



Yeshiva University Libraries

# LIBRARY STAFF NEWS

ISSUE #20

DECEMBER 2021





# Library Book Talks Fall 2021

[library.yu.edu](http://library.yu.edu)

## 23

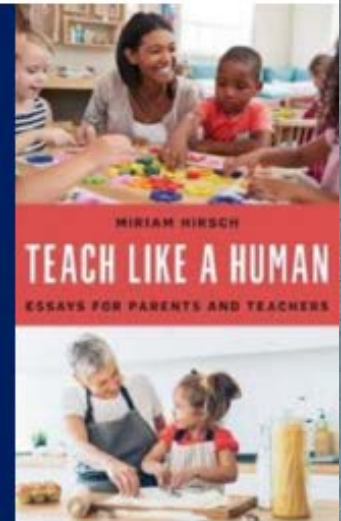
### NOVEMBER

Tuesday, 7:30 PM  
Via Zoom

**Miriam Hirsch**

Associate Professor of Education and  
Chair of the Education Program at Stern  
College for Women

**Teach Like a Human:**  
Essays for Parents and Teachers



## 13

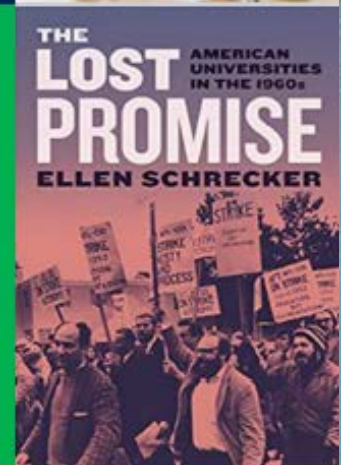
### DECEMBER

Monday, 7:30 PM  
Via Zoom and in  
Gottesman Library  
Room 507

**Ellen Schrecker**

Professor of History, Emerita  
In conversation with Paula Geyh,  
Associate Professor of English, Yeshiva  
College

**The Lost Promise:**  
American Universities in the 1960s



## 21

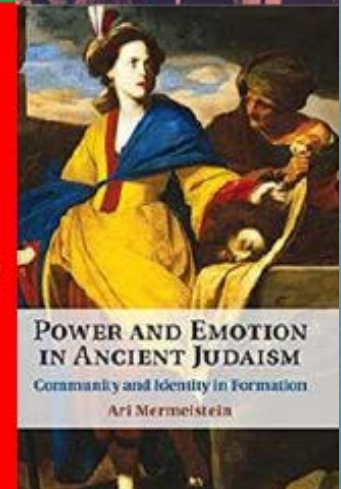
### DECEMBER

Tuesday, 7:30 PM  
Via Zoom

**Ari Mermelstein**

Associate Professor of Bible and Second  
Temple Literature; Chair of the  
Department of Bible, Hebrew, and Near  
Eastern Studies; and Assistant Director of  
the YU Center for Jewish Law and  
Contemporary Civilization, and the Israeli  
Supreme Court Project, Cardozo School of  
Law

**Power and Emotion in Ancient  
Judaism:**  
Community and Identity in Formation



Yeshiva University Libraries



# ***Teach Like a Human: Essays for Parents and Teachers***

**Recap by Elinor Grumet**

On Tuesday evening, November 26th, the library sponsored the first in its series of 2021-22 library book talks. And it was excellent. Dr. Miriam Hirsch discussed her new-and-first book, *Teach Like a Human* in conversation with Dr. Deena Rabinovitch.

Dr. Hirsch is Associate Professor of Education and Chair of the Education Preparation Program at Stern College, whose articles are published widely. Dr. Rabinovitch is Chair of the Rebecca Ivry Jewish Studies Department and Director of the Legacy Heritage Fund, Jewish Educator's Project.

The title of Dr. Hirsch's book was inspired by the series *Teach Like a Champion*, by Doug Lemov, that lays out strategies for teachers to increase measurable academic outcomes. To Miriam, the art of teaching is missing from his work, and it is that balance that she wished to restore.

The subtitle of her book is *Essays for Parents and Teachers*, because education does not take place in school alone. Teachers and parents are partners in opening the eyes of children. The metaphor she used for the difference between parents and teachers is the difference between home cooks and master chefs. Both prepare food, but the teacher is a professional who knows a lot about



techniques and strategies that the home cook does not. Both feed and nourish. Teachers best recognize their symbiotic relationship with parents when they validate parents' experiences and gently suggest: Here's another way to understand this situation.

Dr. Hirsch spoke of eliciting from a class of her students their most profound memory of their experience as pupils in day schools. One third of the class mentioned a special teacher; one third mentioned a special experience; and one third spoke of an experience that wounded them--public shaming or embarrassment.

Teaching and parenting are hard. We make mistakes. Something may work with one group and not another. We need to take risks and try new things throughout the course of our careers. It is important to fail (and allow our students to do so as well). As Miles Davis said: It's not the bad note you play that's important, but rather the one that follows it, that sets things right. Nothing is irreparable. It's OK for a teacher to apologize, and "dial it back."

Dr. Hirsch emphasized the professionalism of teaching. The teacher's presence in the room changes a child's behavior. The teacher is there not for the students who catch on right away and could teach themselves but for the students who need a teacher.

Finally, she said as John Dewey taught, that it is important for teachers to live with ambiguity. What will be asked? How will people respond? Teachers should be able to improvise and think fast on their feet. Sometimes questions are more important than answers and are held in the heart for a long time. As a teacher she worked with had perpetually emblazoned in the front of her classroom: "Learning is a life-long process."

[Watch Dr. Hirsch's book talk on our YouTube](#)



# **The Lost Promise: American Universities in the 1960s**

**Recap by Jeffrey Freedman**

**Professor and Chair, Robert M. Beren Department of History**

**On Monday, December 13, renowned historian Ellen Schrecker, Professor Emerita at Yeshiva University, discussed her most recent book, *The Lost Promise: American Universities in the 1960s* (University of Chicago Press), with Professor Paula Geyh, Associate Professor of English, Yeshiva College. The event was cosponsored by the YU Libraries, the Robert M. Beren Department of History, and the YC English Department. The audience for the talk was both gathered in the library and included participants on Zoom.**

**The discussion revolved around a set of questions pertaining to the expansion of higher education during that pivotal decade. How did universities cope with the sudden and unprecedented rise in student enrollments across the country? How did the protest movements of the 1960s such as the civil rights and antiwar movements affect the culture on campuses? What contributions did students make to those movements? How did university administrations and faculty react to the explosion of student activism? And what were the long-term legacies of that activism for the future development of universities in the US?**

**Schrecker argued that while antiwar protests on campuses may have contributed to turning public opinion against both the Vietnam War and the military draft, the image of “out-of-control and crazy” student protesters, fabricated by unsympathetic public intellectuals such as Seymour Martin Lipsett and eagerly spread by the mainstream corporate media, did serious**



long-term damage to public support for universities. The resulting backlash set the stage for the election of Ronald Reagan as governor of California, decades of disinvestment in public education, and the creation of a kind of shadow university system in the form of libertarian think tanks financed by rightwing billionaires such as Charles and David Koch. The ideal of universities as civic institutions dedicated to promoting the common good seems to have been lost.

[Watch Ellen Schrecker's Book Talk on our YouTube](#)





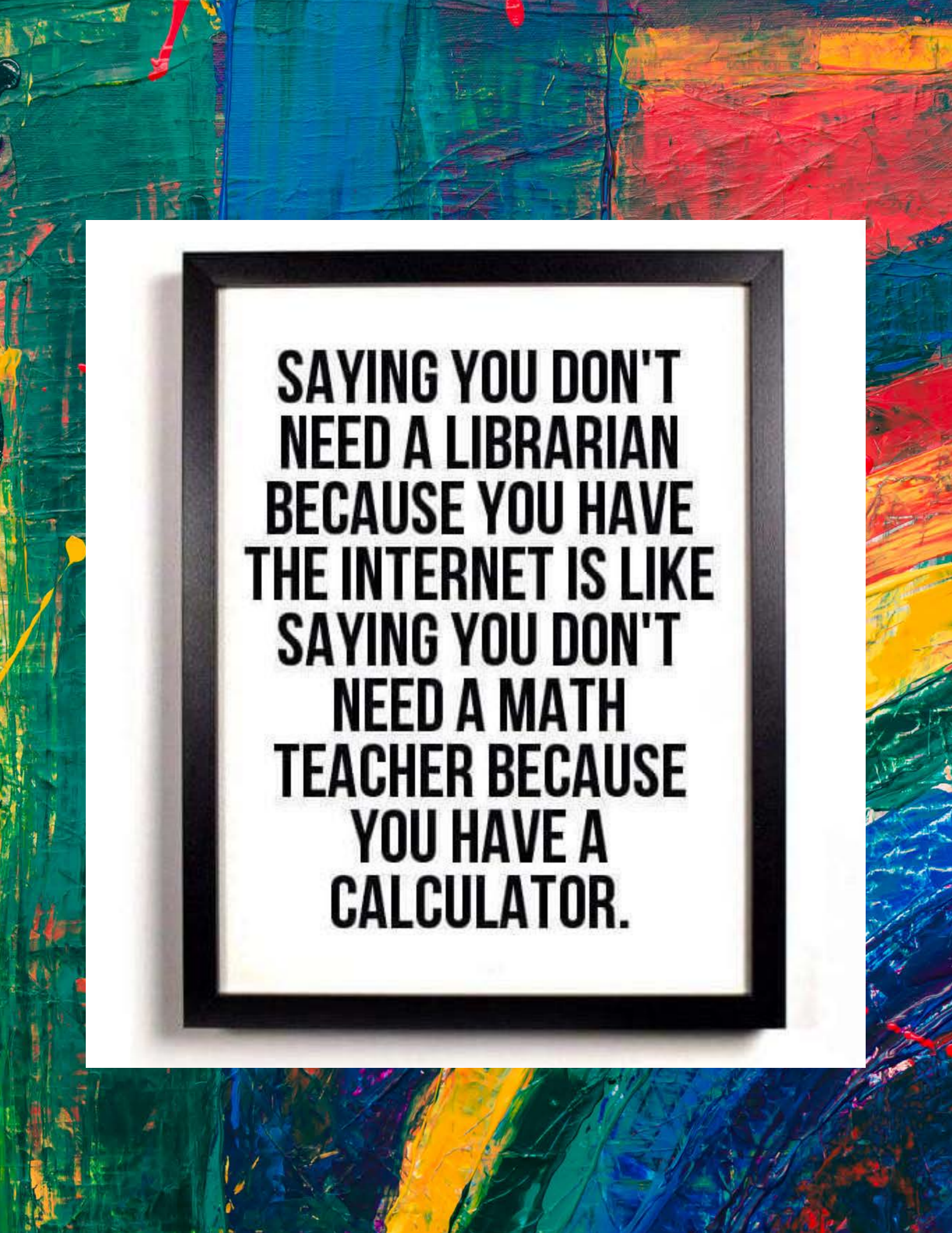
# ***Power and Emotion in Ancient Judaism: Community and Identity in Formation***

On Tuesday 12/21, Prof. Ari Mermelstein shared insights from his new book, *Power and Emotion in Ancient Judaism: Community and Identity in Formation* (Cambridge University Press, 2021). Ancient Jewish writers contend that Jewish identity entails not only allegiance to G-d and performance of the commandments, but also acquisition of specific emotional norms. These norms were both shaped by and responses to networks of power—G-d, foreign empires, and other groups of Jews—which threatened Jews' sense of agency. According to these writers, "emotional communities" that "felt Jewish" would succeed in neutralizing the power wielded over them by others and, depending on the circumstances, restore their power to acculturate, maintain Jewish identity, and achieve redemption. An important contribution to the history of emotions, this book argues that power relations are the basis for historical changes in emotion discourse.

During the event, Professor Mermelstein laid out the basics of his book's arguments and took questions from the audience.

**[Watch Professor Mermelstein's Book Talk on our YouTube](#)**



The image features a vibrant, abstract background of thick, textured paint strokes in shades of teal, blue, red, and yellow. In the center, a white rectangular sign is framed by a thick black border. The sign contains a humorous text in bold, black, sans-serif capital letters.

**SAYING YOU DON'T  
NEED A LIBRARIAN  
BECAUSE YOU HAVE  
THE INTERNET IS LIKE  
SAYING YOU DON'T  
NEED A MATH  
TEACHER BECAUSE  
YOU HAVE A  
CALCULATOR.**



# **Delicious New Collection**

**by Yosef Cohen**

**I am Yosef, a member of the Technical Services team based at Pollack Library. A number of months ago a family member of Mrs. Rachel Elewitz A" H, with ties to Washington Heights, approached me and asked whether I thought YU would be interested in acquiring a collection of cookbooks that their late mother had amassed over the years. They could not accommodate the collection and were unhappy that the books would soon have to be discarded without being of benefit to anyone. Having been assured that the books were in good condition, I immediately contacted the Hedi Steinberg Library, which I thought might be the most likely candidate for the collection. (I have worked in that library and knew that cookbooks occasionally made their way onto the shelves.) After some discussion at HSL it was finally decided to accept the entire collection of approximately one hundred volumes, so that all that remained to do was to arrange for the pick-up of the books and their delivery to the College.**

**The family was prepared to bring the books up in person to the Wilf Campus (not just 'up' but very uphill!) but I would not hear of such a thing. It's hardly good form to let a donor schlepp his donation to your doorstep! I brought him down a few boxes from our office and, with the collaboration of Production, and through the kind mediation of Tina Weiss, one bright summer morning a van arrived to pick up all the books and deliver them to HSL. They are now back with us at TS for processing.**



The family has shared the following history about their mother and her cookbook collection.

Mrs. Rachel Elewitz A" H was born in 1947 to Luzer/Louis and Faige Dubba/Frances Sobel, in transit to America. Both her parents were Holocaust survivors. Her father had been a partisan (decorated after the war by the Russians!). Her mother, who was Polish, suffered the full extent of the war as she was transferred through several concentration camps until her miraculous liberation from Auschwitz. The family came to America via Ellis Island in 1948, where Louis had family from before the war. They chose to settle in the Bronx where there was a thriving religious community with several *frum* (Orthodox) elementary schools and shuls. For high school, our mother traveled by train to Rebbetzin Kaplan's Bais Yaakov in Williamsburg (later it moved to Boro Park). Mrs. Elewitz A" H moved with her growing family to Monsey, NY in 1969, where she resided until her death on 22 Shevat 5751/February 4, 2021. She often expressed her tremendous gratitude to America for providing her a safe haven where she could be raised *frum*, thus enabling her to continue her *mesorah* [tradition] with her own children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Our mother was a true matriarch who was beloved and dedicated. She cherished every family simcha, celebrated every child's birthday (including those of her children-in-law), and participated in nearly every school event for three generations! She was actively involved in her children's lives and especially in their education. She devotedly helped the Women's League/PTA, bingo, bazaar and many other of her children's schools' events and projects. As an English major at City College, she valued literacy. Her home was always filled with the books and periodicals for her family and neighbors to enjoy as she loved people and loved sharing.



An amusing anecdote illustrates this. One summer the two Elewitz daughters came home from sleepaway camp to find an unfamiliar boy reading comfortably in their living room. He asked them, "Who are you?" to which they responded, "We live here. Who are you?" He replied confidently, as if he were part of the family, "Elewitz doesn't have girls. I'm a new neighbor who moved in over the summer."

Besides being a very good cook, Ma was a true food connoisseur, who enjoyed cooking, baking, and experimenting with all types of dishes. A gourmet, she liked to try every spice and seasoning, as well as every kitchen gadget, and to discover how it could enhance each dish. She was a maven, but she didn't rely solely on her own instinct. She liked to hear what others thought would work, so she acquired the few kosher cookbooks available back in the 60's and 70's. (We distinctly recall the YSV and Nitra cookbooks.) She then slowly accumulated additional cookbooks, many on dedicated topics (desserts, salads, etc.). With time, as we children got married and moved our stuff out, freeing up shelf space, our mother added cookbooks on dozens of various food categories (including international cuisine) until she had quite a collection by the time of her passing.

We children enjoyed utilizing Ma's cookbook collection. When one of us borrowed a cookbook for too long, Ma noticed it was missing and quietly replaced it, allowing us to keep our new cookbook. After her passing, our family thought that it would be appropriate to let others enjoy her collection, so a curated selection of kosher cookbooks was presented to the YU library for the benefit of our friends.

Our mother was full of *simchas hachaim* [joie de vivre] as well as wise advice to the many who approached her for counsel. She loved people, and food is one way we share love. We hope the delight others will find in utilizing these books and the dishes presented therein, will be a memorial to our dear mother, Rachel bas R' Eliezer א"ח ע"ה אליעזר ר' ראכעל בת ר'.



# **What are We, Chopped Liver? Timeless Kosher Cuisine Comes of Age in Gift Cookbook Collection**

**by Hallie (Chaya Sarah) Cantor**

**Clearly not your bubbe's kitchen.**

**Over six dozen kosher cookbooks were donated to Hedi Steinberg Library in memory of Mrs. Rachel Elewitz. From cover to cover, a skim through the mouthwatering pages offers both a *fresser's* delight and a "taste" of Jewish social history.**

## **"Lite" Overview**

**The cookbooks can be arranged by various and overlapping categories:**

- level (novice to pro)**
- ethnic (Sephardic, Hungarian, Israeli)**
- historical (American, prewar)**
- specialty (breads, desserts)**
- diets (gluten-free, low-fat, vegan)**
- classic (tzimmes, cholent)**
- restaurants (2nd Ave. Deli, My Most Favorite Dessert)**
- lifestyle (on-the-go, 30-minute prep)**
- celebrity chefs (Jeff Nathan, Arthur Schwartz)**
- contemporary (gourmet, artisanal, international, organic)**

**Last, but certainly not least, the Jewish calendar (Sabbath, holidays). The laws and rhythms of Jewish life set the tone, and many of the cookbooks contain guides to keeping kosher, often laced with Scriptural verses.**



The cookbooks have a varied genesis. Some are fundraisers from local synagogue sisterhoods or organization chapters. Others are labors of love by foodies or famed eateries, or tributes to a deceased relative or vanished place and era. Some are reverential and nostalgic, others quirky and ironic. Yet the gradual editorial improvements—from provincial and amateurish, with simple text and graphics, to glammed-up, with lush photos and place settings—indicate an increasingly sophisticated palate.

Most of the items selected for inclusion in Hedi Steinberg Library were published over the past 30-something years, during a noticeable aesthetic sea change, when recipes became increasingly cosmopolitan, the look more professional—e.g, Helen Nash's *New Kosher Cuisine* (Overlook Press, 2012); *Master Chefs Cook Kosher* (Chronicle Books, 1998). If the originality of many recipes showcases a hip imagination, the sheer diversity of background highlights a wide Diaspora history.

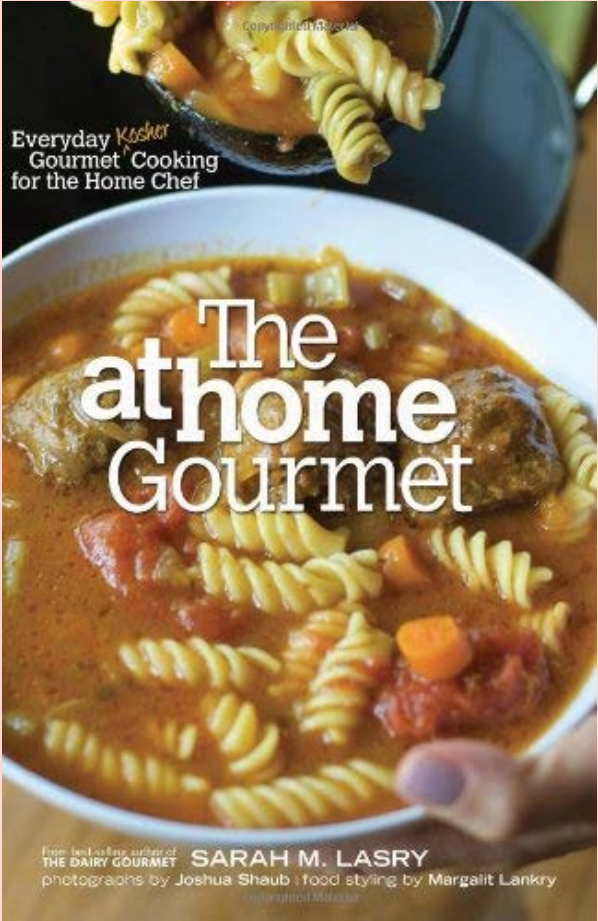
For centuries, Jewish travelers, immigrants, and (sadly) refugees adapted regional dishes to *kashrut* or imported them to new lands. During the rise of industrialization, commercial products became not only widely available but integrated into dietary law. One example is Crisco Oil, which according to historian Joan Nathan's *Jewish Cooking in America* (Knopf, 1994) was touted as an amazing new substitute for butter in meat dishes.

Today, numerous factors—i.e. globalism, distribution, affluence, health-consciousness—have contributed to the cornucopia which we Jews have at our fingertips. Israel and America, true melting pots, have become creative magnets offering menus filled with exotic ingredients. A crowded stroll through Kosherfest, the annual food industry tradeshow which just recently reopened after COVID, provides a glimpse (and samples!) of the latest products on display under rabbinic certification.

From knishes to couscous, "Jewish cooking" has become more than an evolution, rather an explosion.



Couscous topped with chickpeas and other Moroccan vegetables



Sarah Lasry's cookbook



# Culinary Feast

Think of the Sabbath meal, and what might still come to mind? Gefilte fish, chicken soup, roast chicken, or kugel. Maybe coleslaw or some (over)cooked vegetables. But at tables across the globe many are beginning the Friday Night meal with a "Roasted Red Snapper with Preserved Lemon Broth and Artichokes," accompanied by "Beet, Pear and Fennel Salad with Orange Vinaigrette."

Chicken soup? Sure. But flavored with saffron. Vegetarian? Try "Tomato and Bell Pepper Soup with Basil Garnish." Passover? Try *sorda*, a popular Moroccan version of the matzoh ball soup, served in Casablanca. Following the main course—"Circassian Chicken in Walnut Sauce"—is *petar* (Cochin crepes). Perhaps wash it all down—or make Kiddush—with a bottle of Bordeaux or Beaujolais from the Holy Land.

All of this is a far cry from the days when the height of ingenuity meant a dip made with a packet of Lipton Onion Soup Mix and Hellman's Mayonnaise. The shift from the Ashkenazic/Middle American/greenhorn rubric to chic eclecticism reflects the cravings for stylish novelty from those exposed to (or hailing from) places farther away than Central or Eastern Europe. Not only secular but Orthodox publishing houses catering to this demographic have stepped to the plate—e.g. *The Complete Yom Tov Cookbook* (Feldheim, 2009); *The Culinary Connoisseur* (Hamodia Treasures, 2007).

However, not every day is filled with mango salsa or duck breast salad. What about the homemaker juggling both a laptop and a toddler while stirring a pot of instant soup over the stove? Here, many cookbooks—e.g. *Traditional Jewish Cooking* (Jonathan David, 1994)—have addressed this daily reality by juxtaposing the upscale and complex with more humble but still delicious fare.



**As Sarah M. Lasry, in *The At Home Gourmet* (Israel Bookshop, 2010), writes to her *heimishe* (unpretentious) readers:**

*I find that there is nothing more rewarding than friends and family sitting at my kitchen table enjoying something I've cooked. With a hectic schedule and crazy hours I admittedly don't cook every day, and I refuse to feel guilty about that, because I know that sometimes a cold leftover sandwich can be just as tasty and delicious as a gourmet supper.*

**For some enthusiasts, preserving the domestic roots of Jewish cooking may be a *cause célèbre*. The subtitle in *Mile End Cookbook* (Melchoir Media, 2012) hints at a return to simplicity that seems almost revolutionary: "Redefining Jewish Comfort Food from Hash to Hamantaschen."**

**Also emphasized in recent publications are Torah values like charity and compassion. Concerning the current issue of equity, Julia Turshen writes in the foreword to *The Jewish Cookbook* (Phaidon, 2019):**

*When I think about how food can play a role in social justice – in reminding us all that we are each other's neighbors – I think about my grandmother and how, even when she didn't have much, she always gave. I think about how she used to feed and support her family, but also to be part of her community.*

**Well, perhaps it still is your bubbe's kitchen.  
*Be-te'avon* (*Bon appétit*)!**

**From your bubbe's kitchen**



# Symposium on Antisemitism

On October 17, Shuli Berger appeared in a pre-symposium panel sponsored by the Center for Jewish History. The workshop, "for students, scholars, and practitioners," was entitled: *Understanding Jewish Life, Resilience, and Resistance in the Face of Persecution*. Shuli, representing YU, was joined by representatives of the other constituent institutions of the CJH to focus on the role of archival institutions in preserving the records of antisemitism. Regarding the collections that YU holds, Shuli spoke about the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry collection that documents the rallies and other activities in which students participated.

Center for Jewish History & jMUSE Present

## CONFRONTING ANTISEMITISM

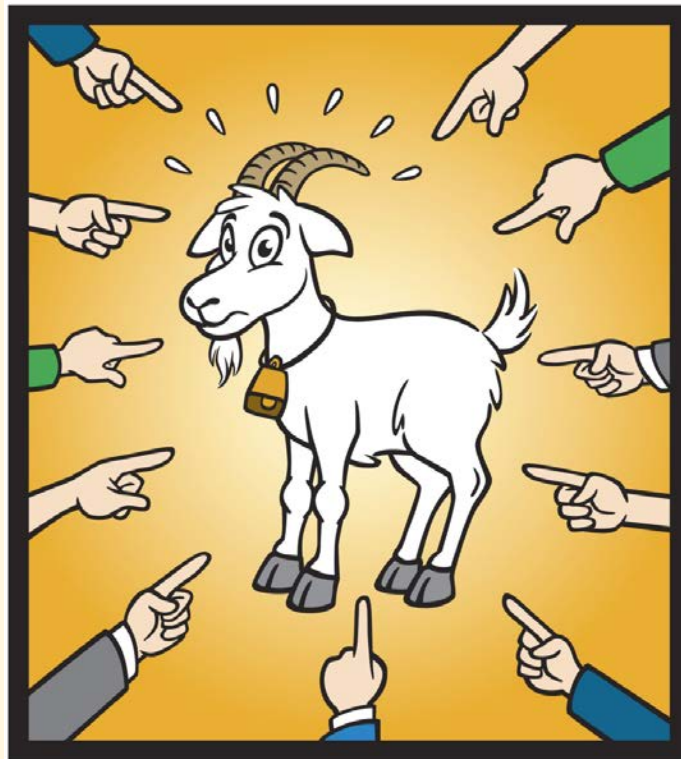
Activating Archives  
Libraries & Museums

International Symposium



**As trusted public institutions with diverse audiences, how can archives, libraries, museums, and other cultural institutions use their unique strengths to combat antisemitism and create lasting change? This critical question was at the core of the Confronting Antisemitism symposium.**

**Symposium topics ranged from museum perspectives on modern-day antisemitism, Holocaust denial and revisionism in public institutions, to examining the sources of antisemitism and the dangers it poses to a free society. More than twenty experts from universities, archives, libraries, and museums around the world participated in the symposium and helped encourage a global conversation about the impact and lasting relevance of antisemitism.**



**The Scapegoat**

# TRANSITIONS




**"Hi, my name is EMILY APTERBACH and I am a Circulation Associate at the Hedi Steinberg Library. For high school, I attended Yeshivah of Flatbush. I received my B.A. in Psychology from Hunter College with minors in English and Hebrew. I am in my second semester at Queens College Graduate School of Library and Information Studies. I am currently leaning towards getting a certificate in Archives and Preservation of Cultural Materials. I am interested in manipulation and preservation of archival records. During my free time I am either biking, buying multiple pints of ice cream, hanging out with my rescue kitten, or somehow managing to be a bridesmaid for the ninth time."**

**Emily, who is taking over for retired Shulamis Cohen, was asked, "How do you like working at Stern so far?" She replied: "It's great! I really enjoy it. I love working with a female-majority staff. Library science has always been female-dominated, and you get to meet some really smart, powerful women. It's also great to work in a Jewish environment. This is my first library job, so I'm really happy to get hands-on experience. Also, Hedi Steinberg provides a unique opportunity to use knowledge in both fields, secular and Judaica."**







**Knowledge is  
free at the library.  
Just bring your  
own container.**

- *Unknown*





# ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

**YESHIVA UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES**

[www.yu.edu/libraries](http://www.yu.edu/libraries)

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# **Excerpts from the 2020-2021 Annual Report**

**In anticipation of a DASNY-funded renovation in 2022, deselection occurred in all areas of the Hedi Steinberg Library: reserve, reference, Dewey circulating, Library of Congress circulating, and Hebrew periodicals. Working with Metadata Services and Processing, several staff members identified titles for deaccession. On return to campus, deselected materials were transferred to Better World Books, numerous reference titles were relocated to the circulating collection, and selected books were transferred to the Mendel Gottesman Library.**

**Authoritative names and subject headings were contributed to multiple international organizations, including Library of Congress and OCLC/ Virtual International Authority File.**

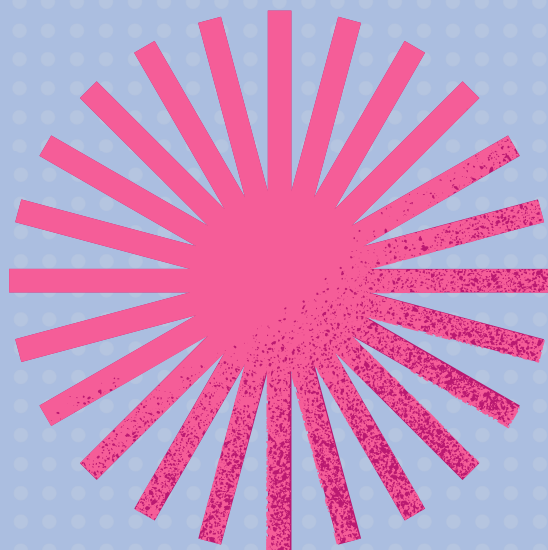
**Our retention commitment was extended to retain certain unique books with EAST (Eastern Academic Scholars' Trust). Hebrew bibliographical records sent by EAST were analyzed and corrected.**

**The Harry and Jane Fischel Foundation awarded funds to digitize and provide access to a collection of bulletins from the Institutional and West Side Institutional Synagogues, both founded by Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein. Approximately 1,780 unique issues will be scanned to provide public access to and insure the long-term preservation of the digital assets**



**The Zoltan Erenyi Fund continued its support of acquisitions in memory of Leah Adler and Zoltan Erenyi. The Zoltan Erenyi Fund made three noteworthy gifts via the Jewish Communal Fund: 1. In memory of Leah Adler for rare materials in Hebraica-Judaica, 2. To supplement Hebraica-Judaica acquisitions, and 3. To upgrade group study rooms for screen sharing with collaboration software and hardware. The digital media laboratory for generation of original digital content and an interdisciplinary 3-D printer in libraries on the Wilf and Beren Campuses will be installed. Group web conferencing capability on both campuses will also be enabled.**

**The Lyrrasis Ideas Award for textbook alternatives in-kind support launched with faculty members and academic librarians from four other institutions: Lake Sumter State College, Northern Virginia Community College, Ohio Wesleyan University, and University of Louisiana Monroe. Yeshiva University participants are Paul, Elinor, Sandy, and several faculty members. Librarians and faculty will pilot curation of open-access and library licensed materials to replace costly textbooks in a fall 2021 course. They will also explore whether use of these resources leads to new pedagogical strategies in the classroom**



Pre internet chat room using  
An old version of windows...





# **Libraries Respond to Pandemic**

**From OCLC REALM Project Updates, Dec. 16**

**Washington, DC, and Arlington, VA—A coalition of national museum and library associations today announced the recipients of the second round of funding for Communities for Immunity.**

**Supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), Communities for Immunity provides funding awards and support to museums and libraries engaging their communities to boost COVID-19 vaccine confidence. As trusted community partners, museums and libraries play a critical role in building vaccine confidence and fighting the pandemic.**

**"Through this unprecedented partnership, Communities for Immunity is providing nearly 100 museums, libraries, and tribal organizations across the country with over \$1.6 million over two rounds of funding to help their community members make well-informed decisions about COVID-19 and vaccinations," said Laura Lott, President and CEO of the American Alliance of Museums.**

**"Battling a global pandemic necessarily requires organizational partnerships of this unprecedented scale and magnitude," said American Library Association Executive Director Tracie D. Hall. "Together, libraries, museums, science and public health organizations can create a network to disrupt misinformation and provide their communities with the knowledge needed for disease containment and hopefully, prevention."**

**Among the 50 projects funded in this second round are two “moonshot awards” of \$75,000-\$100,000:**

**The C. Williams Rush Museum of African American Arts & Culture in Kingstree, South Carolina, will highlight the accomplishments of Black medical personnel from South Carolina history to show examples of how past health threats and medical disparities have been overcome through persistence, education, and science. The museum will also convene six cohorts of conversations between museum staff, medical professionals, unvaccinated Black men—and recently vaccinated individuals—to answer questions and discuss the benefits of vaccination.**

**From the collection of the  
C. William Rush Museum**





**The Kansas City Public Library in Kansas City, Missouri, will combine in-person approaches at multiple library branches and mailed materials to reach a large number of vaccine-hesitant individuals in their region. They will also be preserving and sharing the stories of previously vaccine-hesitant individuals who were later vaccinated, translating materials into new languages, offering vaccine clinics at their branches, and facilitating conversations between youth and medical professionals about the vaccine.**



**Kansas City Public Library,  
Central Branch**

# Judah David Eisenstein, Encyclopedist par Excellence

by Shulamith Z. Berger

The exhibit, "Judah David Eisenstein, Encyclopedist par Excellence," is now on the fourth floor of the Mendel Gottesman Library. J.D. [Judah David] Eisenstein was known as the *Ba'al Ha-Otsarot*, Master of the treasuries, for his compendia of Jewish law, lore, and literature.

Eisenstein was born in Mezhirech [Poland/Ukraine] in 1854, emigrated to the United States in 1872, and died in New York in 1956. In Mezhirech he learned traditional Jewish texts and commentaries with his grandfather. As a young teenager, he and a group of friends studied the Bible and *maskilic* [enlightenment] works written in Hebrew; he and his friends also corresponded in Hebrew. He also studied Russian, Polish, German, and elementary math and science with a Christian teacher. He drew on this educational background in his literary work though he was primarily self-educated.

Once in the United States, Eisenstein managed a clothing store on the Lower East Side. He eventually lost a great deal of money in the business and decided to follow his intellectual and literary interests instead. In his memoirs, he reflected that his financial troubles were providential, since they spurred him to change his path in life and engage in scholarly pursuits.





י. ד. אייזענשטיין.

Eisenstein's magnum opus was the ten-volume encyclopedia *Otsar Yisra'el*, the first Hebrew encyclopedia, published in New York between 1907 and 1913. *Otsar Yisra'el* was a response to the publication of the *Jewish Encyclopedia* published in New York by Funk and Wagnalls between 1901 and 1906. Eisenstein contributed about 150 articles to the *Jewish Encyclopedia*, but thought its presentation of a traditional Jewish viewpoint in some fields was weak, and that it was geared, in part, for a non-Jewish audience. Eisenstein was the sole editor of *Otsar Yisra'el*, an astonishing feat for

an encyclopedic work. He commissioned articles from scholars all over the world and insured that the encyclopedia was aesthetically pleasing, with a title page and illustrations by Ephraim Grover (Grauer) under Eisenstein's guidance. He offered a choice of assorted styles of covers for buyers. It is noteworthy that the *Jewish Encyclopedia* includes illustrations by Eisenstein, but none were featured in *Otsar Yisra'el*; perhaps copyright issues were an impediment to their use. In his introductory material to the encyclopedia, Eisenstein graphically portrayed the encyclopedia as a gift from American Jewry to European Jewry, an early example of a transfer of Jewish centers of learning and study from the Old World to the New. Although the encyclopedia was viewed as a religiously traditional expansion and clarification of the *Jewish Encyclopedia*, Eisenstein touted his encyclopedia as a means to bring different types of Jews together. An illustration in some of the volumes depicts an interlinking chain; within each link is a sketch of Jews with differing styles of dress. The text near the illustration reads: "Endless chain of students: the extremes meet here."



Eisenstein's interlinking chain of students



Indeed, *Otsar Yisra'el* was a unique contribution to Jewish and Hebrew scholarship; it was the only comprehensive encyclopedia in Hebrew devoted specifically to Jewish content to be published to date. The Hebrew was primarily traditional rabbinic Hebrew. Nonetheless, its use in a modern encyclopedia made it part of the revival of Hebrew as a contemporary language.

Eisenstein was a pioneer in American Jewish Hebraist and scholarly circles. In addition to his writings, he was one of the founders of the Agudat Ohole Shem Society, The Society for the Advancement of Hebrew Literature in America, an organization of like-minded individuals. The members were primarily laypeople deeply steeped in Jewish tradition and culture, who were interested in traditional Jewish texts and commentaries, Jewish history, Jewish literature, and Hebrew and Semitic languages. At the monthly meetings of the society, members would lecture on these topics. Between 1895 and 1897 the society published *Ner Ha'Maaravi*, "The Western Light," a Hebrew periodical designed to shed light on the lives of the Jews, Judaism, and Jewish literature. The periodical was revived briefly in 1904 under the title *Yalkut Ma'aravi*.

Eisenstein published a number of anthologies of traditional Jewish literature, among them *Otsar Dinim u-Minhagim* [Treasury of Jewish laws and customs], *Otsar Derushim Nivharim* [Treasury of sermons], *Otsar Vikuhim* [Treasury of disputations], *Otsar Ma'amare Hazal* [Treasury of Midrashic literature], *Otsar Ma'amare Tanakh* [Concordance of Biblical words and phrases], and *Otsar Musar u-Midot* [Treasury of morals and ethics]. An unpublished *Otsar*, *Otsar Hilkhhot Shabat*, is in the Mendel Gottesman Library's rare book room.

Perhaps the best known and enduring of Eisenstein's *Otsarot* are the *Otsar Perushim ve-Tsiyurim shel Hagadah shel Pesah*, a Passover Haggadah with commentaries and illustrations by the artist Lola (Leon Israel) and *Otsar Masa'ot*, a collection of itineraries by Jewish travelers to Palestine, Syria,

Egypt, and other countries. The title page of this work was drawn by Ze'ev Raban, a famous member of the Bezalel school. *Otsar Masa'ot* included a description of Eisenstein's trip to Palestine, illustrated with photographs Eisenstein took during his trip.

Eisenstein's interest in and sensitivity to American Jewish history is evident in his *Otsar Zikhronatai*, probably his most important *Otsar*, a chronicle of personal, historic, and communal events from his arrival in America until its publication in 1929. It also includes a retrospective account of Jews in the New World harking back to their arrival in 1654.

J.D. Eisenstein's intellectual and scholarly endeavors and accomplishments tried to popularize and make Jewish knowledge available to all who knew Hebrew. His activities shed light on a small group in New York in the late 19th and early 20th century: the Jewish *maskil*, usually an autodidact, a knowledgeable, enlightened, yet traditional Jew with wide-ranging interests in the treasure trove of Jewish topics.





# Fine Forgiveness Week

by Jay Rosen

From October 11-17, the Libraries waived all overdue material fines. The goals for this week were to get some of our overdue materials back, resolve fines for students with overdue items, and welcome new and returning students to our libraries. This program excluded replacement costs of lost items and fines on study rooms.

We also created a brief online survey for students to familiarize them with some of the library services. After they submitted it, they were entered into a drawing for a \$100 Amazon gift card. All students (those with or without fine disputes) could take this survey by scanning a QR code with their phones. At the end of Fine Forgiveness Week, a winner was randomly selected. The proud owner of the gift card is Bluma Gross.



Yeshiva University Libraries

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## Library Raffle & Fine Forgiveness Week



- New to YU? Come visit the library!
- Have library fines or overdue items? Get your fines waived and return overdue materials.
- All students: Visit the circulation desk, scan our QR code, and complete a quick survey to enter a raffle for a \$100 Amazon gift card!

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OCT. 11 - 17, 2021

Sandy, Tina, and Paul came up with the idea and helped implement and promote it. The event was successful - we received around 40 overdue books back, waived roughly \$400 in student fines, and had over 50 students fill out our survey.

While this is the first time the Libraries ran a fine forgiveness program, we look forward to increasing participation in future such events.



**Our winner, Bluma Gross, is a Junior majoring in Political Science. She explained, "I was excited to hear that I won the raffle! I was also so grateful to the librarian who told me to enter it. Thanks to the Library's generous gift card, I got new earrings and two months worth of food for my cat, Niño. I was also really appreciative of the fine forgiveness week promotion, when coincidentally, I finally got around to returning my overdue interlibrary loaned copy of Trotsky's *Art and Revolution*, which was awesome to find out was forgiven! "**

**Congratulations, Bluma and Niño! Much continued success!**







I'D LIKE TO GIVE A SHOUT OUT TO  
ALL THE LIBRARIANS...oh, I'm  
sorry.

# Lunchtime Learning

**YU Staff Development Workgroup Invites You to  
An Online Lunchtime Learning Zoom Session**

## **Introduction to BrowZine**

**led by Shulamis Hes**



# **BrowZine**

**Shulamis will provide a brief overview of BrowZine,  
our newest online research tool, followed by a Q&A**

**Tuesday, November 30th, 12:30pm - 1:15pm**

**Zoom Meeting ID: 963 4346 2744 Phone: (929) 205-6099**



# BrowZine Digital Newsstand and other New Tools

**by Shulamis Hes**

The Library recently added several tools to simplify access to scholarly journals.

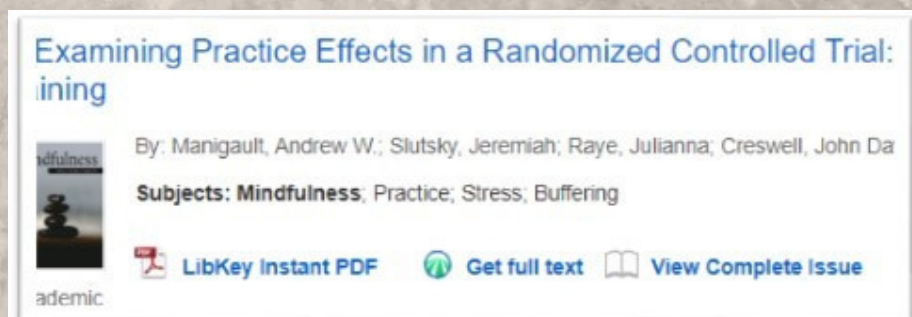
BrowZine lets you keep a library of current journals at your fingertips, on any device.

- How does it work? Find journals you want to track and add them to your bookshelf. Click on a journal cover to browse the latest issue(s) and read articles. Save and share articles or export article citations to RefWorks or Zotero. Get alerted when a new article is published.
- Who is BrowZine for? Anyone who wants to keep current with research in a field of interest.
- How do I get BrowZine? Download the app on your phone from the app store, or from BrowZine.com on your computer.

LibKey is a set of tools that simplifies and accelerates access to full text:

LibKey Instant PDF - Provides full-text articles in YUFind and databases in a single click.




- How does it work? No more multiple clicks and dead-end pages. Simply click "LibKey Instant PDF" to get the article. Click "View the Complete Issue" for further research.



Examining Practice Effects in a Randomized Controlled Trial: Mindfulness

By: Manigault, Andrew W.; Slutsky, Jeremiah; Raye, Julianna; Creswell, John D.

Subjects: Mindfulness; Practice; Stress; Buffering

 LibKey Instant PDF  Get full text  View Complete Issue

ademic



**LibKey Nomad** - A browser extension that enables one-click access to full-text scholarly articles on the Web--on publishers' sites, PubMed, and even Wikipedia.

- How does it work? Find and download the LibKey Nomad extension for your browser. Search the Web. Whenever scholarly full text is available, "Download PDF" will display.

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying a PDF document. At the top right, there is a "practice update" logo. The main header features the "AJS The American Journal of Surgery" logo and a colorful graphic of five stylized human figures. Below the header, the text reads: "CLINICAL SURGERY-AMERICAN | VOLUME 136, ISSUE 1, PART 06, JULY 01, 2008". The article title is "Abdominal hernia repair with bridging acell matrix—an expensive hernia sac". The authors listed are Jeffrey Blainik, B.A., Judy Jin, M.D., and Michael Rosen, M.D. The publication date is May 09, 2008, and the DOI is https://doi.org/10.1016/j.amjsurg.2007.08.035. On the left side, there is a vertical menu with options: Abstract, Keywords, Methods, Results, Comments, and References. The main content area has a large "Abstract" heading. Under "Background", it states: "The ability of biologic mesh to remodel into native fascia i... However, few long-term data exist evaluating these produ... mesh products are costly, and long-term evaluation of her...". Under "Methods", it states: "This was a retrospective review of patients undergoing re... (ADM) at our institution was performed." At the bottom left, there is a green "Download PDF" button with a PDF icon and the text "Yoshua University".

**LibKey.io** - Access full-text using an article's DOI or PMID (digital object or PubMed identifiers). Find this lookup tool on the Library Home page from the Search & Find dropdown.

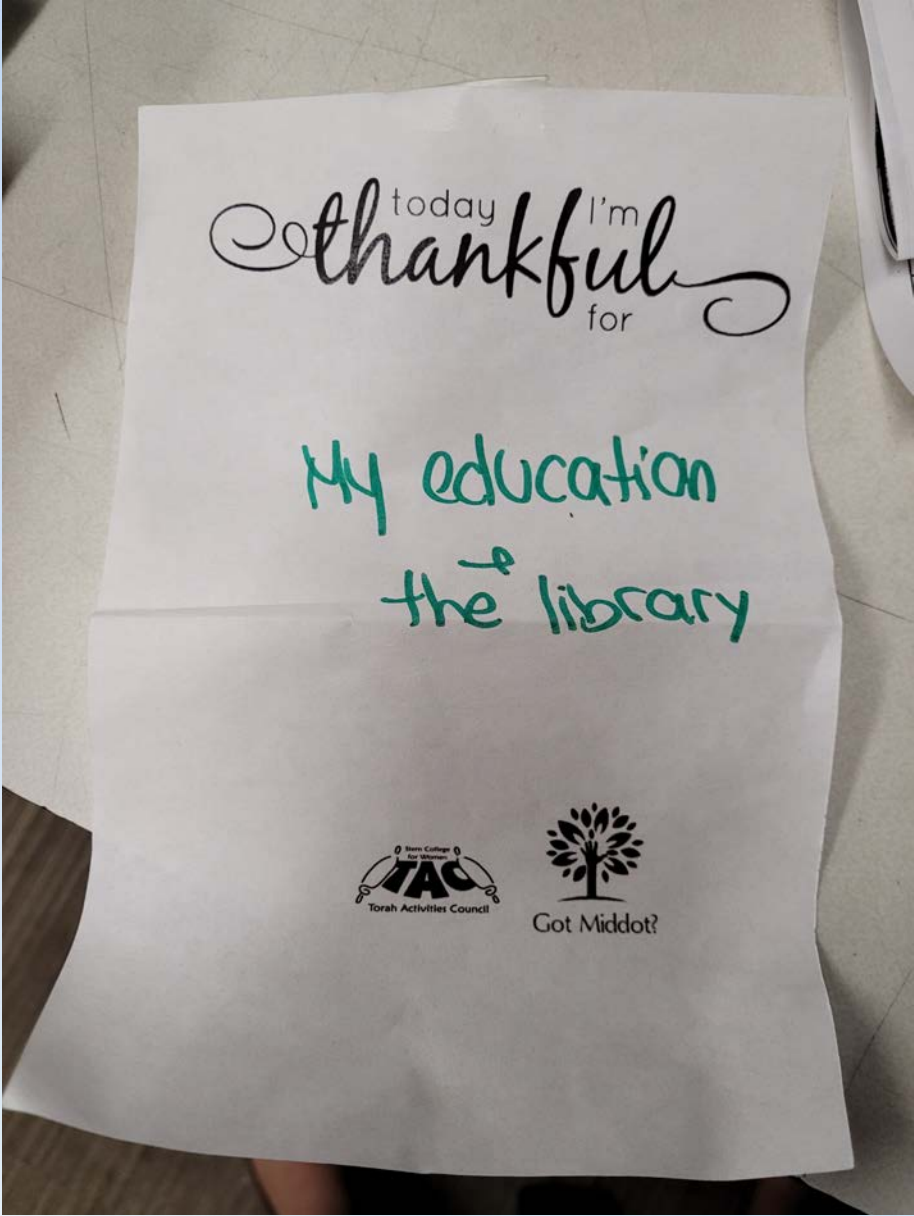




Personal "Library" extracted from BrowZine

To learn more about BrowZine and LibKey, visit the [BrowZine Research Guide](#).

# Library Shorts



Note from a student at SCW



**All Library Book Talks are available for viewing on our YouTube channel Playlist for Book Talks.**

**Sandy, Shuli, Edith, and J.B. will form a work group to make recommendations for scanners and digital equipment for both campus libraries. Paul will provide fiscal and other parameters.**

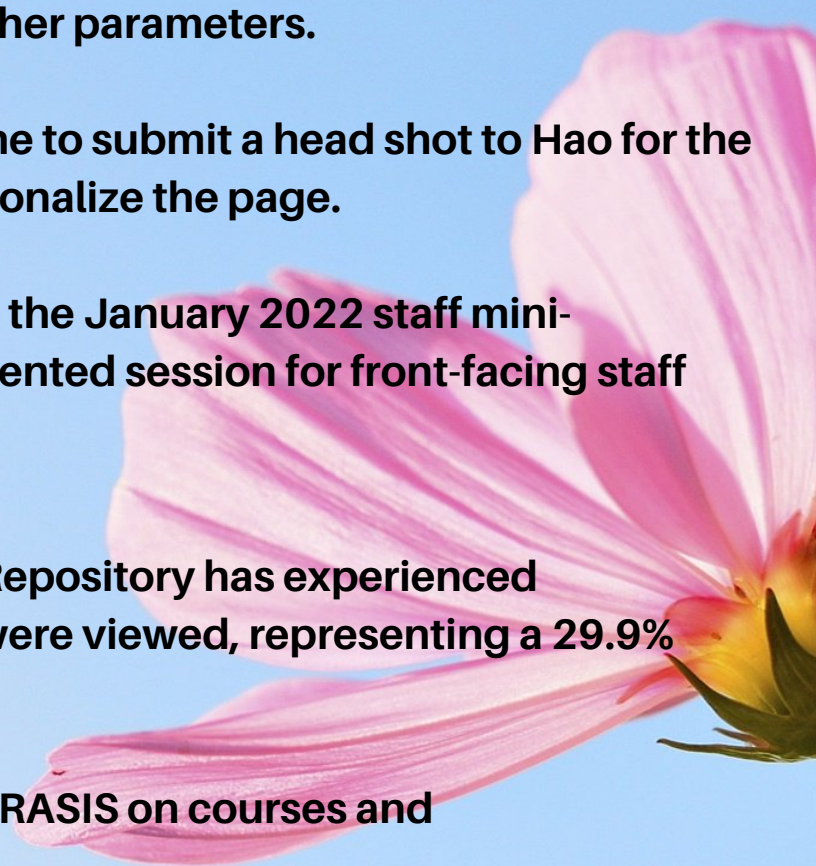
**Department heads encourage everyone to submit a head shot to Hao for the staff directory on the website—to personalize the page.**

**Sandy, Jay, Tina, and J.B. are planning the January 2022 staff mini-symposium. It will feature a service-oriented session for front-facing staff members.**

**YAIR: Yeshiva Academic Institutional Repository has experienced phenomenal growth. 117,344 pages were viewed, representing a 29.9% increase over the previous year.**

**Feel free to sign up for notices from LYRASIS on courses and workshops.**

**Notification from OCLC: "As part of OCLC's ongoing efforts to focus on equity, diversity, and inclusion throughout all aspects of our work, OCLC has tried to remove the term 'master' from documentation and validation messages wherever possible. What used to be referred to as a 'master bibliographic record' is now referred to as a 'WorldCat bibliographic record.' ... [This represents ]... more sensitive and inclusive language."**



# Register now for our 2022 Mini-Symposium



Yeshiva University Libraries

## YU LIBRARIES 2022 MINI-SYMPOSIUM

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2022

POLLACK LIBRARY LOUNGE, SECOND FLOOR EAST

8:45-9:15	COFFEE
9:15-9:30	OPENING REMARKS
9:30-9:45	STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE
9:45-10	BREAK
10-11	YU LIBRARIES SPEED DATING
11-11:15	BREAK
11:15-12:15	SIMULTANEOUS SESSIONS (PICK ONE)

**A. MAKOR COLLEGE EXPERIENCE: HOW YU LIBRARIES CAN ASSIST INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES**  
**STEPHEN GLICKSMAN**  
*DIRECTOR, MAKOR COLLEGE EXPERIENCE PROGRAM, YU*

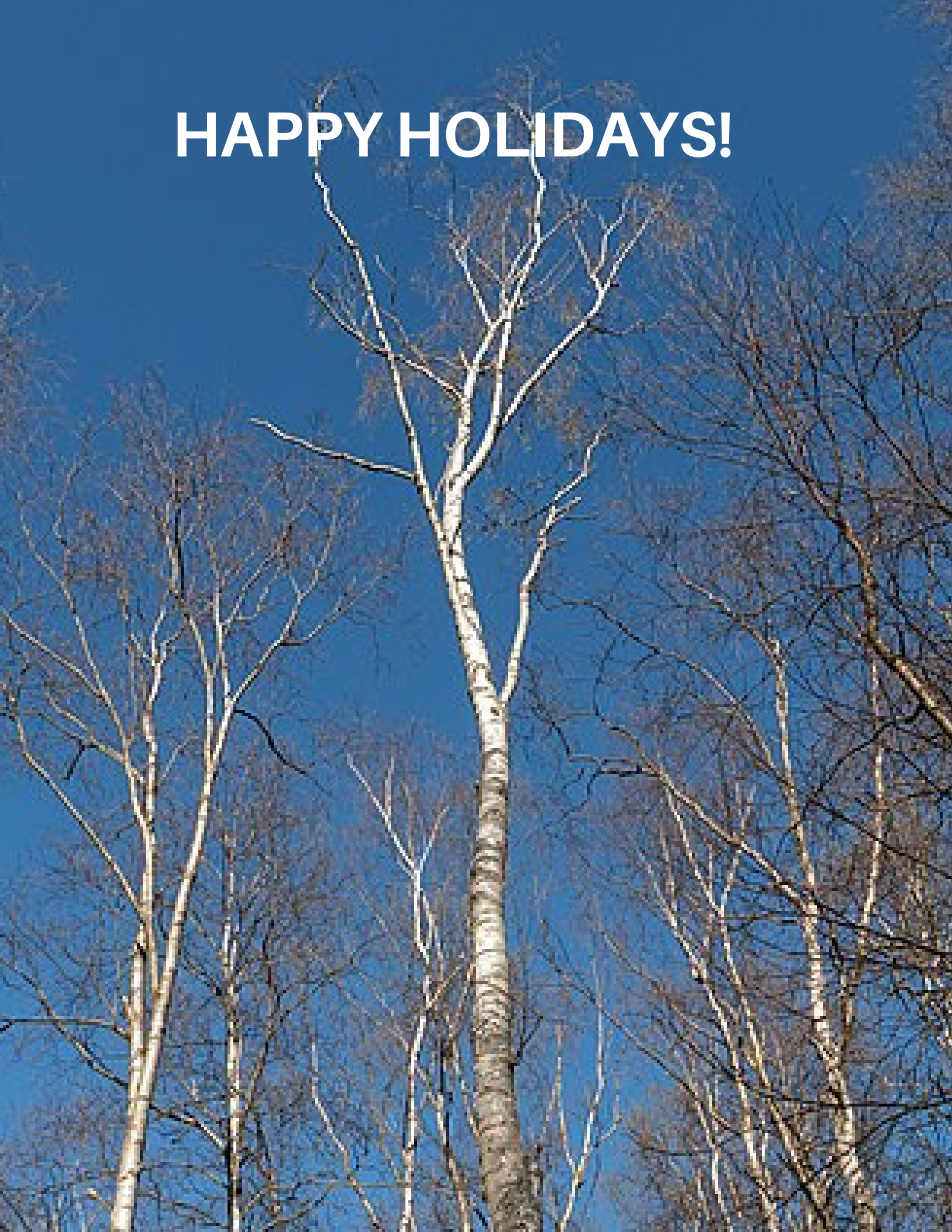
**B. LIBRARY INSTRUCTION ASSESSMENT: STRATEGIES AND CHALLENGES**  
**CARA BERG**  
*BUSINESS LIBRARIAN, DAVID AND LORRAINE CHENG LIBRARY, WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY*

**C. SHABBETAI ZEVI AND THE EMDEN-EIBESCHUETZ CONTROVERSY IN AN AMERICAN COURTROOM**  
**DR. SHNAYER LEIMAN**  
*VISITING PROFESSOR OF JEWISH HISTORY AND LITERATURE, YU*

12:15-12:30	CLOSING REMARKS & LUNCH
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**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**





**HAPPY NEW YEAR 2022!**



**Editor: Marlene Schiffman**

**Technical assistance: Jay Rosen**