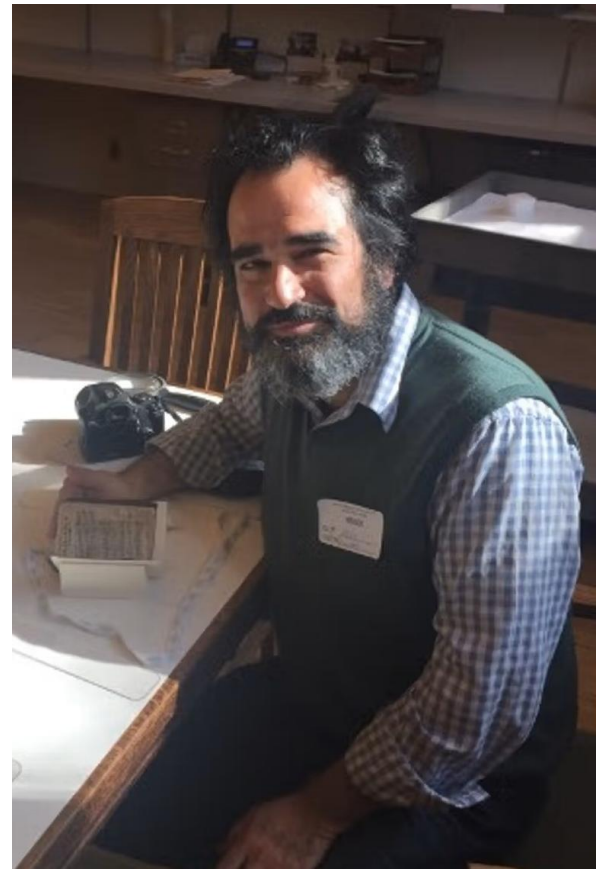
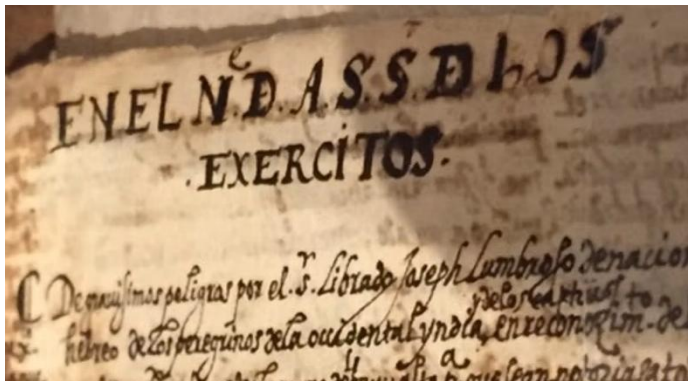


National grants

Ronnie Perelis (History) has won a major grant of \$299,000 from the National Endowment of the Humanities, along with his colleague Flora Cassen (Washington University, St Louis), to translate two early modern Jewish texts. Ronnie will work on the spiritual diary of Luis de Carvajal. De Carvajal was born in Iberia but grew up in Mexico, where he secretly practiced Judaism. In 1596, he was killed by the Inquisition: the manuscript of his diary survives because it was used as evidence against him. In 1932 it disappeared from the National Archives of Mexico, but when it turned up at an auction house in 2016, it was rescued, and displayed briefly at the New York Historical Society, where Ronnie saw it. It is now back in Mexico.



Ronnie (above) in the New-York Historical Society with de Carvajal's tiny spiritual diary (detail, left)

Radhashree Maitra (Biology) won a 3-year grant from the National Institute of Health in 2022 for her research on colorectal cancer: this summer, the Institute recognized her progress so far and awarded her funds of nearly \$150,000 for a further year's research. YC students Aaron Shaykevich, Alexander Siegman, and Isaac Silverman from Rad's lab went to the American Association for Cancer Research to present their work earlier this year. In 2023 and 2024, Rad has published three articles along with her students, with another forthcoming, and three other papers with colleagues from Montefiore and elsewhere highlighted her findings about the genetic origins of cancer. Congratulations to Ronnie and Rad!

Conferences and Lectures

Lauren Fitzgerald and **David Poretz** (English), along with students Natan Levin and Avishye Moskowitz (YC), presented their research and experience in the Wilf campus Writing Center at the International Writing Centers Association's online conference in October. Their talk, "Exploring Tutor Resistance to GenAI," examined reasons writing tutors might be disinclined to help student writers learn to use generative artificial intelligence appropriately. While other writing centers are currently training tutors on GenAI integration, Lauren and Dave are promoting a more gradual approach, facilitating structured forums and open dialogues allowing tutors to voice these apprehensions while collaboratively exploring genAI's potential benefits and pitfalls. Along with **Paul Glassman** (Art History, formerly Director of Scholarly and Cultural Resources and Librarian) they also addressed the Joint International Conference on Ethics and Integrity in Academia in Gatineau, Canada. Their presentation, "Community Values and Plagiarism Prevention," reported on a pedagogical experiment in their classrooms to examine their ideas on plagiarism prevention and conscientious use of AI. In addition, with scholars from Drew U and Duquesne U, Lauren and Dave led a workshop on "AI (academic integrity) in/and AI (artificial intelligence)." A new body, the Partnership on University Plagiarism Prevention (PUPP), organized the conference: Paul and Lauren are both team members of PUPP.



Avishye Moskowitz responds to a question from the audience at the International Writing Centers Association's online conference

Carrie Shanafelt (English) spoke at the Centre Bentham Utility, Colonies, and Empire conference (Sciences Po, Paris) on "One common Bastille?: Jeremy Bentham on Colonialism and Public Debt." With Dustin Friedman (Georgetown), she ran a special seminar at the North American Society for the Study of Romanticism on "Aesthetics and Queer Historiography," centering on a chapter of her book *Uncommon Sense*. She has taken over as chair of the Seminar in Eighteenth-Century European Culture at Columbia and continues to serve as the philosophy reviews editor for the *Journal for Eighteenth-Century Studies*.

Michelle Levine (Bible) recently presented timely lectures in different New York communities. In October, for Shabbat Shuvah before Yom Kippur, she spoke for Congregation Ohel Yitzhak in Kew Gardens Hills, on "Apples and Honey: Starting the New Year on a Sweet Note." For the Rosh Chodesh Lecture series at



Congregation Ohab Zedek, Belle Harbor, she presented “The Potency of Prayer: Our Matriarch Sarah in Abimelech’s Palace (Genesis 20).” This semester, Levine is also teaching an online adult education series on the Book of Kohelet, and for the GPATS Beit Midrash, she is teaching an online series on Clothing in the Bible.

With the sponsorship of the Center for Israel Studies, the Rabbi Arthur Schneier Program for International Affairs, YUPAC, and the SCW and YC honors programs, Yifat Bitton (President of Achva Academic College in Israel) visited campus in the first week of November. She gave a public lecture on “Sexual Violence in the Shadow of Oct. 7” on the Wilf Campus, and also spent time at Stern, including a visit to the Women’s Studies class of **Nora Nachumi** (English).

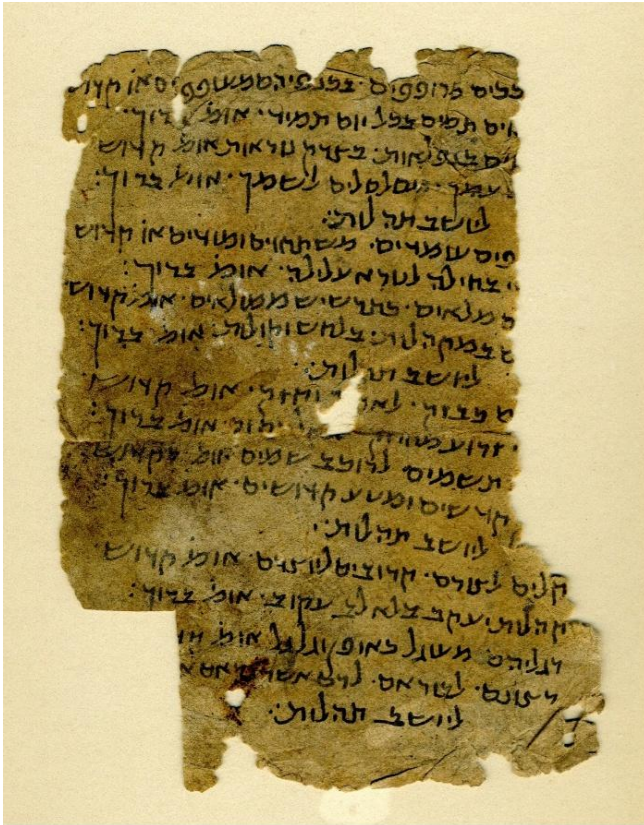


Yifat Bitton with Nora Nachumi’s Stern class on the Beren Campus

SPAU caucus

Elyse Granik and **Heidi Fuld** of the (Speech Pathology and Audiology) became board members of the newly formed ASHA Jewish Caucus. The Jewish Caucus is a multicultural group of the American Speech and Hearing Association, the largest accreditation organization in the field of Communication Sciences and Disorders. The Caucus was formed in response to rising antisemitism on college campuses, schools nationwide and in different settings throughout the country. The Caucus intends to spread education and awareness about Judaism on social media and other platforms, provide legal and supportive channels for responding to antisemitic incidents and start a mentorship program for Jewish students and new graduates. Professors Granik and Fuld’s responsibilities include mentoring a student internship program, building membership and creating NYC based events for members.





Publications

With Joseph Ginsberg (YC) and Shulamith Berger (Curator of Special Collections), **Aaron Koller** (Near Eastern Studies) published one of the two pieces from the Cairo Geniza in YU's collections, an 11th-century fragment of a piyyut by El'azar Qilliri. Remarkably, Ginsberg recognized that the YU fragment was originally part of a page with a fragment now held by JTS. YU's two fragments came from the collection of Rabbi Dr. Louis Lewin, which YU bought in 1948; JTS's is from the library of Elkan Nathan Adler. The authors suggest that Adler may have given two fragments to Lewin, without appreciating that he was dividing two parts of one original. For more details see the edition on the [Cambridge University site](#).

One of YU's 2 Cairo Geniza fragments that now lives in Special Collections on the 4th floor of the library, a short distance from its former companion at JTS

Along with **Paul Glassman**, **Steven Fine (History)**, and other scholars in the wider YU community, Aaron contributed to the new volume published by the Mendel Gottesman Library, *Remembering Leah Adler ז"ל: A Tribute*, which includes memories, recollections, tributes, scholarly articles, and divrei Torah in memory of the beloved former Head Librarian of Hebraica/Judaica. Copies are available at the Gottesman desk on the fifth floor of the library.

Carrie Shanafelt was the guest editor for a special issue of *Revue d'études benthamiennes* published in September, for which she wrote the introduction. It includes philosophy papers and creative work in response to Jeremy Bentham's manuscripts on sexual nonconformity and the law.



More library news

At YU, Ilan Bocian (YC, mentored by **Ronnie Perelis**), won the first YU Student Library Research Award for Honors Theses & Senior Projects; Moshe Carroll (YC, **Raji Viswanathan**) took second place, and Sheindl Berger (SCW, **William Stenhouse**) received an honorable mention. **Miriam Hirsch** (Education) and **Eliezer Schnall** (Psychology) have won stipends from YU Libraries for successfully converting their classes to ZTC (zero textbook cost) with the incorporation of OER (open educational resources).

Ronnie Perelis took his YC first year honors seminar to the Rare Books room at Columbia to see books from the first two centuries of print connected to his class on the Spanish Inquisition. Many thanks to the Columbia curators!



Sixteenth-century books at Columbia, among them a copy of the Roman Index of Prohibited Books. The 1564 Index included the Talmud, “unless it appears without the name ‘Talmud’ and without insults and affronts to the Christian religion”.
