



LIBRARY STAFF NEWS

Issue 2

June 2017

REPORTERS

Please forward any news you can contribute to our next newsletter to Edith Lubetski Lubetski@yu.edu at the Beren Campus or Steven Essig steven.essig@yu.edu at the Wilf Campus or to Marlene at schiffma@yu.edu.

185TH STREET PLAZA

The 185th Street Plaza is rising between Amsterdam Ave and Audubon on the south side of the library. Previously a block-long mall, in its new configuration, it will include seating and flower beds with trees and shrubs. From the infrastructure to the completion of the project, we have watched the men and shovels, pipes and cables, bulldozers and cement mixers for nearly a year. Soil for the flower beds has been delivered, and lighting has been installed. We are eagerly awaiting the day when the flowers and shrubs will be planted and we can once again relax in the shade of the trees that line the plaza. The entrance to the library building will be accessed through this new and attractive setting.

WELCOME

Wendy Kosakoff comes to the Pollack Library from Bergen Community College in Paramus, New Jersey, where she served as a Reference & Instruction Librarian. She has also worked as a Public Services Librarian at Felician University and interned at Columbia University and The

Jewish Theological Seminary. She earned her MLIS from Rutgers University.

Wendy earned her B.A. in music and psychology from Wesleyan University and her master's degree in violin performance from the Manhattan School of Music. A professional freelance violinist for many years, she played in a variety of classical ensembles and Broadway shows.

Wendy lives in Bergen County New Jersey with her husband, who is an attorney. Her three grown sons are all pursuing music in one form or another – one as a composer currently on a fellowship in Bali, one working in musical theater, and one a college junior studying music business.



Wendy Kosakoff

PERSONAL

Eric Hinsdale, formerly Director of Library Web and Digital Services, left YU to work at FireOak Strategies, a knowledge base company with headquarters in Durham, NC. As an added perk, he will be able to work at home via video conferencing. The Library held an informal going away party in Eric's honor. We wish him the best in his new position.

LIBRARY SCHEDULE

Once again the libraries offered extended hours for reading period and final exams. The Libraries were open on some days until 2 AM and on other days until 3 AM. During the semester HSL was open until 4PM on Fridays.

EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION DAY

June 6 at Beren Campus and June 15 at Wilf are Employee Appreciation Day Picnics. At this event the University demonstrates appreciation to our hard working and dedicated staff members. All staff members are welcome to join the celebration.

PRESIDENT ARI BERMAN TOURS LIBRARY

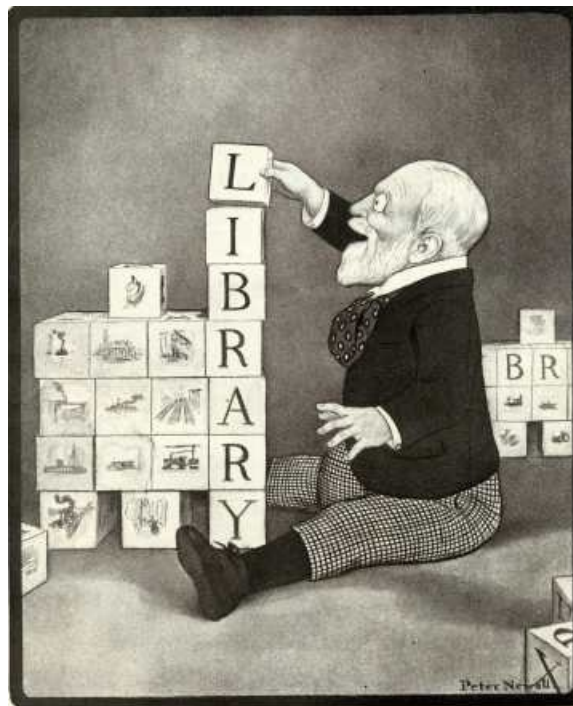
On May 11 Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman toured the Library to meet the staff, become acquainted with the Strategic Plan, and visit the Archives and Rare Book room with Deena Schwimmer and Shuli Berger. Dr. Berman assumed the presidency of YU in June.

FUNDING INITIATIVE

The Office of Academic Affairs announced the GrantForward database that facilitates grant writing. It allows a librarian to:

- Customize searches for sponsorship and funding opportunities
- Search by sponsor, grant, or researcher
- Create and customize a personal account with the yu.edu e-mail address for easy access.

Shulamis Hes, Electronic Resources and Reference Librarian, can help grant seekers to find support for their projects.



Andrew Carnegie funds libraries. Cartoon, *Harper's Weekly*, April 11, 1903

DEPARTMENT NEWS

Director of Libraries

CELEBRATION OF UNIVERSITY AUTHORS

Richard M. Joel
President

Rabbi Ari Berman
President-Elect

Selma Botman
Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs

Paul Glassman
Director of University Libraries

Invite You to Recognize
the Scholarship and Creativity of
University Faculty and Staff

Thursday, May 4, 2017
4 - 6:30 p.m.
Sky Café
Belfer Hall, 12th Floor

A buffet dinner was followed by speeches of appreciation for the scholarship and creative work of the faculty and staff from 2014 through May 2017. Steven Essig and Paul Glassman edited the catalog of works that was distributed at the event. In addition, attendees were able to meet then President-elect Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman. It is hoped that this event will become an annual celebration highlighting the books, journal articles, plays, and visual art produced by the YU community.



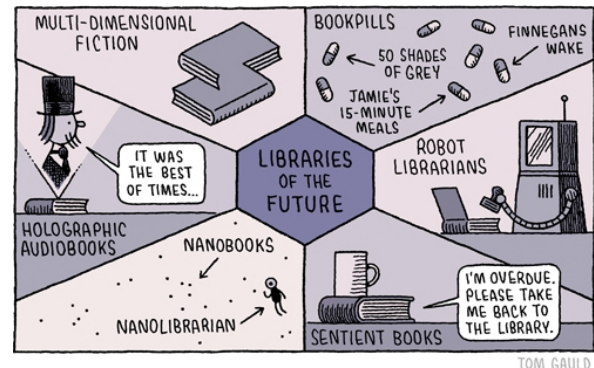
Library staff authors include, Edith Lubetsky (on left), Paul Glassman (4th from right), and Marlene Schiffman (6th from right).

Personal Librarian Program

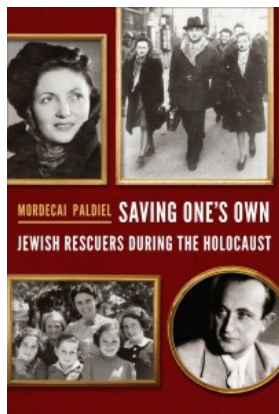
Our Personal Librarian Program is prepared to provide aid to student researchers. Rina Krautwirth is creating a Google doc to enable us to track the program, indicating topics, sources recommended, and time spent.

Collection Development

The heads of the various libraries, Paul Glassman, John Moryl, Edith Lubetski, and Leah Adler, met on March 7 to discuss collection development policies. They explored the issues of textbooks, duplicate copies, print vs. electronic books, and data-driven decisions. This meeting begins the process of developing a policy by the end of the summer.



Hedi Steinberg Library



Hallie Cantor reported on this new book in the Library blog of March 15:

Mordecai Paldiel. *Saving One's Own: Jewish Rescuers during the Holocaust*. University of Nebraska/Jewish Publication Society, 2017.

Mordecai Paldiel – Adjunct Professor in Jewish History, Stern College for Women – has created a welcome and vital addition to Holocaust scholarship. *Saving One's Own: Jewish Rescuers during the Holocaust* debunks the myth of Jewish passivity during this era, as well as the assumption that the rescuers were largely comprised of either Righteous Gentiles or Allied forces. Sharing testimonies of rescuers and extensive historical background, Prof. Paldiel documents the networks, partisan groups, escape routes, and safe havens – all built and run by Jewish activists in order to provide aid and shelter, often at great risk to their own lives. Thanks to their courage and inventiveness, thousands of their brethren survived. *Saving One's Own* ably addresses the assumption of communal helplessness by showing how caring and concerned Jews boldly took control of their destinies and also shaped the events of World War II.

Stern Open House

Hedi Steinberg Library staff organized a publicity blitz to draw students to the library-- offering one-on-one consultations regarding research for their term papers. They posted flyers, established a presence on the flatscreen, and emailed faculty. The staff continues to send out a weekly email to the Stern student body throughout the semester, reminding them of staff services and availability.



Personal Librarian Program at Stern

As on the Wilf campus, working with the SCW director of the Honors Program (Cynthia Wachtell), we initiated a Personal Librarian program. Each reference librarian was assigned from one to three honors students in her area of expertise. All the reference librarians held initial consultations with their assignees, and everyone agreed that it was very successful and gratifying. All the librarians, however, reported that follow up meetings—even when solicited—rarely happened. Hindishe Lee reported that students expressed a sense of having a personal librarian even when subsequent inquiries did not follow up on the initial request. Everyone agreed that this arrangement should be pursued in the future.

Pollack Library

Parisian Views in Pollack Library, posted on the Library blog by Paul Glassman, March 15.



Matthew Silkin, Yaacov Samel & Yoni Kornblau with Rachel Mesch, Associate Professor of English & French, at the opening reception for their *Parisian Views: Instagram Discoveries by Yeshiva College Students*

Parisian Views: Instagram Discoveries by Yeshiva College Students is the most recent installation in the second-floor Pollack Library gallery. Professor Rachel Mesch's students lent their smartphone photographs, taken in the course of the same title, offered under the "Interpreting the Creative" rubric of the Yeshiva College core curriculum. In that course, students learn about new approaches to art and literature that came about in nineteenth-century Paris, when artists began to see the everyday life of their rapidly changing city as fodder for artistic creation. Impressionists like Manet, Degas, Renoir, and Caillebotte, and writers like Baudelaire, Balzac, and Zola depicted what they observed all around town—on the bustling boulevard, in newly constructed cafés and restaurants, in recently renovated

parks, and at the theater. They loved to capture life in motion, and were very much influenced by new technology of the camera.

In *Parisian Views*, students treat New York City as a similar source of inspiration and learn how to become artists of everyday life. With their private @parisianviews Instagram account this past fall 2016 semester, students tried to see through nineteenth-century eyes in order to capture the unexpected beauty in the most seemingly mundane aspects of our city. Some of these first-year students discovered New York City for the first time, while others found a brand new perspective on a city that they have long considered home. From traffic and garbage to street signs and buildings, to moments of nature meeting the unforgiving concrete jungle, they captured the changing city with a new sense of wonder. Their photographs are alternately haunting and joyous, conveying their creative engagement with the neighborhoods that will be their stomping grounds for these next four years.



A Better Mousetrap?

Mendel Gottesman Library

Moshe Schapiro posted on the Library blog of March 17 this notice of the receipt of a new book, *The Menorah: from the Bible to modern Israel*, by Steven Fine, Harvard University Press, 2016.



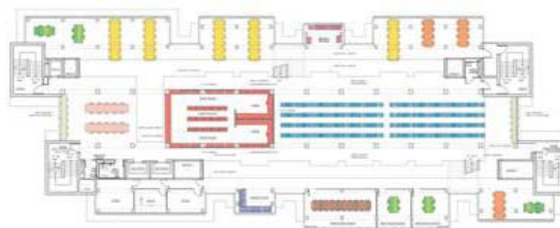
Professor Fine's new book explores the history of the menorah, both in terms of how it was represented and what it symbolized and continues to symbolize for Jews and others. Dr. Fine traces the religious, cultural and often political significance of the menorah from biblical times until the modern era. The book is written compellingly as a personal quest and is accompanied by beautiful illustrations that enhance the scholarship of the text. This book was the subject of an author's interview (see the news from the Outreach Work Group).

MGL Renovation

The renovation of the Mendel Gottesman Library of Hebraica-Judaica (levels 5 and 5A) is underway this summer. Architects Ran Oron and James Driscoll of ROART presented the schematic design for the project to the staff on May 8. The donors supporting the project are David S. and Ruth Gottesman.

The new space is modeled closely on the renovation of the Pollack Library that was completed in 2015. It will feature new lighting, multiple outlets, new carpeting, large windows on Amsterdam Avenue, a large seminar room, two restrooms, and renovated staff offices. The brickwork will be removed in favor of more open railings. The circulation desk will be located in the center of the floor. The sixth floor will be used for folio-sized materials and bound periodicals collections.

During construction, staff offices are temporarily relocated to the second floor. No collections will move off site, as many other libraries have done. No printed materials will be removed from the collection; even outdated, older editions will be kept in consonance with MGL's mandate as a research library.



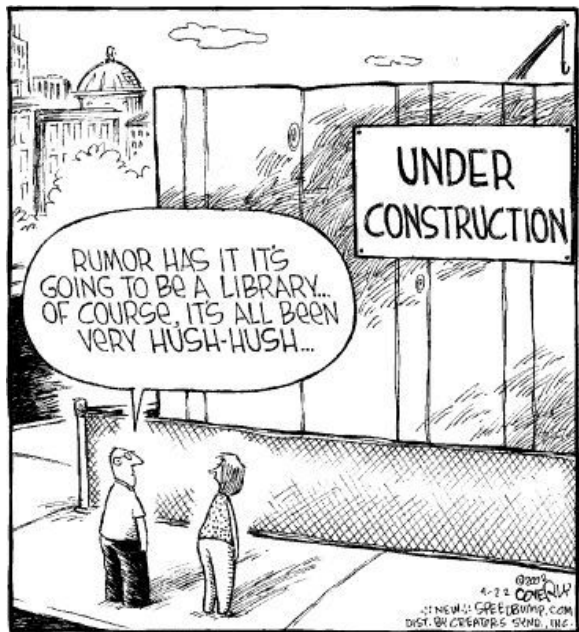
Architects' plans for floors 5 and 5A. The red rectangle is the circulation desk; the blue stacks are Reference.



The number of seats and tables to accommodate students and researchers will remain the same. There will be no additional

group study rooms to allow for openness at the Amsterdam Avenue side with its new windows.

Construction began on June 5 and is scheduled through the end of August. The staff will endeavor to provide all requested materials, although access will be a little more complicated, during the construction phase.



Archives and Special Collections

One of the new acquisitions of the Archives is this online Library Staff News that will be kept as an electronic journal. Back issues can be viewed there.

Summer Intern

The Archives has had the opportunity to engage a summer intern, courtesy of the intern program at Maayanot Yeshiva High School. Sara Schapiro, daughter of Moshe Schapiro, had a 3-week internship sorting archival photographs.

Exhibit

Dining for the Divine: The Tradition of the Chanuka Dinner in Building Yeshiva

An exhibit on the 4th floor in the Rare Book Room by Shuli Berger, Curator of Special Collections and Hebraica-Judaica, outlines the physical growth of Yeshiva from its earliest days on the Lower East Side. The first Chanuka dinner held in 1915 dedicated the building on Montgomery Street and installed Dr. Bernard Revel as Rosh Yeshiva and President. On November 8, 1928 a full-page ad in the New York Times announced the dedication of the new Yeshiva University building accompanied by a lavish Chanuka banquet at the Astor Hotel. The Moorish revival structure on Amsterdam Avenue replaced the old Lower East Side location and inaugurated the college liberal arts program and a high school known as Talmudical Academy. Architects Charles B. Meyers and Henry B. Herts were engaged to build what is today Zysman Hall. However, hopes were dashed for the larger campus that had been envisioned due to the stock market crash of 1929. The exhibit is accompanied by the text of the Megillah that is deposited under the cornerstone of Zysman Hall, a photograph of the groundbreaking in 1927, and a rendering of the prospective campus that was never built.

UPCOMING EVENTS

We welcome the 52nd annual Association of Jewish Libraries Conference to New York on June 19-21. The conference is entitled: "The Sky's the Limit! The Next Generation of Judaica Librarianship." To be held at Hebrew Union College, Brookdale Center, 1 West 4th Street, many of our staff are expected to attend.

In addition, several are participating by presenting papers or moderating sessions.

- Avrom Shuchatowitz will present on the “Ladino Collection at Yeshiva University.”
- Marlene Schiffman will highlight “The Baruch Strauss Collection.”
- Deena Schwimmer will present a lightning talk on our Hungarian Special Collections.
- Paul Glassman will be offering an architectural tour of the synagogues of the Upper East Side.

CATALOG CURIOSITIES

A selection of some interesting titles and authors.... Yes, they are **real books!**

The Maze Runner by James Dashner

Nothing by Frank Close

Sad Contemplation on the Bleeding Condition of Ireland by Sir John Clotworthy

Professors Behaving Badly: Faculty Misconduct in Graduate Education by Eve Proper

Flying Hammer: An Insider’s Collection of Salesroom Howlers by Iain Gale

Small Business Management by J. William Petty

Mark Twain and Human Nature by Tom Quirk

A Concise History of the Arab-Israeli Conflict by Ian J. Bickerton

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



Little did the books know, soon, there would be a complete takeover.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Outreach Work Group

(Elinor Grumet, chair)

Dr. Steven Fine, Dean Pinkhos Churgin Professor of Jewish History and founding Director of the Center for Israel Studies, presented his recent book, *The Menorah: From the Bible to Modern Israel* and discussed it with Shulamis Hes, Electronic Resources & Reference Librarian, on May 8 at Lulicht Commons on the Beren Campus.

Professor Fine gave an excellent, short presentation on the history of the menorah as a symbol and its place in diverse communities (Jewish and non-Jewish); then Shulamis Hes interviewed him and probed further about the author's engagement with the topic. This is the second author interview that Shulamis has successfully conducted under Library auspices. Rina Krautwirth videotaped the event, and Elinor Grumet coordinated everything from the venue to publicity to

refreshments. Paul Glassman officially opened and closed the event and designed the flyer/poster.

Institutional Repository Work Group (formerly Eric Hinsdale)

A marketing strategy has been developed to articulate how the Institutional Repository would benefit the constituent groups. Its focus will be to post faculty scholarship, student accomplishments, YU history, special collections that YU holds, and news. The establishment of a video archives would enable accessibility for the various library events we have recently been recording.

This work group has produced a draft of the project plan. It will guide the development of the institutional repository beginning with collection policy and the preparation of a platform. Then content will be added, and the initial collection can be made public. Bepress is the leading vendor of the software, but no decision on the platform has been made. Paul Glassman is in charge of this initiative and will, hopefully, be joined by another team member when the vacant position in web and digital services is filled. A meeting with the deans is planned in August. The plan calls for the Institutional Repository to be activated by the end of the year.

Staff Development Work Group (Marlene Schiffman)

Three Lunchtime Learning sessions were sponsored so far by this work group, and another is in the works. The future session is slated to be a workshop on the integration of YU services with mobile technology, featuring hands-on training for staff with smart phones.

LUNCHTIME LEARNING

In March there were three Lunchtime Learning sessions on disaster preparedness for staff. Entitled “Fires, Floods, and Other Disasters: What to do,” there were two sessions on March 8, to accommodate schedules and allow as many staff as possible to participate, and a third session by popular demand on March 23 for those who could not attend either of the previous sessions. Most of the library staff attended a session.

Rebecca Malamud and J.B. Holderness introduced the topic with a PowerPoint presentation, and then Rebecca conducted a tour of the Mendel Gottesman building to point out the exits, fire equipment, etc. Staff is encouraged to become aware of the manual that Rebecca revised, expanded, and distributed to all departments.

The lecture portion of the third presentation and its PowerPoint was recorded for our video archives.

On June 5, Shulamis Hes presented a Lunchtime Learning session, “Treat Them Like Customers: How to Ramp up Public Service at the YU Libraries.” She stressed that librarians must have patience, ask the right questions to ascertain what the patron is really interested in finding, and make themselves available by letting the patrons know that librarians are approachable.

The presentation was enlivened by several staff members who dramatized scenarios. Audience members then discussed “what was right” and “what went wrong” with each of the librarian/client interactions. SCW librarians

were connected by Skype and joined the conversation as well.

Technological Services Work Group

(J.B. Holderness)

A new Canon T3i SLR camera for overhead scanning and video recording has been acquired and is now located in the Glueck basement for use by Archives staff. Along with a new Epson negative/transparency scanner, we have created a "digitization center." In addition, the new camera has been utilized for recording three campus events so far, one Lunchtime Learning, the President's Town Hall meeting, and the Steven Fine book lecture. Shuli Berger and Rina Krautwirth have been trained in video recording events.

In advance of a potential institutional repository that can store video files, options are being evaluated for publishing with YouTube or Vimeo, using free or paid accounts. Initial tests will be for internal use before publishing on the public website.

New Xerox copiers have been installed in Gottesman, Pollack and Hedi Steinberg Libraries. There is now one copier in Pollack on the 2nd floor, one on the 4th floor (during renovations), one in the North Wing of Hedi Steinberg Library, and one on the 2nd floor of HSL. By the end of the summer, the Xeroxes will be integrated with the new Pharos system to allow students to print and scan to email.

Digitization Work Group

(Deena Schwimmer)

Deena Schwimmer and Shuli Berger have been establishing digitization goals and policies, identifying desired outcomes and priorities,

examining copyrights and permissions for usage, and reviewing preservations standards. They have identified candidates for digitization and explored outside funding and grants. Once the files are digitized, the archivists will establish a system to store, track and manage the collections. At the same time, there is an ongoing effort to consult with the Institutional Repository project to avoid overlapping efforts.

MGL Work Group

(Moshe Schapiro)

While the MGL Work Group has prepared a detailed description of uncataloged materials in the basement, such work has been deferred due to the renovation of floors 5 and 5A during the summer. Many volumes, including print periodicals, will move temporarily to the 6th floor. Staff will be involved in helping students and faculty to access materials while construction is underway.

HALLIE'S HANDY HINTS

(by Hallie Cantor) hlcantor@yu.edu

Below are a compilation of suggestions based on staff experiences and shared by the HSL staff. Please send your suggestions to Hallie for inclusion in the next newsletter.

- 1) Sometimes if you're wondering about a book that's not on the shelf yet in the catalog, here's one clue: Publication date. A book published this year might have been recently received and at Technical Services. (The MARC record will confirm the cataloging date with cataloger's initials.)

2) Some titles are shared by multiple books. This might create confusion when a student requests a book from Interlibrary Loan or METRO. One student just got sent the wrong book via ILL. For example, OUT OF THE WHIRLWIND: ESSAYS ON MOURNING, etc. (Soloveitchik), OUT OF THE WHIRLWIND: HOLOCAUST READER (Friedlander), OUT OF THE WHIRLWIND: CREATION THEOLOGY IN THE BOOK OF JOB (Schifferdecker). It's a good idea to fill out the complete title (with subtitle), not only the author's name, which might get overlooked. It also helped that I went directly to the item record and filled out the request with her ID number myself in Virtua, rather than have her fill it out online.

3) Here is a tip from Hindishe Lee, our searcher extraordinaire, as far as locating a missing book: Search a call number letter section that looks similar! (For example, BP = BF.)



Great minds think alike...



Issue 2, June 2017
Editor: Marlene Schiffman
Layout: J.B. Holderness