

JEWISH LIBRARIANS IN SECULAR LIBRARIES

Presenters: **Robbin Friedman** (Chappaqua Library), **Susan Kusel** (Temple Rodef Shalom), **Rebecca Levitan** (Baltimore County Public Library) and **Sylvie Shaffer** (Capitol Hill Day School)

Description: Being a Jewish librarian at a secular institution can present special challenges and rewards. Learn from four librarians in the field who work with Jewish communities of varying sizes and find out about their experiences. The panel will represent both public and school libraries. Lessons from both Jewish institutions and secular organizations will be discussed.

Robbin Friedman is a children's librarian at the Chappaqua Library in Chappaqua, NY. She served on the 2019 Newbery Award committee.

Susan Kusel is a synagogue librarian and author. She was on the 2015 Caldecott Medal committee and is the past chair of the Sydney Taylor Book Award.

Rebecca Levitan holds a BA in history and Judaic studies from Binghamton University, and an MLIS from the University of Pittsburgh. She is a full-time librarian at the Pikesville Branch of the Baltimore County Public Library in Baltimore, MD. She is currently the Sydney Taylor Book Award Chair and a council member of AJL. As a mom of two young girls (and one on the way) she is passionate about quality Jewish literature. Rebecca is also an avid knitter and can often be found working on a shawl that she will likely not wear because it is too warm in Baltimore most of the year.

Sylvie Shaffer is the preK-8 librarian at the Capitol Hill Day School in Washington, DC and holds dual master's degrees in library science and children's literature from Simmons University. Sylvie served on AJL's 2019 and 2020 Sydney Taylor Book Awards committee and also on ALSC's 2018 Geisel Committee. You can find her online at www.SylvieJulietShaffer.com.