

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

www.yu.edu/libraries



ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

MISSION

Yeshiva University Libraries' mission is to nurture excellence in pursuit of the liberal arts and sciences, support professional education, promote faculty scholarship, and advance the university as a center for Jewish studies. The libraries will achieve this through commitment to service, accessible collections, comprehensive information resources, engaging programs, and an inviting, functional, and flexible physical environment.

VISION

Yeshiva University Libraries will assume a central role in the academic enterprise by nurturing discovery, critical thinking, and interdisciplinary information exchange to help students and faculty collaborate, grow intellectually, and acquire skills for life-long learning. The libraries will maintain a global dimension in advancing research and scholarship in Jewish Studies.

ADMINISTRATION

PERSONNEL

- Elinor Grumet retired from her position as Research and Instruction Librarian.
- Sandra Moore resigned from her position as Head Librarian, Pollack Library. |
- Andrew Hobden began as Circulation Associate in Pollack Library. |
- Molly Pocrass filled the grant-funded, temporary position of Project Cataloger for the Herman Prins Salomon multi-lingual Judaica collection in Metadata Services and Processing.
- Enna Korik retired from her position as Circulation Associate in Pollack Library.
- Alexander Kahgan began as Circulation Associate.
- Rachel Martin began as Circulation Associate in Hedi Steinberg Library.
- Emily Apterbach assumed the role of Research and Instruction Librarian.
- Andrew Hobden began as Circulation Associate.

SCHOLARLY DOCUMENTATION & FACULTY APPRECIATION

Catalog of University Authors

Andrew Hobden, Circulation Associate, compiled and edited the catalog. Wendy Kosakoff, Rebecca Malamud, and Marlene Schiffman edited and proofread it. Sixty-one contributors submitted bibliographic and descriptive data.



AWARDS & GRANTS

- The Estate of Herman Prins Salomon awarded funds to provide access to create and edit descriptive records for a multi-language Judaica collection.
- The Zoltan Erenyi Fund made three noteworthy gifts via the Jewish Communal Fund:

- In memory of Leah Adler for rare materials in Hebraica-Judaica
- To create digital media studios in Pollack and Hedi Steinberg Libraries
- The **New York State Library** awarded funds for acquisitions in the areas of social work and Judaica through its **Coordinated Collection Development Aid** program.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATION



- **Paul Glassman**, Director of Scholarly and Cultural Resources, Benjamin Gottesman Librarian, presented at the *Conference on Academic Library Management (CALM)* on the topic "Debias Your Hiring Practices: Supporting Equity for Neurodiverse Candidates in Job Interviews" (June 7, 2023).

PUBLISHING & EDITING

- **Hallie Cantor**, Acquisitions Associate, joined the editorial staff of Rohr-Jewish Learning Institute and contributed reviews to *AJL News and Reviews*.
- **Rina Krautwirth**, Research and Instruction Librarian, published "Editing Nature's Code: CRISPR Gene Editing and Jewish Law" in *Derech HaTeva* (27).

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- **Emily Apterbach**, Research and Instruction Librarian
 - Co-chaired the January 2023 University Libraries' staff mini-symposium.
- **Hallie Cantor**, Acquisitions Associate
 - Composed and designed two issues of *Happenings*, the University Libraries staff newsletter.
- **Rina Krautwirth**, Research and Instruction Librarian
 - Continued as President of Association of Jewish Libraries/New York Metropolitan Area Chapter.
 - Presented Lunch and Learn workshops on *Library Research: Occupational Therapy and Cognitive Load*.

- **Marlene Schiffman**, Catalog Librarian
 - Serves on the Research, Archives, and Special Collections Cataloging Committee of the Association of Jewish Libraries.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

- **Emily Apterbach**, Research and Instruction Librarian
 - Academic Librarians and Data/ Professional Development Discussion
 - ACRL Symposium Planning Committee Meeting
 - Encouraging Engagement in Online Instruction
 - Leading the Way for Information Literacy: Planning, Promotion, and Policy
 - Not Just for Art's Sake: Visual Literacy Across the Disciplines
 - Unpacking Conspiracy Theories: Ideas for Confronting the Hydra of the Information Age
- **Stephanie Gross**, Electronic Reserves and Scholarly Communication Librarian
 - ACRL/NY User Experience meeting
 - Path to Open: Open Access and University Presses
 - Banned Books and Censorship
 - ORCID US Community Call: Institutional Repository Usage Statistics (IRUS), ORCID, and DOIs
 - Delivering Extreme Customer Service from the Inside Out
- **Hindishe Lee**, Reference and Instruction Librarian
 - How Academic Librarians are working with Faculty to Source Affordable textbooks for Students
 - Not Just for Art's Sake: Visual Literacy Across the Disciplines
 - Leading the Way for Information Literacy: Planning, Promotion & Policy
 - Online Instruction: Practical Tips for Librarians
 - Unpacking Conspiracy Theories: Ideas for Confronting the Hydra of the Information Age
- **Sandra Moore**, Head Librarian, Pollack Library
 - Harvard University Graduate School of Education Leadership Institute for Academic Librarians.
- **Shulamis Hes**, Electronic Resources and Reference Librarian
 - Is Reference Dead? Practical Considerations for Evaluating and Improving your Reference Services
 - Doing a Systematic Review: What to Think About
 - Leveredge Town Hall
 - Library Data: The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly, SUNYLA Midwinter Virtual Conference
 - Nexis Uni Refresher and Update

- **J. B. Holderness**, Library Systems Administrator
 - Code4Lib Library Developers Conference, Princeton University
- **Wendy Kosakoff**, Public Services and Outreach Librarian
 - Is Reference Dead? Practical Considerations for Evaluating and Improving your Reference Services
 - Factiva Basics
 - Systemic Problems with Information Literacy Training
 - Promoting Your Collections: Messaging, Merchandising, and More
 - Disinformation and the Literacy Landscape
 - ADHD in the College Student: Implications In and Out of the Classroom
 - Safe Zone Workshop
 - Salesforce AI Day
- **Justin Thomas**, Public Services and User Experience Librarian
 - Learn from your peers how to support student success with your e-journal investment
 - Academic Integrity and Artificial Intelligence: Implications for Plagiarism and Academic Writing
 - Encouraging Engagement in Online Instruction
 - Me Difficult? Nah, They're Difficult!
 - Orientation: The latest content, features, and tools on JSTOR
 - Factiva Basics for Yeshiva University
 - Is Reference Dead? Practical Considerations for Evaluating and Improving your Reference Services
- **Tina Weiss**, Head Librarian of Hebraica-Judaica
 - Community-Led Strategic Planning and Organizational Change
 - Promoting Your Collections: Messaging, Merchandising, and More: LibraryWorks
 - Association of Jewish Libraries Conference
 - Red Inks and Gold Leaf, Parchment and Paper: Conservation of the Corfu Manuscripts, Columbia University
 - Jewish Book Week, From the Ground Up: Building a New National Library of Israel
 - Tips for requesting articles from Internet Archive on OCLC's resource sharing network
 - Discover the Indiana Synagogue Mapping Project
 - Building Jewish Libraries into the Future: The Dorot Jewish Division at 125
 - Transforming the First-Year Experience
- **Hao Zeng**, Head of Library Web and Digital Services
 - Code4Lib Library Developers Conference, Princeton University

DATA

Information literacy sessions, total	80
Information literacy sessions, total attendance	991
Information services to individuals, total transactions	3,058
Virtual information services	1,185
Research consultations	130
Year-end number of titles in collections (all formats)	923,916
Year-end number of book volumes in collections	826,354
Year-end number of electronic books	270,969
Titles cataloged and added to collection (including Salomon Collection)	2,851
Original cataloging, titles	760
Authority records created	20
Authority records updated	56
Year-end number of electronic journal titles (in cooperation with Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Cardozo School of Law)	314,875
Institutional repository, items held	8,562
Institutional repository, pages viewed	557,324
Interlibrary loan, outgoing items	1,238
Interlibrary loan, received	1,048

LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The committee, with faculty, student, and university administration representatives, met twice and made recommendations on equipment, acquisitions, programs, and services. Professor Avraham Ravid (Sy Syms School of Business) joined the committee as representative of undergraduate faculty members, and Professor Katie Aafjes-van Doorn (Ferkau Graduate School of Psychology) joined as representative of graduate faculty members. Yishai Mandel and Faiga Kolodny represented Student Life Committees.

POLLACK LIBRARY

- Wendy Kosakoff, Public Services and Outreach Librarian, was embedded in Wurzweiler School of Social Work's Proposal Seminars I and II for Ph.D. candidates.
- Assessment initiatives grew with introduction of a QR-code feedback form following research instruction sessions for students on the Wilf and Beren Campuses.
- Sy Syms School of Business's new writing class, Business Composition, partnered with librarian for information literacy instruction on Wilf and Beren Campuses for all sections.

- Three surveys gauged the user experience of students on textbook access, library future vision, and new initiatives.
- The Student Library Research Award went to Bluma Gross, SCW '24, a Political Science major, for "Historical and Theoretical Analysis of Colonial Healthcare," written for Professor Dina Shvetsov's *Introduction to Comparative Politics*.
- An online reservation system for group study rooms was launched.
- The top five research guides were Google Scholar, Holocaust Studies, Social Work, YU Student Library Research Award, and Library Research Jumpstart.
- Librarians adopted standards and best practices, with a focus on accessibility, for research guides.
- New guides included Business Research, Cybersecurity Research, and Datasets for Computer Science Capstone Projects.

MENDEL GOTTESMAN LIBRARY

COLLECTING ACTIVITY

Academic Judaica and rabbinica continue as areas of significant strength and growth. A blog posting highlighted materials on Sephardic genealogy donated by Miriam Weiner.

HERBERT PRINS SALOMON COLLECTION UPDATE

Molly Pocrass, Project Cataloger, began work on rare and non-rare items in multiple languages.

PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT

The Zoltan Erenyi Fund continued support of acquisitions in memory of Leah Adler and Zoltan Erenyi. Significant acquisitions include

- Divorce Documents from the United States, England, Canada and Jerusalem (1926-1961).
- Arias Montanus, et al. *Geographia sacra illustrata or sacred geography illustrated: containing a view of many things belonging to ye Jews & their worship mentioned in the Holy Scriptures, with a particular explication of ye same, according to Arias Montanus, Villalpandus, L'Amy, and other antient and modern authors, never before collected into a single volume, the whole intended for the better*

understanding ye sacred writings (London: Tho. Bowles next ye Chapter House in St. Pauls Church yard and by J. Bowles over against Stocks Market London, 1728).

- Nitsah Metsger-Samokl, *Des maisons sur le sable: Tel-Aviv, mouvement moderne et esprit Bauhaus = Dwelling on the dunes: Tel Aviv, modern movement and bauhaus ideals* (Paris: Eclat, 2004)
- Angelika Berlejung (ed.), *Encyclopedia of material culture in the biblical world: A new biblisches Reallexikon* (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2022).

INSTRUCTION

Librarians delivered sessions to the

- Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies doctoral and master's degree students and to faculty members.
- Fish Center for Holocaust & Genocide Studies master's-degree students.
- Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration's Mifgash session.
- An undergraduate bible and graduate course on Vilna.

REFERENCE SERVICES

Research support services continue daily in-person, by telephone, e-mail, chat, and video conferencing.

COLLABORATIVE SPACE ENHANCEMENTS

- Stationary, wall-mounted and portable whiteboards to facilitate cooperative and group work.
- An additional print station.
- A large-format digital sign for library-related digital messages, tips, and announcements.

VISITING SCHOLARS

- Rabbi Shaul Arieli, Congregation Ohel Yitzchok, Flushing, New York
- Frederick Bondy, independent scholar
- Jeremy Brown, National Institutes of Health
- Jerome Chanes, Center for Jewish Studies, CUNY Graduate Center
- Adam Ferziger, YC '90, BRGS '90, Bar-Ilan University
- Harry Fox, University of Toronto
- Tirzah Meacham, University of Toronto
- David Sclar, The Frisch School and independent scholar
- Marc B. Shapiro, University of Scranton

HEDI STEINBERG LIBRARY

COLLECTION MANAGEMENT

In collaboration of Metadata Services and Processing, a comprehensive inventory ensured accuracy of catalog records in relation to the physical collection. The project embraced collection management principles by

- Removing duplicates
- De-selecting obsolete titles
- Repairing damaged copies
- Locating missing and long-overdue items

ELECTRONIC DATABASE PROJECT

Reference and Instruction Librarian Hindishe Lee reviewed all database subscriptions and resolved 55 access issues, two inclusive date issues, and six outdated descriptions.

STUDENT NEWSPAPER PROJECT

Copies were transferred to the Archives to fill gaps.

INSTRUCTION AND ORIENTATION

- Research and Instruction Librarian Rina Krautwirth integrated Factitious into assignment-based classes to development skills in discerning accurate information sources.
- Instruction sessions included metacognitive and scaled assessment tools.

NEW INITIATIVES

- Offering withdrawn items to faculty members
- Cultivating donation of textbooks by students
- Mentoring the Book Club
- Creating a virtual library in collaboration with Denton Field, Media Producer at the Katz School of Science and Health.

ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

REFERENCE

Onsite reference visits increased this year and conformed to visitor management protocols. Staff members continued to

- Digitize material for patrons unable to visit in person.
- Lend microfilm of collections via interlibrary loan.
- Conduct video reference sessions.

Staff members adopted an online form to centralize reference requests and record them in greater detail. The form is tailored to the types of reference work in special collections. 307 requests were recorded this year, many of which required extensive, multi-stage research and digitization.

Internal Requests

- Marketing & Communications: *gittin* (Jewish divorce documents) for Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary Yom HaKahal event
- Board of Trustees: historically significant photos of university history for a new initiative
- Hanukkah dinner history: photographic documentation for each decade
- Red Sarachek tournament: thirtieth anniversary
- Class anniversaries: yearbooks
- Sy Syms School of Business: images for in honor of its "double chai" (thirty-sixth) anniversary
- Athletics Department: photographs of Hall of Fame inductees
- Gottesman family photographs

External requests

- Orthodox Union publication *Jewish Action*: research and digitized documents
- Orthodox Union publications: digitized images relating to Yeshiva University students and Israeli Independence Day
- Congregation Kehillath Jeshurun: digitized material for 150th anniversary video

COVID-19 AND THE ORTHODOX JEWISH COMMUNITY PROJECT

Deena Schwimmer, Archivist, and Sara Saiger, Archives Associate, continued processing COVID material and supervised student work on the backlog of content. Staff members took classes for additional familiarity with web archiving tools and

processes. An initial portion of the collection is now available for onsite access by patrons. Remaining tasks include working on unprocessed materials, managing over 100 websites harvested, and re-engineering the collection's master list to enable robust searching and sorting.

EXHIBITION SUPPORT

- Loan of eight manuscripts and printed books to *The Samaritans: A Biblical People* at the Museum of the Bible, Washington, DC
- Loan of a manuscript to the Yeshiva University Museum for the exhibit *The Golden Path: Maimonides Across Eight Centuries*

DIGITAL PROJECTS

- ITHAKA's Reveal Digital digitized microfilms of the *Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry Collection* (boxes 1-37), resulting in searchable documents and availability on the JSTOR Reveal Digital Student Activism website.
- Deena Schwimmer, Archivist, worked with JSTOR to make an initial set of digital collections discoverable via JSTOR's digital platform.

EVENTS

Shulamith Berger, Curator of Special Collections and Hebraica-Judaica, in cooperation with Institutional Advancement, created an exhibit and an event on December 11, 2022 in honor of Ronald Rubin's donation of early American newspapers with Jewish content.

PRESENTATIONS

- JewishGen webinar on Synagogue Archives and Genealogy (Shulamith Berger, Curator of Special Collections and Hebraica-Judaica)
- "Yiddish in the Heights: Exploring Yiddish Academia and Activism in Post-War New York": session of archives (Shulamith Berger, Curator of Special Collections and Hebraica-Judaica)

INSTRUCTION

- Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies doctoral students
- Special collections materials for courses taught by Professors Steven Fine and Eddie Reichman

COMMUNICATIONS

- Blog posts on rare manuscript, book, and archival material.
- Blog post on the Arch of Titus by Shulamith Berger, Curator of Special Collections and Hebraica-Judaica (featured in *Mosaic Magazine*).

CITATIONS

- Ladino collection described in a recently published bibliography of Ladino literature, *Thesaurus of the Ladino Book, 1490-1960: An Annotated Bibliography*, by Dov Cohen.
- Items from the archives featured in *Jewish Action: Celebrating 100 Years of OU Kosher*.

WEB & DIGITAL SERVICES

- Upgraded EZproxy and EBSCO Discovery Single-Sign-On systems to a new Microsoft Office 365 authentication protocol.
- Formed a collaborative workgroup with Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law Library to evaluate and assess a potential new integrated library system.
- Initiated the planning process for the Digital Media Labs for Wilf and Beren campus libraries.
- Collaborated with Miriam Hirsch, Stern College of Women, to launch the *Journal of Jewish Early Childhood Education*, an open-access peer-reviewed journal funded by Anita Zucker Early Childhood Jewish Education Scholarship.
- Manage and maintained the eReserves platform, on which 47,479 items were viewed, a 7% increase from the prior year.
- Enhanced accessibility in e-reserves through updated APA format, OCR support for English and Hebrew texts, and accuracy of embedded links.
- Collaborated with instructional design consultants Everspring to support fully online graduate programs by establishing the e-reserves on each online course:
 - 22 Wurzweiler School of Social Work online courses
 - 24 Sy Syms School of Business online courses
 - 4 Katz School of Science and Health online courses

TECHNOLOGY ENHANCEMENT

- Installed two 50-inch flatscreen collaboration monitors in a Hedi Steinberg Library group study room and in the Mendel Gottesman Library of Hebraica-Judaica.
- Integrated Bloomberg terminals in Pollack library with Microsoft Office365.
- Made Portable DVD players available in both campus libraries for faculty and student use in classrooms.
- Upgraded the library catalog kiosk PCs upgraded to support the new group study room reservation system.
- Installed new atmospheric recording sensors, measuring temperature and humidity, in the rare book room and archives storage in Glueck Center.
- Deployed 11 new 24-inch monitors in all campus libraries enabling students to connect their laptops for extended displays.

YAIR: YESHIVA ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORY

- 163,155 pages viewed.
- 289 articles published by faculty and staff members posted.
- 13 Videos of Library Book Talks posted. |
- 13 Videos of interdepartmental and cross-cultural talks posted.
- 47 doctoral dissertations and 62 Honors theses/senior projects posted.
- 116 course syllabi added to the new YAIR syllabi collections for Yeshiva College and Stern College of Women.
- New Dimensions Badges feature added to highlight faculty scholarship.
- Collaborated with Metadata Services to digitize retrospective dissertations from the Belfer Graduate School of Science.

METADATA SERVICES

DISSERTATIONS AND THESES

Total cataloged: 372 dissertations and theses (original cataloging: 348; copy cataloging: 24)

- Stern College for Women, Abraham Honors Program: 138
- Yeshiva College, Jay and Jeanie Schottenstein Honors Program: 41
- Stern College for Women, Abraham Honors Program (retrospective): 96
- Wurzweiler School of Social Work: 1
- Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies, master's theses: 81
- Ferkauf Graduate School of Social Work: 4
- Belfer School of Science: 11

PROJECTS

- Herman Prins Salomon Collection: rare books on the Western Sephardic community in Amsterdam
- EAST project: deletion of "committed to retain note" on 750 bibliographic records.
- Masmid undergraduate yearbooks: transferred to Pollack Library reference collection.
- Videocassettes: 170 transferred to the Mendel Gottesman Library of Hebraica-Judaica.
- Catalog maintenance: 3,000 Hedi Steinberg Library records corrected or re-cataloged.

STRATEGIC THINKING

In consultation with Rajesh Singh, Associate Professor, St. John's University, Head Librarians Sandra Moore and Tina Weiss planned and conducted and recorded several focus groups and surveys:

- Deans (focus group)
- Faculty members (four focus groups)
- Students (100 participants in survey)

ANTICIPATED WORK GROUPS

- Assessment
- Outreach
- Instruction
- Facilities
- Textbook alternatives

A draft of the goals will appear in autumn 2023.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

LIBRARY MINI-SYMPOSIUM 2023

THE WHOLE LIBRARIAN



17 January 2023

8:45 AM to 1:30PM

Schedule Outline:

8:45–9:15 Coffee and light snacks

9:15–10:15 Keynote from the Counseling Center on “The Whole Librarian”

10:15–10:30 Break

10:30–11:30 Two Concurrent Sessions:

- Magda Teter – Professor of History, the Shvidler Chair in Judaic Studies, Fordham University: "Building a Judaica Library from Scratch: Collecting, Teaching, and Curating Materials about Jewish History and Culture"

- Sharell Walker – Student Outreach and Instruction Librarian, BMCC: "Students and the Web: Engaging Digital Literacy"

11:30–11:45 Break

11:45–12:45 Rabbi Tzemah Yoreh speaking on his book *So Compassionate It Hurts: My Life as a Rabbi on the Spectrum*

12:45 Closing Remarks & Lunch

Everything will be live streamed and recorded, but of course we encourage everyone to attend in person if they can.



Yeshiva University Libraries

OUTREACH

Library Book Talks

Fall 2022

library.yu.edu

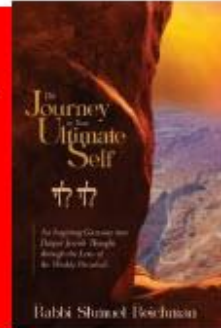
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NOVEMBER

Tuesday, 8:00 PM
Via Zoom

Rabbi Shmuel Reichman
Alumnus of Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary & Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies

The Journey to Your Ultimate Self:
An Inspiring Gateway into Deeper Jewish Thought through the Lens of the Weekly Parashah



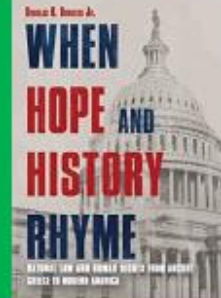
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NOVEMBER

Thursday, 8:00 PM
Via Zoom & on-campus
Gottesman Library 507

Douglas R. Burgess Jr.
Associate Professor and Chair of Legal History
In dialogue with Matthew Incantalupo, Assistant Professor of Political Science

When Hope and History Rhyme: Natural and Human Rights from Ancient Greece to Modern America



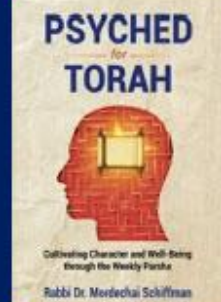
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DECEMBER

Monday, 8:00 PM
Via Zoom

Rabbi Mordechai Schiffman
Assistant Professor, Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration; Instructor at Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary & Straus Center for Torah and Western Thought

Psyched for Torah:
Cultivating Character and Well-Being Through the Weekly Parsha



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DECEMBER

Wednesday, 8:00 PM
Via Zoom

Rabbi Chaim Jachter
Alumnus of Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary
Binyamin Jachter
Yeshiva College '23

Aggadic Mindset:
How Talmudic Tales Shape the Jewish Outlook



REGISTER



Library Book Talks February 2023

library.yu.edu

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FEBRUARY

Thursday, 7:00 PM
Stanton Hall
245 Lexington Ave. rm. 101
Register: yu.edu/irish



Seamus O'Malley
Assistant Professor of English
In conversation with Jeffrey Freedman,
Professor of History

**Irish Culture & "The People":
Populism and its Discontents**



Irish Culture
& "The People"
Populism and its Discontents

SEAMUS O'MALLEY

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FEBRUARY

Sunday, 1:00 PM
Belfer Hall 218 Seform Sale
Register: yu.edu/ciment



Avi Ciment
Columnist, The Jewish Press

Real Questions, Real Answers



**REAL QUESTIONS
REAL ANSWERS**

BY AVI CIMENT

FOREWORD BY RABBI STEVEN BURG
PROMINENT ROLE IN JUDAISM?

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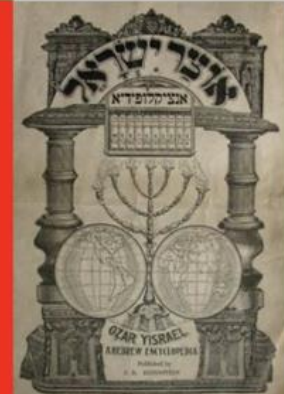
FEBRUARY

Monday 8:00 PM on Zoom
Register: yu.edu/oser



Rabbi Asher Oser
Ohel Leah Synagogue, Hong Kong

**Judah David Eisenstein and the First
Hebrew Encyclopedia**



Yeshiva University Libraries