

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

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ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT

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

- Judah Wohlgernter and Alex Ratnovsky retired from the positions of Circulations Associates in Pollack Library.
- Kayla Lora began as Circulation Associate in Pollack Library.
- Drew Schneider began as Circulation Associate full-time in Pollack Library
- A grant-funded, temporary position of Project Cataloger was created in Metadata Services and Processing.
- Jay Rosen resigned as Public Services & User Experience Librarian in Pollack Library.
- Justin Thomas began as Public Services & User Experience Librarian in Pollack Library.
- Enna Korik began as Circulation Associate in Pollack Library.
- Emily Apterbach began as Circulation Associate in Hedi Steinberg Library.
- Ethan Fraenkel resigned as Circulation Associate in Hedi Steinberg Library.

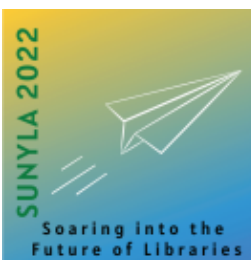
OUTREACH

Catalog of University Authors

Keyla Lora compiled the catalog. Wendy Kosakoff, Rebecca Malamud, and Marlene Schiffman edited and proofread it. Sixty-eight contributors submitted bibliographic and descriptive data.



SCHOLARSHIP



Marlene R. Schiffman, Catalog Librarian, presented "From Piecemeal to Proactive: Cataloging Theses and Dissertations at Yeshiva University" at the SUNY Librarians Association Annual Conference on June 20, 2022.

AWARDS & GRANTS

- **LYRASIS Ideas Award** for textbook alternatives in-kind support came to completion with faculty members and academic librarians from four other institutions: Lake Sumter State College, Northern Virginia Community College, Ohio Wesleyan University, and University of Louisiana Monroe. Yeshiva University participants are Paul Glassman, Director of Scholarly and Cultural Resources and Adjunct Instructor of Architectural History and Design, Art Department, Yeshiva College; Elinor Grumet, Reference and Instruction Librarian, Hedi Steinberg Library; Sandy Moore, Head Librarian, Pollack Library; Lauren Fitzgerald, Professor, Department of English, Yeshiva College; Matt Miller, Associate Professor, Department of English, Stern College for Women; and Nora Nachumi, Associate Professor, Department of English, Stern College for Women. In partnership with their campus librarians, faculty members curated open-access and library-licensed materials to replace costly textbooks in a fall 2021 course. They also explored whether use of these resources leads to new pedagogical strategies in the classroom.
- The **Estate of Herman Prinz 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 upgrade group study rooms for screen sharing with collaboration software and hardware in Pollack and Hedi Steinberg Libraries.

DATA

Information literacy sessions, total	65
Information literacy sessions, total attendance	1,024
Information services to individuals, total transactions	3,447
Virtual information services	1,607
Research consultations	74
Year-end number of physical titles in collections	763,134
Year-end number of physical volumes in collections	794,173
Year-end number of electronic books	296,456
Titles cataloged and added to collection	2,660
Archival collections cataloged	73
Original cataloging, titles	976
Authority records created	53
Year-end number of electronic journal titles (in cooperation with Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Cardozo School of Law)	91,339
Institutional repository, items held	7,444
Institutional repository, items used	381,108
Interlibrary loan, outgoing items	836
Interlibrary loan, received	743

LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The committee, with faculty, student, and university administration representatives, met twice and made recommendations on equipment, acquisitions, programs, and services. Professor Aaron

Koller resigned after serving on the committee since its 2016 inception. Professor Avraham Ravid will succeed him as representative of undergraduate faculty members.

POLLACK LIBRARY

- Several QR code events helped students re-acclimate to the library on return to campus after COVID closure.
 - New research guides support Katz School programs.
 - Implementation of Reference Tracker increases understanding of how, where, and when students receive assistance from libraries' personnel.
 - An electronic group study room reservation system allows students to reserve rooms in advance.
 - All group study rooms were equipped with flatscreen monitors allow students to connect their laptop computers to the screen for collaboration with their peers.
 - 2022 Student Library Research Award winner was Samuel Friedman for "The Differing Effects of Narrative Transportation Across Animated and Live Action Movies," written for Professor Anna-Lisa Cohen's Experimental Psychology course.
 - Library Research Guides serve as information pathfinders for students and faculty members. The five guides with the most views are Google Scholar, YU Student Library Research Award, Social Work Research Guide, Library Research Jump Start, and Ancient Jewish History.
-

MENDEL GOTTESMAN LIBRARY

Collecting Activity

- Comprehensive acquisition of rabbinica continues to be a focus.
- Niche Jewish newspapers and magazines highlighting diverse communities within North America also distinguish the collection.
- Significant efforts this year included making hidden collections searchable.

Significant Gift

The estate of Herman Prinz Salomon, professor emeritus at SUNY Albany, donated works on the western Sephardi Jewish community of Amsterdam. Highlights include significant liturgical works.

Research Support

- Through cooperation with the Fish Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies and the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law library, the library acquired the Shoah Visual History Archive, which focuses on videorecorded testimonies.
- Production of a Holocaust research guide focused on electronic and print resources both within Yeshiva University Libraries and externally.

Philanthropic Support

The Zoltan Erenyi Fund continued its support of acquisitions in memory of Leah Adler and Zoltan Erenyi. New acquisitions include *Takanoth HaKehillah* (regulations governing the administration of the Ashkenazi community of Amsterdam), *Album of Tel Aviv Views* (1926), and photographic portraits of Lithuanian Rabbis.

Instruction

Librarians delivered sessions to Bernard Revel Graduate School for Jewish Studies doctoral students, Fish Center Holocaust and Genocide Studies graduate students, and select undergraduate classes.

HEDI STEINBERG LIBRARY

Acquisitions

The library accepted a gift of collection of Jewish cookbooks.

Outreach to faculty

- *Choice* reviews for collection development recommendations are now sent electronically.
- A welcome letter sent to faculty each semester results directly in requests for research instruction.

Outreach to students

- Students are donating used textbooks for addition to the reserve collection.
- Campus guides were provided a script with talking points during prospective students' tours.
- Library staff members now have a fact sheet for interaction with prospective students during campus tours.
- At the Success Fair, over 85 students interacted with staff members at the library table, where they received branded water bottles, fast facts. As entertainment, library-centric cartoons were on view on a laptop computer.
- Library Associate Emily Apterbach arranged with students to cosponsor a book club and for librarians to serve as mentors for the coming year.

Collection management

- The library launched a substantial de-selection project and enrolled faculty members in the process. 150 boxes of de-selected material were sent to Better World Books for distribution in developing countries.
- Previously uncataloged reserve titles and copies were added to the online public access catalog, YULIS.

Facilities

- Staff members rearranged the second-floor study room so that the print station would be easier for patrons to use and the study area more accessible.

- Reference and Instruction Librarian Hindishe Lee surveyed signage for improved wayfinding.

Instruction

- Research and Instruction Librarian Rina Krautwirth extended the prior year's experimental program in flipping the classroom—assigning an online tutorial and exercise before the session. She also created a research guide for psychology.
- Reference and Instruction Librarian Hindishe Lee composed and posted guides to e-mailing and printing from e-books PowerPoint and to working with the database *Chronicling America*.

Professional Service

- Rina Krautwirth, Research and Instruction Librarian, continues as President of Association of Jewish Libraries/New York Metropolitan Area (AJL/NYMA).
- Hallie Cantor, Acquisitions Associate, continues as editor and chief author of the *AJL/NYMA Newsletter*, co-hosted Library Book Talks, and contributed articles to the staff newsletter, YAIR, and the library blog.

Professional Development

Librarians and staff members attended the following webinars and workshops:

- THE FIRST WAVE, A Panel Conversation: Lessons from the Pandemic for a Brighter Future
- GoToWebinar: Reflections on 2021 College Freshmen: What We've Learned, How They're Different, How We Support
- Research Information Management: Library Roles and Opportunities
- Doc Chat Episode 47: What's Cooking in the Yiddish Kitchen, Recipes for Immigrant Women
- How Accessibility Statements Create a Better Library User Experience
- Copy That! Copyright Basics for Library Professionals, Part 2: Exceptions and Limitations
- Facebook + Data Privacy: How Facebook Mismanages Information and What It Means for Users
- SUNY/LA Midwinter Virtual Conference 2022
- OA: Trends in Academic Libraries
- New York State Coordinators Monthly Meeting
- Classrooms Without Borders: Connecting Cultures and Communities
- CEU Certificate for: Librarians in Space! OR Just How Far Can a Library Degree Take You?

Staff Achievements

Hallie Cantor, Acquisitions Associate, published book reviews in the *AJL Newsletter*.

- Austen, Kenneth. *The Jews and the Reformation*. Yale University Press, 2020.
- Comforty, Jack. *The Stolen Narrative of the Bulgarian Jews and the Holocaust*.
- With Martha Aladjem Bloomfield. Lexington, 2021.
- Kronfeld, David. *Tales of the Havurah*. BookBaby, 2020.
- Michelbacher, Dallas. *Jewish Forced Labor in Romania, 1940-1944*. Indiana University Press, 2020
- Nasaw, David. *The Last Million: Europe's Displaced Persons from World War to Cold War*. Penguin 2020.
- Ram Haggai. *Intoxicating Zion: A Social History of Hashish in Mandatory Palestine and Israel*. Stanford University Press, 2022.

Hindishe Lee, Reference and Instruction Librarian

- Attended *Torat Tziyon* (YU in Israel Pilot Program) video meeting to learn about library services.

- Contributed to the Instruction & Public Services work group a suggestion to use Canvas for embedded librarianship.
- Co-authored with Rina Krautwirth article for March 2022 *Library Newsletter*: "A Tale of Two Rabbis" summarizing Session C of the Libraries January 2022 Mini-Symposium.

Rina Krautwirth, Research and Instruction Librarian, authored

- "Protecting against the Unseen: Chazal's Approach to Chemical and Biological Hazards," *Derech HaTeva: A Journal of Torah and Science*, vol. 26, 2021-2022, a Stern College publication also posted on YUTorah.org.

Edith Lubetski, Head Librarian,

- Co-editor (with Meir Lubetski), *Epigraphy, Iconography, and the Bible* (Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2022).

ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Reference

Reference interactions are primarily remote. Staff members continued to digitize material for off-site patrons.

COVID Project

Staff members continued collecting, processing, organizing, and tracking COVID material and worked on the backlog with the help of students. Staff members took web archiving classes to gain additional familiarity with web archiving tools and processes.

Exhibits

Curator Shulamith Berger installed material on J.D. [Judah David] Eisenstein, known as *Ba'al Ha-Otsarot*, the Master of the Treasuries, for his compendia of Jewish law, lore, and literature. The library lent rare Jewish Cultural Reconstruction books and archival material to the Jewish Museum exhibit *Afterlives: Recovering the Lost Stories of Looted Art*.

Visits

A. Richard and Adam Parkoff viewed their manuscripts and rare books, which are on long-term loan.

Cataloging

Cataloging of rare and archival acquisitions made with the Leah Adler Memorial Fund required collaboration with Mendel Gottesman Library and Metadata Services to organize workflow.

Digital Projects

- 1,400 Institutional/West Side Institutional Synagogue bulletins were digitized and added to the New York Synagogues Bulletins Collection. The remaining manuscripts which were digitized by Ardon bar Hama were uploaded to Islandora.
- Staff members collaborated with METRO in its migration of the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry Poster Collection from Islandora to Archipelago.
- JSTOR harvested the Libraries' Digital Collections and YAIR material into its digital platform.
- ITHAKA's Reveal Digital agreed to digitize portions of the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry collection, which will be mounted on their website. The microfilms are currently at the vendor.

Other Projects

- Collaboration with the Lamm family on a digital repository of Norman Lamm's collections.
- Application to the Lucius Littauer Foundation for a grant to digitize the Ladino book collection.
- Created and distributed a survey to library staff members about digitization equipment and needs.

Presentations

- Archivist Deena Schwimmer presented a lunchtime learning session on her presentation to the 2021 Association of Jewish Libraries conference on the COVID Collection.
- Curator Shulamith Berger represented Yeshiva University in a recorded panel discussion on *Confronting Anti-Semitism* at the Center for Jewish History.

Classes

Curator Shulamith Berger presented rare Sephardic materials to students in Professor Ronnie Perelis's Sephardic history course.

Blog posts

Archivist Deena Schwimmer and Curator Shuli Berger contributed posts about rare manuscript, book, and archival material to the library blog.

WEB & DIGITAL SERVICES

- Migrated the library integrated system (Virtua) to vendor hosting in August.
- Assisted Information Technology Services in migrating all library servers to a new data center on the Resnick Campus.
- Upgraded EZProxy to Version 7.1.14 and switched to Proxy by Hostname to overcome incompatibility with many popular e-resource websites.
- Patched the Apache log4j vulnerability on all library servers.
- Installed and configured TrackRef, an open-source application, to use for recording reference interactions.
- Maintained the eReserves platform, on which 47,479 items were, a 9% increase from the prior year.
- Concentrated support of online graduate students through creation of eReserves Everspring-designed courses (MSW, MBA, MSA, MSRE, and Katz Cybersecurity).

- Library Systems Administrator J.B. Holderness assisted in the virtual Mini-Symposium, and as coordinator of Lunchtime Learning, hosted three virtual sessions.

Technology Enhancement

- With support from the Zoltan Erenyi Fund
 - All Group Study Rooms in Pollack library are equipped with Flatscreen TVs.
 - A scanning table with the new overhead book scanner (Fujitsu ScanSnap SV600) was installed behind the circulation desk of the Pollack Library.
 - Six new Surface Go laptops were acquired and configured for use in the library laboratory.
- Four Bloomberg Terminals have been installed in Pollack library for Sy Syms School of Business students.

YAIR: Yeshiva Academic Institutional Repository

- 176,738 pages viewed in 2021 – 2022, a 50.6% increase from the previous year.
- 147 articles published by faculty and staff members posted.
- Eight videos of Library Book Talks posted, and 13 Videos of interdepartmental and cross-cultural talks, a series of 'Crisis and Hope: YU Voices—Ukraine' posted.
- 25 doctoral dissertations and 54 honors theses/senior projects posted.
- 732 course syllabi added to the new syllabi collections for Yeshiva College and Stern College for Women.
- New features added to YAIR to highlight faculty scholarship: Altmetrics, ORCIDiD, citation, YU Faculty Page, Share widget, badges.
- Marketing and Communications adopted YAIR as its publication archiving repository.

METADATA SERVICES

Cataloging

- Total of items cataloged: **2,660**
- Original cataloging: **976**
- Authority records created: **53**
- Rare items cataloged
 - Leah Adler Memorial Fund acquisitions: **128** rare books
 - Zoltan Erenyi Fund: **10** rare books
 - Rare non-book items: **29**
- Archival resources: **73**
- Theses and dissertations: **516**
- Stanley J. Serxner collection donor notes added: **140** bibliographic record revisions

STRATEGIC PLAN

SMART GOALS

STRATEGY 2019-2022 UPDATE

SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic/Relevant and Time Bound) goals

Steering Committee

- Rina Krautwirth, Research and Instruction Librarian, co-chair
- Rebekah Shoemake, Interlibrary Loan Coordinator, co-chair

Work groups

- Collections (Sandra Moore, Head Librarian, Pollack Library, head)
- Outreach (Wendy Kosakoff, Public Services and Outreach Librarian, head)
- Instruction & Public Services (Shulamis Hes, Electronic Resources and Reference Librarian, head)
- Facilities (Paul Glassman, Director of Scholarly and Cultural Services, head)
- Cross-functions (Elinor Grumet, Research and Instruction Librarian, head)

Collections

- Revision of collection development policy in process

Outreach

- Consistent identification of Hedi Steinberg Library in online media

Instruction & Public Service

- Survey of high-impact instruction programs and practices at peer institutions

Facilities

- Digital media studio: peer facilities to be surveyed, plan finalized, location to be determined
- Revision of DASNY-funded plan for Hedi Steinberg Library to include non-architectural elements

Cross-functions

- Completion of LYRASIL Catalyst Fund textbook alternatives project in summer 2021
- Distribution of LYRASIL white paper on the project to its 911 member libraries

A LYRASIS Catalyst Fund Research Report

The Alternatives Pilot Project

PREPARED BY:

Leigh A. Grinstead

Catalyst Fund Program Lead

LYRASIS Innovation & Research

February 16, 2022

PROJECT PARTNERS:

Leigh A. Grinstead, Project Manager

Paul Glassman, Grant writer, Yeshiva University

Sandy Moore, Instructional Design, Yeshiva University

Elinor Grumet, Editor, Yeshiva University



Outreach Plan

Adopt social media best practices.

EXAMINE UNIVERSITY SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES
AND BEST PRACTICES FOR WEB CONTENT.

Outcome: enhanced communication with social media audiences.

Identify and describe target markets.

EXAMINE CURRENTLY ENGAGED AUDIENCES.

Outcome: more accurate understanding of new audiences.

Prepare for multi-year communications plan.

EXAMINE MULTI-YEAR MARKETING PROGRAM
CREATED BY RUTGERS.

Outcome: foundation for future marketing plan.

Pilot 3 promotional strategies.

BEGIN WITH IMPACTFUL "LOW-HANGING FRUIT."

Outcome: greater understanding of shaping effective strategies.

Pursue brand strategy.

PROMOTE INDIVIDUAL LIBRARIES BY
DIFFERENTIATING THEIR COLLECTION STRENGTHS.

Outcome: greater awareness of library resources and particular identities through consistent naming (e. g., Hedi Steinberg Library).

Outreach Plan Page two

Increase student engagement.

ESTABLISH STUDENT ADVISORY GROUP.

Outcome: enhanced communication with student constituencies.

Improve wayfinding.

INSTALL LOCATION NUMBERS AT ELEVATORS AND
SUBJECT IDENTIFICATION AT STACK ENDS.

Outcome: more navigable library spaces, especially for browsing and intellectual serendipity with collections.

OUTREACH WORK GROUP CHAIR: WENDY KOSAKOFF

STAFF DEVELOPMENT Quarterly Staff Newsletter

- Libraries Updates distributed quarterly
- Staff Symposium (virtual)



 Yeshiva University Libraries

YU LIBRARIES 2022 MINI-SYMPOSIUM

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2022
POLLACK LIBRARY LOUNGE, SECOND FLOOR EAST

8:45-9:15	COFFEE
9:15-9:30	OPENING REMARKS
9:30-9:45	STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE
9:45-10	BREAK
10-11	YU LIBRARIES SPEED DATING
11-11:15	BREAK
11:15-12:15	SIMULTANEOUS SESSIONS (PICK ONE)
	A. MAKOR COLLEGE EXPERIENCE: HOW YU LIBRARIES CAN ASSIST INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES STEPHEN GLICKSMAN <i>DIRECTOR, MAKOR COLLEGE EXPERIENCE PROGRAM, YU</i>
	B. LIBRARY INSTRUCTION ASSESSMENT: STRATEGIES AND CHALLENGES CARA BERG <i>BUSINESS LIBRARIAN, DAVID AND LORRAINE CHENG LIBRARY, WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY</i>
	C. SHABBETAI ZEVI AND THE EMDEN-EIBESCHUETZ CONTROVERSY IN AN AMERICAN COURTROOM DR. SHNAYER LEIMAN (IN-PERSON ONLY) <i>VISITING PROFESSOR OF JEWISH HISTORY AND LITERATURE, YU</i>
12:15-12:30	CLOSING REMARKS & LUNCH

Library Book Talks Fall 2021

library.yu.edu

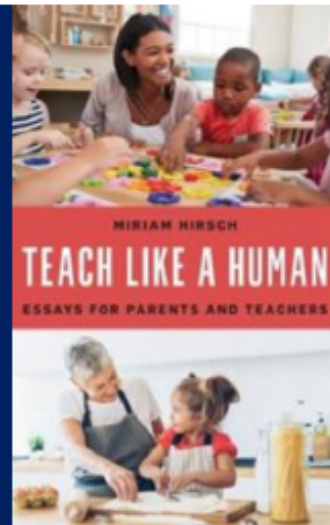
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NOVEMBER

Tuesday, 7:30 PM
Via Zoom

Miriam Hirsch
Associate Professor of Education and
Chair of the Education Program at Stern
College for Women

Teach Like a Human:
Essays for Parents and Teachers



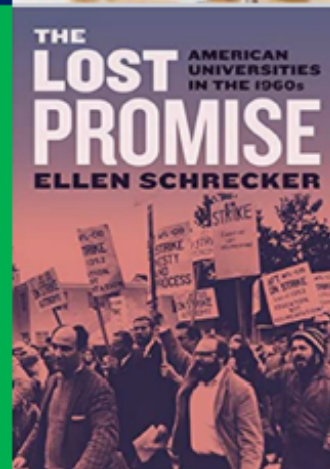
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DECEMBER

Monday, 7:30 PM
Via Zoom and in
Gottesman Library
Room 507

Ellen Schrecker
Professor of History, Emerita
In conversation with Paula Geyh,
Associate Professor of English, Yeshiva
College

The Lost Promise:
American Universities in the 1960s



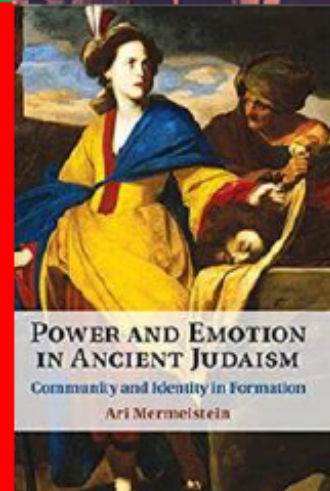
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DECEMBER

Tuesday, 7:30 PM
Via Zoom

Ari Mermelstein
Associate Professor of Bible and Second
Temple Literature; Chair of the
Department of Bible, Hebrew, and Near
Eastern Studies; and Assistant Director of
the YU Center for Jewish Law and
Contemporary Civilization, and the Israeli
Supreme Court Project, Cardozo School of
Law

**Power and Emotion in Ancient
Judaism:**
Community and Identity in Formation



Library Book Talks Spring 2022

library.yu.edu

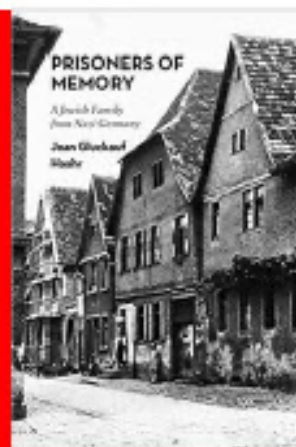
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FEBRUARY

Wednesday, 7:00 PM
Via Zoom

Joan Gluckauf Haahr
Professor of English, Emerita
In conversation with William Stenhouse,
Professor, Robert M. Beren Department
of History

Prisoners of Memory:
A Jewish Family from Nazi Germany



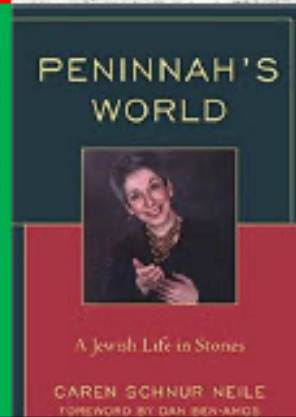
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MARCH

Tuesday, 8:15 PM
Via Zoom

Peninnah Schram
Professor of Speech & Drama, Emerita
In conversation with her biographer,
Karen Schnur Neile

Peninnah's World:
A Jewish Life in Stories



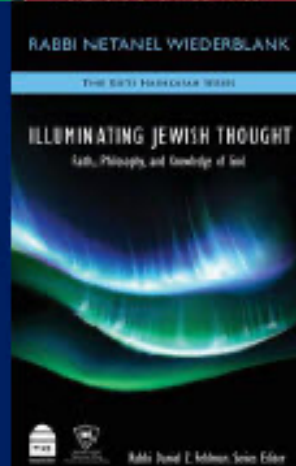
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MARCH

Tuesday, 8:15 PM
Via Zoom

Rabbi Netanel Wiederblank
Instructor of Talmud, Halacha, and
Philosophy, Rabbi Isaac Elchanan
Theological Seminary

Illuminating Jewish Thought:
Faith, Philosophy, and Knowledge of God



Yeshiva University Libraries