

Gary A. Rendsburg

Upcoming Programs in April

(1) 2024 Bishop Lecture, Rutgers University

(2) The Dead Sea Scrolls, Somerset Library

(3) The Passover Haggadah, Kol Rina Congregation

Friday, March 29, 2024

Dear Friends,

Gary will be presenting three different lectures in the weeks ahead, per the headline above and the details below.

We hope to see you at one or more of these programs.



“The Robison Hebrew Manuscript Collection: 50 Yemenite Treasures in Our Midst”

Rutgers University Libraries

2024 Bishop Lecture

Tuesday, April 2, 2024

4:00 p.m. (EDT)

Alexander Library, Rutgers University - New Brunswick

hybrid event: in-person and via Zoom

Details and registration here:

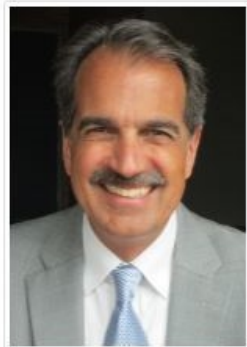
<https://libcal.rutgers.edu/event/12100082>

Every year, the Rutgers University Libraries hosts the annual Bishop Lecture, devoted to an aspect of book culture, medieval manuscripts, the history of printing, etc., with special attention to items held at Special Collections housed at Alexander Library, the flagship library in the Rutgers system.

The series is named in memory of Louis Faugères Bishop III, a prominent New York City physician and book lover. Although he was educated at Yale and Columbia, Dr. Bishop had close family ties to Rutgers, where his father had studied and where the family name lives on, with Bishop House and Bishop Place on our campus.

Gary is truly honored to be this year's Bishop Lecturer, as he looks forward to sharing all that he has learned during his years of studying the Robison Hebrew Manuscript Collection housed at Rutgers.

2024 Bishop Lecture: The Robison Hebrew Manuscript Collection: 50 Yemenite Treasures in Our Midst



2024 Bishop Lecture:
The Robison Hebrew Manuscript Collection: 50 Yemenite Treasures in Our Midst

Rutgers Distinguished Professor Gary A. Rendsburg will deliver the 35th annual Louis Faugères Bishop III Lecture, entitled "The Robison Hebrew Manuscript Collection: 50 Yemenite Treasures in Our Midst," on Tuesday, April 2, at 4:00 p.m., at Alexander Library.

Gary Rendsburg holds the Blanche and Irving Laurie Chair in Jewish History at Rutgers University, with appointments in both the Department of History and the Department of Jewish Studies. He is the author of seven books and over 200 articles; his most recent book is *How the Bible Is Written* (2019).

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Somerset County Library System of New Jersey |
Connect, Explore, Share, Discover

**“The Dead Sea Scrolls: The Texts, Their Contexts,
and the Coalescence of Jewish and Christian Scholarship”**

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

7:00 – 8:15 p.m. (EDT)

via Zoom

Details and registration here:

<https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/9208453>

In 1947, a Bedouin shepherd was tracking a stray goat near Qumran, an isolated location near the Dead Sea, when he stumbled upon one of the most remarkable archaeological finds of the 20th century.

This remarkable find consisted of seven ancient Hebrew manuscripts housed in clay vessels and stored inside a cave. These precious

documents led scholars to explore other caves in the area – an effort which eventually yielded 800+ documents, now known collectively as the Dead Sea Scrolls. These discoveries from the late 1940s and early 1950s led to nothing less than a revolution in our understanding of ancient Judaism, early Christianity, and the relationship between the two religious movements.

**The Dead Sea Scrolls:
The Texts, Their Contexts, and the
Coalescence of Jewish and Christian Scholarship**

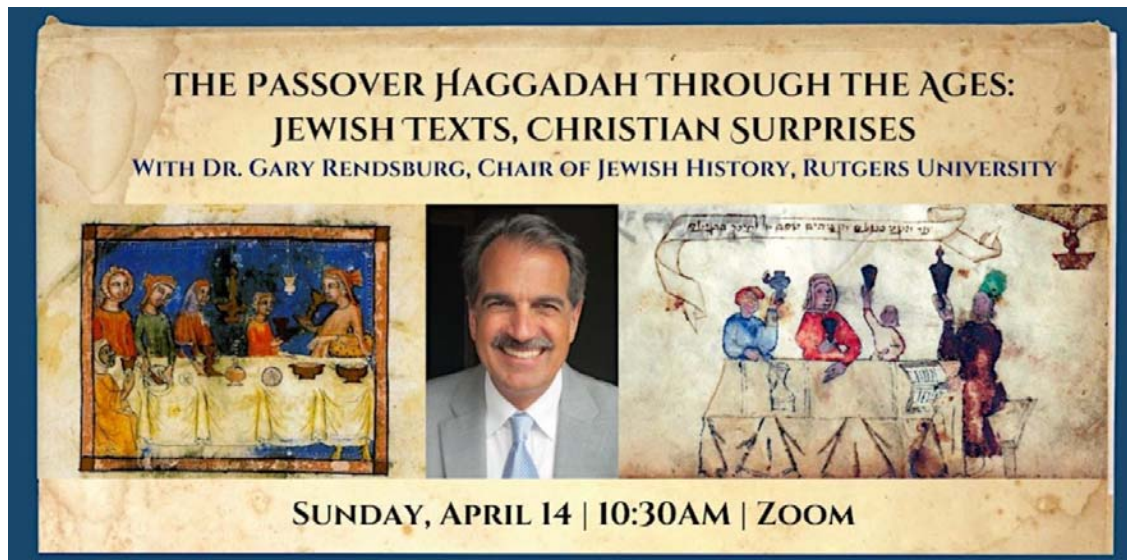
Gary A. Rendsburg
Blanche and Irving Laurie
Chair in Jewish History
Rutgers University

Somerset County Library System of New Jersey |
Connect, Explore, Share, Discover



(opening image of the PowerPoint presentation)

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“The Passover Haggadah through the Ages:

Jewish Text, Christian Surprises”

Kol Rina, South Orange, N.J.

Sunday, April 14, 2024

10:30 a.m. (EDT)

via Zoom

Details and registration here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-passover-haggadah-through-the-ages-jewish-texts-christian-surprises-tickets-862504262467>

Today Jews read the Passover Haggadah from a printed book, with each person at the table holding his or her own copy. But how did that text reach us? And how did Jews observe the Seder before the age of printing?

This talk presents the evidence: from the most basic Haggadah texts found in the Cairo Geniza through the most lavishly produced illuminated Haggadah manuscripts from the Middle Ages.

Along the way, as we shall see, certain Christian influences are present: both in the artwork of the illuminated *haggadot* and perhaps most surprisingly of all in the so-called Monk's Haggadah, replete with Latin commentary, housed for centuries at the Benedictine Monastery in Tegernsee, Bavaria.

Through it all, presented via PowerPoint, we will marvel at the work of dedicated scribes, who transmitted the text generation after generation, century after century – while also acknowledging the ongoing work of curators and librarians who serve as the custodians of these treasures, in London, Manchester, Munich, Jerusalem, New York, and Washington.

The Passover Haggadah through the Ages:

Jewish Text, Christian Surprises

Gary A. Rendsburg

Blanche and Irving Laurie

Chair in Jewish History

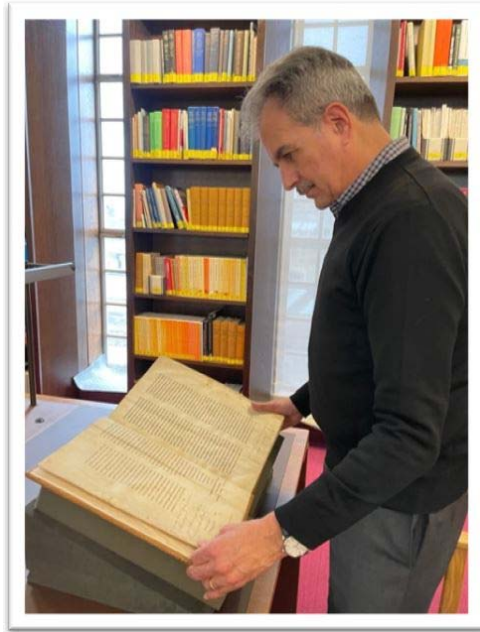
Rutgers University



Prato Haggadah (JTS MS 9478)
Spain, c. 1300

(opening image of the PowerPoint presentation)

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GARY'S CORNER



Did you know that Queen Elizabeth I (r. 1558 – 1603) knew Hebrew? In truth, we have only one contemporary individual who states this, namely Giulio Cesare Paschali, who dedicated his *De' sacri salmi di Davidde* (Geneva, 1592) to Her Majesty – but there is no reason to doubt his testimony.

For how else can we explain that Oxford dons wrote Hebrew poems to honor the Queen during her celebrated visit to the University in 1566. My colleague Aaron Rubin (University of Georgia) and I have been working on these poems for the past several years, as they are a delight to read, even at a distance of four and a half centuries.

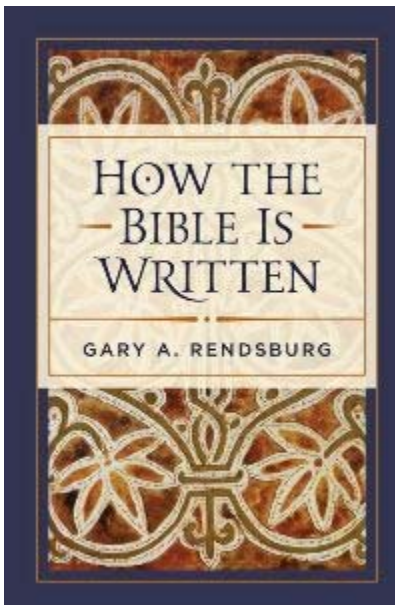
<https://jewishstudies.rutgers.edu/docman/rendsburg/989-edward-burdon-poem-sundial>

https://www.ccc.ox.ac.uk/sites/default/files/2024-02/p13045_sundial_issue19_web3.pdf

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[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

[https://jewishstudies.rutgers.edu/people/core-faculty/gary-a-rendsburg\](https://jewishstudies.rutgers.edu/people/core-faculty/gary-a-rendsburg/)

ALLOW US and LEARN MORE BELOW:

