

Gary A. Rendsburg

Upcoming Programs in June

(1)

"The Ever Alive Dead Sea Scrolls"

Kol Rina, South Orange, New Jersey

(2)

"Did Queen Elizabeth Know Hebrew?:

The Fascination with All Things Hebrew

in Tudor England"

Jewish Historical Seminars, Jerusalem, Israel

Wednesday, June 5, 2024

Dear Friends,

Gary will be presenting two lectures next week, on back-to-back days (Sunday and Monday), we hope to see you at one or both.

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(1) “The Ever Alive Dead Sea Scrolls”

Kol Rina, South Orange, New Jersey

Sunday, June 9, 2024

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon (EDT)

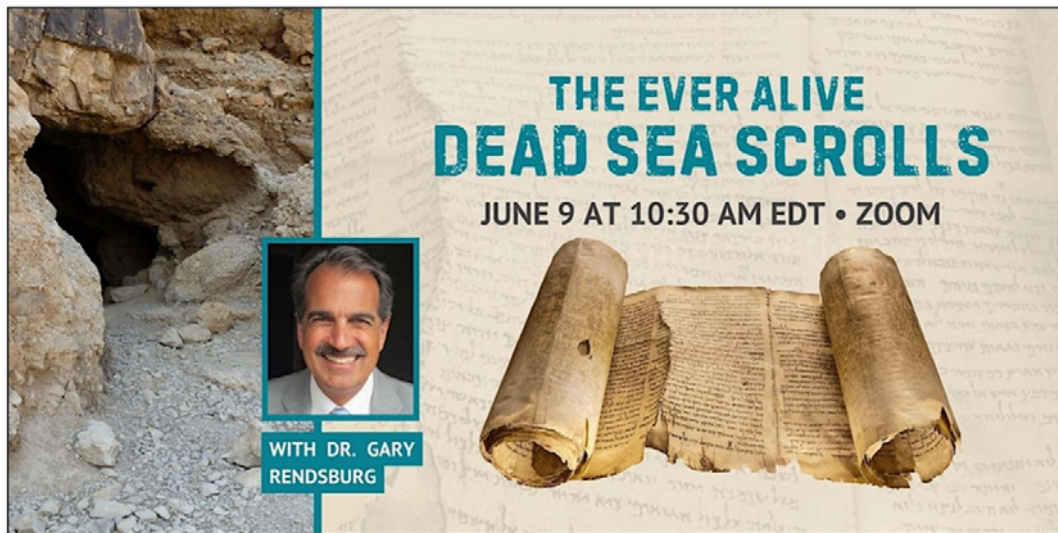
via Zoom

Registration (free) here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-ever-alive-dead-sea-scrolls-tickets-904764363567>

Description:

The story of the Dead Sea Scrolls, the set of ancient Jewish manuscripts from the Second Temple Period discovered in 1947 and published over subsequent years, has been told many times. And yet, the story bears retelling time and again. We shall present the story of the initial finds, the explorations of the caves, the excavations at Qumran, and the progress of scholarly work over the past 77 years. We also shall look at the key documents themselves, with an eye to uncovering the prominent features of the Essene Community that produced these texts. We shall pay special attention to the unique theological positions of these Essenes, their relationship to other Jewish groups at the time, and their connections to early Christianity.



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Jewish Historical Seminars

(2) “Did Queen Elizabeth Know Hebrew?: The Fascination with All Things Hebrew in Tudor England”

Jewish Historical Seminars (Jerusalem, Israel)

Monday, June 10, 7:00 p.m. (Israel time) / 12:00 noon (EDT)

via Zoom – details here:

In order to register for the lecture, one first needs to pay USD \$12.00 via [PayPal.me/JHSeminars](https://www.paypal.com/US/merchandise/JHSeminars).

NOTE: If you are not available to watch the live session, there is the option to receive the recording of the lecture afterwards.

Contact person: Debbie Zuberi

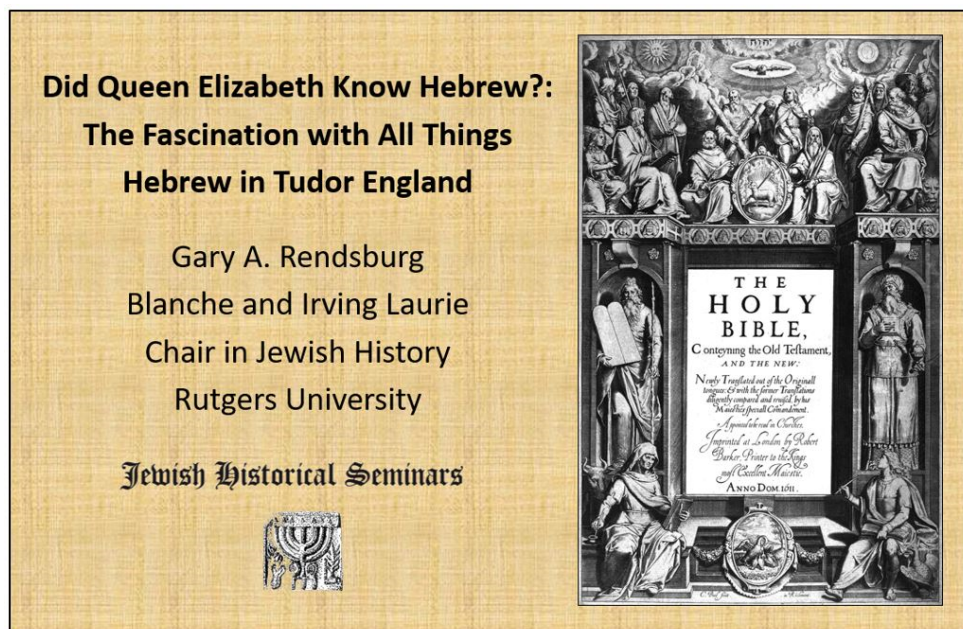
website: www.JewishHistoricalSeminars.com

email: JHSeminars@gmail.com

Description:

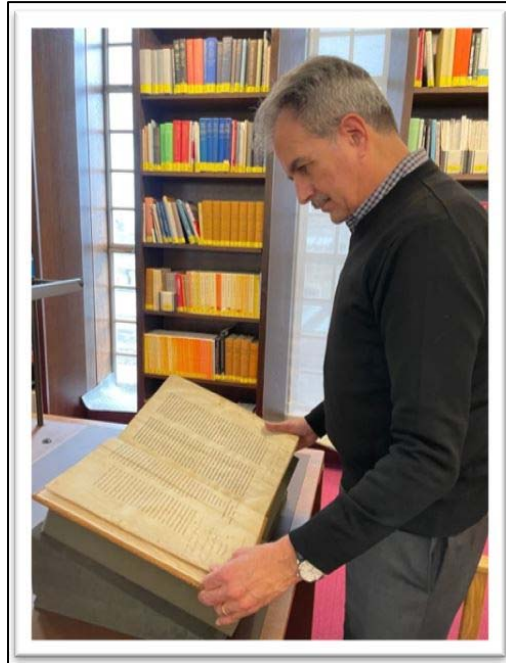
The motto of the Protestant Reformation – *sola scriptura* (Scripture only) – meant a return to Old Testament roots, including the study of the Hebrew language. On the continent, German scholars, in particular, turned to their Jewish neighbors to absorb as much knowledge as they could. But what about England, where there were no Jews? They had been expelled in 1290 by Edward I, and would not return until 1655 under Oliver Cromwell.

And yet, the divines of the English Reformation were even more obsessed (in a good way) with the Hebrew language. Henry VIII established the positions of Regius Professor of Hebrew at both Oxford and Cambridge; Thomas Bodley, who founded that great repository of knowledge in Oxford, the Bodleian Library, was a first-rate Hebraist and collector of Hebrew manuscripts; and even Queen Elizabeth seems to have learned Hebrew, to the extent that Oxford dons composed poems in her honour in advance of her celebrated visit to the city in 1566 (two of which survive). How and why did all this happen and how did any of these people learn Hebrew, with no Jewish neighbors to consult?



(opening image of the PowerPoint presentation)

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GARY'S CORNER



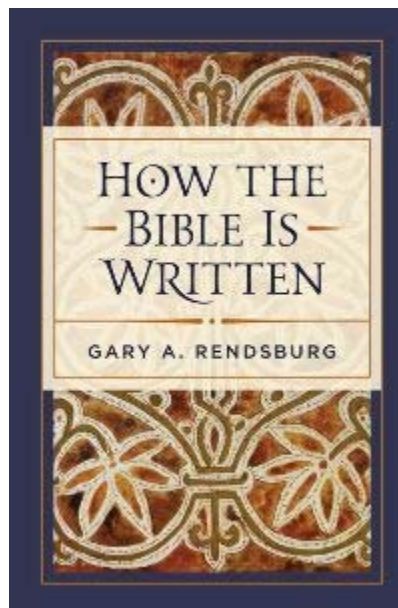
The photo above was taken in February 2022 at the Bodleian Library, Oxford, where I have spent countless hours during my academic career, reading medieval Hebrew manuscripts.

We have the good fortune to return to Oxford this coming summer. It is always a delight to spend quality time in “the city of dreaming spires,” to study these medieval treasures, and to explore other aspects of medieval Anglo-Jewish history and of English history more generally.

I will post regular updates of our experiences and discoveries at my Facebook page, which is devoted solely to academic and intellectual pursuits: <https://www.facebook.com/grendsburg>.

[Click here to contact Gary A. Rendsburg](#)

[Click here to contact Melissa A. Rendsburg, Managing Director](#)



[How the Bible Is Written](#)

(April 2019)

(Hendrickson)

Gary A. Rendsburg Lecture Series

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Department of Jewish Studies – Rutgers University

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