



Gary A. Rendsburg

Upcoming Lectures June 2021

Wednesday, May 26, 2021

Dear Friends,

Please join me for back-to-back lectures on June 1 and June 2.

1st Lecture - June 1st:

“Scroll Down: Classical Jewish Texts From Parchment to Internet”

Presented by the Staten Island Jewish Community Center (SJCC) (New York) —
via Zoom

Tuesday, June 1, 2021

7:00 – 8:00 p.m. (EDT)

Details and registration link here: <https://www.sijcc.org/j-at-home/j-at-home-stay-connected-5202021> (search under Rendsburg).

Over the course of more than two millennia, Jewish texts have transitioned from scroll to codex to book – and now to the digital age. This talk will survey the classical Jewish sources (Bible, Mishnah, Talmud, Haggadah, etc.) from before the age of printing, now available on the internet for the public at large to view, read, and study.

This talk will bring this old-new world of Jewish Studies scholarship to the general community in an accessible manner. We will focus both on the contents of the manuscripts (especially when they differ from later printed editions) and the history of these documents, including their preservation in museums and libraries for centuries, along with the move to greater access in the current digital age.

This lecture is the second of the 3-part series, though note that due to a scheduling conflict, the lecture has been moved from Monday, May 24, to Tuesday, June 1 (the day after Memorial Day).

J *Dr. Esther Grushkin* **VIRTUAL PARTNER**
Seminars for Adult Jewish Education
presents
A Virtual Lecture Series by Professor Gary A. Rendsburg
Distinguished Professor in the Department of Jewish Studies at Rutgers University
Sponsored by Iris Baum
Join us for a series of fascinating lectures by
Jewish History Professor Gary A. Rendsburg!
The Bible in Our Hands
Monday, April 26, 7pm
***Scroll Down: Classical Jewish Texts
From Parchment to Internet***
Monday, May 24, 7pm
Jews in Medieval England
Monday, June 21, 7pm
\$15 per lecture
OR \$35 for series
SIJCC.org

2nd Lecture - June 2nd:

“Jews in Arabia: To Yemen and Back”

Presented by Jewish Historical Seminars (Jerusalem) - via Zoom

Wednesday, June 2, 6:00 p.m. (Israel time) = 11:00 a.m. (EDT)

To register for the lecture, one must pay via [paypal.me/jhseminars](https://www.paypal.me/jhseminars) (USD \$12), and then email Debbie Zuberi: jhs@jewishhistoricalseminars.com.

Details here: <https://www.jewishhistoricalseminars.com/lectures>

The least known Jewish community in the ancient world is the network of Jews who populated the Arabian Peninsula during the years between the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 C.E. and the rise of Islam during the 7th century C.E. Nonetheless, a significant amount of material

written in Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek, Arabic, and South Arabian – much of it discovered only within the past several decades – illuminates these Jewish communities.

Jews lived in oases in northern Arabia, they lived as Jewish tribes in and around Medina, and they even formed the basis of a Jewish kingdom in Yemen – while the wealthiest among them arranged for their burials in the land of Israel, notwithstanding the great distances involved. The narrative reminds us how time and again the historian of Judaism needs to have the broadest cultural and geographical horizons.

**Jews in Arabia:
To Yemen and Back**

Gary A. Rendsburg
Blanche and Irving Laurie
Chair in Jewish History
Rutgers University
June 2, 2021

Jewish Historical Seminars



Looking ahead - Additional Lectures in June:

“The Dead Sea Scrolls: And Why They Matter”

Wednesday, June 9, 2021

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. (EDT)

Smithsonian Associates (Washington, D.C.)

<https://smithsonianassociates.org/ticketing/tickets/dead-sea-scrolls-why-they-mat>

“Who Wrote the Bible”

One Day University

Monday, June 14, 4:00 p.m. (EDT)

<https://www.onedayu.com/live-stream-event-schedule/>

<https://www.onedayu.com/watch/?v=554294>

“Jews in Medieval England”

Zoom lecture presented by the Staten Island Jewish Community Center

Monday, June 21, 7:00 p.m. (EDT)

Further details on these events as time approaches.



And while we are not conducting Zoom lectures, we enjoy the nature of the Delaware Bay (New Jersey), the largest breeding ground for horseshoe crabs in the world.

These animals, which are more closely related to spiders and scorpions than they are to crabs, are "living fossils." For 450 million years they have populated the Delaware Bay and its sandy beaches – year after year, emerging from the water in the spring, for the females to lay their eggs on the beach, and for the males to fertilize them with their sperm.

While all other creatures underwent the evolutionary process, the horseshoe crabs remained, just as they are, unchanged. The sight of these animals on the beach and at the water's edge is a sight to behold.

— Gary



*Photos taken on May 25, 2021, at Maurice River, N.J.
Horseshoe crabs, Laughing gulls,
Gary & Melissa in front of the East Point Lighthouse, 1849 (the second oldest
lighthouse in New Jersey), and Red-winged Blackbirds.

