

What's a Nice Jewish Book Group Doing in a Catholic University?
The Book Group as a Community Outreach Tool

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Description: This presentation addresses the question of how academic libraries can support Jewish culture on their campuses and beyond by describing the experience of designing and delivering a Jewish literature reading and discussion group. The presenter will discuss the features that distinguish this academic book group from more traditional recreational reading groups, describe the surprising membership of the group, and illustrate how over time a program like this can act as outreach to an entire community.

Rhonda Rosen, a native of Los Angeles, is currently the Circulation Services Librarian in the William H. Hannon library at Loyola Marymount University. She received both her BA in English and her Masters in Library Science at UCLA. She started out as a Reference librarian and soon took on Reserves and Media when she became the Head of Media and Reserve Services. After a long stint, she added ILL and stacks maintenance. Currently, as the Circulation Services Librarian, Rhonda serves as the Subject Liaison to the School for Film and Television and the Jewish Studies minor program at LMU. She has managed the Hannon Library's Sunday Jewish book and discussion group for eight years. She remains an avid filmgoer and book reader and loves collie dogs.