



Gary A. Rendsburg

Rutgers University

Department of Jewish Studies

Student Scholars

Annabelle "Nonnie" Sinoff (Class of 2021)

Christine Jensen (Class of 2021)

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

Dear Friends,

No public lectures upcoming until Monday, May 24 (the second lecture in the series sponsored by the Staten Island JCC), but we thought we would send out this email blast nonetheless, to share some wonderful stories about two of Gary's students.

Remember, after all, that Gary does have a day job: Distinguished Professor of Jewish Studies at Rutgers University – where he gets to engage with absolutely superb students on a regular basis.



First, **Annabelle "Nonnie" Sinoff** (Class of 2021), who has been honored with the Henry Rutgers Scholar Award by the Rutgers University School of Arts and Sciences.

These prestigious awards recognize graduating seniors who have completed outstanding independent research projects leading to a senior thesis or capstone project.

<https://jewishstudies.rutgers.edu/news-events/announcements/news/269-announcements/1155-nonnie-sinoff-receives-henry-rutgers-scholar-award>

Nonnie's research focused on the Hebrew 'book within book' binding fragments found amongst the documents which comprise the Robison Hebrew Manuscripts Collection, held at Special Collections, Alexander Library, Rutgers University.

She identified the various texts, catalogued them all, and then uploaded the documentation to the Books within Books website (<http://www.hebrewmanuscript.com/>), an international collaborative of scholars around the world.

Nonnie's work constitutes the most essential and fundamental aspects of humanistic studies generally and manuscript research specifically.

Congratulations, Nonnie, on this singular achievement!



Secondly, **Christine Jensen** (class of 2021), who was among the graduating seniors featured at the School of Arts and Sciences website:

<https://sas.rutgers.edu/news-a-events/news/newsroom/student-news/3422-a-rutgers-senior-finds-her-path-studying-the-mysteries-of-scripture-and-the-big-questions-of-faith>

Christine is enrolled in the Rutgers 4+1 B.A / M.A. program in Religion, so that Gary will have the pleasure of teaching her again next academic year.

In addition, Christine serves as Gary's research assistant, assisting him in all manner of scholarly projects, including reading proofs, tracking down references, and capturing images of Hebrew manuscripts from genizah.org and other websites.

Congratulations, Christine, on this fine profile about your academic trajectory!

Nonnie and Christine were two of the three students highlighted at the Department of Jewish Studies end-of-the-year celebrations, which fetes graduating majors and minors, class of 2021, along with student award winners.

If you would like to learn more about their academic work, along with that of a third student, **Esther Martens**, see here:

<https://jewishstudies.rutgers.edu/photo-gallery/end-of-year-programs/2021-celebration> click on “watch the celebration,” and then proceed to the 08:25 mark, through the 24:15 mark.



Please be in touch with me via the email address below. If you have any questions about upcoming lectures, or if you would like me to speak to your group or institution on any number of subjects (Bible, ancient Israel, Dead Sea Scrolls, Jewish history, Hebrew manuscripts, etc.).

Thank you,
Gary