Monday, September 6, 2021

Dear Friends,

After a flurry of lectures in August, and with the start of the academic year and the arrival of the Jewish holidays, Gary has no public lectures scheduled for essentially the next seven weeks.

The next lectures on the docket are:

**October 27th:**
“Judaic Treasures of the Bodleian Library (Oxford)”
Wednesday, October 27, 2021
11:00 a.m. (EDT)
Presented by Jewish Historical Seminars (Jerusalem) – via Zoom
[https://www.jewishhistoricalseminars.com/lectures](https://www.jewishhistoricalseminars.com/lectures) (not listed there yet)
Judaic Treasures of the Bodleian Library (Oxford)

Gary A. Rendsburg  
Blanche and Irving Laurie  
Chair in Jewish History  
Rutgers University  
October 27, 2021

Jewish Historical Seminars

November 30th:
"Jewish Life in the Middle Ages: In the Shadow of Islam and Christendom”
Tuesday, November 30, 2021  
6:30 p.m. (EST)  
Presented by Smithsonian Associates (Washington, D.C.) – via Zoom  
That said, Gary continues to give talks to individual synagogues (and occasionally churches, as well) – one last week, for example; others upcoming after the Jewish holidays. So if you would like to bring him to your community (either in-person or virtually), please be in touch with us.

**Jewish Holidays**

For those of you who are celebrating the Jewish holidays, starting with Rosh ha-Shana (the Jewish New Year), which begins this evening (Monday, Sept. 6) at sunset, we take this opportunity to wish you a year of peace, health, and blessing. Though naturally we extend the same wishes to everyone!
Pages from the Worms Maḥzor, vol. 2, written in southern Germany, c. 1300, containing the liturgy for Rosh ha-Shana, with the theme of the kingship of God, hence the word melekh ‘king’, written very large and then repeatedly on these pages.

In fact, Gary gave a lecture on this important medieval manuscript to a synagogue in Florida just ten days ago, in advance of the Jewish New Year and the following holidays.

The entire two volumes of this precious document, now housed in the National Library of Israel (NLI) are available in digital format here:

After almost 18 months of teaching remotely, my colleagues and I returned to the classroom last week, for the beginning of the 2021–2022 academic year.

In advance of the semester, Rutgers issued the following statement:

<< Masks are required at all times in all indoor spaces, and most classes are in rooms large enough for social distancing.

Over 98% of the students are vaccinated and over 82% of the staff and faculty are as well, making our classrooms safer than grocery stores, restaurants (where you have to remove your mask to eat), daycare, K-12, etc.

Throughout the pandemic Rutgers has been in the forefront in protecting the health and safety of the University community and will continue to be so. >>

I am teaching three courses this semester – two on my own and one co-taught with a colleague – as follows, with the textbooks indicated:
1. Introduction to Bible I: Torah and Prose

2. Hieroglyphic Egyptian I
3. The English Bible (co-taught with Tom Fulton, English Department)
MOST RECENT BOOK
(April 2019)
How the Bible Is Written
(Hendrickson)

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Department of Jewish Studies — Rutgers University
https://jewishstudies.rutgers.edu/people/core-faculty/gary-a-rendsburg