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Spring 2010

## **TCL Letter Vol. 10 No. 1**

Touro College Libraries

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# THE TCL LETTER

SPRING 2010

## A TRIBUTE TO DR. BERNARD LANDER

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At the time of his passing last February, Touro's founder, Dr. Rabbi Bernard Lander's work in sociology and academia spanned more than seven decades. The institutions he established have already benefited hundreds of thousands and will no doubt continue to do so for generations to come. As Rabbi Yitzchok Adlerstein, the Sydney M. Irmias Adjunct Chair in Jewish Law and Ethics at Loyola Law School, wrote in *Cross-Currents*, "It will take decades to fully grasp his impact."



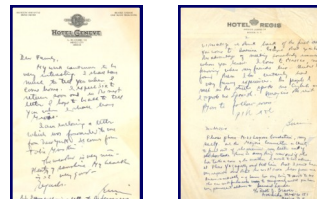
1997 Portrait of Dr. Bernard Lander.

Touro College Libraries are fortunate to have some of the papers of Dr. Lander (a collection comprising 125 linear feet) in our Institutional Archives. In addition to wonderful photographs, awards, mementos, ephemera and official records, there is much correspondence which provides an intimate look at a man who, as one blogger posted on the internet, "Since his 30s... did more in each decade of his life than most of us will do in our lifetimes."

Dr. Lander often wrote of his drive to lead a productive life, and en-

couraged others to defer retirement. In a letter dated January 31, 1985 (when he was 70 years young) Dr. Lander confided that even his supportive wife Sarah was "disturbed by my assuming even greater responsibilities." This was written on the eve of Touro's establishment of a school in Israel. "Is this too much for you at your age?" he quotes his wife as asking. "Why must you concern yourself with saving the world?" His response is telling: "I am driven by the feeling, correct or incorrect, that if I will not move ahead, others will not follow..."

Other letters and memos from Dr. Lander display a sharp wit, often self effacing. Despite all the accolades and prestige afforded to a man of his accomplishments, he was able to laugh at himself and never resorted to self aggrandizing.



Letters from the Touro Archives, written by Dr. Lander to his family from Mexico in the 1940s.

Along with the planning and establishment of programs that, in his words to Former Orthodox Union President Moses Feuerstein, would "remake American and Israeli higher Jewish education" (from a letter written upon Touro's inception, Dec. 13, 1971) Dr. Lander also responded to countless memos



Dr. Lander with President Ronald Reagan in the 1980s.

regarding the minutiae of running a business. In every case, he demonstrated admirable patience, tact and diplomacy in resolving even the smallest problems. His letters and notes also reveal him to be a loyal and steadfast friend, a devoted son, loving husband and proud father.

More photos and information about Dr. Lander's life are now accessible on the Facebook page of Touro College Libraries. Look for more materials from our archives on the TCL web site in the near future!



Dr. Lander, in a portrait taken around the time he founded Touro College.



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## FROM THE DIRECTOR...

BASHE SIMON



Bashe Simon, MLS,  
is the Director of  
Touro College  
Libraries.

Welcome to the spring 2010 issue of the Touro College Library Newsletter. It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the passing of the President and founding father of Touro College. Dr. Lander was a tremendous friend and supporter of the library and will be missed. We look forward to continued success under the leadership of the new Provost Dr. Alan Kadish.

Thanks to the efforts of the Web Site Redesign Committee the Touro College Library homepage has received a facelift which allows for easier navigation and is cleaner and smoother than the previous one. This winter the library joined the social media sites of Facebook and Twitter to enhance communication with our patrons. These TCL pages can be accessed via the library web site homepage and we encourage you to become connected to learn what is new and interesting at your Touro College libraries.

The Library has instituted an automated user name and password system for accessing subscription databases. The transition went off smoothly thanks to the efforts of the Technical & Electronic Services department.

Last December, over 220 patrons submitted responses to the Library User Satisfaction Survey. A brief summary of the major findings of the survey can be found on the library homepage. Overall, patrons registered satisfaction with library services, resources and staff. Thank you for taking the time to submit your answers, as the survey aids in improving library services.

**TOURO COLLEGE  
LIBRARIES HIGHLIGHTS:**

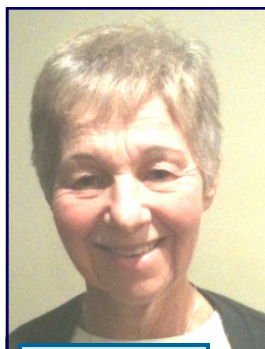
- **NEWLY REDESIGNED  
WEB SITE**
- **TCL NOW ON FACEBOOK  
AND TWITTER**
- **NEW USERNAMES AND  
PASSWORDS FOR  
REMOTE ACCESS OF  
ELECTRONIC  
RESOURCES**

We encourage faculty, staff and students to avail themselves of the myriad resources available at the Touro College libraries including the expertise of the highly qualified staff.

Have a wonderful summer.

**Retirement**

Mrs. **Chaya Drillman** has retired from her position at the Midwood campus as of November 2009. Touro is grateful for her many years of dedicated service and wishes her well in the future.

**STAFF PROFILE: RITA HILU, STARRETT CITY CAMPUS**


Rita Hilu, BA, is the  
Library Assistant at  
Starrett City.

The Fall 2009 issue of the Starrett City campus newsletter *Touro Times* featured a glowing profile on one of Touro's most beloved information professionals, Rita Hilu.

Mrs. Hilu began her association with Touro College as a student, majoring in social work. She has always loved working with people and eventually decided that working as a librarian would be the best way for her to accomplish this. Prior to her library career, she taught 5<sup>th</sup> graders in Jewish elementary schools. She became a library assistant at Avenue J in 2001 and transferred to the Starrett City library when that site opened.

As an information professional, Mrs. Hilu focuses on the importance of students' awareness and understanding of all the resources the Starrett City Library has to offer. She aims to increase the frequency of use but also improve the students' experience by showing them what they can access beyond the books on her shelves. TCL's electronic resources and the TCL online catalog provide students with online books, scholarly journals, periodicals, databases, guides, writing aids and tutorials.

Mrs. Hilu takes an active role in fulfilling TCL's mission, and feels that teaching and helping students is her favorite part of the

job. Her background as an educator has served her well in her current career, helping familiarize students with all the resources and tools available and inspiring them to reach their academic goals.

Born in Argentina, Mrs. Hilu speaks five languages (English, Spanish, Portuguese, Hebrew and Yiddish) and, not surprisingly for such an enthusiastic staff member, she loves to read. She enjoys a variety of subjects but her favorite is learning about other cultures. The Touro College Libraries are very lucky to have such a dedicated, accomplished and effective professional amongst their staff!

## NEW ONLINE RESOURCES

**First Research**, a Dun & Bradstreet product, provides market analysis tools and editorial-based industry insight and is a companion to Hoover's.

**Treasures of Jewish Education** documents the history of Jewish education. This resource currently includes Simcha Assaf's *Mekorot le-toldot ha-hinukh be-Yisrael* ("A Source-book of the History of Jewish Education" from the Middle Ages until the Beginning of the 20th Century).

THESE ONLINE RESOURCES AND OTHERS MAY BE ACCESSED AT [HTTPS://ERMS.TOUROLIB.ORG/](https://erms.tourolib.org/)

VISIT THIS LINK TO REQUEST A USER NAME AND PASSWORD

## SOCIAL NETWORKING: CAREER BOOSTER OR BUSTER?

BY JAMIE LUISE, MLS

Have you Googled yourself lately? We all probably have, at least once. It is almost impossible these days to fly under the radar of the internet. But did you know when you apply for a job, prospective employers are Googling you too? That's right; recruiters are checking not only your resume, cover letter and references, but also your online search results! Human Resource departments across the country have adopted new policies and procedures since the onset of the social networking revolution. They are using these internet based tools to conduct an unofficial background check on job applicants.

Students today are facing some difficult and unique challenges upon graduation. More graduates are vying for fewer jobs and are interviewing in the most competitive job market in recent history. It is very important when applying for a job to do everything right because the smallest error or slip up could mean losing a chance to begin or advance your career.

Social networking has also played a significant role in affecting the way we are interviewed and how Human Resource Departments consider candidates for a position. According to an article written in 2008, Baker states, "Given the explosion of social networking sites such as *MySpace* and search engines such as Google, an employer could learn more about a job applicant or an employee online than during an interview or in the workplace. In fact, recent polls indicate that human resources professionals and recruiters regularly conduct Google searches on applicants and employees or review their social networking profiles."

There have been several reports of *Facebook* pictures being used as evidence in court cases or as proof to fire employees. According to *TheNextWeb.com*, a Canadian woman stopped receiving disability checks and was let go from her position after being tagged in

a photo on *Facebook*. Nathalie Blanchard was out on disability leave due to severe depression and went on a vacation as per her doctor's advice. However, when her insurance company and employer saw her on the beach in her *Facebook* photo they deemed that she was no longer depressed and in violation of her agreement with the company.

It is important to understand that while we all have personal lives we must learn to keep them private. There are plenty of security settings available on sites such as *Facebook* that allow only a select group to view your profile. Potential employers shouldn't come across your personal pictures when doing a Google background check. Keep your personal and private pictures and information just that: **private**. Again, Baker states "If an applicant or employee demonstrates a lack of discretion and judgment by posting spring break photos showing himself or herself apparently on a *MySpace* page, an employer who finds these photos online may consider the photos when deciding hire or retain the employee. There is no right of privacy when an applicant or employee voluntarily posted the information."

Potential employers feel that if you are not responsible enough to remain anonymous or to limit access to your spring break pictures then you would most likely not be responsible enough to be a part of their organization. So make sure you un-tag those photos and restrict your privacy settings.

While it does sound like social networking sites could mean trouble in terms of the employment process, there are actually some real benefits of being accessible via the internet. Professional sites such as *LinkedIn* offer a virtual meeting place for potential employers, references and networks of peers in your field. If Human Resource representatives find you here during their Google searches they will remember



Jamie Luise, MLS, is a Librarian at the School of Health Sciences in Bay Shore.

you as the candidate who is dedicated to their professional development. "Eighty percent of human resources executives cite networking as the best way to get a job right now (Schawbel, 2009)." Schawbel goes on to recommend starting a professional network as soon as possible. "The sooner you start networking, the more dividends it will pay later in life, as executives almost always get jobs through who they know."

It is important to get your name out there, but in the right way. You want to be remembered as the candidate who already has several contacts in the field and takes their profession seriously.

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## THE KRAMER DONATION OF RABBINICAL & ACADEMIC BOOKS

The Touro College Libraries were recently the beneficiary of an impressive donation of almost 1,500 volumes of rabbinical works and academic Judaic titles from Rabbi Doniel Z. Kramer and his father Rabbi Meyer Kramer. Once cataloged and processed, most of the rabbinical works, which include hundreds of hard-to-find titles from the 19<sup>th</sup> century, will be sent to the Lander College for Men in Queens, while the rich assortment of academic Judaic titles will be sent to Touro's Midtown Library for the use of the Graduate School of Jewish Studies. More than 40 volumes of early European imprints dating from the late 1600s through the early 1800s will be housed in the Midtown Library's rare book cabinets, which are currently under construction.

**Rabbi Meyer Kramer** was born in 1918 in Novozybkov (now in Russia on the Belarusian border), where his ancestors had been rabbis. With the establishment of the Godless Communist Soviet Union in 1922, clergy and religious organizations of all types began to suffer horrible persecution, the Kramer family being no exception. With the assistance of an uncle in the United States, seven-year-old Meyer, his sister, and their parents, Rabbi Chaim Menachem and Dveira Kramer were able to leave the Soviet Union and join him there. One of Rabbi Chaim Menachem Kramer's greatest disappointments was in parting with much of his personal library in Novozybkov, though he did manage to bring along a few selected books as well as a small heirloom Torah scroll which the family continues to cherish.

In the United States, Meyer attended Yeshiva University's Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary (RIETS) and Yeshiva College. For the majority of his adult life, he served as a rabbi in Philadelphia, where he met and married Rose Schnabel, of blessed memory. Besides the rabbinate, Meyer was also a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Law School, where he was a member of the law review. Afterwards, he joined the Law School's faculty where he taught legal writing.

Rabbi Meyer Kramer inherited his father's love of *sefarim* (Hebrew rabbinical and Jewish legal works). In the late 1950s, the personal library of a deceased rabbi who had amassed a few thousand *sefarim* was put up

for auction. Major antiquarian book dealers were in attendance, and - to Rabbi Meyer Kramer's shock - his bid was the winning one. That afternoon, he rented a flatbed truck to transport the library to a storage room in his synagogue.

The connection between the Kramer family and Touro College dates back three decades. After leaving the rabbinate and part-time



Rabbi Meyer Kramer and  
Rabbi Doniel Z. Kramer, Ph.D.

University teaching, Rabbi Meyer Kramer became Director of Publications for the American Law Institute-American Bar Association (ALI-ABA), which was headquartered in Philadelphia. From his law school teaching days and his work at the ALI-ABA, Meyer also accumulated a good-sized collection of legal tomes and literature. When he moved from Philadelphia to Brooklyn (about the time when Touro College's Law Center opened in 1980) Meyer donated many boxes of these legal works to help establish the Law Center's Gould Library.

Like his father, **Rabbi Doniel Z. Kramer, Ph.D.**, is a graduate of RIETS and Yeshiva College. The younger Rabbi Kramer notes that he and his father share "YU's philosophy about the significance of a life modeled upon

'*Torah umadda*,' (i.e., Torah and secular knowledge), in that order." He is the author of *The Day Schools and Torah Umesorah* (Yeshiva University Press, 1984), a widely-cited work on traditional day schools, and is currently the Jewish chaplain for the VA Hudson Valley Healthcare System.

In 2000, when Lander College for Men opened in Queens and was in need of a library, Rabbi Doniel Z. Kramer contacted its Dean, Rabbi Dr. Moshe Sokol, whom he knew from their high school days in the Philadelphia Yeshiva. As Rabbi Doniel Z. Kramer relates, "He gave my father and myself a tour of the yet-unfinished campus. My father and I then made the decision to gift many of our *sefarim* to Touro. Yet as long as my father could still utilize these *sefarim*, I did not want to complete the transfer. Unfortunately, my father can no longer appreciate his library due to his failing health and mental decline; therefore, the *sefarim* were only recently transferred to Touro College."

Rabbi Doniel Z. Kramer continued regarding his family's long tradition of Torah study, "'Delve in it [the Torah] and continue to delve in it, for everything is in it' is the teaching from *The Ethics of our Fathers* (5:26), which reminds us that all knowledge has roots in the Torah - and all knowledge has a redeeming quality in helping us to understand and sanctify this world. My father and I wanted his Judaic library, which had been gifted to me, to be utilized by scholars who would appreciate the inherent value of *sefarim* - as well as academic books! My father was a contemporary and friend of Rabbi Dr. Bernard Lander, and has always had respect for his vision and accomplishments. Given the mission of Touro College to educate its students with an appreciation for the broad breadth of knowledge in this world, we thought that its Libraries would be an appropriate home for these scholarly tomes - as we wanted to share them with a wider community. It is my family's prayer that these *sefarim* will be utilized '*lehagdil Torah uleha'adirah* (i.e. to increase the study of Torah)' and that they will soon be transplanted to the Land of Israel, along with the *sefarim* in all synagogues with the coming of Ultimate Redemption speedily in our days."