

# ***Happenings***

***Newsletter of Yeshiva University Libraries***



***Editor: Hallie (Chaya Sarah) Cantor***

***Summer 2023***

## ***Mazel tov!***

To Lawrence & **Marlene Schiffman**,  
on the birth of a grandson, Yehoshua.  
Parents Jeremy & Estee Lavitt,  
of Clifton NJ.



## ***Good-byes***

**Enna Korik** has retired from Yeshiva University. While her time at Pollack Library has been relatively short, her impact has been significant.

We would like to express our deepest gratitude for Enna's commitment and hard work. Her contributions will be missed.

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**Sandra E. Moore** has departed from her position as Head Librarian of the Pollack Library. Where to next? The New York Institute of Technology (NYIT), Manhattan branch. She writes: "Leaving Yeshiva University was a difficult decision for me to make. Over the course of my time here, I have had the pleasure of working alongside some truly exceptional individuals, and I am immensely grateful for the support, guidance, and camaraderie I have received from each and every one of you. I have learned so much from our collaborations, discussions, and shared experiences. It is these interactions that have made my time at YU truly memorable."

We wish Sandy all the best and thank her for her years of service.

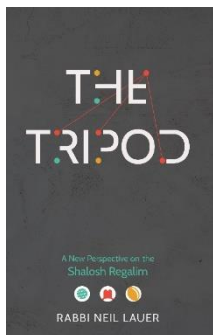
## ***Get Well Soon!*** ❤️

**Justin Thomas** has been diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia. After a month's stay at Mount Sinai, he is expecting to divide the time between his home in Queens and the hospital. (He will keep us updated.) Deeply saddened at the news, we wish Justin a full and speedy recovery.

**Book Talks**

The YU Library Book Talks ended on May 5<sup>th</sup> with a grand finale. Book talk chair **Shulamis Hes** welcomed Rabbi Neil Lauer—3-time graduate of RIETS, Azrieli, and Revel—and author of *The Tripod: A New Perspective on the Shalosh Regalim* (Mosaica Press, 2022). Topic was the Exodus and its influence on the *Shema* prayer, as well as the legacy of the Ten Commandments.

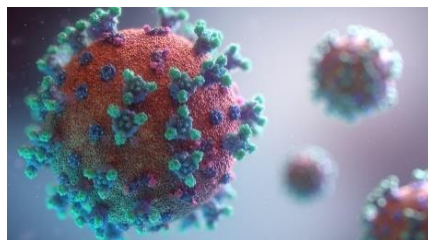
Recording of the talk can be found here: <https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12202/8904>



**Prize Winners**

Responses from the Focus Group Survey, conducted by **Sandy Moore** and **Tina Weiss**, were wrapped up in May, and the three lucky winners picked up their prizes. The responses, compiled by **Justin Thomas** and organized by college/school, can be viewed here: [Focus Group Survey for Students Responses](#)

**COVID Redux**



Now onsite: an initial portion of Yeshiva University Archives' COVID-19 and the Orthodox Jewish Community Collection. The collection consists of digital materials such as emails, documents, articles, webpages, websites, images, social media posts, Facebook, Twitter, and audio/video recordings documenting the impact of the

COVID-19 pandemic on the Orthodox Jewish community in the United States and Canada.

**Deena Schwimmer** described the process. “Collecting began at the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020. In April 2020, an email account was established for the project so public submissions could also be acquired. Collecting continued through the Jewish High Holidays in Fall 2022.” The collection contains what the project team received from the public or were able to glean themselves. Sources included synagogues, schools, summer camps, community centers, national and local communal organizations, rabbinic organizations, businesses, adult educational entities, cultural institutions, mikvahs, elder care facilities, kosher food establishments and supervising agencies, *chevra kadishas* (burial societies), as well as entities serving those with developmental disabilities, mental health challenges, or survivors of abusive relationships.

The finding aid can be found at the following link: [Preliminary Guide to the COVID-19 and the Orthodox Jewish Community Collection.](#)

**From the Past**

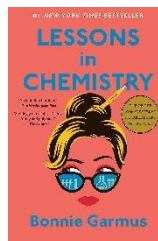


**Stephanie (Sarah Leah) Gross** noticed in the YULIS record a one-issue forerunner to the *YU Observer*, [“The First Step.”](#) which she recently posted to YAIR in the Observer Collection.

“I found it quite interesting that Eleanor Roosevelt paid Stern College a visit,” she remarked. “On page 2 there is a short article about the Hedi Steinberg Library’s setting a goal of 10K books.”

**Book Club**

The Stern College Book Club ended the year with a lively talk on Bonnie Garmus’s bestselling novel *Lessons in Chemistry* (Doubleday, 2022). Plans for next year’s Book Club are underway, which **Emily Apterbach** will coordinate with the upcoming student president.



**PRIVATE NOTES** 🎵

**From ALA**

**Rina Krautwirth** has been participating in an American Library Association (ALA) eLearning course titled “Increasing Engagement Using Active Learning Techniques.” As she explained, “The course consists of recorded lectures and reading assignments; its goal is to train attendees to create engaging learning activities.”

**Linguist Metsuyan!**

**Shulamis Hes** translated from Hebrew the following article which appeared on 18Forty: <https://18forty.org/articles/the-white-fire-burns-a-talk-on-education-that-begins-from-within/>

**Honoring an Alumnus**

For years he was a familiar face at Hedi Steinberg, arriving nearly every day to do research and to *schmooze* with the library staff. After the passing of YU Alumnus Rabbi Dr. Robert Blau, **Hallie (Chaya Sarah) Cantor** contacted his family and sent to a son all the files she had privately typed for Rabbi Blau, containing his bar mitzvah speeches and his meticulous notes of the lectures by his teacher Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik (“the Rav”), of blessed memory. Some of these lectures, which focused on famed scholar Maimonides (Rambam), have already been published; others will be included in a revised edition of Rabbi Blau’s *Sefer Efnah ve-Eshneh*.



**More Odd Couplings from the secret files of Marlene Schiffman**

*Perspectives on forgiveness*, edited by Jordan Kiper.

*A concise history of the Arab-Israeli conflict* by Ian J. Bickerton.

*Infertility around the globe: new thinking on childlessness, gender, and reproductive technologies*. Note: Electronic reproduction.

*Blurred binarism* by Mishy Harman.

*Jews in German-Occupied Soviet territory* by J. B. Schechtmann.

[Ed. Note: Schecht is Yiddish for “slaughter.”]

*I will espouse you forever: the Song of Songs and the theology of love in the Hebrew Bible* by Larry Lyke.

*Holocaust survivors’ mental health* by T.L. Brink.

*The laws of respect and reverend for religious books and articles* by Yechezkel Feinhandler.

*Before my life began* by Jay Neugeboren.

*The Jewish burial ground at Jewbury* by J. M. Lilley and G. Stroud.

*Long was the way from Strzyzow to Los Angeles* by Harry Langsam.

*The women in Judaism* by Denese Berg Mann.

*The work of craft* by Carla Needleman.

*Renewable energy: a concise guide to green alternatives* by Jennifer Carless  
(New York: Walker, 1993)

*Before video: a history of the non-theatrical film* by Anthony Slide.

*Your first book of wealth* by A. David Silver.

*Reform in Russia and the USSR* edited by Robert O. Crummey.

*Real mummies don’t bleed: friendly tales for October nights* by Susan Witcher.

**Enjoy the Summer!**

