

# הקשר היהודי שלך

## Your Jewish Connection - The Dead Sea Scrolls

Brought to you by the Lifelong Learning Committee

By Linda S Trapasso

As you may have heard, there is a Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit at the Museum of Science in Boston (<http://www.mos.org/exhibits/dead-sea-scrolls>). It began in May and continues until mid-October. There was a Lunch'n'Learn in mid-May where Prof. Jeffrey Cooley of Boston College presented an introduction to the scrolls.

If you missed Prof. Cooley and are not sure if you can get to the exhibit, there are many online resources for learning about and viewing the Dead Sea Scrolls.



One place to start is the Jewish Virtual Library, which has a page about the scrolls (<http://tinyurl.com/3srebh6>). Another place to start is The Israel Museum in Jerusalem, which houses the Shrine of the Book dedicated specifically to the Dead Sea Scrolls. Many of us have seen the iconic building that houses these scrolls.



The Shrine of the Book was built as a repository for the first seven scrolls discovered at Qumran in 1947. This symbolic building, a kind of sanctuary intended to express profound spiritual meaning, is considered an international landmark of modern architecture... The corridor leading into the Shrine resembles a cave, recalling the site where the ancient manuscripts were discovered. (from The Israel Museum, <http://dss.collections.imj.org.il/shrine>)

Inside the building beneath the dome is an exhibit that represents a very large version of the top of a torah scroll as we know it today. The scroll wrapped around it is the Great Isaiah Scroll.

The Great Isaiah Scroll is one of the original seven Dead Sea Scrolls discovered in Qumran in 1947. It is the largest (734 cm) and best preserved of all the biblical scrolls, and the only one that is almost complete. The 54 columns contain all 66 chapters of the Hebrew version of the biblical Book of Isaiah. Dating from ca. 125 BCE, it is also one of the oldest of the Dead Sea Scrolls, some one thousand years older than the oldest manuscripts of the Hebrew Bible known to us before the scrolls' discovery. (from The Israel Museum, <http://dss.collections.imj.org.il/isaiah>)



At The Israel Museum web site, you can examine several of the scrolls. There is an interactive online exhibit where you can click on the scroll, and it displays the column as well as



chapter and verse. Note that the Google Cultural Institute (<http://tinyurl.com/c8orhrg>) assisted with this interactive online exhibit.

For a video and overview information, go to YouTube (<http://www.youtube.com>) and search on Dead Sea Scrolls or Shrine of the Book. There are many videos for viewing, including one from National Geographic (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hEzXWUEu5kc>).

The Dead Sea Scrolls have been on exhibit at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. Browse the outline for the exhibit and view photos of the scrolls and other artifacts from Qumran (<http://tinyurl.com/bbsz6to>).

Other web sites that contain information and photos are:

The Orion Center for the Study of the Dead Sea Scrolls and Associated Literature (<http://orion.mscc.huji.ac.il/>)  
The Leon Levy Dead Sea Scrolls Digital Library (<http://www.deadseascrolls.org.il/>)

The Orion Center links to The Leon Levy site and The Israel Museum. It contains an extensive bibliography of  
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*The Dead Sea Scrolls continued*

items published about the scrolls (click Bibliography in the menu bar). One of the fascinating items on this site is the Cave Tour (click Resources in the menu bar and select Cave Tour), which I really enjoyed!

The Leon Levy site contains excellent digital images of the Dead Sea Scrolls. They are so good that you can actually read the letters. On the home page select Featured Scrolls at the top. On the next page, select a scroll on the left. The page displays the scroll with contextual, historical, and other information.

The Dead Sea Scrolls Foundation (<http://www.deadseascrollsfoundation.com/>) states:

The primary function of the Dead Sea Scrolls Foundation is the financial support of official publications of the scrolls... The Foundation also serves as a clearing house and information center for many other matters relating to scrolls research and scholarship.

A useful page on this site is the list of books on the scrolls (go to Shop + on the menu bar and select Books). There are introductory books as well as scholarly and reference works.

So spend some time exploring the Dead Sea Scrolls. As nice as the online information and photos are, try to get to the exhibit at the Museum of Science in Boston. There is something to be said for seeing things in person and being able to (almost) touch history!



## **Congratulations to Our High School Graduates**

Emma Brooks, daughter of Stephanie Brooks and John Vilieras, from Bishop Guertin High School, going to Smith College

Erik Chazin, son of Steve and Denise from Hollis-Brookline High School, going to University of Redlands in Redlands, CA

Jonah Chazin, son of Steve and Denise, from Hollis-Brookline High School, going to Boston University - Sargent College of Health & Rehabilitative Sciences

Marissa Droutman, daughter of Andrew and Diane, from Nashua High School North, going to Rivier University for a nursing degree

Joshua Eichel, son of Leigh and Judy and Cecilia, from Souhegan High School, going to Northeastern University's College of Engineering

Max Friedman, son of Gary & Mara, from Hollis Brookline High School, going to George Washington University

Eric Hazard, son of Bob and Anita, from Nashua High School North, going to Norwich University

Megan Kolopsky, daughter of Wendy and Marc, from Souhegan High School in Amherst, going to Skidmore College

Samuel Lovitz, son of Peter and Heidi, from Westford Academy, going to Case Western Reserve University

Zoe Garber, daughter of Laura Landerman and Ben Garber, from Hollis-Brookline High School, going to Highpoint University