



LIBRARY STAFF NEWS

ISSUE 8

DECEMBER 2018

NEW POLLACK HEAD LIBRARIAN

The search committee for the Head Librarian position for Pollack Library recommended Sandra Moore. For the past four years Sandy has been Library Director and Academic Support Division Chair at Allen Community College in Iola, Kansas. Sandy met with most of the Pollack Library staff on November 20 and met several other staff members. Sandy accepted the university's offer and plans to begin at YU on Tuesday, January 22, 2019.

STAFF RECOGNITION

Paul Glassman

University Libraries formed a very nice cheering section November 28 at the Staff Recognition event, where several of our colleagues were recognized:

- 55 years: Edith Lubetski was introduced by Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman
- 50 years: Judah Wohlgelernter
- 30 years: Ella Ruderman
- 25 years: Mary Ann Linahan
- 20 years: Moshe Schapiro
- 20 years: Paul Glassman
- 15 years: Carla Hanauer
- 5 years: Sara Saiger

Congratulations to all—and thanks for your contributions to the university and its educational mission.



Edith Lubetski at Staff Recognition Event, Photo by J.B. Holderness

BLOOD AND FAITH: LIBRARY BOOK TALK

Staff and students were treated to the first Library Book Talk of the season on Dec. 13 when Prof. Ronnie Perelis, Chief Rabbi Dr. Isaac Abraham and Jelena (Rachel) Alcalay Associate Professor of Sephardic Studies, presented his talk entitled *Narratives from the Sephardic Atlantic: Blood and Faith* on Jews during the Inquisition. The talk was based on his new book by the same name.

Prof. Perelis followed the autobiographies of a Converso, a crypto-Jew, and a convert to Judaism living between 1492 (the Expulsion from Spain) and the 17th century, who, with the conquest of the Americas, found themselves in a global world. Their connections to each other were within their socio-economic networks. While they were tied to each other by blood through their close relatives and intermarriage within the group, they also shared a brotherhood of faith with all other Jews. The danger they faced as Jews in Spain and Portugal and in the New World as the Inquisition followed them there, was always something they were seeking to escape. Many wanted

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

New Pollack Head Librarian	1
Staff Recognition	1
Blood and Faith	1
Second Mimi-symposium	2
Strategic Planning Work Groups	2
Staff Publications	5
Library Reaches Out	5
Great Stern College Read	6
Exhibit in Pollack	6
Measure for Measure	6

to practice Judaism openly in Amsterdam or Venice. In fact, Amsterdam had a thriving Jewish press consisting of books for new returnees to Judaism. While men's activities were closed down (synagogues, schools, etc.), women often maintained the few Jewish practices that could be observed in the home (e.g., not eating pork, lighting candles on Friday night in a secret location, preparing certain foods to mark holidays). Dr. Perelis noted that, while working with autobiography, the historian must take note of the audience for whom it is written and its tone. Some manuscripts were written for the Inquisitors while others were private expressions of faith. Historians also seek to corroborate facts in an autobiography with other historical records. Dr. Perelis mentioned that most known archival records of the Inquisition have been preserved in Italy, Mexico, and Portugal. In fact, his next book will focus on a new manuscript by Luis Carvajal (d. 1596) that has just been discovered in Mexico City.



*Shulamis, Elinor and Prof. Perelis at Library Book Talk.
Photo by J.B. Holderness*

SECOND MINI-SYMPOSIUM PLANNED

The Staff Development Work Group in conjunction with Paul and Deena has planned what will be a very informative day of sessions at the Wilf Campus, Pollack Library, January 16, 2019. Modeled on last year's event, it will feature a panel, two guest speakers, and one workshop. The committee is busy adding a few improvements based on suggestions from last year. Coffee and lunch will be provided by the Library, but RSVPs are required. Invitations have been sent out, and a strong turnout is expected.

Please RSVP Chriss at dalen@yu.edu by January 3.



STRATEGIC PLANNING WORK GROUPS

A meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee was held on December 11th. Each of the committees reported on their activities, and plans were made for future endeavors.

MGL WORK GROUP

Moshe Schapiro, Chair

Zvi and Moshe surveyed the Hebrew language newspapers and arranged them in boxes alphabetically by title on shelves in the basement. Within each title, issues were arranged chronologically. Some boxes will be brought to Level 6, so that the boxes there will also have to be shifted. Much of these materials are rare and never digitized. After this stage is completed, the titles will be cataloged. Next MGL will tackle the English periodicals on the west side of the basement.

DIGITIZATION WORK GROUP

Deena Schwimmer, Chair

The archives staff has been reviewing holdings in preparation for digitizing the undergraduate newspapers, *The Commentator* and *The Observer*. They have sent funding proposals to Alumni Affairs and others. They are hoping for the optimal software for this project which provides full indexing for the newspapers. In addition, they have submitted a preliminary proposal for grant funding to digitize the over 500 titles in the Ladino books collection. A priority is to implement a system that will replace Digital Library with an Islandora-based system. Staff have recently met with Islandora experts. This system is compatible with the Digital Public Library of America. Archives is presently reviewing preservation standards to back up digital copies. They intend to transfer audio/video CDs and DVDs to standard MP4 format and perhaps to an external hard drive. This initiative would

include videos of YU events. School newspapers, among them *The Commentator* and *The Observer*, also overlap with the YAIR initiative in that they preserve the contributions of YU students. Consideration will be given on where they will reside on the web and how to link them to YAIR.

TECHNOLOGICAL SERVICES WORK GROUP

J.B. Holderness, Chair

Some minor improvements have been made to the technology in classroom 310 on the 3rd floor of Pollack Library. The video projector mounted to the ceiling was replaced due to a power failure, and the wireless internet has been reprogrammed to work more immediately with the training laptops. In the coming months, we will be adding higher quality video cabling, newer speakers and a lower projector mount to move it away from the ceiling heat vent.

The lower level group study room at Hedi Steinberg Library on the Stern Campus will also be receiving potential upgrades to the flat screen video system, including improved cabling and possibly an upgraded laptop computer for teaching purposes.

ITS officials have informed us that staff PC upgrades will be taking place within the first quarter of 2019. Each staff member who has his or her own desk will be offered a choice of a new desktop PC or a laptop computer to serve as a desk PC replacement.

INSTRUCTION/PUBLIC SERVICES

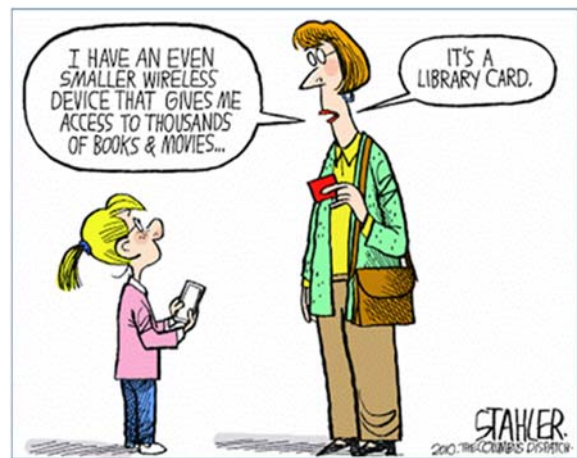
Wendy Kosakoff, Chair

Instruction: So far this semester our librarians have taught a total of 19 classes. These covered First Year Writing/First Year English, Entrepreneurship, and Education. There are still a few more scheduled before the end of the semester. Rina has started including a short interactive component in her classes, with students completing short assignments as part of the lesson. Some of the classes at HSL are now being held in the media room, using the flat screen instead of a projector. The Pollack library now has a new projector after the swift, untimely demise of the older one. The

Sy Syms and Yeshiva College first year writing programs have re-combined. It appears that now library instruction is reaching every first year student on the Wilf Campus.

Bookmarks: The new bookmarks have been a popular item, especially at HSL.

Cartoons: HSL has started posted enlarged printouts of library-related cartoons at both the reserve and the circ desks.



HSL Table: As they did last year, the HSL librarians set up a table in the lobby during club hour for three days over two weeks. This encouraged students to stop by and familiarize themselves with library services. See full article on p. 5.

Social Media: Our social media platforms are updated often.

Personal Librarians: It took a while, but both campuses finally have shared their complete lists of honors students writing senior theses. Librarians have reached out to these students. Rina addressed the honors students on the Beren Campus; Paul and Wendy spoke with honors students at Wilf. Personal Librarians have been assigned to their students.

Great College Read at HSL: The Hedi Steinberg library launched "The Great College Read" in which students recommended their favorite book from

the YU collection. See article below, p. 6.

Student Research Award: The library website is once again adorned with a light blue banner linked to information about the award. The guide will be updated soon to include suggestions on how to write a better research paper (a need we discovered last year). Tentative deadline for student submissions is April 11, 2019.

Social Media: Our social media platforms are updated often.

Twitter: @yulibraries

Facebook: Yeshiva University Libraries

Instagram: YULibraries

YouTube: Yeshiva University Libraries

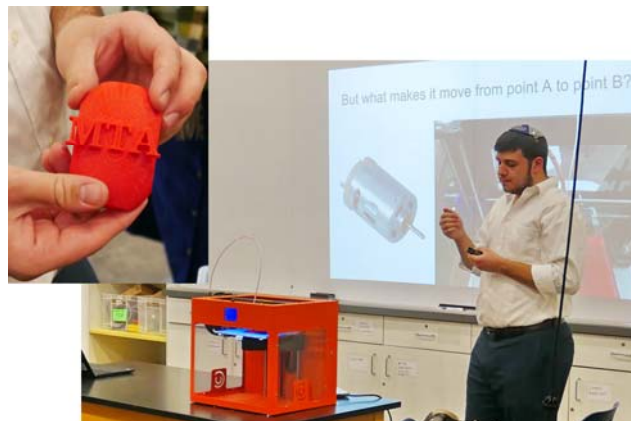
Follow us! And send Wendy photos!

STAFF DEVELOPMENT WORK GROUP

Marlene Schiffman, Chair

The Staff Development Work Group held two sessions on 3-D Printing with David Kohanchi, President of the 3-D Printing Club of the Marsha Stern Talmudical Academy (YU High School for Boys) on the Wilf Campus. The first session was held at the STEM Lab at the high school at 6 PM, November 19. David had prepared a program to print a cover for an electrical switch that is attached by a magnet to the switchplate screws.

While it was printing, he showed us how he designed the object using a whiteboard backdrop to his PowerPoint slides. He has a software program that allows him to produce different shapes, hollow them out by choosing the dimensions of the hole that he drops onto the solid shape, and resize the shapes to the dimensions required. Then he explained how the printer works. At the end of the presentation, he removed the newly printed switch cover from the printer and discarded the supports from the finished object. The entire presentation, including some wonderful close-ups of the printer in action, was videotaped by J.B.



David Kohanchi holding the 3-D switch cover (inset) and explaining how he created it. Photo by J.B. Holderness

The following day, November 20, at lunchtime, we held a session in the library beginning with the videotape of the original session. Then David joined us for an in-person Q&A along with some samples of other objects he has produced. We are grateful to David Kohanchi for his lucid presentation of 3-D technology and to J.B. whose photography allowed us to share the demonstration more widely.

OUTREACH WORK GROUP

Elinor Grumet, Chair

The Outreach Committee has been working on organizing our Library Book Talks for this academic year. Paul has designed flyers announcing the year's events and others that feature each individual event.

The first on December 13 with Prof. Ronnie Perelis was held in the Library, 5th floor, and discussed the Sephardim during the period of the Inquisition. Paul introduced our speaker, and Shulamis conducted a Q&A and provided refreshments. Thanks to Wendy for helping to set up the food and J.B. for videotaping the event. See p. 1 for full description.

The February 24 event on Rabbi J.B. Soloveitchik with Rabbi Dr. Kanarfogel will take place in Belfer Hall. It is co-sponsored by the Revel Graduate School and will be held in conjunction with the SOY Sefarim Sale. Rina will conduct the Q&A.

The April 9 Book Talk will feature Prof. Matt Miller of the SCW English Department who will be speaking about Walt Whitman at the Beren Campus. This talk

is part of the YU Arts Festival and coincides with National Poetry Month.

All talks are open to the community.

INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORY WORK GROUP

Hao Zeng, Chair

YAIR (Yeshiva Academic Institutional Repository) has been very successful since its inception in May this year. More than 14,000 users have visited the site. The site contains 3000+ records of theses from Proquest and 200+ honors theses from YU authors linked to VTLS bibliographic records. One hundred twenty faculty articles have been added. The metadata shows up in Google and Google Scholar and Ebsco agreed to index YAIR. Permission has been obtained to add URLs to faculty profiles linking to faculty publications. While the emphasis is on student theses, it is hoped to add ephemera from the bulletin boards around campus as well.

STAFF PUBLICATIONS

HALLIE (CHAYA SARAH) CANTOR edited *Rabbi Riddle on the Torah / In the Beginning*, by Leibel Estrin and Dovid Sears (Hachai Publications).

HINDISHE LEE has published an original poem entitled *Yisrael sheli, My Israel* in the *Jewish Press Magazine* of Nov. 9, 2018. It was composed in memory of her mother who loved and desired so much to live in Israel.

LIBRARY REACHES OUT

By Rina Krautwirth and Hindishe Lee

Hedi Steinberg Library held a publicity campaign this semester: we posted a table in the lobby of 245 Lex. promoting awareness of the library. The table featured a poster stating "The librarian is in" (paraphrasing a scene from the *Peanuts* comic strip) and an easel with a decorative, happy sign reading "At your service," which one student remarked was "cute". We also made our "Library Fast Facts" color pamphlets readily available in full view. Free, tempting candy was an added attraction. The event took place

during the breaks between classes and during club hour, over the course of three days, for two weeks. Each session, a librarian sat at the table with a laptop, in case any students had on-the-spot questions.

Some reactions:

Reactions to the event varied. Some students asked or commented about the presence of the table. Others could be seen viewing the table from "afar" and remarking to friends. Some directly expressed their needs—past and present—for research assistance to do their papers. One student thought she only could meet with a librarian at the lobby table! How delightfully surprised she was to hear she could stop by the library at any time for research help. Another student approached the table with that "please help me" look. When asked "Need reference help?" she emphatically replied "Yes!" but she has class in two minutes and can she come to the library later? She was glad to learn a reference librarian is on duty till 9 PM. Some professors gave affirmative nods of approval as they rushed by. Sometimes, the only reaction from passersby was to just take a candy.

One thing is certain—the event advertised the library's presence as an accessible resource.



Rina Krautwirth at HSL—The Librarian is in!
Photo by Hindishe Lee

GREAT STERN COLLEGE READ

By Edith Lubetski

This semester, Hedi Steinberg Library sponsored “The Great Stern College Read.” We asked our students (via SSTUDs and flyers) to submit titles of their favorite books from the YU collection—each submission to be accompanied by a small blurb describing why the book was enjoyable. All entrants were to receive a free book—chosen from library duplicates.

At the end of November, copies of the book jackets and blurbs were displayed first in the second-floor library, then in the lobby of 245 Lex.

Many students stopped by to view the display. Some commented: “this is so cool,” “so cute,” “this is great.” Others took pictures with their cell phones of items they intended to pursue. Several students added their own favorite titles. A few faculty members complimented us on the event.

We think the project a success and hope to do it again next year.

EXHIBIT: PAINTING 1 —COPY OF A MASTER

Catch this before it closes at the end of the semester. On the second floor of the Gottesman Library building, students from Professor Carla Aurich's Yeshiva College Painting 1 course exhibit their copies of noted works by several modern artists. Each painter stayed true to scale by gridding the image and transferring it to canvas. Through the “copy of a master” exercise, students gain a greater understanding of color, painting technique and composition to employ in their own paintings.



Painting 1: Copy of a Master Exhibit on the 2nd Floor
Photo by J.B. Holderness

MEASURE FOR MEASURE: THE LIBRARY IS EDITOR HEAVEN

By Chaya Sarah (Hallie) Cantor

Over the past twenty years at Hedi Steinberg Library I’ve worn the hat of acquisitions person. Dutifully I’ve ordered materials, processed gifts, and dealt with vendors, faculty, catalogers, etc. But in private I’ll remove the hat and slip on another—that of editor. This has involved the review of manuscripts, ads, articles, and layout, as well as some of my own writing.

But not always in private. Measure for measure these skills have proved helpful at Yeshiva University for a number of reasons:

Book business

I’ve come to learn a lot about publishing, i.e. trends and mergers among various corporations. So when an emergency order arises for a biology textbook published by Southwestern, I will know to contact its parent company, Cengage Learning. Somebody wants a *mussar* [ethics] guide just put out by Targum Press? Check out the Feldheim website.

I also have learned the nuances among types of books and how to hone my search for titles. Revisions and reprints are not the same thing. A new annotation of *Frankenstein* or translation of the *Odyssey* might appear, which a faculty member might prefer over the *Frankensteins* or *Odysseys* already on our shelf. I’ve also tuned into the frequency of textbook updates, from a window of five years (at least) to two (maybe), in order to combat resales and—you guessed it—that specter of Amazon. A sociology textbook title needed for a class is in our library. But wait—the publishing date is 2013. Is there a later edition? Check *Books in Print* or—you guessed it again—Amazon. There might even be a study guide if it isn’t now available as an access card. Some instructors are gravitating toward customized textbooks or online resources.

Office communications

Like any company or business, a library puts out memos, correspondence, reports, and brochures, both public and interoffice. Occasionally I am asked to look over some of ours, or I might spot a booboo. Without appreciation for writing

and graphics, the page will scream amateur. Nothing looks more embarrassing than a common misspelled word (possessive is *its*, not *it's*) or more boring than run-on sentences. As a former typographer in an art department, I can judge which fonts are ugly or inappropriate. (Script face in all caps—ugh!)

Here is where software comes into the picture. There are editing and indexing programs available, some free. Both Word and PowerPoint offer tools that help to track changes and feedback, as does Adobe Acrobat. I hope to purchase Microsoft's Publish program, although so far I've done just fine with Word, which offers templates (i.e. resumes, brochures), formatting in HTML, and a nice array of fonts.

I don't claim expertise in anything mentioned here. I have not tried all the programs, partly because of cost. I like anything that's free, and, I like to do things my own way. I use a Stone Age pencil and hard copy for my own editing. Nevertheless, I try to keep abreast of what's out there, but it's tough, given the constant technological change.

As a side issue: I often get—and reject—manuscripts that are improperly formatted: single-, not double-spaced, misspellings, “cute” pictures. But they get published anyway. For this reason, my criteria have tightened as far as reviewing books for the Association of Jewish Libraries. I refuse anything that is badly produced or edited.

Cultural literacy

Editors, like librarians, need good knowledge and a general reference base. Also like librarians, many editors specialize, i.e. music, medicine, rabbinics. There are certain projects I turned down, considering myself unqualified in the subject. Someone unfamiliar with law should not edit legal documents, let alone work at a law library.

Understanding what is publishable or marketable involves a rapport with the demographic, respect for their culture, and a sense of tastes and needs. I once proofread a prayer book that came in both Chabad and Ashkenazic versions, both of which I am more familiar with than, say, Sephardic. Working here at Yeshiva University, where I'm frequently asked which way is east, makes me feel like an insider as far as interaction with the Jewish public. On the library bulletin board are jackets of *frum* novels and non-fiction. Sharing that board might be *New York Times* or *Wall Street Journal* bestsellers, which means familiarity with those newspapers. While ordering I've had to contend with wrong ISBNs, misspelled names of authors, truncated or

misworded titles. Exposure to a certain work (*Huckleberry Finn* is actually *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*) helps me rise above the confusion.

Language changes/trends

In a constantly evolving lexicon, the editor must evolve with it. New words, new spellings, new slang, “politically incorrect” speech, euphemisms—the list is endless. The possessive *their* (instead of *his* or *her*) has now been accepted for a gender-neutral subject. Manuals like the *New York Times* or *Associated Press Style Guide* remain classic for a reason. I must be acquainted with the *MLA* or *Chicago Manual of Style* when asked for help on a research paper. There are bibliographic and indexing software programs like Endnote, as well as specialized stylebooks for medicine, science, music, etc.

Changes in grammar and usage can elicit nearly Talmudic arguments. Is *fewer* used with all countable nouns (as opposed to *less*)? To my surprise, it is not. Orthographic inconsistencies drive me up the wall, particularly in Judaica. Unlike the cataloger, the editor does not have the Library of Congress to set the standard for Romanization. An English dictionary is only useful as far as certain foreign words like *yeshiva* which have been accepted into general usage (and don't need italics). Many in-house style sheets carry their own rules and oddities. Someone might do a *mitzva* on one page, but on another the *mitzvah* of hospitality, *hachnassat orchim*, earns them the World to Come.

Word Search

And yet, these linguistic issues provide a great boost when I search through Virtua. Is a title word spelled *halacha* or *halakha*? Or *halachah*? As far as Hebrew, I have become acquainted with the spellings for Anglicized surnames (e.g. *Weinstein* = *Vainshtain*.) As one of my “Handy Hints,” I may look up an English title that frequently appears in the verso of an Israeli book, saving me the headache of Hebrew searches. Like a detective, or better yet a genealogist tracking down a dead or missing relative, I sift through records to make sense of metadata.

English alone is a treasure hunt. The current mania for inclusion (i.e. gender, sexuality, disability) can expand Search Engine Optimization (SEO). The word *Latinx* might yield additional books and articles to the masculine or feminine counterparts *Latino* and *Latina*. Euphemisms and cultural buzzwords may be Googled or located within databases. Of course, there

is British English and its spelling and idioms. Some periodicals like *National Geographic* have their own style sheet with prefixes for tribal names according to native languages.

On the subject of foreign languages . . . here Hebrew may carry different Romanization rules. Knowing the Spanish spelling for Chabad—*Jabad*; *h* is not pronounced—might be of help to a Latin American student, or help me in looking up a Spanish title.

So much for the editor's hat. But what about the library assistant's? Has working here helped *me*? Measure for measure!

Resources at my fingertips

Years ago I came to Stern initially as a night clerk, while spending the rest of my week at a publishing house. Back then one of my editorial projects was a compilation of testimonies from the Lodz Ghetto. I realized that the book lacked historical background to tie everything together. Thanks to the extensive Holocaust collection here, I was able to flesh out the narrative which lent the book a deeper dimension and understanding of that horrific era. Access to research has continued to help me in many other projects, as far as corroboration of facts, dates, spellings, and other details.

This even helped me weed out utter trash. Knowing that the Russians, not the Americans, liberated Auschwitz in January 1945 was enough to make me reject an awful novel written by someone who didn't bother to research the Holocaust.

Remediation

Considering my formative years somewhat lacking, I've tried to make up for lost time by devouring our library's wonderful collection. The experience is humbling: the more I learn, the less I know. And I am always hungry for more education.

I've learned how chocolate, honey, sugar, plastic, etc. changed the world. I've studied Torah commentary beyond Rashi, Ramban, and Kli Yakar. I've mentally sampled the spectrum of Jewish life and thought: Biblical heroes, prominent Chassidic Rebbes, and hidden *tzaddikim* (*lamed vavniks*) in Jerusalem. All this reminds me of the stories of saints and scholars I used to write for the *Jewish Reader*,

the children's magazine put out by my publisher Mayer Bendet.

My work at Hedi Steinberg placing orders has familiarized me with many authors and their disciplines. I have gotten to know, almost on a first-name basis, scientists, educators, pundits, mathematicians, and novelists. Thanks to our extensive databases, I've listened to cantorial liturgy from Morocco and discovered with fresh eyes a Monet in an art encyclopedia. I am an astronaut who explores the universe, often at home in her pajamas.

Just the Facts

With "fake news" the current battle cry, anyone involved in media must be armed. Books and databases provide the arsenal. However, it means identifying what is true on the web and what is not—i.e. too many ads, links to tabloids, unverifiable sources, uncredited authors—and seek out the authority. Often the editor or writer wanders first through Weirdo Central: conspiracy theorists, smut, hate groups, woo-woo stuff, and more smut.

This is where the library is essential. This means not only cultural knowledge but familiarity with a periodical that is peer-reviewed or respectable (*Wall Street Journal*) versus one that is not (*The Daily Mail*). I confess I like some of the latter, but for entertainment only. (Honest!) In a number of professional articles I find editors thanking librarians for their expertise.

Socialization

The library's physical presence alone provides immense stimulation. Long before talk of high-tech renovations and "collaborative spaces," I foresaw the library as a brain center for the sharing and gathering of ideas. Simply being surrounded by books, computers, and studious patrons, creates a euphorically creative energy. While most of my freelance is done at home, it is just not the same. In the summer, after Hedi Steinberg closes, I like to slip away to the New York Public Library for a few hours. It's like Starbucks without the coffee.

Rewards

It is always a pleasure to get a silk purse from a sow's ear, making awkward prose come alive. The gratitude from people is satisfying, but it is ultimately satisfying when they recognize the beauty of proper spelling, grammar, and punctuation, or structured or developed paragraphs. Like music, good writing should sing, and a well-edited book should convey clarity of thought. Seeing the fruits of my labor on the library shelf, or in a patron's hands, or recommending a similar book, is the ultimate thrill.

I have no illusions. I am not going to save the world by correcting a verb tense. And there is a lot of tedium. Salvaging someone's "masterpiece" is often a lost cause (and something I dread saying). Nevertheless, if I can elevate the quality of content and help produce something of worth, I can feel that I've put a smile on a number of faces thanks to the library.

The following are some of materials I use or recommend.

Copyediting (www.copyediting.com) provides online classes for editors and writers. They also publicize and evaluate guides to style sheets used in libraries and classrooms. The site recently reviewed the latest (17th) edition of the *Chicago Manual of Style* and recommended the recent *Chicago Guide to Fact-Checking*. Their weekly newsletter is free; individual subscription to their bimonthly newsletter is \$85. Customized training is available with podcasts and webinars.

American Editor

(<https://americaneditor.wordpress.com>) is a blog that covers publishing issues, with news on the latest software and financial advice for freelancers. It is free; it shows up regularly in my e-mails.

I also receive daily e-mails from *GrammarBook.com* that discusses common pitfalls in spelling and usage and offers quizzes both for editors and classroom instructors. In addition, there are popular grammar blogs, like GrammarGirl (www.quickanddirtytips.com/grammar-girl).

You can also connect to her on Facebook, LinkedIn, and other social media. A Brooklyn College student living with me subscribes to Grammarly (*Grammarly.com*), a free grammar checker.

These are only some of what's out there. But they might be useful to librarians and educators, as well as editors.



**MAY WE ALL BE BLESSED WITH A
HAPPY, HEALTHY AND
PRODUCTIVE NEW YEAR!**



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