



LIBRARY STAFF NEWS

ISSUE 7

SEPTEMBER 2018

JOHN MORYL'S RETIREMENT EVENT

Our colleague, John Moryl, retired at the end of June as Head Librarian of the Pollack Library. The Library hosted a reception in his honor on June 27 that was attended by colleagues from Pollack, Gottesman, and Hedi Steinberg Libraries. Marlene Austin-Francis spoke on behalf of the Pollack staff, and Marlene Schiffman and Igor Timkovskiy rendered poetic tributes.



John listens as Igor reads his poem. Photo: J.B. Holderness

TRIBUTE TO JOHN

By Marlene Austin-Francis

John,
God has blessed us with a wonderful boss. You have guided us when needed with your wisdom and experience. You have set a great example to everyone at work. You are our role model by the ways of your team work, diligence, efficiency and pleasantness. It's hard to believe that you are retiring. Pollack Library will not be the same and the circulation staff can't imagine how we will function without you. It always hurts to lose the one person who is so kind and compassionate. Working under your leadership and guidance was truly an honor. Thank you for always being around every time we needed you. May you be blessed with excellent health and we wish you lots of happiness.

ON JOHN MORYL'S RETIREMENT (excerpt)

By Marlene Schiffman

John soon will be retiring:
A new face we'll be hiring.
We will surely miss him--
His co-workers so admiring.

John has a steady hand,
Keeps track of his small band,
Always knows who's on duty
To assure the desk is manned.

If John must do with less,
He never seems to stress.
He handles all the problems
With aplomb and great finesse.

John's stint of 39-year:
He's seen changes others fear.
But he's adapted and led us well.
We're so grateful he's been here.

[Click here to read the full text of this poem and other poems](#)

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Last of summer: 185th Street Plaza. Photo: M. Schiffman

STRATEGIC PLANNING WORK GROUPS

A meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee was held on September 5th. Each of the committees reported on their activities, and plans were made for future endeavors.

MGL WORK GROUP

Moshe Schapiro, Chair

Over the summer, the doctoral dissertations housed in the cabinets in the basement were checked against the catalog, and those that were not in YULIS are now cataloged. Revel Masters dissertations are currently being cataloged and expected to be finished sometime in 2019.

The basement was cleared of all the boxed newspapers which are now housed on shelves on the 6th floor. Some newspapers are still in the basement on shelves. We have to decide whether we will move them to the 6th floor or keep them in the basement. Meanwhile, several newspapers that are currently sitting in piles on the shelves in the basement will be boxed. The newspapers have to be cataloged (very few are).

MGL staff will check which newspapers are digitized and/or microfilmed and make decisions about which

titles and how many years of each title will be kept in hard copy. The periodical sections (Hebrew and English) in the basement will be put in order and cataloged. Plans are afoot to assess the Lutzki collection (5000 volumes) in the basement, the next highest priority, and get it cataloged. Eventually, the Hebrew Uncl collection (Unclassified, now filed by title) will be tackled.

Housekeeping and Maintenance have been using the basement and subbasement for storage of junk, impeding access to certain areas. In addition to cleaning this up, we are requesting that reliable phones and better lighting be installed in the basement to make the space safe to work in.

DIGITIZATION WORK GROUP

Deena Schwimmer, Chair

The archives staff has been reviewing holdings in preparation for digitizing the undergraduate newspapers, *The Commentator* and *The Observer*. They have sent funding proposals to Alumni Affairs and others. In addition, they have submitted a preliminary proposal for grant funding to digitize the over 500 titles in the Ladino books collection. A priority is to implement a system that will replace Digital Library with an Islandora-based system. IF we acquire Islandora, it would put us in a position to participate in the Digital Public Library of America. Archives is presently reviewing preservation standards and surveying materials that serve as backup for the digital copies. They intend to transfer audio/video CDs and DVDs to standard web formats and onto hard drives.

TECHNOLOGICAL SERVICES WORK GROUP

J.B. Holderness, Chair

After months of evaluating possibilities for a new digital information sign for the library, the quest has been completed. The result is a new 50-inch flat-panel monitor on a six-foot pedestal that welcomes visitors entering Pollack Library from the glass doors on the west entrance and the elevators on the east. Various placement and mounting options were considered, along with a software interface that is easy to learn. Soon we will educate various staff members on updating the content for the digital sign and evaluate the possibility of adding an additional sign at the Hedi Steinberg Library on the Beren Campus.



Flatscreen on Pollack, 2nd floor. Photo: J.B. Holderness

INSTRUCTION/PUBLIC SERVICES

Wendy Kosakoff, Chair

Orientations: This summer and at the beginning of this semester our librarians provided orientation sessions for Wurzweiler, Katz (Speech-Language Pathology) and first year students. The HSL librarians updated their slide presentation, and provided copies of the *New York Times* article “How to Get the Most out of College” to the first year students. In addition, they have created a library “fast facts” booklet for orientation, and are keeping copies at their two desks for students to take. Paul authored a PowerPoint, “Top 10 Things You’ll Find at the Yeshiva University Libraries” for the Pollack Library orientation.

Curriculum Map Discussion: Susan Bauer from the Alumni/Career Center came to meet with Paul and Wendy to learn more about Curriculum Maps and how to apply them to alumni who are starting their careers.

New Faculty Orientation: Paul and Wendy gave a brief presentation at the New Faculty Orientation describing our libraries and giving an overview of how to use the website.

Deans’ Meeting and library services: Paul and Wendy met with the Deans at their summer meeting, and separately with Dean Bacon to discuss the Curriculum Map and to remind them to encourage the faculty to bring classes for library instruction. We are collecting syllabi to determine which classes have a research component. We also spoke about our observations from our reading of the Student

Library Research Awards, where we saw that students don’t really know how to do a research paper. The HSL librarians sent out a new faculty information letter that describes the library’s services and sent out a reminder letter to existing faculty. These letters included an invitation to have a library research session in class and a suggestion to include mention of the library on the syllabus.

Bookmark: A new trio of bookmarks has been designed for the libraries.



Sample of new bookmarks. Photo: M. Schiffman

LibGuides: Paul, Shulamis, Hao, Wendy, and Rina met to discuss LibGuide design and ways to make the guides have a more uniform look.

CPA Video: Wendy and Rina were interviewed for videos created for freshmen by CPA. The video includes appearances by Shulamis and Edith. Click the following link to view it:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FctBsSCOp1Y>

Social Media: Our social media platforms are updated often.

Twitter: [@yulibraries](https://twitter.com/yulibraries)

Facebook: [Yeshiva University Libraries](https://www.facebook.com/yulibraries)

Instagram: [YULibraries](https://www.instagram.com/yulibraries)

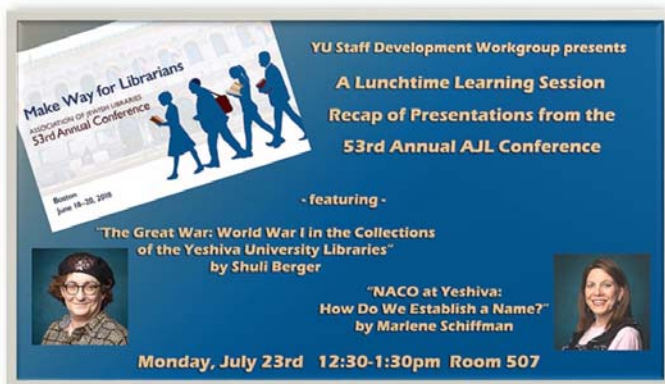
YouTube: [Yeshiva University Libraries](https://www.youtube.com/yulibraries)

Follow us! And send Wendy photos!

STAFF DEVELOPMENT WORK GROUP

Marlene Schiffman, Chair

On July 23rd, Shuli and Marlene presented their AJL topics to library staff at a Lunchtime Learning session in the 5th floor conference room. Shuli described the impact of World War I on the Jewish communities of Eastern Europe who were in the path of the Russian and German armies. Many were expelled from their homes and had no place to go. The reaction in the United States was the creation of the Central Relief Committee and several parallel organizations that eventually emerged as the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. These organizations raised money for humanitarian aid for the refugees and, in the process, united American Jews of very different backgrounds and ideologies to work together for a common cause. Shuli showed, using PowerPoint slides of Yeshiva University materials, the various means they used to raise funds, from the dime boxes and sale of certificates to the proclamation by President Woodrow Wilson of a day dedicated to the Jewish war sufferers. These organizations also spearheaded efforts to support Jewish soldiers in the United States armed forces once the country became involved in the war. They sponsored home-like respite spaces and distributed postcards to encourage the young men to write home. The legacy of the war continues in the Joint which still does humanitarian work all over the world. There are plans to convert the PowerPoint into a virtual exhibit.



Flyer by J.B. Holderness

The paper that Marlene presented was a description of how names of authors or subjects are given their official forms in the Library of Congress. In her PowerPoint, she discussed several scenarios: Updates of names that are already in the Name Authority File (maintained by LC); names never before established, such as artists, printers,

former owners, or donors; two “people” who proved to be one person; one “person” who proved to have two identities; the assignment of a previous cataloger of the wrong name on a bibliographical record; the effect of the new rules that causes some subjects now to be classified as “personal names.” In her examples, she demonstrated the considerable detective work involved in figuring out the identities of the various authors and the means by which they are established. Catalogers now use Wikipedia in addition to standard encyclopedias, email to the author and Facebook accounts to establish the correct spelling of a name or to determine the author’s preference for how his/her name should appear. In addition, the cataloger must be aware of the rules for determining the preferred form of the name and the Library of Congress standards for Romanization (rendering a Hebrew name into Roman characters). The audience was appreciative of the presentations and asked some very good questions afterwards. This presentation can be viewed in [YAIR](#).

Lunchtime Learning sessions, that may be scheduled later in the day so that more people might conveniently attend, are in the planning stages for this year. Due to the holiday schedule, they will probably begin in October. In addition, our second library-wide mini-symposium will likely be held during semester break.

OUTREACH WORK GROUP

Elinor Grumet, Chair

Last year the Outreach Work Group sponsored three faculty book talks—one in early December in the Gottesman Library; one in February in Belfer Hall in conjunction with the SOY Seforim sale; and one in April at Stern in conjunction with the YU Arts Festival. Two faculty members reached out to us last year, expressing an interest in being chosen by us to speak. They are: Ronnie Perelis (Sephardic Studies), author of *Narratives from the Sephardic Atlantic*, and David Lavinsky (English), author of *The Material Text in Wycliffite Biblical Scholarship*. Others will be suggested by the 2018 edition of the *Catalog of University Authors*. Rina Krautwirth suggested that we promote our April book talk as part of National Poetry Month.

INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORY WORK GROUP

Hao Zeng, Chair

Hao worked successfully to launch the Institutional Repository on May 3, 2018. After a naming contest, it was inaugurated as [YAIR](#) (Yeshiva Academic Institutional Repository). A perpetual digital platform with a global reach, YAIR welcomes submissions by faculty, students and staff of scholarly articles and preprints, electronic theses and dissertations, conference papers, literary works, visual art images, music scores and videos.

In aggregating all genres of University scholarly and creative work into one easily searched digital platform, YAIR can grow into an online arena that not only promotes the work of individuals but also enhances the reputation of the University.

Hao Zeng, Head of Library Web Services and Digital Services, designed YAIR using the application DSpace, and Stephanie Gross, Electronic Reserves and scholarly Communication Librarian, will oversee metadata creation to ensure successful discovery of YAIR material by a global audience.

To date, the UMI Theses and Dissertations collection in YAIR holds 3000+ records, each linked to the Proquest database. Stephanie started to reach out to faculty members. 41 faculty or staff publications have been added so far to YAIR.

A YAIR Self-Deposit online form has been created and should be promoted. It can be viewed at: <https://yulis1.wufoo.com/forms/yair-selfdeposit/>

Paul, Stephanie, and Hao met with Daniel Rynhold, the new director of the Jay and Jeanie Schottenstein Honors program, to discuss the new online YC honors thesis submission process. They then met with Debbie Freeman, Associate General Counsel of YU. Debbie revised the IR consent form for us and will help finalize the takedown policy. There is ongoing communication with chairs of departments and directors of programs to encourage online submission of student theses and dissertations. Consideration must be given to the maintenance of

print and microform copies. An effort is underway to connect YAIR with faculty profile pages through Digital Measures.

Stephanie and Hao attended the first Mid-Atlantic Digital Commons User Group 2018 Conference hosted by Cardozo on July 27.

STUDENT SUCCESS FAIR

By Shulamis Hes

The Student Success Fair during Fall Orientation week featured a Library table staffed by Shulamis Hes. Freshmen learned about the Libraries' physical and virtual locations and resources, where to find study spaces, how to [Ask a Librarian](#) and even how to interrupt one with their questions. Students walked away informed and with a "YU Libraries" water bottle and bookmark in tow.



Photo: YU Office of Communication & Public Affairs

TECHNICAL SERVICES HAS BEEN CATALOGING, CATALOGING, CATALOGING...

By Rebecca Malamud

Theses: We have recently cataloged close to 200 Wurzweiler dissertations and theses this summer. The knowledge amassed from them is tremendous as the topics discussed are as relevant today as they were years ago. Topics run the gamut from drug abuse to immigration to domestic violence.

We have just begun cataloging the Revel masters theses. From the few that were cataloged so far, it is clear that we are dealing with rare gems from Jewish Rabbinical literature. Not only are they intellectually interesting, but also they are physically interesting. Many are written on onion paper, others are handwritten, and other theses are written completely in Hebrew. We even found one thesis with an accompanying draft.

The theses held by the Pollack Library have been consolidated. The Ferkauf and Belfer theses as well as the Integrative essays are now housed behind the circulation desk with the Wurzweiler theses.

We recently cataloged the first two theses from the Katz School, a “blended” school mentioned by Rabbi Ari Berman in a recent University newsletter.

While working on the theses, we have learned a lot about the history of the various schools and departments and their interrelationships. Thanks to the Archives staff, we were able to sort out the different units as they were absorbed by other schools, underwent a name change, or were created anew.

In addition, the basement storage for theses has been reorganized with the help of Ursaline. There is now a definitive list of where books and fiches are housed.

Emergency supplies: The emergency supply room is located in the small room in the basement. I urge all staff to stop by and look at the supplies.

VTLS Upgrade: In August the library received a new version of Virtua, 16.1.SP4. The transition was smooth and completed in less than one day.

GROUP STUDY ROOM RESERVATIONS

A new online reservation system is now available for the group study rooms at Hedi Steinberg Library on the Beren Campus. They can now be reserved by going to the web link:

<https://yu.libcal.com/booking/beren>



CONTINUUM OF MURPHY'S LAW

Law of Gravity: Any tool, nut, bolt, screw, when dropped, will roll to the least accessible place in the universe.

Law of Probability: The probability of being watched is directly proportional to the stupidity of your act.

Law of Random Numbers: If you dial a wrong number, you never get a busy signal; someone always answers.

Variation Law: If you change lines (or traffic lanes), the one you were in will always move faster than the one you are in now.

Law of the Result: When you try to prove to someone that a machine won't work, IT WILL!!!

Law of the Theatre & Football Stadium: At any event, the people whose seats are farthest from the aisle, always arrive last. They are the ones who will leave their seats several times to go for food, beer, etc. and who leave early before the end of the performance or the game is over.

Murphy's Law of Lockers: If there are only two people in a locker room, they will have adjacent lockers.

Law of Physical Surfaces: The chances of an open-faced jam sandwich landing face down on a floor are directly correlated to the newness and cost of the carpet or rug.

Law of Logical Argument: Anything is possible IF you don't know what you are talking about.

The 50-50-90 Law: Whenever there's a 50-50 chance of getting something right, there's a 90% probability that you'll get it wrong.

Law of Commercial Marketing Strategy: As soon as you find a product that you really like, they will stop making it OR the store will stop selling it!

Doctors' Law: If you don't feel good, make an appointment to go to the doctor, by the time you get there, you'll feel better. But don't make an appointment and you'll stay sick.



**MAY WE ALL BE BLESSED WITH A
HAPPY, HEALTHY AND PRODUCTIVE
NEW YEAR!**

ON JOHN MORYL'S RETIREMENT

By Marlene Schiffman

John soon will be retiring:
A new face we'll be hiring.
We will surely miss him--
His co-workers so admiring.

John has a steady hand,
Keeps track of his small band,
Always knows who's on duty
To assure the desk is manned.

If John must do with less,
He never seems to stress.
He handles all the problems
With aplomb and great finesse.

John's stint of 39-year:
He's seen changes others fear.
But he's adapted and led us well.
We're so grateful he's been here.

Pollack's major renovation--
John managed his location,
Kept the services ongoing
By securing cooperation.

John is cool and collected,
In his leadership reflected.
It won't be the same without him.
He leaves us all affected.

John's never temperamental
And always non-judgmental.
He deals kindly with patrons and staff
Efficiently departmental.

He's about management and hiring,
New titles he's acquiring
For students and faculty,
But now he is retiring.

John, we wish you all the best
For this most deserved rest.
We hope you find fulfillment
And soon visit as our guest.

John soon will be retiring:
A new face we'll be hiring.
We will surely miss him--
His co-workers so admiring.

Co-workers so admiring

ON JOHN MORYL'S RETIREMENT

By Igor Timkovskiy

I still remember the time when I heard for the first time this sacred phrase: "Speak to John." From that time, it became my guide.

Your time has come. You're set to leave.
It is a fact. Hard to believe...

You're indeed the best DREAM BOSS. (According to definition criteria)

Your leaving is a big time loss.

We'll never have a man like you. (It is a scientific projection)

I bet I share a common view. (Based on actual survey data)

Today I want to wish you well.

Don't have to ask to ring a bell.

Don't have to resolve late fee disputes.

Don't have to do long train commutes.

Don't have to beg to print a sign:

"No longer in print. Read all online."

Don't have to say, "Call ITS."

Should you forget your own pass.

Don't have to waive ten dollar fees

When patrons are charged with late room keys.

There is one thing, however, you have to do. (It's always in fine print)

I'm one of those who want you to

Enjoy your time. Do what you like.

Have all your plans checked with one strike.

Have all your dreams at once come true.

Have all your thoughts in time go through.

Needless to say, you will be missed.

Your office door I think should be kissed.

GOOD NEWS

Congratulations to Shulamis Hes on the Bar Mitzvah of her son, Noam this June. Congratulations to Marlene Schiffman on the marriage of her granddaughter, Carmel, in August in Israel.

GOOD ADVICE

Accept the fact that some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue!

Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them.

Drive carefully... It's not only cars that can be recalled by their Maker.

It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply to serve as a warning to others.

Never put both feet in your mouth at the same time, because then you won't have a leg to stand on.

The second mouse gets the cheese.

A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.

Save the earth..... It's the only planet with chocolate!!!

We could learn a lot from crayons. Some are sharp, some are pretty and some are dull. Some have weird names and all are different colors, but they all have to live in the same box.



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