



# ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

**YESHIVA UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES**

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# 2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT

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## MISSION

Yeshiva University Libraries 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 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

- Galina Topiler retired from the position of Acquisitions Associate in Pollack Library.
- Alice Weiss and Shulamith Cohen retired from the positions of Circulation Associate in Hedi Steinberg Library.
- Nicole Buehler resigned from the Public Services Librarian (evenings & weekends) position in Pollack Library.
- A grant-funded, temporary position of Project Cataloger was created in Metadata Services and Processing.
- A new position in Pollack Library, Public Services & User Experience Librarian, was created and posted.

## OUTREACH

### *Catalog of University Authors*

Nicole Buehler compiled the catalog. Stephanie Gross, Rebecca Malamud, Ella Ruderman, Marlene Schiffman, Avrom Shuchatowitz edited it. A record seventy contributors submitted bibliographic and descriptive data.



## SCHOLARSHIP



**Stephanie Gross, Electronic Reserves and Scholarly Communication Librarian**, presented "YAIR, Yeshiva Academic Institutional Repository: Highlights from the First Three Years (2018-2021)"

**Deena Schwimmer, Archivist**, spoke on "Archiving the 'Now'" and how Jewish communal institutions have adapted and functioned during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Stephanie Gross, Electronic Reserves and Scholarly Communication Librarian**, presented "YAIR (Yeshiva Academic Institutional Repository) and Retrospective Theses & Dissertations (RTDs): Collaboration under Covid" in memory of Rabbi Dr. Mayer Herskovics (Revel '50), author of *Halakhah and Agadah in Onkelos*, Ph.D. dissertation, on October 15, 2020 at a meeting of the Association of Jewish Libraries, New York Metropolitan Area Chapter (AJL-NYMA).

**Stephanie Gross** (2021). YAIR (Yeshiva Academic Institutional Repository): How rethinking an open-source institutional repository is changing the visibility of faculty, students, and administration. *College & Research Libraries News*, 82(3), 129. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5860/crln.82.3.129>.

Stephanie Gross, Electronic Reserves & Scholarly Communication Librarian, presented to AJL Virtual Conference 2021: “YAIR: Yeshiva Academic Institutional Repository: Highlights from the first three years (2018-2021)”, on June 28, 2021. [Panel: The Future of Collections.]

## COVID-19 RESPONSE

A Re-Opening Task force created *Return to Campus* guidelines for the fall 2020 semester.

## AWARDS & GRANTS

- **Lyrasis Ideas Award** for textbook alternatives in-kind support launched 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 will pilot curation of open-access and library-licensed materials to replace costly textbooks in a fall 2021 course. They will also explore whether use of these resources leads to new pedagogical strategies in the classroom.
- The **Harry and Jane Fischel Foundation** awarded funds to digitize and provide access to a collection of bulletins from the Institutional and West Side Institutional Synagogues, both founded by Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein. Approximately 1,780 unique issues will be scanned, to provide public access to and insure the long-term preservation of the digital assets.
- 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 supplement Hebraica-Judaica acquisitions
  - To upgrade group study rooms for screen sharing with collaboration software and hardware; to create a digital media laboratory for generation of original digital content; to install an interdisciplinary 3-D printer in libraries on the Wilf and Beren Campuses; and to enable group web conferencing capability on both campuses.

## DATA

Information literacy sessions	52
Information literacy sessions, total attendance	843
Year-end number of titles in collections	632,130
Titles added to collection	1,892
Volumes added to collection	2,000
Titles cataloged, original cataloging	442
Name authority contributions	13
Year-end number of electronic journal titles (in cooperation with Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Cardozo School of Law)	263,353

Interlibrary loan, outgoing items	481 returnable 355 non-returnable
Interlibrary loan, received	247 returnable 743 non-returnable

## LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The committee, with faculty, student, and university administration representatives, met twice and made recommendations on access, financial procedures, and strategy.

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# POLLACK LIBRARY

- Librarians began **flipping classrooms for first-year writing courses** with instructional videos and plan to continue this practice when on-site classes resume in fall 2021. Head Librarian Sandy Moore, Research and Instruction Librarian Rina Krautwirth (Hedi Steinberg Library), and Public Services and Outreach Librarian Wendy Kosakoff collaborated to create **six new videos** for first-year writing classes:
  - Library Search Techniques (279 views)
  - Library Website (151 views)
  - Finding Scholarly Sources (122 views)
  - Citations (134 views)
  - Scholarship is a Conversation (99 views)
  - Fake News (91 views)
- Elisabeth Kohn SCW '21, political science major, won the **Student Library Research Award** for "German Attitudes Towards the United States Under Donald Trump's Presidency, Based on German Reporting." A team of seven librarians and staff members (Zvi Erenyi, Paul Glassman, Stephanie Gross, Wendy Kosakoff, Rina Krautwirth, Sandy Moore, and Rebekah Shoemake) evaluated twenty-four entries based on an updated rubric.
- Public Services and Outreach Librarian Wendy Kosakoff provided 17 **virtual library orientations** to both undergraduate and graduate students.
- **Live chat** service, launched in March 2020 and shared with the Admissions Office and Writing Center, provided 931 real-time consultations to students and alumni/ae.
- New to the collection are **streaming films**, viewed largely in English and psychology classes.
- Eight **Library Book Talks** via Zoom drew over 400 attendees.
- **Social Media** accounts continue to be updated regularly:
  - Twitter @yulibraries
  - Facebook: Yeshiva University Libraries
  - Instagram: YULibraries
  - YouTube: Yeshiva University Libraries
- **New faculty orientation:** librarians described faculty services and access to collections.
- Intensified presence of the **Questions? Contact a Librarian!** widget resulted in a two-fold increase in online inquiries.
- **Personal librarians** continue to engage new students several times per semester.
- New **Covid-related research guides** were created in late spring/early summer 2020: "Library Services During Covid-19" and "Covid-19 Resources"—presented to library staff members at a Lunch and Learn session.
- An updated citations guide focuses on **RefWorks**.

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# MENDEL GOTTESMAN LIBRARY

## SIGNIFICANT GIFTS

Donors include

- Steven Fine
- Beverly Geller
- Friedhelm Hoffmann
- Rabbi Chaim Seidler-Feller
- Sarina Roffe,
- Rabbi Haym Soloveitchik

## RESEARCH SUPPORT

Increase of subscription seats to meet remote learning needs, including **Bar-Ilan Responsa Project** and **Otzar HaHokhmah**.

## PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT

The Zoltan Erenyi Fund continued its support of acquisitions in memory of Leah Adler and Zoltan Erenyi.

## INSTRUCTION

- Library instruction was presented in remote format for undergraduate and graduate students.
- Plans were initiated for expanded instruction and information literacy at the graduate level.
- Research consultations were conducted via email, telephone, chat, and video conferencing.

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Head Librarian of Hebraica-Judaica Tina Weiss continued to lead the **COVID Response and Re-Opening Task Force**.
- Library Associates Carla Hanauer and Adina Pollack, Reference Librarian Moshe Schapiro, and Head Librarian Tina Weiss served as **real-time respondents** for Live Chat.
- Collection Development and Reference Librarian **Zvi Erenyi** served on the Library Book Talk committee.
- Staff members attended virtual workshops and professional development sessions hosted by the **Association of Jewish Libraries** and *Library Journal*.

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# HEDI STEINBERG LIBRARY

## PUBLIC SERVICES

- Grab & Go
- Live Chat
- Personal librarians for incoming first-year students

- **Virtual Library Open Houses:** Two sessions—one for faculty members and one for staff members—took place on March 5 and March 9, 2021. Eight library staff members participated and introduced these programs: Personal Librarian, Library Student Research Award, the home page portal, interlibrary loan, Grab & Go, Library Book Talks, RefWorks and other electronic resources, the YUFind discovery tool, the COVID-19 guide, YAIR (Yeshiva Academic Institutional Repository), the *Catalog of University Authors*, and the textbook alternatives program.

## INSTRUCTION

- Librarians revised the psychology research guide.
- Reference and Instruction Librarian Rina Krautwirth collaborated with other Instruction librarians to introduce a flipped classroom approach to first-year writing students, who review a video tutorial and completed an exercise in advance of real-time instruction.
- Reference and Instruction Librarian Hindishe Lee created instructional document on emailing and printing from an electronic book.

## COLLECTION MANAGEMENT

- In anticipation of a DASNY-funded renovation in 2022, deselection occurred in all areas: reserve, reference, Dewey circulating, Library of Congress circulating, and Hebrew periodicals. Working with Metadata Services and Processing, several staff members identified titles for deaccession. On return to campus, deselected materials were transferred to Better World Books. Numerous reference titles were relocated to the circulating collection. Over 30 faculty members assisted in retention decisions. Methodology included review of titles available on Internet Archive and posting on Hasafran. Four cartons of Hebrew periodicals were transferred to Mendel Gottesman Library, and one was transferred to Harvard University.
- Deselected art titles will relocate to the Art Resource Room, where a small collection is maintained. The titles will remain in the online catalog, will be non-circulating, and will indicate a “Stern Art Lounge” location.

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Hallie Cantor, Acquisitions Associate, continued as editor and principal author of the AJL-NYMA (Association of Jewish Libraries/New York Metropolitan Area) *Newsletter*. She co-hosted Library Book Talks and contributed articles for the *Staff Newsletter*, *YAIR*, and *Library Blog*.
- Rina Krautwirth, Research and Instruction Librarian, continued as co-chair of the Strategic Planning Steering Committee for 2019-2022.

## PROFESSIONAL SCHOLARSHIP

- Hallie (Chaya Sarah) Cantor & B.S. Davidson (Eds.). (2020). *Lightpoints: From the Teachings of the Lubavitcher Rebbe on the Weekly Torah Portion*. Or Hachassidus Publications, Kehot Publication Society.
- Hallie (Chaya Sarah) Cantor, (Ed.). (2020). *S. H. Nyazov, Defiance in Samarkand: Firsthand Accounts of Bukharian Jewry's Self-Sacrifice Under Soviet Rule*. Published privately.
- Hallie (Chaya Sarah) Cantor, (Ed.). (2021). *Rambam: Sefer Hamitzvos*. Moznayim Press.
- Hallie Cantor contributed four book reviews to *AJL News & Reviews*.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The talking points script for student campus guides was revised and shared with the Admissions Office.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Head Librarian Edith Lubetski and Reference and Instruction Librarian Elinor Grumet attended a **Journal Retention and Needs Listing Tool** (JRNL) training from EAST (Eastern Academic Scholars' Trust).

Librarian and staff members attended these virtual **workshops**:

- Librarians in Space OR Just How Far Can a Library Degree Take You?
- Strategies for Approaching Graduate Writing
- The Physics of Music
- Getting Started with Jewish Genealogy at the NYPL
- From a New Normal to a New Future: An eForum on Trends in Virtual Reference & Emerging Technology
- Understanding the MLA International Bibliography
- New York Public Library New Accessions 2021 Open House
- SUNYLA Midwinter 2021 Conference
- Linked Data Webinar Series
- When Words & Design Collide: How to Write and Edit with Design in Mind
- Let's Get Technical: How to Plan and Edit Content About Technology
- Developing Student-Centered Curricula for First-Year Students

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# ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

## ACQUISITIONS

With support from the **Zoltan Erenyi Fund**, these noteworthy acquisitions were made in memory of Leah Adler:

- Representative examples include: "Kol Yerushalayim"—Early Guidebook to Addresses and Businesses and a map of Jerusalem, 1921
- Letter from David Saliman Sassoon in 1933 to Moses Lutzki of the Bodleian Library (and later a librarian at Yeshiva University) on finding the handwriting of the Rambam in the Cairo Geniza (under consideration for the Maimonides exhibition at the Yeshiva University Museum)
- Photo album of the Schussheim family's sojourn in pre-state Israel in 1929 (including photographs which may be used in the upcoming Samaritan exhibition at the Museum of the Bible in Washington, D. C.)
- A substantial archive of documents on the campaign to protect kosher slaughter (shechitah) in Germany in the mid-1930s

From the collection of **Jack Belz**

- Late 20<sup>th</sup>- and early 21<sup>st</sup>-century manuscripts with calligraphy and illumination by contemporary artists



## DIGITAL PROJECTS

- The **Digital Collections** portal grew through scan preparation and metadata creation for manuscripts, to be made public in summer 2021.
- Collaboration with the National Library of Israel resulted in the addition of digital versions of Yeshiva University-owned manuscripts to the **KTIV** manuscript project website.
- Conversations began with **Reveal Digital on JSTOR** for digitizing the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry collection.
- Archives staff continued the COVID-19 digital collecting project for material emanating from the Jewish community and also entered into a partnership with the **Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media at George Mason University** to display the material. Staff members learned to archive diverse types of digital and electronic material (e. g., podcasts).

## COMMUNICATIONS

Curator of Special Collections and Hebraica-Judaica Shulamith Berger and Archivist Deena Schwimmer contributed several blogposts highlighting archival materials, including one by Deena on the COVID collecting initiative.

## GRANTS

Archivist Deena Schwimmer completed a successful application to the Fishcel Foundation for the Institutional/West Side Institutional bulletins digitization project.

## SCHOLARLY AND OUTREACH SUPPORT

Archives staff members provided material to researchers via interlibrary loan of microfilms of collections and via Zoom.

Fulfillment of reference requests included

- Selection via Zoom by the Cardozo School of Law alumni office of photographs subsequently digitized by staff members for a reunion
- Material for the Lamm Heritage Archive
- Research and digitizing of documents for Rabbi J. J. Schacter
- Digital photographs to Marketing & Communications on the death of Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks
- Photographs of Hy Arbesfeld for a Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary dinner
- A photograph of Ruth Bader Ginsburg for a Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies blog publicized on WeChat in China
- Audio tapes of 1962 Symposium on Minority Writers, held for Yeshiva University's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, for a researcher revisiting the event at the Newark Public Library, requiring permission from the estates of Philip Roth, Ralph Ellison, and Pietro di Donato.
- Initiative to secure permission for adding the 1962 Symposium on Minority Writers recordings to the library website
- Loan of rare books and archival material to the Jewish Museum for *Afterlives: Recovering the Lost Stories of Looted Art*

## INSTRUCTION

Curator of Special Collections and Hebraica-Judaica Shulamith Berger introduced special collections to Revel students.

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# WEB & DIGITAL SERVICES

- Completed a three-year commitment with Innovative Interfaces for YULIS/Virtua vendor hosting, with migration beginning in August 2021
- Offered ongoing support to staff members working from home during the pandemic
- Provided assistance with transitioning from Cisco 7900 series telephones to the Microsoft Teams software system
- Virtual mini-symposium on Wednesday, January 13, 2021 with three guest presenters (Linda Miles of Hostos Community College, Bernard van Maarseveen of AskNYPL, and Richard Kearney of William Paterson University) coordinated by Electronic Reserves and Scholarly Communication Librarian Stephanie Gross and Library Systems Administrator J. B. Holderness
- 43,724 items viewed in eReserves platform, a 39.9% increase from the prior year

## YAIR: YESHIVA ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORY

- 117,344 pages viewed, a 29.9% increase from the previous year
- Online ISSN 2766-1016 assignment by Library of Congress to YAIR
- 171 articles published by faculty and staff members posted
- Seven videos of Library Book Talks posted
- 21 videos of interdepartmental and cross-cultural talks from "Crisis & Hope: YU Voices" series posted
- 29 podcasts for the Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies added
- 21 doctoral dissertations and 90 honors theses/senior projects posted

Delivery of **doctoral dissertations** to *ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global* on behalf of the registrar begun in January 2021

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# METADATA SERVICES

- Remote workflow established
- Catalog maintenance projects for non-professional and professional staff members expanded
- Backlog of theses and dissertations addressed by creating timetables, establishing protocols, and streamlining workflow with template creation
- Protocol for sharing bibliographic records with the Center for Jewish History to represent Yeshiva University Museum library location in the Center catalog developed
- Protocol for transferring Hedi Steinberg Library books to Mendel Gottesman Library created
- Authoritative names and subject headings contributed to multiple international organizations, including Library of Congress and OCLC/ Virtual International Authority File
- Retention commitment with committed to retain these unique books with EAST (Eastern Academic Scholars' Trust) reviewed
- Hebrew bibliographical records sent by EAST (Eastern Academic Scholars' Trust) analyzed and corrected

# STRATEGIC PLAN

# SMART GOALS

## STRATEGY 2019-2022 UPDATE

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

### Collections

- Revision of collection development policy in process

### Outreach

- Outreach plan completed; to be implemented in 2021-2022

### Instruction & Public Service

- Flipped classroom pilot with first-year writing, fall 2021
- "How to Read a Scientific Article" to be piloted with psychology faculty per consultation with Dean Bacon

### Facilities

- Survey completed and funds secured
- Awaiting release of funds from DASNY for Hedi Steinberg Library north wing upgrade

### Cross-functions

- Virtual open houses well received
- Textbook alternatives project launched in spring with LYRASIS support; to be completed in early summer 2021

## STAFF DEVELOPMENT

- **Quarterly Staff Newsletter**
- **Staff Symposium (virtual)**

Yeshiva University Libraries Innovative Trends in Academic Librarianship

### A Mini-Symposium

Wednesday, January 13, 2021, 9am - 12:30pm  
Online via Zoom (register in link below)

featuring the following guest presenters, plus an update from the Library Steering Committee

		
<b>Linda Miles</b> Instruction & Reference Librarian Hostos Community College	<b>Bernard van Maarseveen</b> Manager, Reference Services AskNYPL	<b>Richard Kearney</b> Electronic Resources Librarian William Paterson University
<i>Hopping on the Virtual Reference Bandwagon: Getting Acclimated &amp; Finding Best Practices</i>	<i>Opening Up AskNYPL's Virtual Reference Services to Branch Staff</i>	<i>The Library as Partner and Leader in "Open" Initiatives</i>

# LIBRARY BOOK TALKS Fall 2020

library.yu.edu

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### OCTOBER 2020

Wednesday, 7:30-8:30 PM  
Via Zoom

**Rona Novick**

Dean, Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish  
Education and Administration

**Mommy, Can You Stop the Rain?**



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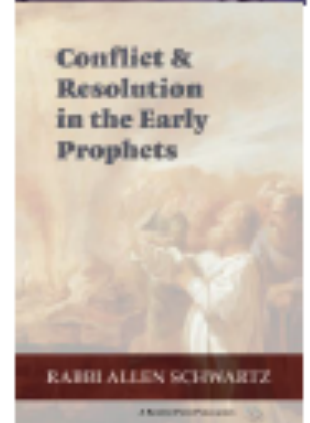
### NOVEMBER 2020

Tuesday, 7:30-8:30 PM  
Via Zoom

**Rabbi Allen Schwartz**

Raymond J. Greenwald Chair  
in Jewish Studies

**Conflict & Resolution in the Early  
Prophets**



## 8

### DECEMBER 2020

Tuesday, 7:30-8:30 PM  
Via Zoom

**Chana Stiefel**

Children's Author  
'90SCW

**From Stern to Scholastic:  
A Journey in Children's Publishing**

Co-sponsored by Stern College for Women  
Education Department and Education Club



Yeshiva University Libraries

# Library Book Talks Spring 2021

library.yu.edu

## 25

### JANUARY

Monday, 7:30 PM  
Via Zoom

**Joanne Jacobson**  
Professor Emerita of English  
Former Associate Dean for Academic  
Affairs, Yeshiva College

**Every Last Breath**  
A Memoir of Two Illnesses



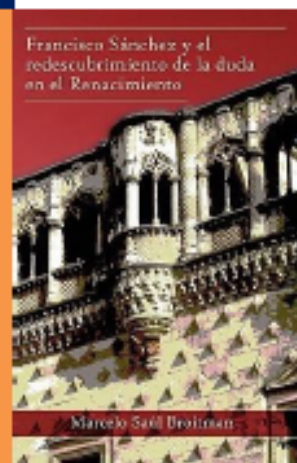
## 9

### FEBRUARY

Tuesday, 7:30 PM  
Via Zoom

**Marcelo Saúl Broitman**  
Adjunct Instructor in Spanish

The Rediscovery of Doubt in the  
Renaissance: A discussion with  
Professor Broitman about his book,  
*Francisco Sánchez y el  
redescubrimiento de la duda en el  
Renacimiento*



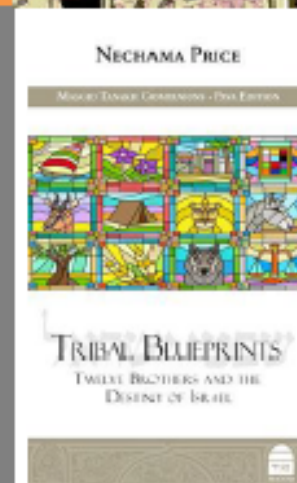
## 23

### FEBRUARY

Tuesday, 7:30 PM  
Via Zoom

**Nechama Price**  
Director, Graduate Program in Advanced  
Talmudic Studies for Women and Senior  
Lecturer, Bible and Judaic Studies  
Departments, Stern College for Women

**Tribal Blueprints:**  
Twelve Brothers and the Destiny of Israel



Yeshiva University Libraries

The January 25 talk was re-scheduled to March 2, 2021.

# Library Book Talks Spring 2021

Conversations with Yeshiva College English Department Faculty Members

library.yu.edu

## 2

### MARCH

Tuesday, 7:30 PM

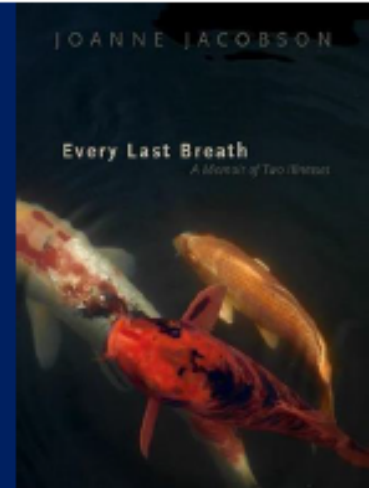
Via Zoom

**Joanne Jacobson**

Professor Emerita of English  
Former Associate Dean for Academic  
Affairs, Yeshiva College

In conversation with Lauren Fitzgerald  
Professor of English  
Director, Wilf Campus Writing Center

**Every Last Breath**  
A Memoir of Two Illnesses



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### APRIL

Monday, 7:30 PM

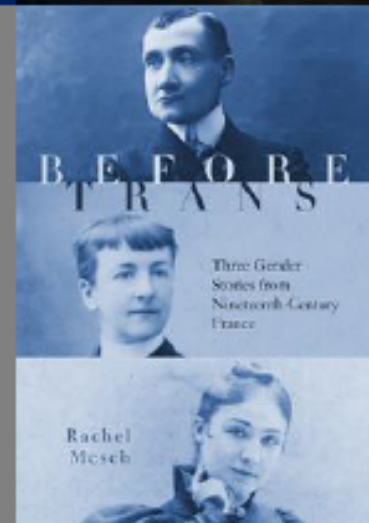
Via Zoom

**Rachel Mesch**

Professor of English and French  
Chair, English Department

In conversation with Liesl Schwabe  
Lecturer in English  
Writing Program Director

**Before Trans: Three Gender Stories  
from Nineteenth-Century France**



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