

Putting History in their Hands: White Gloves Sessions as a User Outreach Tool

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Description: White gloves sessions have proven to be a popular and adaptable presentation format that creatively engages attendees by allowing them to hold history in their hands. This presentation will address the concept, content, and methodology of the WGS as a vehicle for library programming. It will encourage librarians of all types of libraries to contemplate the inherent value of their collections and to evaluate them for possible venues of involvement for the communities they serve. Local and/or unique collections would be prime candidates for benefitting from this concept. The presentation will also include planning, implementing and marketing ideas to inspire other libraries to consider the potential methods of leveraging their collections by means of this interactive programming model.

Elaine Mael earned her Master's in Library Science from Columbia University and also holds a B.A. in English Literature from City College in New York. She was a librarian at the Baltimore Hebrew University Joseph Meyerhoff Library for many years. She presently is a Cataloging Librarian at the Towson University Albert S. Cook Library. The Baltimore Hebrew Institute (BHI) Collection was formed in 2009 with the integration of the Baltimore Hebrew University library into Towson University's Cook Library. The BHI rare book collection is of particular interest to her for its broad history, varied content and diverse provenances.

Since 2007, **Nadia Nasr** has been the University Archivist at Towson University's Albert S. Cook Library where she collects, preserves, and provides access to historical materials which document the nearly 150 year history of the University. When Baltimore Hebrew University joined Towson University to become the Baltimore Hebrew Institute (or BHI), she became the custodian of the most rare and unique volumes of the BHI Judaic Collection. Through outreach programs such as the White Gloves Sessions, she demonstrates the importance of preserving unique materials and illustrates their value for understanding the past.