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**The Association of Jewish Libraries Announces
the 2022 Fanny Goldstein Merit Award Winner**

The Association of Jewish Libraries (AJL) is proud to announce that longtime member Lisa Silverman has been named the 2022 Fanny Goldstein Merit Award Winner. The award, named for the librarian, social activist, and founder of National Jewish Book Month, is bestowed in recognition of loyal and ongoing contributions to the Association of Jewish Libraries and to the profession of Judaica librarianship.

Lisa Silverman began her career as a day school librarian at the Sinai Akiba Academy in Los Angeles and Adat Ari El Day School in Valley Village, California. She spent 15 years as the library director at Sinai Temple in Los Angeles, providing library services and educational programming for the day school, religious school, and synagogue community including teaching adult education classes, facilitating book groups, and hosting author events, family programs, and film discussions. In 2015, Lisa became the library director of the Burton Sperber Jewish Community Library at the American Jewish University in Los Angeles where she designed the new space, built the collection, and provided extensive programming. She also developed and launched a new online digital Jewish Community Library Consortium of California in partnership with the Jewish Community Library of San Francisco.

Lisa's involvement with the Association of Jewish Libraries began when she attended her first conference in Los Angeles in 1992, and she has made countless contributions to the organization and the profession over the past 30 years. She was the president and vice president of the then Synagogue, Schools & Center Division and served as chair of the Bibliography Bank and on its nominating committee. Lisa served as the national conference chairperson for three years, co-chaired the 2019 conference in Woodland Hills, and was instrumental in the planning of the two online conferences in 2020 and 2021. Lisa has also been a leader in the Southern California Chapter of AJL where she was honored with the Dorothy Schroder Achievement Award in 2009 and co-founded the AJL Western Regional Children's

Literature Conference. AJL President Kathleen Bloomfield remarked, "I am so happy that Lisa Silverman is this year's Fanny Goldstein winner. Lisa was a huge help to me when I established ForWordsBooks, my Jewish book fair business, back in 1990. She has been an ongoing supporter of my work with AJL, including providing guidance as I moved into leadership positions within the organization. I am honored to have her as a colleague, and most of all as a friend."

Known nationally and internationally as an expert on Jewish children's literature, Lisa was recently the co-editor of children and teen book reviews for *AJL Reviews* and served as the children's editor for *Jewish Book World* magazine for six years. She was the children's book reviewer for the *Jewish Journal* of Los Angeles for many years and has published numerous reviews in other magazines such as *School Library Journal*, *Catholic Library World*, and *Five Owls*. She has served as a judge for the National Jewish Book Awards for fifteen years and also served as a judge for the Museum of Tolerance Once Upon A World Children's Book Award. In addition to numerous presentations at AJL conferences, Lisa has presented on Jewish literature at a variety of conferences and settings, including the Charlotte Huck Children's Literature Conference, California School Library Association, the Mazza Museum of Children's Literature, the United States Board on Books for Young People, the International Board on Books for Young People Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark, and the International Association of Children's Literature Conference in Frankfurt, Germany, among others.

Rachel Kamin, award committee chair, commented, "On behalf of the Fanny Goldstein Merit Award committee, we are proud to have the opportunity to honor Lisa Silverman as this year's recipient of the Award. Lisa has contributed so much to the Association of Jewish Libraries, to the field of Judaica librarianship, and to librarianship as a profession overall. She has been a mentor to so many and gives of her time generously. Lisa truly personifies the values and legacy of the Award's namesake, Fanny Goldstein, who devoted her life to books and her community." Lisa will receive her award during a special luncheon at the Annual Conference of the Association of Jewish Libraries on Tuesday, June 28, 2022, at the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia.

Members of the 2022 Fanny Goldstein Merit Award committee are Rachel Kamin, Toby Harris, and Joy Kingsolver.

About the Association of Jewish Libraries

The Association of Jewish Libraries is an international, professional organization that fosters access to information and research in all forms of media relating to all things Jewish. The Association promotes Jewish literacy and scholarship and provides a community for peer support and professional development. For more information, visit www.jewishlibraries.org.

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