

Fanny Goldstein Merit Award Acceptance Speech  
*David Gilner*

Thank you Laurel, for your kind and generous words and for your determination: and my thanks to the Committee for their decision to confer this honor. My congratulations go to Aviva, who worked long and hard in many executive capacities for the benefit of this Association and in professional capacities for the benefit of Judaica librarianship; I am honored to share the podium with her today.

I have been long absent from active involvement in the administrative and programmatic activities of this Association, except for presenting an occasional award, chairing a session or introducing a speaker at our Conference. Fortunately, as I retire from my administrative responsibilities at the HUC-JIR Library system, I will continue to have professional roles to play at the Klau Library, Cincinnati. Having been a near daily user of our Klau library for forty-five years, I would be hard pressed not to continue to be there.

I look around this room and see...a sea of colleagues; Library and Archives colleagues whose labors facilitate the availability, use, preservation, and dissemination of the vast panoply of resources that constitute the broad realm of Jewish Studies; persons who are indispensable in the support of all scholarly, teaching and general reference activities. Without you, there would be no Libraries; there would only be mausoleums of our people's languages and literature.

Our tradition recognizes that there can be no depth of learning without the dedicated support of those capable of, and actively engaged in, giving. I thank all those here who have given their financial support to support our profession and this Association.

There are colleagues who can be here today only in spirit. They are my intellectual and professional benefactors; I am deeply grateful to them all. And, of course, there is Professor Herbert C. Zafren, *alav ha-shalom*, a founding president of AJL and the father of the scientific study of the Hebrew book. Herb had the strong desire to see our HUC libraries directed by women. In Jerusalem and Los Angeles, this is already the case and will continue to be the case after Batya Kaplan's and Yaffa Weisman's retirements. But I do not need the services of the necromancer (aka "witch") of Endor, to see the broad smile on Herb's face as Laurel Wolfson becomes the Library Director of the Klau Library, Cincinnati. I say to her "Hazak!" and to this group, thank you.