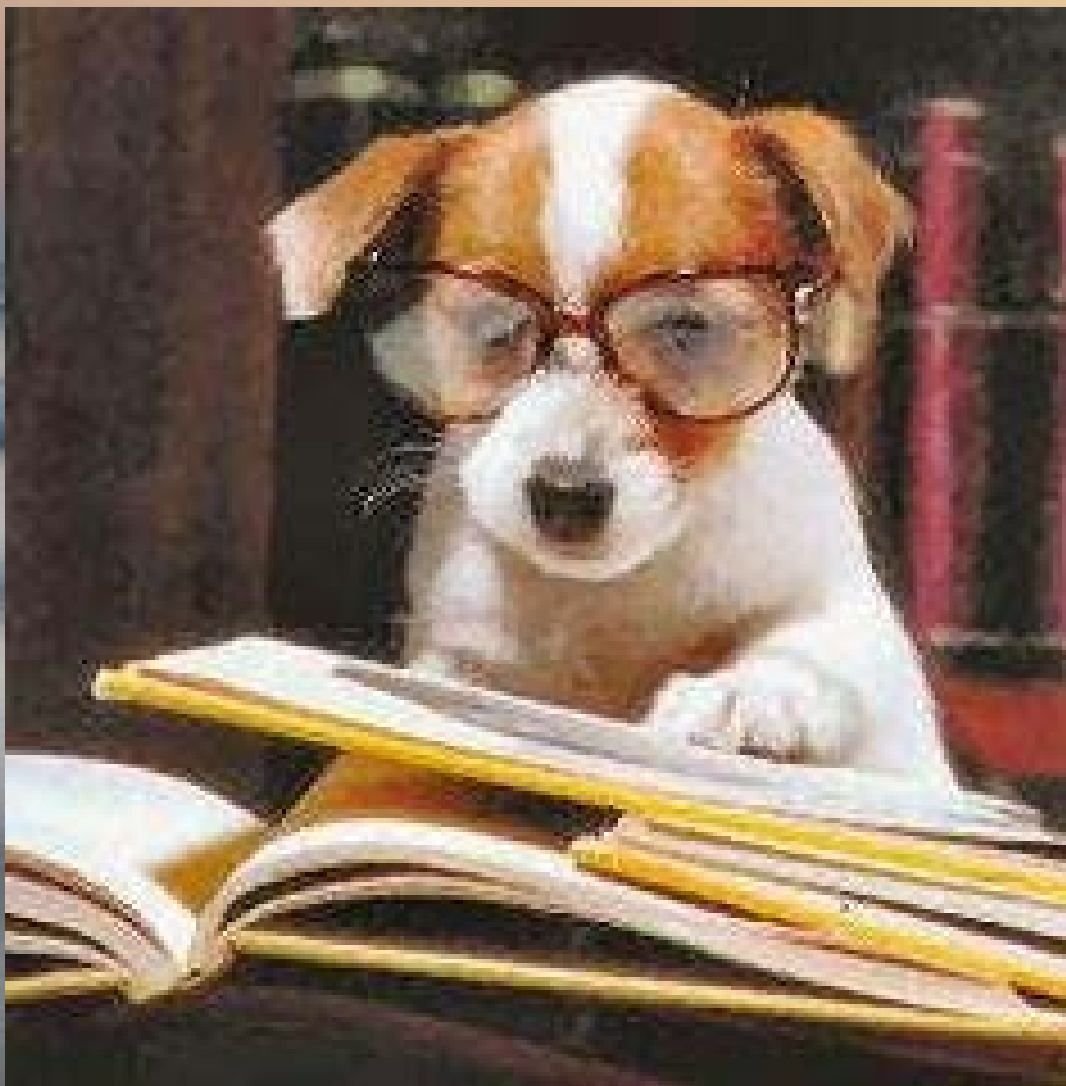




Yeshiva University Libraries

LIBRARY STAFF NEWS

ISSUE #19 SEPTEMBER 2021



CHAYA SARAH

EDITS TWO NEW BOOKS

CHAYA SARAH (HALLIE) CANTOR has been working two new books that have just been released.

Sefer Hamitzvos of the Rambam, Hebrew & English 2 Vol Set: *Mitzvos Asei & Mitzvos Lo Sa'aseh*. Translated & Illustration by Yosef Yitzchak Yarmush.

Despite Rambam's attention to detail and order, there seems to be no clear reason for how he placed the commandments in the order that he did. This new edition has, however, for the benefit of study and memory, compartmentalized the commandments into general categories.

The English translation is interpolated and there is additional explanation as well, all for the student to have context and easily understand what he or she is learning. The Hebrew and English translation is on the same page side by side. Additionally, the lengthy explanation of Rambam was broken up into smaller paragraphs, and footnotes were included when there was text that needed additional explanation.

Here is the link to the news about the book.

<https://crownheights.info/chabad-news/735247/after-40-cycles-finally-get-it-right/>

In addition, Chaya Sarah has had a hand in editing a new edition of *Shaar Habitachon* (Gate of Trust) from *Hovot Ha-levavot* (Duties of the Heart)—the classical and timeless work authored by the eleventh-century Spanish scholar Bachya ibn Pekuda.

Published by Kehot Publication Society in partnership with Chayenu, this book features the Hebrew text with a new English translation, classical commentary, and a fresh infusion of Hasidic and mystical teachings. The author seeks to answer the question of how to deal with so many things operating beyond our control. Aside from global unease, our day-to-day lives run at a frenetic pace; there is so much to accomplish, so much to worry about, and so much could "go wrong." How do we remain calm, relaxed, and focused at the most trying moments? How do we enter into a state of tranquility and live from a place of worry-free existence?

Studying this classical work one might learn how to confront and even transform unpredictable and challenging events by exercising and implementing the messages of genuine unyielding trust in God. Here's the link:

https://store.kehotonline.com/prodinfo.asp?number=EO-SHAAH&fbclid=IwAR2MxWraiG_g_QH5EeKtfAfNvaXmm3LIZsFGPIInoh6XieW6L4Pyq_cchQhk

Congratulations to Chaya Sarah! Continued successes in your editorial capacity!



AJL CONFERENCE

by Marlene Schiffman

The Association of Jewish Libraries supports Judaic librarianship and Jewish literacy around the world. This year our librarians and archivists were able to attend the AJL annual conference by Zoom. In past years, this conference has been held in many cities in North America, and even once, in Israel. It brings together libraries with holdings in Jewish Studies in a myriad of institutions to discuss issues relating to the acquisitions, cataloging, and preservation of Hebraica/Judaica. Our own Edith Lubetski was one of the founding members when AJL was established in 1966 by the merger of local library organizations---one that had grown up around synagogues, schools, and community centers, and a separate organization of academic, archival, and major research institutions. When the organizations merged, it was decided to create two divisions to allow the members to interact with others of similar concerns. For example, a school library might be interested in effective storytelling sessions while a research library might be interested in cataloging details for electronic systems that would facilitate interlibrary loans.



Today AJL provides professional advocacy and development to members in North America and beyond, including Aruba, Barbados, China, Czech Republic, the Netherlands, Israel, Italy, Panama, South Africa, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. Our attendees were privileged to hear from these members during our 2021 conference, entitled "Moving Forward," in some very absorbing sessions.

2021 CONFERENCE

The 2021 conference opened with a lecture by Prof. Shalom Sabar, Professor Emeritus of Jewish Art and Folklore at the Hebrew University who described his collection of ephemera as items that were "intended to last only one day" but that, when saved, reveal information that is often not available in other handwritten or printed resources. These include Rosh ha-Shanah cards, Simhat Torah flags, wedding invitations, posters, postcards, kosher wine labels, amulets, historic Israeli Haggadot, matza boxes, a 1940 telephone book printed during the British Mandate (with instructions on how to use the phone), and other items of folklore.

The lecture took place against the backdrop of his collection of Chanukah lamps displayed on the wall behind him. He showed the historical and artistic value of these items and also discussed how he collects them (to his wife's chagrin).

The conference continued with a session from the Library of Congress about new policies and rules that they have adopted that will influence our cataloging. They included the new uses of linked data that was clearly explained to us--with graphic illustrations--as a large puzzle that will connect an entity to other works that comment upon it or that are contained within it. These links will provide a powerful tool for researchers.

The National Library of Israel also apprised us of the many projects in which they are involved. They have cataloged thousands of Hebrew manuscripts, books, and musical compositions and have a heavy involvement in Wikipedia, Wikidata, and Wikimedia. Databases are being built to link further, external information sites to repositories. Digitization and open access were prominent themes.

We were also treated to plans and actual pictures of the construction process of the new National Library of Israel in Jerusalem, located near the Knesset. An 11-story structure, half of which will be underground, the library will house all its materials in one building and will include an auditorium, a plaza for outdoor events, a synagogue, moveable stacks, and modern acoustics. The building is expected to open to the public a year from now.



Simulated image of auditorium donated by David Geffen for the new National Library of Israel

A portal for archival materials, primarily Jewish epigraphs all across the globe, is being constructed by participants from Hungary, the Netherlands, U.S., Germany, Spain, and France. It will help conserve the remnants of Jewish life in many European countries.

This evidence will provide information about Jewish rituals, personal names, and funerary iconography. An ethnographic project of SEFER in Moscow also documents Jewish cemeteries along with diaries, interviews, memoirs, and photos, in order to enrich the study of the history of Jewish life in Eastern Europe. It is constructed in an open access database for storage and presentation and includes audio and video recordings with transcripts, historical materials, epigraphic transcriptions, photos of tombstones, and cemetery maps.

Librarians are eager to link databases to match their findings with other, perhaps overlapping, databases. They are also interested in establishing partnerships between libraries with specialized databases to connect their various projects. Technical and financial concerns must be solved in order to access this information in an open forum among collaborative institutions.

These were just a sample of the many sessions that transported us into the next phase of Judaica librarianship and the trends that will affect us in the near future.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS



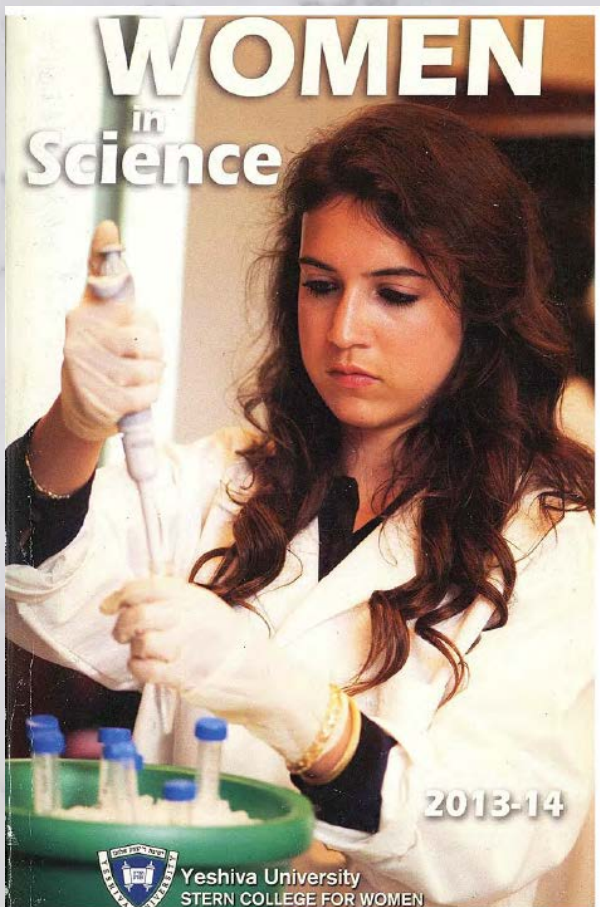
The keynote address, "The Keepers: Librarians and Archivists as Preservers of the Truth" with Richard Ovenden, since 2014 Head of the Bodleian Libraries at the University of Oxford, focused on the preservation of knowledge as a vital function for society that has been allocated to libraries and archives for the past three millennia. The keynote highlighted the role of librarians and archivists in delivering this mission, of crucial importance in an era when facts and truth have become increasingly disputed, to the detriment of open societies, democracy, and the maintenance of communities.

Ovenden highlighted the role of librarians throughout history who sometimes risked their own lives to save records and publications from destruction by political or cultural enemies. He cited, for example, the Nazi book burning of May 10, 1933; the Paper Brigade of World War II fame, who saved documents in Vilnius in the face of Nazi persecution; the Ringelblum archives in the Warsaw Ghetto; the preservation of the Sarajevo Haggadah whose librarians survived shelling to save it; as well as those who preserved tweets from Pres. Trump before Twitter deleted them. His erudition was manifest as he fielded questions from a wide range of subjects from the Iraqi Jewish archives to the Cairo Genizah. He stated that librarians and archivists are "undervalued, underfunded, and underappreciated." Everyone on Chat was writing, "Here, here!"

AJL-YU PRESENTATIONS

This year's Association of Jewish Libraries Zoom conference included two presentations by YU librarians on June 28th.

STEPHANIE GROSS gave an overview of YAIR: "Yeshiva Academic Institutional Repository : Highlights from the first three years (2018-2021)." YAIR was established per Strategic Plans of the past five years. Although it was conceived in part to support tenure-track faculty publication using open-access Creative Commons licenses, the focus has changed. Faculty have shown a preference for other venues, and so the IR has become a popular and much-appreciated platform for student publications as well as academic output by both faculty and niche institutes and cross-cultural initiatives. Beyond theses and dissertations, the IR adds, on a weekly basis, videos and podcasts, as well as scholarly reviews and professional expertise columns. The IR is hosted on Dura Space's DSpace.



One of the student periodicals in YAIR

DEENA SCHWIMMER presented at a session on COVID collections. Entitled: "Archiving the 'Now'," she examined the various challenges that archivists encounter in creating collections of rapidly developing current events or crises. Yeshiva University Archives initiative has been collecting materials documenting how Orthodox (primarily) Jewish communal institutions have adapted and functioned during the COVID-19 pandemic.



She focused on how well-suited existing archival methodologies and tools are for such projects, improved strategies that are needed, and lessons learned by Yeshiva's team. Issues affecting archival appraisal and working with born-digital materials in many formats were discussed, as well as diversity and inclusion particular to collecting within the Orthodox community.

Lunchtime Learning arranged for a recap session on August 24th for those who did not have a chance to hear these lectures. The playback video of the event is now available for viewing in the STAFF GUIDES section at the bottom of the YU Libraries home page, or by clicking the following link:
<https://library.yu.edu/staff> (password: yeshiva).

TRANSITIONS

HSL LIBRARY HIRES NEW CIRCULATION LIBRARIAN: 60-SECOND INTERVIEW

by Hallie (Chaya Sarah) Cantor

Hedi Steinberg Library is proud to introduce ETHAN FRAENKEL, new staff member and Keeper of the Circulation Desk. Ethan will be filling the big and beloved shoes of Alice Weiss, who retired last year. So far into the summer, he has proven to be a tremendous help in weeding the HSL collections for the future renovation. After his first week on the job, Ethan was asked to sit down for a brief Q & A.

Welcome to Stern! Please tell us a little about yourself.

I'm from Massachusetts-- born in Boston but lived primarily in Newton. I attended New York University for my undergrad years, where I majored in History and Comparative Literature.

What is your background in Judaica?

I took classes in Jewish literature. Besides German, I am fluent in Yiddish and Hebrew. I even spent a summer program at the Yiddish Book Center, in Amherst. At NYU I received the European History Award for my honors thesis on Jewish politicians and artists in East Germany and how they dealt with the Cold War and the aftermath of the Holocaust.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I enjoy "bouldering"--rock-climbing--and baking.

What attracted you to the position here at Yeshiva University?

I have always been passionate about books, and extensively used public and university libraries. I like the thought of connecting people to knowledge, and learning how knowledge is organized, curated, and disseminated.

After seeing the ad on LinkedIn, I contacted YU and eventually met with Edith Lubetski, Elinor Grumet, and Rina Krautwirth.



You've been here one full week. How do you like it so far?

So far, so good. I'm really excited. I already helped one student check books in. The semester hasn't started yet, so I look forward to more interactions. I know libraries are supposed to be quiet, but right now it's a bit too quiet.

Where do you see yourself heading? Any long-term plans or goals?

Having studied history - I might later go for a graduate degree - I'm very interested in primary sources. I used archives in my research, and it's interesting to learn about it. I am also curious about

digital humanities after using scanned archival materials from the NYU Tamiment Labor Archive for my undergrad thesis. My first experience doing research in the archives was at NYPL, before the pandemic. I'd like to learn more about how finding aids and collections are constructed.

Any final thoughts?

I just look forward to meeting more staff people and colleagues from the uptown campus. And the students and faculty.

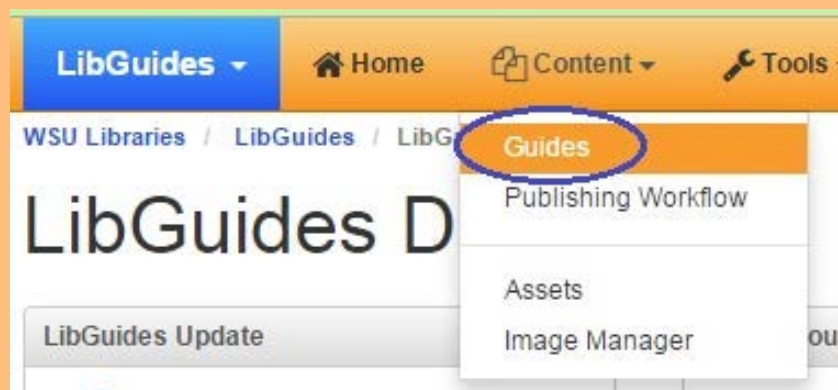


POLLACK ADDS NEW LIBRARIAN

by Sandy Moore

I'm happy to introduce Pollack Library's newest Librarian, JAY ROSEN, who will be joining us on September 1st. A recent graduate of Pratt Institute's MSLIS program, he is a devoted public services librarian. He is eager to begin his new role as our Public Services and User Experience Librarian. As our User Experience Librarian, he will ensure that our systems, spaces, services, and resources work best for our users.

Jay worked as a Graduate Assistant at Pratt Institute Libraries, where he offered on-site and virtual reference, instructional services, and created various LibGuides and video tutorials for students. He has also worked at Literary Cleveland, a non-profit committed to helping writers and readers explore voices and discover their own. As their Membership and Marketing Coordinator, he improved membership retention, led digital marketing activities and social media efforts.



Jay's office will be located near the break room on the second floor of the Gottesman Library. We're excited to have created a consultation cluster and have all of our Public Services Librarians in the same area. Feel free to stop by and say hello!

MOLLY RETURNS

MOLLY POCRASS has returned after a hiatus of a year to work in the Gottesman Library. She will be cataloging rare books, manuscripts, and archival items. Welcome back, Molly!

ALEX RETIRES

ALEX RATNOVSKY of Pollack Library has announced his retirement on October 1. Alex was a dissident in the Soviet Union when he was lucky enough to be expelled. He can sing Yiddish ditties that he learned on his grandfather's knee, as well as Russian Stalinist patriotic songs. He has taught his children and grandchildren to speak perfectly fluent Russian.

When he came to YU, Alex taught Russian literature and worked part-time in Pollack Library. Lately, he has worked part-time in Pollack and part-time in Metadata Services. Alex lives in the neighborhood, so he was able to fill in on Saturday nights and during snowstorms. He and his wife, who serves as his travel agent, have been to many interesting places together. Alex's favorite place to visit has been Israel where his nephews live.

Wishing you a long and fruitful retirement, Alex!

CONDOLENCES

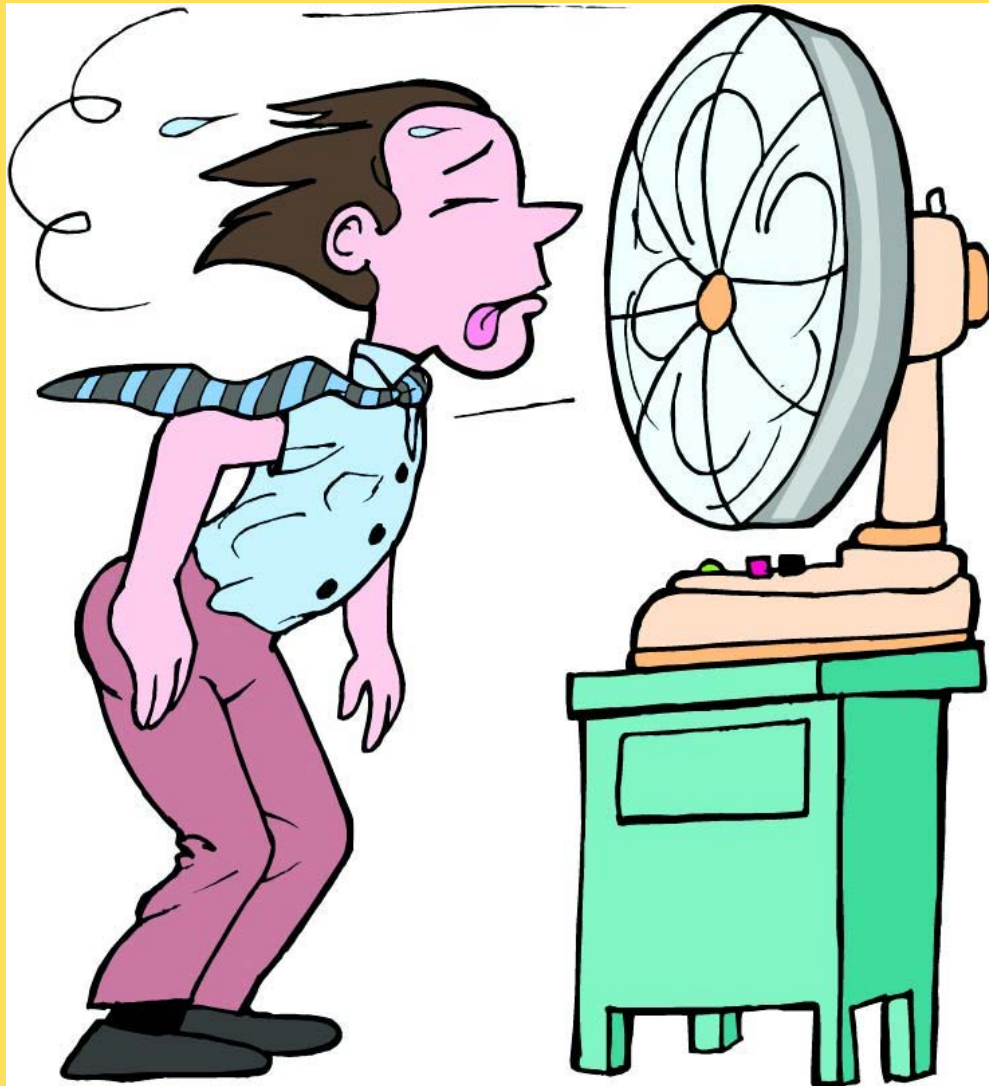
With profound sadness we acknowledge the passing on July 30 of Ricky Dreyfuss, A"H, who worked with us in Technical Services some 30 years ago. She was a good friend with whom we kept in touch over the years. She leaves a husband , six children and many grandchildren. Members of the staff who worked with her are making a donation to Queens Hatzoloh in her memory.





LIBRARY SHORTS

Water and air conditioning was shut off in the Gottesman Library on June 24 and 30 and July 2 for repairs. Staff was notified in advance and directed to other facilities for water use and restrooms. This emergency repair necessitated some early or complete closing of the libraries on the Wilf campus on several days.

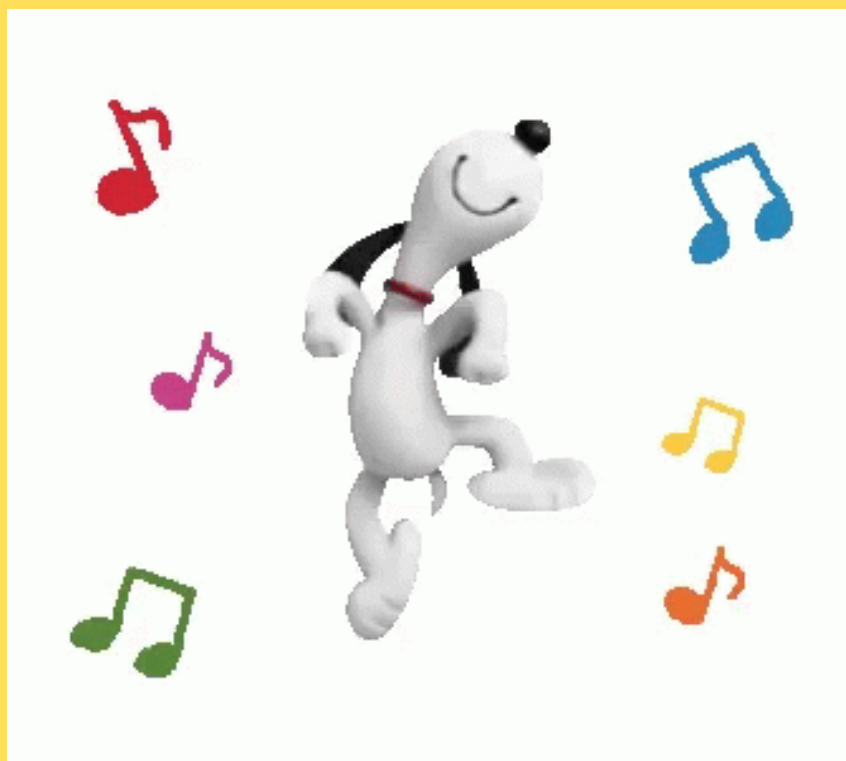


Human Resources has announced that all staff members are expected to be vaccinated by the fall semester. Proof of vaccination and negative PCR test must be uploaded before return to campus. Hedi Steinberg Library will open officially at 9 AM; Pollack will open unofficially at 8:30 AM. For now, staff members who can complete their work fully off-site can continue to do so with permission of their supervisors.

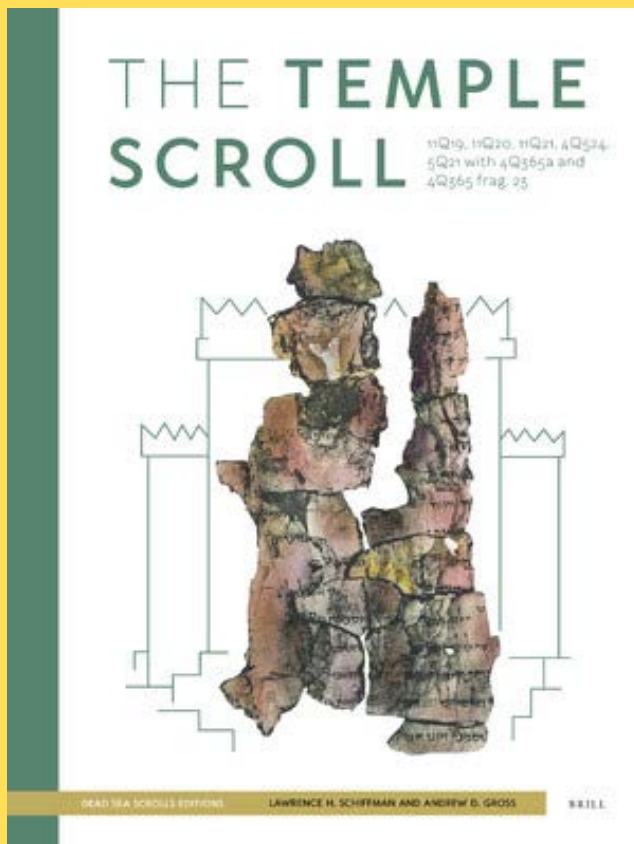
On July 8th Gottesman Library suffered a cracked drain pipe and other water infiltration in the basement stacks resulting from a rainstorm. Thanks to the heroic efforts of Tina, Shuli, and Zvi, many items were saved, although some were ruined. Tina is working to freeze dry and preserve damaged items. These efforts were greatly aided by the *Disaster-Preparedness and Recovery Plan* (revised and enlarged by Rebecca Malamud in 2017). After this report demonstrated the necessity of stocking emergency supplies, Rebecca and Chriss had arranged for these to be provided in bins in the basement. Among the emergency supplies were tarps that were used to protect the materials from further damage.



As part of the ongoing effort to return to normal as of the fall semester, there is an effort to restore the campus shuttle. Student fairs return on August 24th and the libraries will be at hand with bookmarks. Grab & Go will be suspended as of August 19th. A new METRO photograph and YUM painting installation is forthcoming. Group study room occupancies will return to normal capacities. Paul will send Head Librarians names of employees who have not submitted vaccine proof and who do not have exemptions. We will be grateful for these new easements on restrictions, and hope to see each other in person soon.



In the wake of Hurricane Ida on September 1, the shuttle service was suspended. until the following day when it was restored to its normal schedule.



Recently released is the Brill volume entitled *The Temple Scroll: 11Q19, 11Q20, 11Q21, 4Q524, 5Q21 with 4Q365a*, volume 1 in a new series called Dead Sea Scrolls Editions, by Lawrence H. Schiffman and Andrew Gross. The authors present a new edition of all the manuscripts of the Temple Scroll from Qumran, as well as a translation and commentary. MARLENE SCHIFFMAN, with Samuel Berkovitz, compiled a comprehensive list of books and articles on the Temple Scroll that have so far appeared in "Bibliography: Research on the Temple Scroll," pages 483 to 511 in the volume. She also compiled the "Index of Sources" such as biblical references and classical authors, mentioned in the work.

Staff should complete the annual NY Sexual Harassment Prevention Training course by September 30th. It is found at "Inside Track--Employee--YU Mandated Training." The online course, that should take approximately two hours, is required in compliance with Federal, New York State and New York City regulations.

Lunchtime Learning

From Homework to Teamwork

Sharing “Flipped Classroom” @ “Lunch & Learn”

By Hallie (Chaya Sarah) Cantor

It’s enough to make us “flip.”

During our Lunchtime Learning, held Tuesday, August 3rd, via Zoom, Rina Krautwirth displayed her incomparable reference, research--and, above all, teaching skills. Her “Flipped Classroom” slideshow presentation covered an exciting innovation in academia and the ways in which this trend can be integrated into our library instruction.

On Pilot

While the “flipped classroom” originated in 2006, it became more prevalent under COVID-19 and the resultant remote learning, as academia moved from a physical space to essentially a cyber-network of students, scholars, and faculty all in different places. How to keep them engaged? And collaborative? Behold a clever inversion. Essentially, “homework” becomes the classroom project shared with instructor and other students via Zoom. Meanwhile, conventional readings and lectures are done elsewhere, in the students’ spare time.

This methodology has been used in various campuses for certain subjects--i.e., literature, medicine, chemistry, physics, math, and computer science. In Fall 2020, YU ushered in a one-year English pilot program. Working with Wendy and Sandy, Rina instituted a library learning session with class and faculty, utilizing these hybrid techniques. She recognized the advantages of such an approach:

- **Allows for focused learning and student interaction in the presence of professor;**
- **Allows students to practice research skills;**
- **Takes away from long lecture format.**

Disadvantages, however, might be the students' inability or motivation to learn material on their own, or their lack of access to technology.

The session includes the watching of a video by students beforehand, then a series of slides shared over Zoom. Students then create "breakout rooms" within Zoom, where they work on an exercise while the teacher "checks in" on each group; then the librarian reconvenes everyone to discuss findings.

Fact-Checking

Samples of slides Rina shared with the students amusingly impart the dangers of misinformation, false or misappropriated names, and various fallacies (i.e. reliability of Wikipedia). In one example of "fake news," ynetnews.com announces a planned Macy's-style Hanukkah parade in Jerusalem-- and a disclaimer from the Diaspora Affairs Ministry appearing elsewhere the following day.

On "identifying scholarly resources," students are advised:

- **Use commonly accepted sources**
- **Look for cues**
- **Fact-check sources**
- **Look for corroborating sources**
- **Peer review**

Other slides offer tips on how to cite and collate sources, as well as integrating them into a paper; and pros and cons of various bibliographic guides and software (e.g. RefWorks). Exercise questions present problematic situations within research (e.g. ambiguous words, specialized fields); exercise topics range from the literary (Emily Dickinson and popular culture) to the political (Bernie Sanders memes). Google forms provide mini-quizzes, as well as evaluations (many enthusiastic) of librarian and session.

The Lunchtime Learning slideshow ended with the ultimate info and source of help: the YU Libraries reference desk, complete with contact options--website, phone number, e-mail, chat, appointments. While our great staff may be the launching pad for any paper or project, "the flipped classroom" is sure to make research a shared educational experience.

Rina's Lunchtime Learning slideshow presentation can be viewed here:
https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1gCr2L8k1vWR9xTip-oluq4r86dlBZG4KrhF0lOFYLC4/edit#slide=id.ge42d09c3b3_0_40

YouTube slide of THE OFFICE in which The Boss (Steve Carell) extols the virtues of Wikipedia where anyone, with or without credentials, can edit an entry:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kFBDn5PiL00>



News



Hannukah balloons parade comes to Jerusalem

'Together—walking with world Jewry,' a parade to celebrate Hannukah inspired by Macy's Thanksgiving Parade, will be a show of unity between Jews in Israel and Jews in the Diaspora.

Itamar Eichner | Published: 11.17.18 , 13:08



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- send to friend
- comment

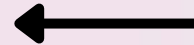
Millions gather on the streets of Manhattan every November in the cold weather to see Macy's Thanksgiving Parade, and millions more watch it on TV. On December 3, the first night of Hanukkah, a parade inspired by the New York celebration is coming to Jerusalem for the first time as show of unity between Israel's Jews and Jews in the Diaspora.

Follow Ynetnews on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

The parade in Jerusalem is an initiative of the Diaspora Affairs Ministry and is meant to bring Jews in Israel and abroad together in the wake of recent grave anti-Semitic incidents around the world, culminating in the recent Pittsburgh Synagogue massacre that claimed the lives of 11 people. The ministry is looking into bringing a delegation from the Pittsburgh Jewish community to the parade in Jerusalem.



Fake news



Macy's denies Thanksgiving Day Parade balloons heading to Jerusalem

The Diaspora Affairs Ministry walked back a prior announcement, now saying a planned Hanukkah event will be "in the spirit of Macy's."

By AMY SPIRO NOVEMBER 19, 2018 11:31



And its disclaimer



REALM PROJECT RESEARCH BRIEFING

from Batelle Labs and OCLC

- **Vaccines:** CDC social vulnerability index (SVI) data indicate that disparities in US vaccination coverage by SVI have increased over time, especially in large fringe metropolitan and nonmetropolitan counties. These disparities are associated with socioeconomic status, household composition, and disability. Libraries are running programs to increase vaccine confidence.
- **Variants:** A recent global analysis showed that variants of concern (Alpha, Beta, Gamma, and Delta) have rapidly replaced previously common strains in nearly all countries studied.
- **Ventilation:** Managing places where stale air may accumulate is important to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Stale air may accumulate around privacy screens or large items and/or work equipment. Smoke visualization and CO2 meters can help determine where stale air accumulates in a space.
- **Ventilation:** A study focusing on mitigation of classroom transmission found that ventilation changes were effective at reducing mean transmission risk by 25 percent, while increasing social distancing from 1.5 to 3 meters decreased transmission risk by 65 percent .
- **Ventilation:** Experts recommended that exhaust fans in restrooms should operate at all times. They also noted that windows in restrooms should not be opened, as exhausted air may reenter.

Impact of Vaccines

- Antibodies produced by the Moderna vaccine lasted for at least 119 days after the first vaccination.
- A study on response to the Pfizer-BioNTech mRNA vaccine showed that after a single dose, persons who had a prior COVID-19 infection saw an antibody response that was similar to that of people without prior infection who received two doses.
- Four months of national surveillance data in Israel showed that two doses of Pfizer-BioNTech were highly effective across all ages (16+) at preventing SARS-CoV-2 infections, COVID-19-related hospitalizations, severe disease, and death, including those caused by the B.1.1.7 SARS-CoV-2 variant.
- Data from Israel identified a strong negative association between vaccination rate at the community level and the risk of infection for unvaccinated members of the community, but further studies are needed to understand whether and how vaccination campaigns can impact herd immunity.

The New York Times reported (August 11) that, "Citing new evidence that vaccinated Americans with so-called breakthrough infections can carry as much coronavirus as unvaccinated people do, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention last month urged residents of high-transmission areas to wear masks in public indoor spaces, regardless of their vaccination status." YU is requiring that everyone be vaccinated, provide a negative PCR test before return to campus, and continue to wear masks. Unvaccinated persons may apply for an approved exemption.

Rosh ha-Shanah and Labor Day Greetings!

Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, begins in 2021 on the evening of Sept. 6. it's also Labor Day, in many places the traditional end of summer. Many school districts are reconsidering the scheduling of the first day of school on Tuesday, Sept. 7.



**Not a problem for us! We
celebrate both!**





**Greetings from Adina's baby,
Yitzchak, newest member of our
Library family (and apparently a
Yankee fan)!**



Editor: Marlene Schiffman