etc. This newsletter is intended to be sent by email 3 or 4 times during the year. We have recruited some “reporters” to gather information, Uptown and Midtown. Marlene Schiffman is editing it. Please forward any news you can contribute to our next newsletter to Edith Lubetski Lubetski@yu.edu at the Beren Campus or Steven Essig steven.essig@yu.edu at the Wilf Campus or to Marlene Schiffman schiffma@yu.edu. ◇

PERSONAL

Condolences to Avrom Shuchatowitz on the loss of his mother.
 Condolences also to Galina Topiler who lost her mother. Marlene Schiffman will celebrate the bat mitzvah of her granddaughter, Sari, in New Jersey in April. ◇

LIBRARY SCHEDULE

For the first time the library was open 24 hours a day during finals in January. Paul Glassman, Library Director, wishes to thank all the staff who volunteered to keep the library open overnight. ◇

MANAGERIAL MEETINGS

In an effort to keep us better informed, Library Director Paul Glassman has been sending us all updates of the minutes of the department heads, often the same day as the meetings! ◇

WELCOME

We welcome Rina Krautwirth, Reference and Instructional Librarian, to the staff at Hedi Steinberg Library. Rina comes to us from the Jewish Theological Seminary, where she served as Circulation Librarian. ◇



Rina Krautwirth

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LUNCHTIME LEARNING

Lunchtime Learning was instituted as part of the libraries strategic planning initiative in order to enable staff to learn about various topics for an hour during the work day. Topics range from the latest innovations to finding out what is going on in other library departments. Here is a summary of the programs that were held so far.

- 1) Deena Schwimmer presented the first Lunchtime Learning session, November 17, 2016, on the function of the YU Special Collections and Archives, what is collected and how it is organized, and then took us on a tour of the Archives in the Glueck Building. She also arranged a small exhibit of carefully chosen materials from the Archives that was not only of interest to us but that also demonstrated the richness of the collections.
- 2) On Jan. 19th the Staff Development Work Group held a Lunchtime Learning session with Rina Krautwirth (Reference and Instruction Librarian at SCW) who spoke on screen capture software. Entitled: "Keen screen: Creating Screen Shot Videos," she demonstrated a program called Active Presenter that facilitates instructional videos and tutorials.
- 3) On March 8 there were two sessions (to make it possible for everyone to attend) presented by Rebecca Malamud, author of our updated Disaster Preparedness Plan, and JB Holderness entitled "Floods, Fires, and other Disasters: What to do?" The talk featured a short presentation about the Disaster Preparedness Plan accompanied by slides prepared by

J.B. It was followed by a tour through the Mendel Gottesman Library in which Rebecca pointed out stairwells, exits, and other safety features. The session was sponsored by the Staff Development Work Group. All staff members are encouraged to read the entire plan in print form (with some relevant links) that has been distributed to all departments.

- 4) The Staff Development Work Group is planning a session by Shulamis Hes in late April on e-readers and other electronic innovations such as mobile library apps. The date has not yet been set. ◇

PERSONAL LIBRARIANS

The university libraries have inaugurated a personal librarian program. Academic librarians are linked with students writing theses to obtain individual guidance and personalized support in research methods. The exchanges are tailored to the individual student. The pilot program has started with the Jay and Jeanie Schottenstein Honors Program at YC and the S. Daniel Abraham Honors Program at SCW. ◇



From a slide by Rina Krautwirth and Hindishe Lee

UPCOMING EVENTS

AJL Annual Conference

Association of Jewish Libraries Conference at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, N.Y. June 19-21. Avrom Shuchatowitz will be presenting on the library's Sephardic Reference Room Collection, much of it in Ladino, that he has been cataloging. Marlene Schiffman will show highlights from the Berthold-Baruch Strauss Collection in the Rare Book Room. Paul Glassman will be giving an architectural tour of historic New York City synagogues. Various members of the staff have been helping in the planning and coordination of this event for the past year.

Faculty Publication Celebration Event

Thursday, May 4, 5-7pm has been scheduled for the faculty publication celebration event. Paul Glassman has been working on it with the provost's office. Steve Essig is helping to compile the bibliography. ◇

CATALOG CURIOSITIES

(by Marlene Schiffman)

CREATIVE TITLES

Can you guess what these titles are about?

From a nickel to a token

(MTA)

From Abraham to America

(circumcision)

From abacus to Zeus

(art history)

From Abraham to Obama

(Jews and African-Americans)

From abundance to scarcity

(fisheries)

From Abyssinian to Zion

(houses of worship)

From Adam Smith to Philip Snowden

(free trade in Great Britain)

From Africa to Jamaica

(slave trade)

From Africa to Zen

(philosophy)

YOU CAN'T COPYRIGHT A TITLE

Here is a title that has been used by many authors, each with a different subject in mind: *Against All Odds*.

Here are the subtitles of some of them:

- 1) Holocaust survivors and the successful lives they made in America / William B. Helmreich.
- 2) the story of the Toyota Motor Corporation and the family that created it / Yukiyasu Togo and William Wartman.
- 3) inside statistics / produced by the Consortium for Mathematics and Its Applications
- 4) aiding political parties in Georgia and Ukraine / Max Bader.
- 5) the feminist movement in Mexico to 1940 / Anna Macias. ◇



The Librarian (ca. 1566) by Giuseppe Arcimboldo

DEPARTMENT NEWS

Tech Services

(by Marlene Schiffman)

Cataloging instructions have now been organized into Cheat Sheets. This information includes basic cataloging instructions for new personnel, including students, how to use OCLC, a list of ways in which YU differs from the standard Library of Congress practice (for example, in Bible and rabbinic topics). Files include the Disaster Preparedness Plan, office forms, how to generate mailing labels, and statistics forms. All of these are organized in easy-to-find folders.

PERSNAME is a listserv that has been found to be a fruitful means by which to update the authority records in the catalog. Volunteers from libraries across the country post new names they have created or updates that help to distinguish one author from another. When these are sent to us, we check our catalog to see if the name appears in our library and update the names. This month, we found several David J. Smiths, one a marine biologist, one who writes about the Baltic States, and one who is a chemical engineer. They were mixed up in our catalog. However, with the help of our colleague who posted changes made to the names to differentiate them, we now have straightened them all out. Moral of the story: if your name is Smith, please don't name your son David J.

Hedi Steinberg Library

A flat screen monitor has been installed in the renovated area where students can attach laptops and view their material on a larger screen. This arrangement will enable students to work together more easily.

Digital Services

(by Eric Hinsdale)

In mid-December 2016 Yeshiva University relaunched their website on a new platform. Here in the library, we were able to simultaneously launch a redesigned library site on our own platform, independent of the main YU site.

The new site is based on extensive usability testing conducted by library staff. Our research helped us

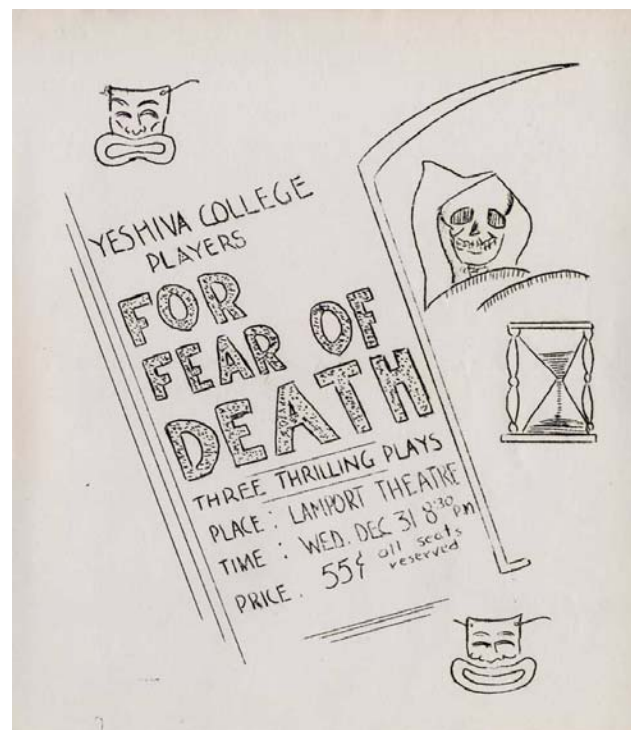
understand what features of the site students and faculty use most often, and what parts they did not find useful or did not understand. We were able to design the new site to make it easier for users to find the information they need.

Another great feature of the new site is that the library has full control over content and layout. We can quickly add information or change the look as we see fit, something we would not be able to do if we were using the standard YU site. ◇

OLD NEWS

(by Shuli Berger)

From 1941 (Hartstein Collection)



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Editor: Marlene Schiffman

Layout: J.B. Holderness

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Strategic Planning for the libraries began last year and set out the mission of the libraries and their commitment to service, accessible collections, and support of professional education and faculty scholarship. Our Strategic Planning Library Work Groups have held several meetings at which they are forging ahead with new plans. Here are some of those things that already have been accomplished.

Outreach Work Group

(Elinor Grumet, chair)

On Sunday, February 12, in conjunction with the SOY Seforim Sale, the library sponsored a Q and A session with Prof. Jeffrey Gurock, moderated by Shulamis Hes and introduced by Paul Glassman based on Gurock's recently published book *The Jews of Harlem: the rise, decline, and revival of a Jewish community*. The discussion was followed by a book signing. About 25-30 people attended; the event was a real success.

The Work Group is planning their next event with Prof. Steven Fine on his recently published book, *The Menorah: from the Bible to modern Israel*. Shulamis Hes and Elinor Grumet will coordinate a research paper help event in May with the cooperation of the directors of the Writing Centers on both campuses.

Institutional Repository Work Group

(Eric Hinsdale)

The group has been working to create a repository that not only elevates YU's standing in the larger academic and cultural worlds, but one that fosters a sense of internal community, reaches out to the general and Jewish public, and increases pride among YU alumni and faculty. It proposes to bring online works of faculty and students, including conference papers, honors theses, *divre Torah*, and documents related to YU.

Staff Development Work Group

(Marlene Schiffman)

This group has been holding Lunchtime Learning programs (see above), and more are planned. Suggestions are solicited for topics the staff would like to learn more about.

Technological Services Work Group

(J.B. Holderness)

A flat screen monitor has been installed in a group study room at the Hedi Steinberg Library. A new printing system, Pharos, has been installed on Wilf and Beren campuses with double-sided printing as the default. New blank guest printing account cards are available to Pollack staff to provide to alumni or guests who do not have YU email accounts.

Digitization Work Group

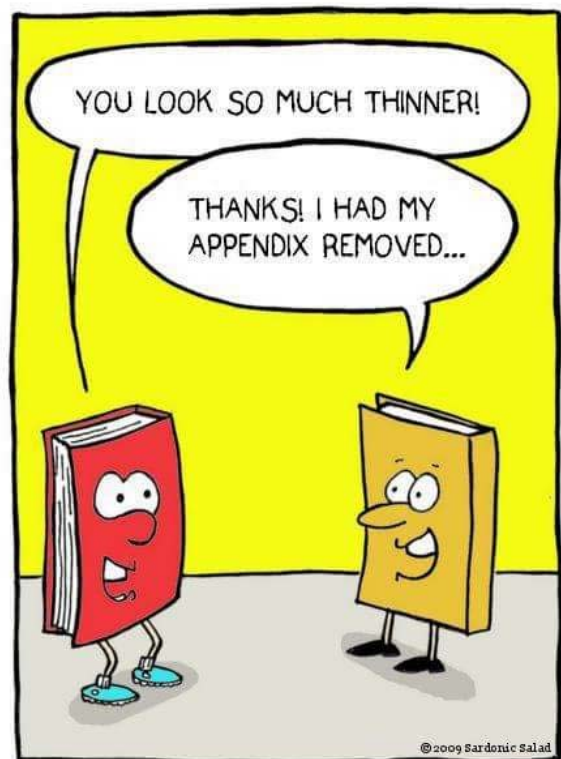
(Deena Schwimmer)

The Work Group is assessing the digitation of rare and unique holdings in the Archives to establish priorities and funding.

MGL Work Group

(Moshe Schapiro)

A survey of uncataloged materials in the Mendel Gottesman Library, mainly in the basement, has been compiled. The Work Group is considering how to prioritize and accomplish the processing of this material, some of it rare and valuable. Holdings include Hebrew, Yiddish, Rabbinic materials and many periodicals. ◇



HALLIE'S HANDY HINTS

Below are a compilation of suggestions based on staff experiences and shared by the HSL staff. Please send your suggestions to Hallie Cantor hlcantor@yu.edu for inclusion in the next newsletter.

Possible E-Res Glitch (Alice Weiss)

A student came by to let us know she was unable to access e-res readings off campus. She was successful in logging on from home, but was having an issue with the e-res password. She was apparently doing everything correctly—it was for Dr. Gurock's JHIS1575 course, and she entered GUJHIS as the password (in CAPS). *Invalid Password* kept coming up. It was determined that the correct password should have been GUJHI (three course letters instead of Stern's four course letters, JHIS since Dr. Gurock teaches on the Wilf campus as well as at Stern. If this scenario should come up in the future, it would be advisable to search instructor's name to see whether courses are being taught at both campuses.

Items in Transit (Hallie Cantor)

If a student asks about an item in Virtua that says "in transit," always check the shelf. The item might actually be there; somehow it had gotten overlooked and never checked in properly. In other cases, the cataloging process sometimes creates "in transit" designations automatically. Contact Technical Services to have them removed.

Holding Scanner Properly (Hallie Cantor)

Unless a book is scanned properly, a message might appear that the item record (barcode) is not in the system, when actually it is.

Checking in a book is an art. There is a way of holding the scanner, like a tennis racket, to ensure the barcode is scanned. It involves a subtle wrist. Also, watch the screen each time the book is scanned!

There are times, however, when the item record (barcode) really is not in the system. Technical Services should be notified. ◇

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AJL CONFERENCE

PLACE HEBREW UNION COLLEGE-JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION

TIME JUNE 19-21, 2017

Annual conference of the Association of Jewish Libraries

Faculty Publication Celebration Event

THURSDAY, MAY 4, 5-7PM

PLACE SKY CAFÉ (BELFER 12TH FLOOR)

