

Gary A. Rendsburg

Upcoming All-day Program

“In Search of Ancient Israel”

Saturday, February 3, 2024

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (EST)

Sponsored by Smithsonian Associates
via Zoom

Friday, January 19, 2024

Dear Friends,

Please join us for the upcoming all-day program, **“In Search of Ancient Israel,”** sponsored by Smithsonian Associates.

Saturday, February 3, 2024

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. EST

via Zoom



Details and registration here:

<https://smithsonianassociates.org/ticketing/tickets/search-of-ancient-israel>

The program consists of four lectures, with the following schedule:

10:00 – 11:15 a.m.	“In Search of Israel’s Origins”
11:15 – 11:30 a.m.	Short Break
11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.	“In Search of David and Solomon”
12:45 – 1:15 p.m.	Lunch Break
1:15 – 2:30 p.m.	“In Search of Israel and Judah”
2:30 – 2:45 p.m.	Short Break
2:45 – 4:00 p.m.	“In Search of God”

As you can see, each of the lectures lasts 1 hour 15 mins, which means there will be plenty of time for Q&A throughout the day.

In Search of Ancient Israel

Gary A. Rendsburg
Rutgers University
February 3, 2024

SMITHSONIAN
ASSOCIATES IN PERSON + ONLINE



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We will send another email blast in mid-February to announce additional upcoming lectures, but if you wish to mark your calendars already, kindly note the following:

BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY

“Where is Abraham’s Ur”

as the keynote lecture for the Biblical Archaeology Society,

Spring 2024 Bible Fest

Saturday, February 24, 2024

10:00 a.m. (EST)

via Zoom

<https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/travel-study/february-bible-archaeology-fest-2024/>



“The Great Decipherments”

A 3-part lecture series for the Princeton Adult School (about Egyptian hieroglyphics, Babylonian cuneiform, and the ancient alphabet)

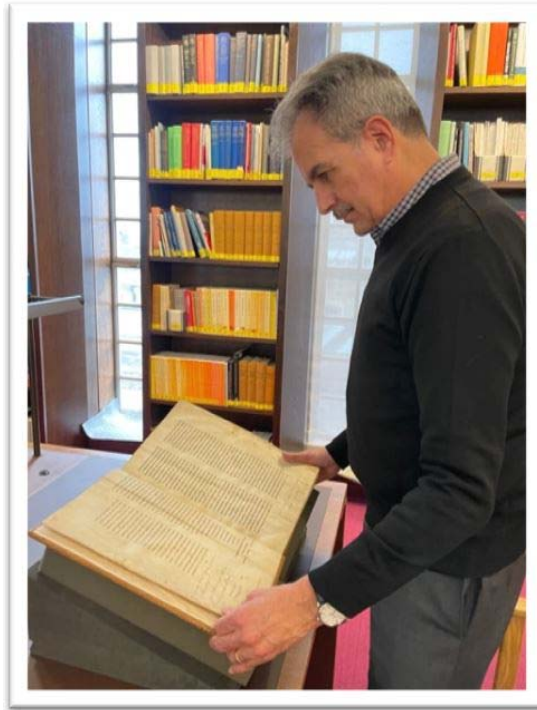
Tuesdays, February 27, March 5, March 12, 2024

7:00 – 8:30 p.m. (EST)

via Zoom

<https://www.ssreg.com/princeton/classes/results.asp?string=rendsburg>

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GARY'S CORNER



January means the start of another semester at Rutgers University, with two course offerings this term:

- The Dead Sea Scrolls
- Jewish History (Ancient and Medieval)

Both courses are part of my regular fare, but it matters not, as I am energized every time I step into the classroom to teach these courses or any of my course offerings for that matter. It is always wonderful to engage with my excellent Rutgers University students!

I also take the opportunity to share with you two recent publications.

The first article is a fun one, entitled “The Original Wordle,” in which I analyze an ancient Ugaritic text as something akin to Wordle, though with a bilingual addition. Enjoy! (whether you play Wordle or not)

<https://jewishstudies.rutgers.edu/docman/rendsburg/984-tc-the-original-wordle>

The Original Wordle

Gary A. Rendsburg

ABSTRACT

The article calls attention to an ancient Ugaritic bilingual word game, written c. 1300 B.C.E., in which the correct response requires rearranging the given letters to create a sensible word or name. But since the word/name is actually in Hurrian, a second step is necessary, namely, to render the Hurrian into its Ugaritic equivalency. So while not quite the original Wordle, this short ancient text reminds us of the enduring allure of word games in literate cultures.

The second one is a co-authored article, with a detailed analysis of a complete 17th-century Torah scroll housed at Fisher Library of the University of Sydney. Our team of six researchers (on three continents) thoroughly enjoyed the collaboration.

<https://jewishstudies.rutgers.edu/docman/rendsburg/987-rendsburg-et-al-complete-old-torah-scroll-nicholson-ms-37-abr>

A COMPLETE OLD TORAH SCROLL
(NICHOLSON MS. 37)
HELD AT FISHER LIBRARY,
UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

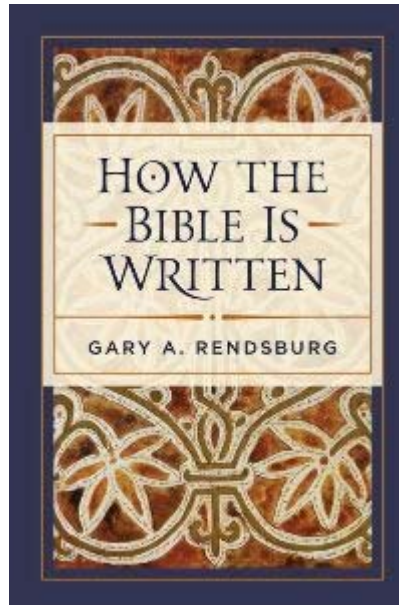
Gary A. Rendsburg, Rutgers University
Marc Michaels, University of Cambridge
Ian Young, University of Sydney
Julie Sommerfeldt, University of Sydney
Vladimir Levchenko, ANSTO, Sydney¹
Linda Barry, ANSTO, Sydney

If you are interested in exploring my publications dating back to 1980, see my Publications page here:

<https://jewishstudies.rutgers.edu/people/core-faculty/gary-a-rendsburg/gary-a-rendsburg>

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

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



MOST RECENT BOOK

(April 2019)

[How the Bible Is Written](#)

(Hendrickson)

Gary A. Rendsburg Lecture Series

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Department of Jewish Studies – Rutgers University

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