

General News

Miriam Hirsch (Education) announces that the SCW Department of Education was recently awarded national accreditation by the Association for Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation (AAQEP). This multi-year effort involved faculty, adjuncts, program candidates, alumni, cooperating teachers, and principals/directors from clinical partner schools such as PS 116, PS 366, Manhattan Day School and Hillel Yeshiva. Multiple members of the Yeshiva University community participated in a series of program stakeholder interviews during the two-day site visit during late November. The Accreditation Decision was rendered by the AAQEP Commission on February 3, 2026.

Presentations

Tipping Point?: Iran and Venezuela

A deeper look at the intertwined political crises in Iran and Venezuela.

Are the upheavals in both nations the beginning of a brighter day for their people? What role can the US play? Bring your questions and insights.

January 28th at 7 pm
Sky Cafe

A light dinner will be served



Join Mideast policy expert Prof. Jonathan Cristol and Prof. Alexandra Panzarelli, a political scientist specializing in Latin America, to discuss these intertwined areas of unrest.



**Professor
John Cristol**



**Professor
Alexandra
Panzarelli**



Yeshiva University
RABBI ARTHUR SCHNEIER PROGRAM
FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Event Partnered with
the Dunner Political
Science Society

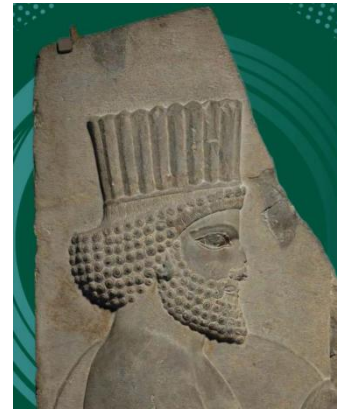
On January 28, the Rabbi Arthur Schneier Program for International Affairs and the Dunner Political Science Society hosted an evening dedicated to the crises in Iran and Venezuela with **John Cristol** (Political Science) and **Alexandra Panzarelli** (Political Science). **Maria Zaitseva** (Political Science) and **Ronnie Perelis** (Sephardic Studies) organized the event.

Steven Fine (Jewish History) is giving a lecture in February on “Communication between the Indian Ocean Region and Jewish Palestine in Roman Antiquity,” at a major conference on “Maritime Connections: Jews across the Indian Ocean,” sponsored by the O.P. Jindal Global University, India. For more information visit <https://mrtmsummit.com/>

Stephen Glicksman gave a talk on working with people with specialized needs at Agudath Israel of America’s National Action Summit on December 2, 2025.

February 2026

In January, **Shalom Holtz** (Bible) recorded three guest lectures Bar-Ilan University—one on the Book of Deuteronomy of and two on the Book of Psalms—for Professor Nili Samet’s course on the Hebrew Bible in its Near East Context. He also recorded a conversation about his research on the Al-Yahudu tablets, a collection of cuneiform legal and economic texts that document the daily lives of Judean exiles in Babylonia during the sixth century BCE. In addition, he also participated in an international conference devoted to “Temple Life in the Persian Period.” He was a co-organizer of the conference, together with Professor Tova Ganzel of Bar-Ilan University. Together, they presented research in a paper entitled, “Imperial Support and Its Limits: Temple Rebuilding in Ezra–Nehemiah in the Cuneiform Context of the Long Sixth Century BCE.”



On February 11, **Michelle Levine** (Bible) and **Nechama Price** (Judaic Studies and Bible) held a book talk, organized by Yeshiva University Libraries, on the theme of the Ramban’s reading of God, leadership, and the birth of the Israelite nation based on Levine’s recently published book, *Navigating Wilderness: Ramban’s Commentary on the Exodus and Numbers Narratives* (Kodesh Press, 2025). **Levine** also contributed online lectures on the Book of Daniel for the third cycle of the Orthodox Union Women’s Initiative for learning the Prophets and Writings (*Torat Imecha- Nach Yomi*). In October-December, she delivered community lectures in Israel (Kibbutz Yavneh) and in Kew Gardens Hills, on the following biblical topics: “The Nexus between Torah and Creation”; “Sarah Our Matriarch and the Binding of Isaac”; “Rebekah’s Love for Jacob: A Matriarch’s Fateful Choice”; and “Chanukah: The Celebration of Lights- *Mehadrin min ha-Mehadrin*.” On February 6-7, Dr. Levine was scholar in residence at the Young Israel of North Woodmere sponsored by the Orthodox Union’s Women’s Initiative. She spoke on the follow topics: “The Wisdom of Proverbs, Chapter 8;” “Isaiah’s Call to Prophecy and Matan Torah;” and “Renewing Our Commitment to the Torah- The Miracle of Megillat Esther.” She is also currently teaching an adult education series online on the “Patriarchy of Abraham in the Book of Genesis.”



Emil Prodan (Physics) served as the Conference Co-Chair, organizing the 13th International Conference on Elastic, Electrical, Transport, and Optical Properties of Inhomogeneous Media (ETOPIM13) at the CUNY Advanced Science Research Center in June 2025. He is also co-organizing the workshop “Mathematical Aspects of Topological Insulators” at the Institute for the Mathematical Sciences of the Americas, University of Miami, in April 2026.

Stern College for Women
Yeshiva College

February 2026

In February, **Carrie Shanafelt** (English) gave a presentation as an invited speaker at the Folger Shakespeare Library. The symposium, “Early Modern Afro-British Political Thought” was organized by the Center for Early Modern Political Thought and brought 15 speakers and 20 discussants from around the world to Washington, D.C. Dr. Shanafelt’s lecture was titled “Ottobah Cugoano on Political Economy, Then and Now.” The Center is planning to publish the symposium talks as a book of essays.



Carrie Shanafelt in D.C.

Publications

A review by **Paul Glassman** (Art) of Lauren Stara’s *Planning Library Spaces: A Practical Guide for Library Building Projects* (Bloomsbury) will appear in the March issue of *Library Journal*.

Stephen Glicksman gave an interview in *Authority Magazine* on “How to Raise Children who Feel Loved and Connected.” See [Dr. Stephen Glicksman of Makor Care & Services Network On How to Raise Children Who Feel Loved and Connected | by Hudy Gugenheimer | Authority Magazine | Jan, 2026 | Medium](#)

Shalom Holtz (Bible) published an article on “Deuteronomy and the Buddhas of Bamiyan,” in *Jewish Educational Leadership* 24:1 (Fall 2025).

Michelle Levine (Bible) published the following essays in the newly published book, *The Soul’s Refuge: Meditations on the Psalms*, edited by **Shaina Trapedo** (English) (see below): Psalm 83: A Cry to God to Safeguard Our Nation; Psalm 8: Gaining Perspective on Man’s Greatness and Nothingness; Psalm 57: Seeking Refuge Under the Divine Wings of Protection; Psalm 104: The Synergy Between Man and Nature.

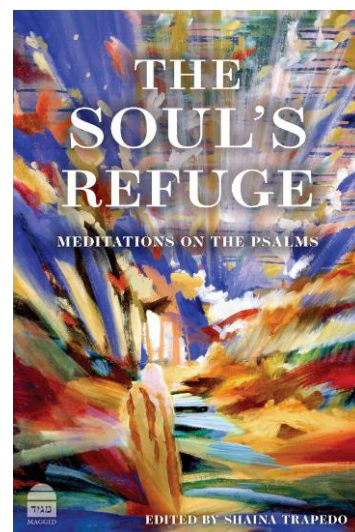
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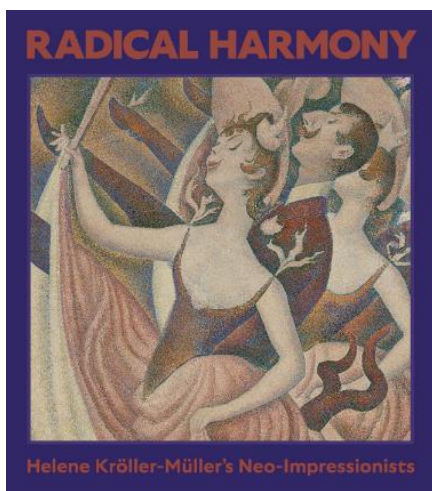
February 2026

Emil Prodan (Physics) published a review article “Emulation of Schrodinger dynamics with metamaterials,” in *Science Bulletin* 70 (2025): 1347–1360. Another paper, “A universal Chern model on arbitrary triangulations,” was accepted in *Physical Review Letters*, a selective physics journal.

Shaina Trapedo (English) edited *The Soul's Refuge: Meditations on the Psalms* (Yeshiva University Press, Maggid Books, 2026), containing contributions from a number of YU faculty. She also published an essay on “Psalms and the American Founding” in *Jewish Roots of American Liberty: The Impact of Hebraic Ideas on the American Story* (Encounter, 2025), edited by **Stu Halpern** (Straus Center) and Wilfred M. McClay.



Along with 25 YU undergraduate co-authors, **Josie Steinhauer** (Biology) published an article “GABAergic neurons are a key cell type in a *Drosophila* model of PARK14/PLA2G6-associated neurodegeneration,” in *Frontiers in Neuroscience*. 19 (2025). doi: 10.3389/fnins.2025.1534243. PMID: 41404033 The co-authors are Meimoun NS†*, Benji S†*, Besharim WZ†*, Cantor YY†, Carroll ES†, Coplin BI†*, Davidovics, MB†*, Gerber M†, Hirschprung PM†*, Jacobson EI†*, Levenbrown AL†*, Levitt DL†*, Levy A†, Mazin YZ†*, Moskowitz AD†*, Purow JI†*, Rimberg A†, Rothstein JE*, Saks EY†*, Saperstein R†, Scher YY†*, Schwarcz YD†*, Silver M†*, Stein YF†, Weiner YY†* (†Corresponding author, *Steinhauer lab trainee, ‡Genetics lab student). Much of the data for this study were generated in Steinhauer’s undergraduate Genetics course lab. 59 students contributed to this study over 6 years, and in addition to the student co-authors, there are also another 30 or so students thanked in the Acknowledgements section, for their work generating preliminary data or experimental replicates.



Marnin Young (Art History) contributed a chapter on “The Double Structure of Seurat’s *Chahut*” to the exhibition catalogue *Radical Harmony: Helene Kröller-Müller’s Neo-Impressionists* (National Gallery, London; Yale University Press, 2025). In October, he published an essay on “Nineteenth-Century French Realism” in *Oxford Bibliographies* (Oxford University Press).

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Performances

Daniel Beliafsky (Music) has been re-engaged for 2026-2027 to continue making educational videos on the operas the San Diego Opera presents each season. So far, he has made videos on Salome, La Traviata, Pagliacci, and The Barber of Seville. Coming up later this season is one on Carmen. These videos are available on the SDO's social media channels, including on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/@SanDiegoOpera/videos>

He is also performing solo piano recitals in Milwaukee and San Diego in March and April.



Field Trips



In January, **Ed Berliner** (Physics) took a group of students to the Hayden Planetarium at the American Museum of Natural History (200 Central Park West). The trip was inspired by a discussion of gravitation in his General Physics course at Stern.



February 2026

Paul Glassman (Art) took the students in his Cultures of Modern Architecture to visit the landmark Bayard-Condict Building at 65 Bleecker Street to discuss and sketch the ornamental program of its terra cotta exterior. The only building in New York City designed by Louis Sullivan, it was selected as a National Historic Landmark in 1976.



Miriam Levy-Haim (Jewish Studies) took her Jewish History class on "Islam and the Jews" to see the exhibition, *Jewish Worlds Illuminated: A Treasury of Hebrew Manuscripts from The JTS Library*, at the Grolier Club (47 E 60th St). Dr. Mordecai Schwartz, the librarian for special collections at the JTS library, gave a tour.



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Student research and achievements

Chaya Rapp (Chemistry and Biochemistry) and six Stern College Students (Allison Bender, Sara Moskowitz, Ayelet Eiskowitz, Ayelet Ostrin, Nava Berkley, Lauren Monderer) at the 7th Annual Women in Science Day at AECOM. The students heard from a number of accomplished women, had opportunities to hear about careers and to network, and actively and impressively participated in a debate on the use of Generative AI in Science. Pictures below:





Some of the co-authors of the article written with **Josie Steinhauer** (Biology) (see above) presenting the work as a poster in the Annual YU STEM Poster Expo in 2024.

