

Fanny Goldstein Award Introduction
by Ellen Cole

To know Libby White is to know her brains, wit, talent, dedication, loyalty and hard work. I am proud to introduce her as she receives the Fanny Goldstein Merit Award. Libby discovered AJL late in her career and has poured time, energy and knowledge into our field and our organization.

Libby began her professional library life on the secular side of the street. Armed with a BA from Simmons College, she set out to set the world right in social work, only to find there was no such career where she was living in upstate New York with her husband, Jerry, and four children. Undaunted, Libby considered how much she liked to read, and gained an MLS which she parlayed into jobs first with the Schenectady school system and then with the County Public Library. Libby spent 25 years in a potpourri of positions: Bookmobile Librarian, Children's Librarian, YA Librarian, Branch Head, Ethnic Culture Librarian and Reference Librarian. She served as president of the Hudson Mohawk Library Association in New York.

It is so "Libbyesque" that despite this load she still had "spare time" to write reviews and to challenge herself with another masters, this time with a concentration in Jewish history. Libby helped with local Jewish programs: for years chairing Schenectady's Jewish Book Month celebrations and coordinating Skidmore College's summer programs in Judaic studies.

And then, she discovered us! A match made in heaven because we allowed her to keep up with a field she admired, but was not yet in. She made friends, kept hoping, retired from the public library and did something about it. Libby moved to Baltimore and went looking for that long dreamed about job as a Jewish Librarian. As she did at the start of her career, she found part time positions and took two jobs. She became the Librarian of the Jewish Vocational Service *and* the synagogue Librarian of Beth Israel Congregation. But Libby is not a part-time woman and soon she won the plum position of Library Director of the Joseph Meyerhoff Library of the prestigious Baltimore Hebrew University. Once again, Libby devoted spare time to scholarship; as we speak she is in the process of working on a PhD in Jewish History.

Successful and happy as a Jewish Librarian, Libby contributed to AJL, grateful for its support. She didn't just say thank you by volunteering for a small job. No, Libby plunged into our hardest working committee, the Sydney Taylor Award committee. She spent six years reading hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of books and writing concise, perceptive, and, when necessary, acid reviews that make delicious reading. Her last two years she served as committee chair. Her reputation as superb reader and writer made her the perfect candidate to become the new editor of our *AJL Newsletter* where her tireless efforts for a quality publication reflect well on all of us.

As her friend and colleague I would like to think AJL had done half as much for Libby as she has done for us. AJL is a better organization because of Libby. We thank her and we salute her. Libby, I am proud of you and I love you, Congratulations.