E-Books, He-Books, and a ḥibuḳ¹: Attending Info2012, the 27th Annual Conference and Exhibition, Tel Aviv, Israel

Submitted by Rachel Leket-Mor, Judaica Librarianship Editor-in-Chief and the AJL representative at Info2012

During the fifty minute bus from Jerusalem to Tel Aviv Savidor Central Station, on my way to Info2012 conference organized annually by Teldan Information Systems, I could not spot any passengers using e-readers. Israel is known for its fast adaptation of technological innovations, so why do so many commuters on New York City’s subway read on such devices, while on board of a bus that connects Jerusalemites with Tel Aviv University, among other destinations, there was no sign of e-readers?

Different explanations for the stall in the Hebrew e-book industry were offered at Info2012, which was geared toward Israeli information specialists. Unlike AJL’s annual conferences, the meeting’s day-long sessions were grouped into overarching, color-coded tracks, such as Internet 2012, Social Networks, Mobile Data, and Technology; Competitive Intelligence, Business, Technological and Military Information (some sessions were restricted to military personnel!); Informatics 2012 and Content Management; Library and Information Center Management; and a General track. Security staff checked the day passes for sessions of choice at the hall entrances.

The Books and E-Readers 2012 session was definitely my favorite. Big names in the Israeli publishing and high-tech scenes talked about past experiences and present initiatives, roadblocks, and future prospects. The opening presentation of peppy attorney Jonathan Klinger dealt with technological preventative measurements and business models. His take on Israeli e-books and digital rights management was based on his experience as a faculty member at Beit Berl College (Computer Game Development Law) and a Ph.D student at Bar-Ilan University’s Program of Science, Technology and Society, but mostly as a consultant to non-profit organizations regarding “information-centric legislation” and as a blogger (Intellect or Insanity; see Klinger’s full bio at http://www.jonathanklinger.com). According to Klinger, an Israeli publisher, unlike executives in the music industry, are not afraid of pirated content of books, but of cannibalization, that is, of potential loses of print book sales due to the introduction of the new product. He explained that the holdup in the Israeli e-book market is a result of publishers’ hesitation to compete with their own print books, as if the two formats (print and electronic) cannot coexist.

Yaron Sadan, current Chairman of the Book Publishers Association and an old trooper in the Israeli book industry (ʻAm ʻOved Publishers Ltd.), offered other insights. As one of the driving forces behind

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¹ "Hug" in Hebrew.

(Continued on page 4)
Editor's Message

Austin, Texas
September 2012

Dear Readers,

It is time again to wish you all Shanah Tovah! Happy New Year to you and yours! May it be Shanah Tovah u-Metukah! (a good and sweet year).

I would like to thank all of those who contributed to this issue. Please make sure to read about the next AJL conference which will be held in Houston, TX! A keynote speaker was chosen and a call for papers is posted as well!

Besides the usual content such as chapter chatter and minutes from the recent conference in Pasadena, we feature an article by Rachel Leket-Mor, Judaica Librarianship editor-in-chief. Racheli attended the Info2012 conference in Tel Aviv last May as the AJL representative and she reports back on her experience and impression of the digital publishing arena in Israel.

With best wishes,
Uri Kolodney, Editor-in-Chief

Scholarship Fund Needs Your Help

In order to encourage new librarians to enter the field of Judaic librarianship we have to do as much as we can to encourage them. One of the best ways of doing that is by providing scholarships to library school students who might have an interest finding careers in this area of librarianship. One of the best ways of providing those scholarships is for present librarians to support the scholarship fund with donations. These donations can be made in honor of a person or event or in memory of someone. When the donation comes in, we immediately send a tribute card to whomever you specify, as long as you provide a name, address and information about the person being honored or remembered. We can send you a receipt for tax purposes as well. You can send a card for not much more than the cost of a commercial card but it is much more meaningful.

Don’t forget to include the name and address of the person to whom the card should be sent and the name of the person being honored if it is not the same. Also add your name and contact information.

Please complete the form below and send it, along with your donation, to:
Sarah M. Barnard
Hebrew Union College-Klau Library,
3101 Clifton Avenue,
Cincinnati, OH 45220.

Recent Donations:
From Susan Dubin – In honor of the 2010-2012 outgoing Board and the 2012-2014 incoming Board.
From Roberta Berman – In loving memory of Barbara Silverman.

AJL Scholarship Fund Donation Form

Name of Donor:
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Donation made in honor/memory of::
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Name of Person(s) to receive card:
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Address of Person:
________________________________________

Notes:
________________________________________
A Note from Heidi Rabinowitz Estrin, AJL President
[Editor’s note: this text was previously posted on Ha-Safran and the AJL Blog.]

Shalom! On June 20, 2012 at our annual conference in beautiful Pasadena, CA, I was installed as the 26th President of the Association of Jewish Libraries. I am honored to have the opportunity to serve as President for an organization comprised of professional and intelligent people, who are so passionate about their field.

My own journey with AJL began when I moved from the youth services department of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh to take over the Feldman Children's Library at Congregation B'nai Israel of Boca Raton, a large Reform synagogue in South Florida. I was immediately drafted to help with the 1999 AJL Convention in Boca Raton. Having been thrown into the deep end, I quickly got to know the people and the organization. I've stayed involved ever since, serving as President of the South Florida AJL Chapter, and as Chair of the Mentoring Committee, the Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee, and the PR Committee.

During my two years as Vice President/President-Elect under President Jim Rosenbloom, I've been impressed by his leadership and heartened by the dedication shown by so many members of AJL who serve in so many ways. We are a completely volunteer-run organization, and we rely on each and every one of you! Whether you serve on a committee, help with conference arrangements, share your knowledge on HaSafran, or spread the word about issues in Judaic librarianship via social media, your actions add to AJL's vitality! I hope this tradition continues, and I call on all of you who wish to contribute to the strength and growth of AJL to contact me and join the conversation in any capacity and expertise you can offer!

To that end, our new Vice President/President-Elect, Yaffa Weisman, will be leading a Strategic Planning effort to help AJL adapt to the changes going on in our profession and our world. We will be depending on your participation and feedback to guide us in this process.

Thanks to Past President Jim Rosenbloom, the AJL Council, and to all of you for your support. I look forward to my time as your President!

Heidi Rabinowitz Estrin
President, Association of Jewish Libraries
president@jewishlibraries.org

Farewell to Merrily Hart, AJL Reviews co-editor for Adult Literature
SUBMITTED BY DANIEL SCHEIDE, RAS PRESIDENT AND AJL REVIEWS CO-EDITOR FOR ADULT LITERATURE

Merrily Hart has collaborated with me for the last five years as a review editor, and the experience was both enjoyable and enlightening for me. While I will miss working with her in this capacity, I look forward to more of her excellent reviews.

Members in the News
AJL members do not rest…..

AJL members and regular AJL Reviews contributors Zachary Baker and Faith Jones have each written a chapter in the recently published book Inventing the Modern Yiddish stage: essays in drama, performance, and show business (Berkowitz, Joel, Henry Barbara J., eds., Wayne State University Press, 2012). Zachary wrote about Jevel Katz, the Yiddish bard of Rio de la Plata, while Faith wrote about sex and scandal in the Encyclopedia of the Yiddish Theatre.

Stanley Asher of Radio Shalom, Montreal, interviewed Anne Dublin, AJL member and author of The Baby Experiment (Dundurn, 2012), about her book and about being a Jewish writer. To hear the interview, go to: http://www.radio-shalom.ca/ and search for “The Interview with Stanley Asher”.

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the law passed this past June to protect Israeli authors’ income. Sadan explained that the reasons for the holdup on e-books go beyond the predictable rationale of the small market for Hebrew books, and are closely related to the wild, irresponsible competition between Israeli publishers and the chain bookstores. According to Sadan, the competition that drives book prices down to absurd (“4 books for 100 NIS” sales) impede publishers’ readiness for the Digital Age. Moreover, Sadan mentioned a number of recent unsuccessful projects in order to demonstrate how lack of experience in digital sales has slowed publishers’ progress in the field: negotiations between the Tsomet Sefarim book chain and cellular company Cellcom did not materialize; the Steimatzky book chain was not able to get publisher Yedihot aharonot to sign a contract for its E-vrit platform, and is relying on a working agreement instead; and an attempt by the Book Publishers Association to bypass cellular companies did not go through. These homegrown attempts, together with the fact that publishers face outrageous fees for digital rights of translated books, generate some hesitance in the e-book business.

Be that as it may, there are some initiatives that work just fine for Israeli readers. E-vrit, operated by Steimatzky (e-vrit.co.il), offers a selection of about 1,500 fiction, non-fiction, and children’s books published by leading publishers such as Keter, Yedi’ot aharonot, ‘Am ‘Oved, ha-Kibuts ha-me’uhad, and others. The e-books may be read on iPads, Android devices, and a dedicated, native E-vrit e-reader. In fact, the very first book to be released in electronic format prior to its print edition (a translation of Fifty Shades of Grey, of all things) will become available via E-vrit early September. Mendele He-Books (=“Hebrew e-books”; mendele.co.il) is another venture, selling not only new books published by Ktav, Gevanim, Daniyelah Di-Nur, Rimonim, Pardes, and others, but also works that are in the public domain written by Modern Hebrew writers such as Mendele Mokher Sefarim or Joseph Hayyim Brenner (some of them are offered for free, however they are accessible in html at the non-profit Ben-Yehuda project, at benyehuda.org). E-books purchased via this website may be read on a wide range of e-readers, including iPad, Kindle, Nook, and E-vrit, as it is based on the EPUB standard of the International Digital Publishing Forum. Mendele He-Books also welcomes self-published works and offers full publishing services. Orli Center (orlicenter.co.il), another service for self-published Hebrew e-books, was mentioned during the presentation of Prof. Sheizaf Rafaeli, Director of the Sagy Center for Internet Research at the University of Haifa. Author packages offered by Orli Center cover full publishing services, as well as public relations, and hosting and selling services via e-vrit or Mendele.

For libraries, there are not too many current Israeli e-book vendor options. Kotar (=“Title”; kotar.co.il) was established by the Center for Educational Technology (CET), “a nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement of the education system in Israel, in the Jewish world and around the globe.” CET operates a number of Hebrew digital projects, including Mikranet for Biblical Studies (mikranet.org.il), Pshtita for Talmud Studies (pshtita.ac.il), and Midreshet for Beis Medrash groups in Israel (midreshet.org.il). Kotar features almost 1,300 non-fiction books published by general and academic publishers in Israel, including the publishing houses of most universities, as well as Aritiel, Re’uven Mas, Yad Yitsḥak Ben-Tsevi, ha-Kibuts ha-me’uhad, ‘Am ‘Oved, Mosad Byalik, Mišrad ha-bītaḥon, Karmel, Merkaz Zalman Shazar, Mekhon Yan Līr bi-Yerushalayim, Mekhon Z’abotinski be-Yiśra’el, and others. Books may be searched by categories such as Reference, Non-Fiction and Research, Classics, or Jewish Thought, as well as by authors, titles, topics, and publishers; an advanced search page allows for additional field searches. A section titled Open Books introduces almost 120 free titles.

Like in other e-book platforms, Kotar’s users can highlight and annotate the text, save their work on a personal, digital “shelf” and print pages. These features are not available on any e-reader yet, but when I met with Kotar’s officials to discuss a potential consortium plan for AJL libraries, I was told that they plan to add an iPad app as well as an English interface by the end of this year. The business model of Kotar is based on annual subscription: access to the e-books has to be renewed annually. This model is less than desired by many libraries, however a number of Israeli research libraries list this e-book

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database among their electronic resources (the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Tel Aviv University, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, and the College of Management Academic Studies).

Separately from the other academic publishers in Israel, Magnes Press of the Hebrew University initiated its e-book program in 2005 with some 380 titles. Since then, it has been expanding the selection with about 40 e-books annually. Most of the books (90% in Hebrew) are Magnes titles, however additional publishers are participating: different entities within the Hebrew University, Akademon (many textbooks for teaching Hebrew in different levels), ha-Milon he-hadash (publisher of Even-Shoshan dictionary), Bet Shalom Alekhem, Karmel, and The Littman Library of Jewish Civilization (dozens of books in English). Magnes’ CEO Hai Tsabar demonstrated the e-book platform during his presentation at AJL’s 2012 Annual Convention in Pasadena, CA. It has all the functions of other e-book platforms (highlighting, annotating, adding bookmarks and comments), as well as full-text search inside books and across the collection for titles published after 2009, and internal links (Table of Contents and indices). The user interface is multilingual (19 languages), however the platform is not adapted for e-readers. The business model of Magnes Press e-books is similar to that of Kotar: subscribing libraries can’t purchase perpetual access to the books, but renew their subscription annually.

The Open University of Israel offers an open-access database of e-textbooks (160 titles) and digital audio books (65) from its collections. The Pe’er Project (“Open Intellectual Treasures”; [ocw.openu.ac.il/]) requires users to create an account, but the content is free. The same audio books are also available via iCast ([books.icast.co.il]), along with hundreds of Israeli fiction titles and podcasts. Some of the titles are Israeli classics read by their authors, others are read by professionals. iCast may be of interest to SSC libraries in particular, as it includes titles for young adults and children that may be used for teaching Hebrew. While iCast doesn’t currently work with libraries, its CEO Moti Lippmann, whom I met at Info2012, seemed to be open to the idea of creating a consortium agreement for AJL libraries. A new AJL workgroup is indeed exploring the option of establishing such a consortium, we’ll be happy to hear back from you about the databases you may be interested in. Please contact any of the workgroup members: Daniel Scheide, Haim Gottschalk, Guila Cooper, or myself.

These are my impressions from Info2012 and the Israeli market of electronic and audio books. What about the hibuk mentioned in the title? This is the warm hug I received from the AJL chapter in Israel!

**Highlights from AJL Outreach at newCAJE Conference**

**WENDY A. MARX, PRESIDENT, LONG ISLAND AJL CHAPTER**

AJL exhibited all we have to offer to Jewish Educators at their newCAJE conference ([www.newcaje.org](http://www.newcaje.org)) in Monclair, New Jersey, August 5-8, 2012. newCAJE offers Curriculum Alternatives in Jewish Education for lay leaders, teachers and principals of Jewish day schools and synagogues.

We of AJL are “People of the book” twice blessed. Therefore, having a table at the conference, we, Wendy A. Marx and Aileen Grossberg encouraged those who stopped at our table to join. AJL had raffles and books to give away in order to entice people to hear what AJL has to provide for their synagogue and school libraries.

We also enlisted a new member, Ruth E. Levy of Roswell Georgia, owner of Oytoys ([www.oytoys.com](http://www.oytoys.com)).

We are looking forward to future newCAJE conferences as wonderful opportunities to highlight the services and professionalism that AJL and librarians can bring to day schools and synagogues.
CALL FOR PAPERS/ PROPOSALS
2013 AJL CONFERENCE

Association of Jewish Libraries
48th Annual Conference
June 16-19, 2013
Houston, Texas

The Association of Jewish Libraries (AJL) will hold its 48th Annual Conference at the Hilton Houston Post Oak June 16-19th, 2013. Librarians, educators, archivists, scholars, authors and others will meet to share their interest in Judaica librarianship and related topics.

AJL is inviting proposals for papers and presentations on any aspect of Judaic librarianship or scholarship as it pertains to libraries, archives, museums, schools, synagogues and related institutions. Of special interest this coming year are topics relating to current trends and challenges in the field; management of synagogue and day school libraries; collection development; volunteer management; readers advisory; adult programming; technology, apps and e-books; 21st century library design; cataloging and classification; Sephardic subject matter and RDA.

Submissions should include:
● Presenter’s name, address, affiliation, telephone numbers and email contact.
● Brief biography.
● Title of proposed presentation.
● Summary of proposal.
● Specific technology or equipment requirements, if any.

All submissions must be received by November 30, 2012.
Submissions can be sent electronically to judybw@gmail.com.

Proposals will be reviewed by the Program Planning Committee, which is composed of national and local AJL members. Notification will be made in January 2013.

RABBI JUDITH ABRAMS TO SPEAK AT HOUSTON AJL CONFERENCE
SUBMITTED BY JUDY WEIDMAN, AJL HOUSTON CONFERENCE CHAIR

The 2013 Houston AJL Conference committee is pleased to announce renowned Talmudic scholar, Rabbi Judith Z. Abrams will present at the Monday opening plenary session, June 17.

Rabbi Judith Z. Abrams, PhD, an award-winning Jewish educator, is widely recognized for making the study of Judaism and its sacred texts accessible and relevant to our everyday lives. She is the founder and director of Maqom: A School for Adult Talmud Study (www.maqom.com). Maqom is dedicated to the spiritually enlightening and intellectually honest study of Jewish texts, with online podcasts and daily Talmudic study.

In 1999, Rabbi Abrams was awarded the Covenant Award. Each year, the Covenant Foundation honors three exceptional Jewish educators with a prestigious Covenant Award. It is designed to honor and celebrate those who have made an impact on Jewish life through innovative educational practices and models.

Rabbi Abrams is the author of over 20 books about Talmud and prayer as well as books for children. Her most recent publication is “The Other Talmud - the Yerushalmi: Unlocking the Secrets of the Talmud of Israel for Judaism Today.”

We are delighted that Rabbi Abrams, a dynamic and inspiring speaker has agreed to address our conference. A taste of Texas and insight into Texas Jewish culture will also be on the schedule, so block June 16th through 19th, 2013 to attend the 48th Annual AJL Conference in Houston!
Chapter Chatter  
Toby Rossner, Chapter Relations Committee

Chapter Relations News

Etta Gold, Chapter Relations Chair - Liaison between AJL National and the AJL Chapters

About fifteen years ago, Ronda Rose, my dear friend from across the country, and I became deeply engaged in the matter of AJL chapters everywhere. We felt the need to promote a greater sense of communication between the national association and our local chapters, and thus encouraged chapters to share information about their programs and activities. Our involvement in this area led us to pursue other avenues of interest in AJL – Ronda went on to become president of the national organization and I served as SSC president. But our commitment to grass roots memberhood remains resolute.

Amalia Warshenbrot has done an excellent job in maintaining the connection of AJL chapters throughout the world. She has now moved on to the Vice-Presidency of the SSC Division, and I am pleased to have been appointed to return to the position of Chapter Relations Chair. I invite you to contact me with your questions, concerns, and creative ideas at chapters@jewishlibraries.org.

We’ve had lots of discussions at convention regarding virtual chapters, since it’s getting more and more difficult to get together for meetings. We’ve also talked about regional meetings. What do you think? In fact, you may be wondering about lots of other things like:

- Is there an AJL chapter near me? Shall I attempt to create one?
- How can we bring new life to our chapter?
- What should our chapter do to commemorate Jewish Book Month?
- Should our chapter publish a newsletter? A chapter webpage? How about a chapter Facebook page?

I welcome your communication, and I remind you that Toby Rossner will continue to edit Chapter Chatter, this marvelous column in AJL News. Please send your quarterly chapter news to tobyross@cox.net.

Atlanta Chapter (AJL-Atlanta)  
Submitted by Stacy Brown, President

The Atlanta Chapter is looking forward to reconvening and meeting some new faces that have taken on new roles at our area Jewish libraries. We will have a Fall gathering at The Davis Academy at which time we will be sharing information about the unique resources in our libraries’ collections, collaborating on projects, and getting acquainted with one another. Our plan is to meet quarterly at our members’ libraries, where we can admire each other’s collections. We are looking forward to a year of learning from one another and of building new relationships.

Capital Area Chapter (AJL-CAC)  
A note from Naomi Morse, past-president, to her chapter members

Dear Capital Area Chapter Members,

I have been your president for two years now, and felt that it was time to invite new leadership to this position. It is my great pleasure to let you know that our members Galina Teverovsky and Marina Korenberg will assume the responsibility of Co-presidents of the Capital Area Chapter, beginning September 1, 2012. Galina and Marina both work at the Library of Congress’ Israel and Judaica section. They will bring us a new perspective. I am glad to say that Mindy Hecker has graciously agreed to continue to serve as our able treasurer.

A note from Michlean Amir to AJLCAC members

Before welcoming our new co-presidents, I would like to thank Naomi and Mindy for leading us these last two years. They did an excellent job, and I am sure will continue to participate in our local and national efforts.

Kol ha-kavod to Galina and Marina for taking on the helm of AJLCAC! I am sure we are in good hands and will have interesting activities and delicious blintzes. And Mindy, thank you for giving us continuity by staying on as our treasurer!
JUDAICA LIBRARY NETWORK OF METROPOLITAN CHICAGO
Submitted by Daniel D. Stuhlman

The Judaica Library Network of Metropolitan Chicago met on February 26 at Chicago Sinai Congregation. We discussed Jewish children's literature and brainstormed ideas for celebrating our organization. We then toured the building and watched part of the video produced in commemoration of Chicago Sinai Congregation's 150th anniversary.

On March 19, JLN Librarians had dinner with Barry Deutsch, author of the graphic novel Hereville: How Mirka Got Her Sword. Mr. Deutsch was the guest author at Bernard Zell Anshe Emet Day School (Chicago), North Suburban Beth El (Highland Park), Congregation Beth Hillel (Wilmette), and Sunset Ridge School (Northfield). In April JLN members also collaborated to bring in Christos Nicola, co-author with Peter Lane Taylor of The Secret of Priest’s Grotto for Yom Hashoah. Mr. Nicola spoke at Bernard Zell Anshe Emet Day School (Chicago), North Suburban Beth El (Highland Park), Lakeside Congregation (Highland Park), and the Chicago Jewish Day School.

[Editor's note: Visit the Christos Nicola webpage to locate the variety of programs Mr. Nicola can bring to your community. I have attended two of his sessions at AJL Conventions; they are very polished, interesting and informative.]

LONG ISLAND CHAPTER (LI-AJL)
Submitted by Wendy A. Marx, Chapter President

The Long Island Chapter of AJL met in July for our annual planning meeting and pool party.

We have great plans for the upcoming year. We have identified some wonderful authors who have been invited to speak (still awaiting word). We will continue our annual review of what's new in Jewish books and our annual public librarian's meeting. We will also add a program on new i-media, although the term “I” sounds too isolating. In addition, LIAJL is looking to pair with the Nassau County Holocaust and Memorial Center, local synagogues, and Hadassah Chapters to get out the word of who we are and what we do for synagogue and day school libraries. Wishing all a Sweet New Year!

FROM SIFRIA: THE NEWSLETTER OF THE LONG ISLAND ASSN. OF JEWISH LIBRARIES, JULY, 2012

At the suggestion of LIAJL member Joyce Levine, AJL sponsored an exhibit table at the newly reorganized newCAJE (A Re-invention of the Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education) at its August 5-8 Conference.

[Editor's note: see a separate piece on the AJL appearance at newCAJE last August on page 5.]

MONTREAL CHAPTER (AJL-MONTREAL)
Submitted by Chaya Goldman, Co-President

An AJL-Montreal chapter meeting was held on May 25th, 2012 at the Jewish Public Library. The programme started with an introduction by Michael Crelinstein, the new director of the Jewish Public Library, who spoke of his vision of libraries in the present decade, and his plans for the upcoming centenary anniversary.

Eddie Paul, Head of the JPL Bibliographic and Information Services spoke about RDA (Resources -- Description and Access) and FRBR (Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records). Over the past few years, FRBR has been a hot topic in the library world. Montreal's Jewish Public Library was the first public library in the world to adapt FRBR alongside RDA (the new cataloguing standard replacing AACR 2). The system is especially suited to the JPL because of its 200,000 items in five languages. The questions about this new innovation, especially on the subject of BIBLE and its books, were many. The new system was implemented in February 2012 and will take a number of month to complete.

The next chapter meeting will be in the fall of 2012. The Executive of the Chapter will be meeting shortly to discuss the upcoming programme.

DON'T FORGET TO READ THE SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2012 ISSUE OF AJL REVIEWS!
OVER 50 PAGES OF REVIEWS!
NEW YORK METROPOLITAN AREA (AJL-NYMA)

Submitted by Hallie Cantor and Elizabeth Stabler

NYMA’s 2012 spring conference, Explorations in the Spoken, the Written, the Visual: Oral Histories, Children’s Literature and Art, was held June 5th at Temple Emanu-El in NYC. In addition to two excellent presentations, the conference included a tour of an exhibition at the Temple’s Bernard Museum. The conference was organized by Tina Weiss, NYMA’s president, with the assistance of Elizabeth F. Stabler, Librarian of Temple Emanu-El’s Stettenheim Library.

In “Making History: Oral History as Testimony and Legacy,” Bonnie Gurewitsch, Archivist and Curator, Museum of Jewish Heritage — A Living Memorial to the Holocaust, began by quoting Andre Gide, “History is fiction that happened.” She then posed the following questions:

1. What differentiates oral history from memoir and fiction?
2. Is it essential to verify the facts in oral history?
3. What is the purpose of oral history and does it have any pragmatic scholarly application?

Ms. Gurewitsch believes that the facts are secondary to the meaning of the stories being told. More important than the details of a tale about an individual family member’s participation in an historical event, passed down through the generations, is the transmission of Jewish identity and tradition that comes with the telling.

Ms. Gurewitsch pointed out that oral history is a complex collaboration between the interviewer and the eyewitness. The outcome will be affected by the teller’s agenda, the goals and objectives of the institution collecting the histories, as well as the interviewer’s expertise and point of view. In addition, she urged extreme caution when using oral histories. She cited research indicating that “adrenal memories,” those formed during traumatic and stressful events tend to be accurate and therefore most useful. It is important to remember the difficulty distinguishing between what the survivor experienced at the time and the inevitable overlay that he or she learned later. Good oral histories must be faithful to the historical facts and avoid anachronisms. “Beware of myths,” Ms. Gurewitsch warned, such as soap having been made from Jewish bodies. (“Never happened.”) A useful guideline is the famous “who, what, when, where, why” of journalism.

Barbara Krasner, freelance writer, author, and Adjunct Professor, William Patterson University, spoke about New Directions in Jewish Children’s Books. “There is no better time than now,” she declared, for Jewish juvenile literature. New York libraries have been in the forefront of its promotion. In the face of e-books and other non-print media, the paradigms and platforms of publishing are shifting. There are more interactive titles, and competition, both from alternate forms of media and among writers themselves, makes getting published tougher than ever. Nevertheless, the paramount requirement remains a good story.

ONTARIO CHAPTER (AJL-ONTARIO)

Submitted by Steven M. Bergson

On April 16th, the Ontario Chapter was treated to a presentation by AJL-Ontario member (& past President) Gloria Jacobs on the Toronto Public Library's usage of electronic books. It's difficult to summarize the wonderful discussion, but below are several of the key points made.

- Electronic books are not as new as many people think. There were "Rocket Readers" in the 1970s and Project Gutenberg has made copyright-free editions of books available via the Internet since 1971. Its founder - Michael Hart - is considered the inventor of the e-book.
- Only a fraction of all printed books have electronic editions which libraries can purchase or lease.
- Not all libraries have the requisite budget or IT requirements to allow for e-lending; TPL is the largest public library system in North America and is able to do so.
- Many e-books have never been published in print and can only be read with an e-reader of some sort.
- Not all "e-books" are meant to be read; there are also e-audio-books.
- Toronto Public Library statistics showed a 100% increase in e-book usage in 2011 over 2010.
- Training of staff and patrons is very important; the library must be able to offer tech support no matter what platform is being used.
- Many books have waiting lists for both its electronic and print editions; on August 15th, there were 1323 patrons on a waiting list to "check out" one of the 90 e-book editions of Fifty Shades of Grey and 2594 patrons waiting to borrow one of the 255 print editions.
• Pros: speed; responsiveness of the public; availability to the public (within 24 hours of purchase); user-friendly format; frees up staff time which would otherwise be necessary for checkouts, returns, sending out overdue notices, collecting fines (upon expiration of the loan period, the electronic books simply disappear from the borrowing computers' hard drive)
• Major con: unavailable to all segments of the population (e.g. low income or low tech households)

Southern California Chapter (AJLSC)
Submitted by Lisa Silverman

Members of AJLSC have been relaxing after the successful AJL conference that took place in Pasadena in June. We congratulate our hard-working chairpersons, Enid Sperber and Sharon Benamou, who worked all year on making our conference in beautiful Southern California so enjoyable.

The change of hotel venue from the original Hyatt in West Los Angeles to the garden setting of the Langham Hotel in Pasadena proved to be fortuitous because, following the conference, we were able to visit the grounds of the nearby Huntington Library and get a behind the scenes tour from Alan Jutzi, its Rare Books and Manuscripts Librarian. Everyone enjoyed the special hotel and its beautiful décor and landscaping — particularly those who arrived at nearby Burbank airport! Early arrivals who managed to get on the Sunday historical Los Angeles tour enjoyed the visit to the famous Breed Street Shul in Boyle Heights, along with other stops along the way, including a memorial to local Japanese Americans who were sent to internment camps during World War II.

The Monday author luncheon was the largest in AJL history, featuring over forty local authors who were hosted by individual librarians at their tables. Our many excellent sessions have been taped and will soon be available on the AJL website as a podcast.

Opening on the Sydney Taylor Manuscript Award Committee

Due to the untimely death of committee member Barbara Silverman, there is an opening on the Sydney Taylor Manuscript Award Committee (STMAC).

The 5 year term began in July 2012 and will end in June 2017. The following is a description of the requirements and duties of Committee members:

• Those interested in serving on the Committee should have some background in book reviewing or similar experience and a familiarity with the goals and constructs of children’s literature.
• The committee’s duties consist of reading unpublished manuscripts, completing an evaluative rubric and writing evaluations of those manuscripts. The committee then deliberates via email to choose a successful candidate and winner of the Sydney Taylor Manuscript Award. Committee members must be able to meet deadlines and must commit to thoughtful, detailed written evaluations.
• Manuscripts for consideration are accepted until December 15; a decision is reached by March 15.
• Manuscripts will either be on CDs or as email attachments.
• To ensure a balanced committee, candidates from the Midwest, New England or outside of the US will have preference. Committee members must also be members in good standing of AJL.

Further information about the award is available at www.jewishlibraries.org
To apply for membership on the STMAC please send a resume and 3 writing samples, preferably reviews by email or post to: Aileen Grossberg, Chair, Sydney Taylor Manuscript Award Committee, STMACAJL@aol.com Or 204 Park Street, Montclair, NJ 07042.

Keep Up to Date with Hasafran

Hasafran is the electronic discussion list of the Association of Jewish Libraries. It was created in 1991 to provide a forum for the discussion of Judaica librarianship. The list is moderated by Joseph (Yossi) Galron, Jewish studies librarian at The Ohio State University. The views expressed in the list are the opinions of the participants and not necessarily the views of the moderator or of AJL.

To subscribe to Hasafran, please see instructions at https://lists.service.ohio-state.edu/mailman/listinfo/hasafran
To post a message to Hasafran, send your message to: hasafran@lists.osu.edu
You will receive a confirmation message.

A keyword-searchable archive of Hasafran messages posted since June 12, 2003 is now available.
Last spring, a task force of the conference committee conducted a survey about our conventions. About 30% of our members responded and provided us with some helpful insights. The first decision the Association Council made, as a direct result of the responses, is to consistently call our annual international gathering “conferences” rather than “conventions”. It was suggested that conventions are gatherings of people who share a common interest while conferences take it a step further and provide professional learning opportunities. We agree that conference is a word that more aptly describes what we do each year and we are working on being consistent in our usage!

The chart to the right shows how many conferences those who responded attended during the last ten years. As you can see, AJL members attended a mean of 3.6 conferences, while non-AJL members attended 1.6. Non-members may have included exhibitors, presenters or guests. Those members in the Research, Archives and Special Collections (RAS) division attended about one conference more than Synagogues, Schools and Centers (SSC) division members over the same ten-year period.

About two-thirds of conference attendees have received some form of financial assistance with the most support from academic institutions and AJL scholarships. The top reasons for not attending were all related to money, with travel expense named most often, followed by registration and hotel.

A majority of attendees most often chose the City as the most memorable aspect and about half of attendees typically attend sessions about the host community. We learned that 39% of attendees choose all or mostly RAS (Research, Archive, Special Libraries) sessions; 41% choose all or mostly SSC (Synagogues, Schools, Centers) sessions; the remaining 20% attend a fairly even split of session topics. This must mean we are an amazingly well-balanced group! We also have a preference for eating Kosher meals together – one big happy family!

Alternative ideas asked about in the survey did not bring clear-cut answers. Generally, keeping things status quo seemed the most preferable on all counts. 63.5% are willing to try a biennial model, however, those against the idea felt more strongly about their stance. About 60.6% consider college campuses an option, but thus far, conference committee members have not found college campus sites to be a better option in terms of cost or location. The Sunday through Wednesday format was selected by over 70% of respondents and late June received 81.4%. Please know that the late June date is always our first choice now, whenever possible. For the 2013 conference in Houston, the dates are June 16-19 because the 17th day of Tammuz, a fast day on the Jewish calendar, falls the following week (June 25).

We are planning future sites and schedules with cost cutting in mind but will continue to hold annual conferences and most meals together. Our sites are often selected several years in advance, but because travel expenses were cited as the greatest hardship, we hope to hold future conferences close to our membership hubs.

Detailed results are now available on our website after member login. We are always in need of volunteers on the planning committee. Anyone who has a flair for event management, audio-visual expertise, enthusiasm for fundraising, volunteer coordination skills or other talents, we welcome your involvement!

Thanks again to those who participated in the survey.
Hebrew Language Discussion Groups
Submitted by Yelena Luckert, Chair, Librarianship and Education Committee.

Starting in July 2012, four Hebrew Language Discussion Groups have been formed as a way for our members to improve their Hebrew comprehension, something we feel is crucial in our profession. This has been an initiative of the Librarianship and Education Committee, based on a request of Daniel Scheide. The idea is to put together a small Hebrew language discussion groups via Skype led by native Hebrew speakers from our membership to help those in the groups to practice their Hebrew. The groups’ leaders are Rachel Ariel, Uri Kolodney, Amalia Warshenbrot and the wife of our member, Martin Kaminer, Sherit. At the time of this notice the groups are settling in, members are getting Skype accounts and are getting started. We thank our moderators and members of the groups for their time and dedication, and wish them all luck in this worthy endeavor. For more information, please email Yelena Luckert at yluckert@umd.edu.

We Thought You’d Like To Know!
Free PreSchool Books in Hebrew from SIFRIYAT Pijama B’America
Submitted by Toby Rossner

For a limited time, and while supplies last, Sifriyat Pijama B’America™(SP-BA) is registering new families with children three to six years old from throughout the United States to receive free Hebrew children’s books monthly for the 2012-2013 school year.

These gift books are yours to keep. Registration is available online at http://www.sp-ba.org/online-registration.

Sifriyat Pijama B’America is sponsored by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, the founder of the PJ Library ® Program in America and Sifriyat Pijama in Israel. Sifriyat Pijama books are published in Israel and are approved by the Israeli Ministry of Education and the Israeli Center for Libraries.

AJL Election Results
James P. Rosenbloom, Judaica Librarian, Brandeis University, President, Association of Jewish Libraries

New AJL Officers:
President – Heidi Estrin
Vice President/President-Elect - Yaffa Weisman
Vice President for Membership - Sheryl Stahl
Vice President for Publications - Joyce Levine
Corresponding Secretary - Elana Gensler
Recording Secretary - Jolie Baron
Treasurer - Deborah Stern
RAS President - Daniel Scheide
RAS Vice President - Sharon Benamou
RAS Secretary - Michelle Chesner
SSC President - Lisa Silverman
SSC Vice President - Amalia Warshenbrot
SSC Secretary – Cherille Berman

Congratulations to all of our incoming officers.

I thank Joy Kingsolver, our Parliamentarian, for all of her work in selecting the company to run the election and in coordinating the vote. A special thank you goes to the three nominating committees who selected candidates.

Jim Rosenbloom
General Membership Meeting Minutes
Association of Jewish Libraries
Annual Convention Meeting
Langham Huntington, Pasadena, CA
Monday, June 18, 2012

Present: 61 members

1. Meeting Called to Order
   The meeting was called to order by President Jim Rosenbloom at 2:03 p.m.

2. Minutes from last year’s membership meeting
   Nancy Sack moved and Toby Harris seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the June 22, 2011 General Membership meeting. Passed unanimously.

3. President’s Report
   a. Jim Rosenbloom acknowledged the work done by the Board and Council and wished the new Board and Council success.
   b. 2013 convention will be in Houston, June 16-19; 2014 may be in Las Vegas; 2015 may be in Washington, DC. The National Convention committee is interested in sites for future conventions. See Toby Harris, Heidi Estrin or Jim Rosenbloom.
   c. *Judaica Librarianship will go electronic beginning with the next issue.* Zachary Baker is leaving as editor and Rachel Leket-Mor is taking over.
   d. Website: The programmer is hard to deal with. Council wants legal advice. The membership database is almost ready to go online.
   e. Membership is down by several hundred. A survey will be conducted to determine why this is so.
   f. We are strengthening ties with Israeli and European librarians. Rachel Leket-Mor attended the Teldan INFO 2012 conference in Israel.
   g. Much of the last two years have been spent on budget, hotel and website issues. AJL must talk more about its vision for the future. We must make ourselves more relevant and find out the needs of today’s librarians. The Librarianship and Education committee has been working hard on this.
   h. Jim Rosenbloom will oversee the National Convention committee.
   i. Jim Rosenbloom congratulates Heidi Estrin on becoming AJL’s new president.
   j. *AJL will affiliate with the Israeli Association of Libraries and Information Centers, ASMI.*

4. Treasurer’s Report and 2012-2013 Budget
   a. The Board worked hard in trying to balance the budget. The budget for 2012-2013 was passed, but it is still a deficit budget.
   b. The budget will be e-mailed to the membership.

5. Convention Survey
   a. 243 people responded to the survey.
   b. From now on, *our conventions will be called conferences.*
   c. All meals served will remain kosher and will be eaten together. Some meals may be eliminated.
   d. Toby Harris thanked everyone for their help in making the Pasadena convention a success.
   e. Toby Harris welcomes suggestions and concerns.

6. Old Business
   None

7. New Business
   a. Daniel Scheide is asking for abstracts for the 2013 World Congress of Jewish Studies.
AJL News September/October 2012

AJL will have one or two sessions. Deadline is July 1.

b. Reviewers are needed for AJL Reviews. Contact Daniel Scheide.
c. KOTAR, a Hebrew e-book distributor, has given AJL a proposal for institutional members. Rachel Leket-Mor needs input from our members.

8. Announcements/Good and Welfare

a. Elliot Gertel invites AJL members to two meetings/sessions at ALA. The ALA EMIERT Jewish Information Committee/AJL meeting will take place on June 22. Virtual Faiths: Cooperative Digitization Projects will be held on June 25. Information is in the AJL program book on pages 18 and 41. A multi chromatic flyer is available.
b. Aaron Taub is now Head of the Israel and Judaic section of the Library of Congress.
c. Columbia University will have an exhibit tentatively entitled “The People in the Books: Stories from Columbia’s Judaica Manuscript Collection” from September 12, 2012-January 25, 2013. All are welcome.
d. We wish a refuah shelemah to Laurel Wolfson’s husband and to Rachel Glasser’s daughter.
e. Kathe Pinchuck is making Aliyah. We thank her for all she has done for AJL.

9. Adjournment

Elliot Gertel moved and Stephanie Gross seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Elana Gensler
AJL Recording Secretary

June 2012 Council Meeting Minutes
Association of Jewish Libraries
AJL Convention, the Langham Huntington Hotel
Pasadena, CA
Wednesday, June 20, 2012

Present: 25 members, Meeting was called to order at noon.

1. Welcome by new president Heidi Estrin. Introductions were made. All council/board members need to be sent an updated list of all council/board members for the 2012-2014 term.

2. Elana Gensler will send an updated directory.

Old Business

1. Mid - year virtual conference. This is an idea from ALA that we are talking about copying.
2. Yelena Luckert will look into virtual meeting places
3. Cheryl asked about Second Life
4. News & Review will only be available to members only. Jackie Ben Efraim pointed out that advertisers will lose out. Susan Dubin said it may be possible to set up a separate link for advisers. Heidi Estrin said to shelve the issue until the website is sorted out.

Thank you to Jim Rosenbloom for being a great president.

Jim Rosenbloom moved to adjourn the meeting. Leah Moskovits seconded the motion.
Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jolie Baron
AJL Recording Secretary
January 2012 Council Meeting Minutes
Association of Jewish Libraries
Midwinter Council Meeting
Affinia Hotel, NY
Monday, January 16, 2012

Present: Sarah Barnard, Scholarship; Sharon Benamou, Pasadena Convention co-chair; Jackie Ben-Efraim, Ad Manager; Barbara Bietz, Sydney Taylor Book Award; Michelle Chesner, RAS Secretary/Library Education; Susan Dubin, Past President; Heidi Estrin, VP/President-Elect; Yossi Galron, VP Membership/Hasafran; Elana Gensler, Recording Secretary; Elliot H. Gertel, ALA Liaison; Rachel Glasser, Corresponding Secretary; Sara Leah Gross, Mentoring; Aileen Grossberg, Sydney Taylor Manuscript Award; Toby Harris, National Convention; Joy Kingsolver, Parliamentarian/Archivist; Uri Kolodney, News and Reviews; Rachel Leket-Mor, RAS President; Joyce Levine, SSC President; Marsha Lustigman, National Convention; Leah Moskovitz, Accreditation; Kathe Pinchuck, SSC Secretary/Fundraising; Nancy Sack, Webmaster; Daniel Scheide, RAS VP; Enid Sperber, Pasadena Convention co-chair; Sheryl Stahl, Treasurer; Deborah Stern, VP Publications; Aaron Taub, Cataloging; Amalia Warshenbrot, Chapter Relations; Laurel Wolfson, Convention Treasurer.

1. Meeting Called to Order
   Vice President/President-Elect Heidi Estrin called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

2. Dvar Torah
   Amalia Warshenbrot gave the Dvar Torah.

3. Minutes from July
   a. Laurel Wolfson moved and Sara Leah Gross seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the June 19, 2011 Council meeting. Passed unanimously.
   b. Happy Birthday to Susan Dubin!

4. President’s Report
   Jim Rosenbloom was not present. Report stands as written.

5. Treasurer’s Report
   a. 2010/11 Budget
      i. Sheryl Stahl is confident of the bottom line.
      ii. Convention allocations are not exact. Laurel Wolfson will do “forensic” accounting of the budget.
      iii. Last year, we ran a $12,000 deficit.
   b. 2011/2012 Budget
      i. A large chunk of the budget was used to break the Hyatt contract.
      ii. The Board added money to the website line.
      iii. An updated budget, based upon Sunday’s Board meeting, was distributed. Look at your committee’s line to see changes.
      iv. Sheryl Stahl will e-mail the updated budget to Council.
      v. This budget runs from July 1, 2011-September 30, 2012.

6. Convention Treasurer’s Report
   a. Laurel Wolfson and Sheryl Stahl are working on communication issues related to the budget.
   b. The budget will be fine-tuned.
   c. Resend expense receipts to both Laurel Wolfson and Sheryl Stahl. They must know what the expenses are for. Laurel will create a form for expenses and send it to the Council list.

8. Publications Report
   h. We are still selling paper copies of publications.
i. Joyce Levine and Michelle Chesner will work on updating *How To Organize a Jewish Library*.

j. Joyce Levine and Debbie Stern are working on moving the wiki over to our new website. New material is NOT currently being added.

k. A copy of our new publication, *AJL’s Guide to Yiddish Short Stories*, was passed around. We receive thirty cents a copy in royalties. AJL has the rights to the publication. This joint endeavor with Ben Yehuda Press is a good precedent.

9. **RAS President Report**

h. RAS award seals are available, but not feasible in an academic setting. Dust jackets are generally tossed.

i. Send some seals to Elliot Gertel for ALA.

j. Michelle Chesner will look into having a booth at AJS.

13. **New Business (out-of-order)**

m. One of the Task Force recommendations was for AJL to affiliate with other organizations. ATLA, American Theological Library Association, has approved our affiliation. AJL’s link will appear on ATLA’s website. They waived the fee.

n. Rachel Leket-Mor moved and Elliot Gertel seconded the motion that **AJL will affiliate with the American Theological Library Association.** Passed unanimously.

o. Rachel Leket-Mor moved and Debbie Stern seconded the motion to **authorize Rachel Leket-Mor to make inquiries of the Council of American Jewish Museums regarding affiliation and go ahead and affiliate with them if the fee is $100 or less.** Passed unanimously.

p. **Judaica Librarianship**

xiii. We need $20,000 to cover the current issue of JL. The estimate for going electronic is less than $2,000. However, ad revenue may be less than it is now. Most scholarly publications are now done digitally. The next issue of JL should be out around January 2013. It won’t be hosted on the AJL website.

xiv. Rachel Leket-Mor moved and Daniel Scheide seconded the motion that AJL publishes its scholarly journal, *Judaica Librarianship*, in electronic format. Point-of-order: There was not adequate discussion before the vote was called. Rachel Leket-Mor amended the motion to read, I move that **AJL publishes its scholarly journal, *Judaica Librarianship*, in electronic format starting with Volume 18.** Daniel Scheide seconded the amended motion. For: 0; Opposed: 19. **Motion was defeated.**

xv. Rachel Leket-Mor will investigate this issue more before a vote is taken. More details are necessary. We want members to have easy access to JL. It is a benefit for our members and an additional password should NOT be required.

7. **Membership Report**

m. Yossi Galron will send paper reminders to renew membership.

n. Most members are small institutions.

o. Canadian chapters are a problem due to exchange fees.

p. Daniel Scheide moved and Michelle Chesner seconded the motion to eliminate the additional member rate for institutions. Sheryl Stahl amended the motion to read: I move to **eliminate the additional member rate for institutions from the AJL membership dues.** Daniel Scheide seconded the amended motion. **Passed unanimously.**

q. The dues structure should be re-evaluated next year.

10. **SSC**

j. AJL was represented at URJ, as it is a potential source of new members. Since we have a list of organizations that attended, we should send e-mails to them asking them to join AJL. Thank you to Etta Gold for representing AJL.
k. Thank you to Leah Moskovitz for her work on accreditation.
l. Thank you to the Sydney Taylor Book and Manuscript committees for all their work.
m. AJL discussion forums for students, synagogues and day schools exist. They are appropriate for long threads and for discussions not suitable for Hasafran. Further discussion on this topic should continue on the Council list. Debbie Stern will send a list of these forums to the Council list. All members of these forums should be AJL members.

11. National Election Slate
j. President – Heidi Estrin; Vice President/President-Elect – Yaffa Weissman; VP Membership – Sheryl Stahl; VP Publications – Joyce Levine; Recording Secretary – Jolie Baron; Corresponding Secretary – Elana Gensler
k. Four people have declined the Treasurer position. Two more are being asked. Contact Susan Dubin with suggestions.
l. Members of the RAS Nominating Committee are: Debbie Stern, Laurel Wolfson, Yossi Galron and Rachel Leket-Mor. Slate: President – Daniel Scheide; Vice President – Yoram Biton and Sharon Benamou; Secretary – Michelle Chesner.
m. Members of the SSC Nominating committee are: Rachel Kamin, Kathe Pinchuck and Marsha Lustigman. Slate: President – Lisa Silverman; Vice President – Talli Dippold; Secretary – Norma Newman.

12. Committee Reports
a. National Convention
i. 2013 will be in Houston. National help is needed in planning – registration, exhibits, fundraising, AV/Podcasting.
ii. 2014 – Las Vegas; 2015 – possibly Washington, DC
iii. Toby Harris moved and Marsha Lustigman seconded the motion to form a task force to study convention concerns and issues between now and June 2012 to make a report in June 2012. Passed unanimously. A call for members for the task force will be posted on Hasafran. Toby Harris will chair the task force.
iv. There were concerns with Las Vegas as a site - too many conventions on the West Coast and only one member there. A straw poll was taken and the majority of Council had no problem with the site.
v. Thank you to Toby Harris for all her work.
b. Local Convention
i. Pasadena also needs help from National – exhibits and a volunteer coordinator.
ii. The ALA president will speak at the convention. She wants suggestions about our concerns.
iii. The convention will have a new schedule this year. There will be a preconference on Sunday on book repair. RAS, SSC and General Membership meetings will be held on Monday. New Board and Council members can be invited to the meetings. The General Membership meeting should be shorter. Committee reports are not needed. The President should give a synopsis of the year’s activities.
iv. The program book should list all committees, with a sentence about each one.
v. Each committee should create a poster for the poster session. We could have “speed dating” with all the committees during the business meetings.
vi. Registration fees: Before April 16 - $485 AJL Member, $560 non-member; After April 16 - $525 AJL Member, $575 non-member; per diem - $180 includes lunch; Breakfast - $35; Monday lunch - $75; Tuesday lunch - $65; Sun/Tues dinner - $115
c. Chapters
i. The West Coast Florida chapter has been renamed in memory of Sylvia Firschein.
ii. Money for the anti-bullying program is available through the regional
conferences budget line.

d. **Mentoring**
   Nothing new to report.

e. **Development**
   i. Kathe Pinchuck will work with Amalia Warshenbrot for a grant for the anti-bullying program.
   ii. Kathe Pinchuck will work with Nancy Sack for a grant for the website.
   iii. Speak to Susan Dubin regarding sponsors and funders for Pasadena.

f. **Librarianship and Education**
   i. A certificate from AJL could be used toward a degree.
   ii. The committee is developing an online course.
   iii. Michelle Chesner should be on the new convention task force.

g. **ALA Liaison**
   i. Thirty people came to the AJL/ALA joint program in June. More attendees are needed.
   ii. The ALA President will come to the AJL convention for two days at no cost to AJL.
   iii. The next joint AJL/ALA session will be “Virtual Face” and will be held on Monday, June 25 in Anaheim. ATLA is spearheading the program and it won’t cost AJL anything.
   iv. We can jointly sponsor events with the Catholic Library Association without affiliating with them.
   v. Elliot Gertel is looking for others to help man the AJL table this June at ALA.
   vi. Membership forms and RAS-related brochures and bookmarks are needed.
   vii. We should look into purchasing badge ribbons with AJL on them for PR. If adding our logo doesn’t cost more, we should include it.
   viii. When our website is working, we need a link to ALA.

h. **Advertising**
   i. $675 was received for the Feb/Mar issues of AJL News and Reviews.

i. **Convention Stipends**
   Nothing new to discuss.

j. **Newsletter and Review**
   i. A list of current AJL members is needed, so News and Reviews can be e-mailed to them. Yossi Galron can update the AJL-Conf list for this purpose.
   ii. Committees can put an ad in the convention program book at no cost.
   iii. Uri Kolodney moved and Daniel Scheide seconded the motion that **after December 31, 2012, we will discontinue the policy of printing and mailing News and Reviews to members. Passed unanimously.** The three people who currently receive it via snail mail will be notified of this change.
   iv. Welcome to Jackie Ben-Efraim, our new ad manager, and to Rachel Kamin, the new children’s review co-editor.

k. **Web Site**
   i. The website and its progress were discussed.
   ii. Laurel Wolfson moved and Sheryl Stahl seconded the motion to go into executive session. **Passed unanimously.**

l. **Accreditation**
   i. So far, some new applications and some renewals were received.
   ii. The committee advertised on Hasafran and sent letters to those whose accreditation had expired.
   iii. A letter should be sent to the heads of those institutions whose accreditations
have expired.

m. Sydney Taylor Book Awards
   i. Winning books were announced. See attached list.
   ii. Bookmarks were handed out.
   iii. Blog tour begins in early February.
   iv. A formal press release with the winners will be sent out tonight.

n. Sydney Taylor Manuscript Award
   So far, nine manuscripts have been received. Most are short. An award will not be given if none are up to the standards.

o. Public Relations
   Nothing new to report.

p. Elections
   i. Board approved dates for the elections – April 23-May 24, 2012.
   ii. We must have current e-mail addresses before the election. Joy Kingsolver is working with Yossi Galron on this issue.
   iii. AJL is trying to save money. Joy Kingsolver has been investigating other companies to run our electronic vote. AJL would do more of the work – at a lower cost. Joy will check references.
   iv. We must figure out which e-mail address to use if a member has more than one. The membership forms should give an option for preferred e-mail and alternative.
   v. The next issue of News must contain the slate. Ask members to update their e-mail addresses. If anyone wants a paper ballot, they can request one.

12. Old Business
   l. Handbook
      xii. The Handbook is basically finished. It will be posted on the website and sent to the Council list. Committee members must be told that a handbook exists.
      xiii. Send any changes to Laurel Wolfson.
      xiv. A summarized description of the position should appear on the ballot.
      xv. Every chair is relieved of their duties at the end of the current term, unless re-asked by the new President.
      xvi. Let Heidi Estrin know if you want to continue as chair or not. If a committee needs a new chair, it must go through the President.
      xvii. Immediate past, present and future convention chairs are on Council. Let Yossi Galron know if you are not on the Council list.

14. Announcements/Good and Welfare
   n. Bob Schreier has a new baby.
   o. Leah Moskovitz had three new grandchildren in 2011.
   p. The ALA President is looking forward to our convention.
   q. Thank you to Nancy Sack for her patience and perseverance related to the website.
   r. Thank you to Heidi Estrin for stepping in to run the meeting.
   s. Take extra food for travel.
   t. Thank you to Rachel Glasser for arranging the food.
   u. Give all receipts to Sheryl Stahl.
   v. $253 was collected for the Scholarship Fund in honor of Jim Rosenbloom.

15. Adjournment
   n. Elliot Gertel moved and Debbie Stern seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Elana Gensler
AJL Recording Secretary
1. Meeting was called to order at 1:25 PM

2. 2012–2016 AJL Board Members from RAS
   Congratulations to:
   a. Daniel Scheide (RAS President)
   b. Sharon Benamou (RAS Vice President)
   c. Michele Chesner (RAS Secretary)
   d. Yaffa Weisman (AJL VP/President-Elect)
   e. Sheryl Stahl (AJL VP for Membership)
   f. Deborah Stern (AJL Treasurer)

3. Cataloging Committee Report (Aaron Taub):
   a. Discussion of the cataloging treatment of multiple publications on various topics by a
      single author, in which each publication employs the same title proper. Under the rules
      of the new cataloging code, Resource Description and Access (RDA), the use of uniform
      titles (i.e., preferred access points) in such instances is not optional, as it is under AACR2.
      A subcommittee was appointed of Joan Biella, Heidi Lerner, Jasmin Nof, and Aaron
      Taub to determine a recommended standard practice
   b. Discussion of the problem with using “Sephardic” as an overall header for any rite that
      includes the term Sefarad (including Ashkenazi rites). The decision was to maintain
      current practice, but LC will update authority records to clarify that the single qualifier
      “Sephardic” is used to signify multiple rites.
   c. The Cataloging Committee continues to participate in the effort led by LC, in coordination
      with the American Theological Library Association (ATLA), to develop genre/form
      terms in the discipline of religion for inclusion in the LC Genre/Form Thesaurus. An effort
      will be undertaken to further check LC Subject Headings for topical headings representing
      distinctively Judaic genres to ensure that they are either captured in the list of terms or
      appear as upward see references to more generic terms.
   d. LC’s Policy and Standards Division (PSD) now requires that new romanization schemes
      be machine-reversible to the extent possible. LC and the American Library Association
      both approved the new Syriac romanization table developed by Joan Biella, which is
      largely reversible, except in the case of short vowels.
   e. Incorporation of Encyclopedia of the Jews in the Islamic World into the LCPS Regarding
      Headings for Names in the Hebrew Alphabet: On the recommendation by LC’s Israel &
      Judaica Section and the Cataloging Committee, PSD has approved the inclusion in the LC
      Policy Statement (LCPS) on the Alternative to RDA Instruction 9.2.2.5.3.
   f. Joan Biella, Heidi Lerner, and Nancy Sack will form a subcommittee to consider further how
      to channel questions and submit formal proposals regarding AJL concerns toward RDA.
      The subcommittee will also consider establishing an RDA FAQ on the Committee’s wiki.
   g. Heidi Lerner will be the new chair of the Cataloging Committee; thank you to all outgoing
      members of the committee. Thank you to Jasmin Nof for her continuing efforts on the
      Cataloging wiki.
   h. The Cataloging Committee will request a longer (1.5 hours instead of 1) session for next year

4. Awards Committee Report (Daniel Scheide)
   a. Winner of the Bibliography Award is the Bibliographia Karaitica, by Barry Dov Walfish
      and Mikhail Kizilov. It was noted for its deep comprehensiveness
   b. There will be no reference award this year, for lack of exemplary works in this area.
   c. New chair of the award committee is Sharon Benamou
   d. New members of the award committee: Randall Belinfante, Rebecca Jefferson, and
      Amanda Seigel. Yoram Bitton and Pinchas Roth will remain on the committee.
   e. They are coming to the end of the five year commitment for the award, and are working
      with the donors to extend it.
5. **World Congress of Jewish Studies (Daniel Scheide)**
   a. Deadline for submission is July 1, 2012
   b. There will be 1 or 2 panels
   c. Highly recommended (at Hebrew University)
   d. AJL will pay for registration

6. **Digitization Committee (Rachel Leket-Mor)**
   a. Committee will be disbanded because of other initiatives and lack of activity – it may be revived in another form – send input to Daniel Scheide

7. **Board and Council notes (RLM):**
   a. Judaica Librarianship will be going electronic, Rachel Leket-Mor is working on getting a publisher. Thank you to the editorial board who have put so much work into the latest issue

8. **RAS Brochures (RLM)**
   a. Two brochures featuring the RAS Division are now available for members representing AJL in other conferences – an English version (Daniel Scheide) and a Hebrew one (Rachel Leket-Mor). The Hebrew brochure was circulated in Israel during two meetings in May-June 2012; the English one will be circulated at ALA later this month, thanks to Elliot Gertel. Please contact Daniel and/or Rachel for electronic copies.

9. **Surveys (RLM):**
   a. New survey planned on benefits of membership (Scheduled for August/September): What do members value as benefits of AJL? (This is connected to the question of publishing JL online)
   b. 2010 survey – wanted to publish in the member-only section of the website (might send it through the member-only email list).
      i. Alarming fact – by 2020, 36% of RAS members will retire. Hopefully AJL leadership can address this.

10. **Other:**
    a. Student essay contest will be offered to attract students to AJL – information will be available this fall through Library Student listservs, and the winning essay will be published in Judaica Librarianship. The winner will also be participating in next year’s conference.
    b. Conferences attended by the RAS President:
       i. AJS
       ii. Teldan
          1. A proposal was given from an e-book distributor (Kotar) for consortial prices for institutional members – is this something we would be interested in getting?
          2. Affiliation with ASMI
    c. New Affiliations:
       i. Association of Jewish Studies (we’re working on getting benefits from affiliation)
       ii. Council of American Jewish Museums

11. **Other notes:**
    a. Get involved! Do reviews for the AJL Reviews!
    b. Two brochures (one in Hebrew, one in English) have been created for RAS; the Hebrew brochure was given out at the NLI and Teldan conferences. Contact Rachel Leket-Mor or Daniel Scheide for copies.

12. **Questions:**
    a. Sara Leah Gross: Can you talk about the current student body?
    b. Michelle Chesner: There is a small group on the listserv (about 30 people), and there are periodic periods of activity, but not much.

13. **Suggestions for topics at next year’s conference (email Daniel Scheide with more ideas):**
    a. Galveston Movement
    b. Experts on employment, etc. to talk about possibilities and support the need for jobs
    c. U. of Texas at Austin has many manuscripts, including the Isaac Bashevis Singer collection
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12/11
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