



## AJL'S DIGITAL CONFERENCE 2020

*Staying Connected*

**JUNE 28-JULY 2, 2020**

Association of Jewish Libraries:  
The Leading Authority on Judaic Librarianship

**JEWISHLIBRARIES.ORG**

### Sunday, June 28, 2020

**11:00amEDT**      **How to Use Socio & Zoom**

**12:00pmEDT**      **Newcomer's Welcome**

Get the most out of our first virtual conference and meet some new friends! Join AJL member and past president, **Heidi Rabinowitz**, as she explains tips on the best ways to enjoy an AJL conference.

**2:00pmEDT**      **AJL Virtual Roundtable**

Join AJL President **Dina Herbert** and President-Elect **Kathy Bloomfield** to check-in, support one another during this turbulent time, and continue "Staying Connected."

**4:00pmEDT**      **AJL Council Meeting**

### Monday, June 29, 2020

**11:00amEDT**      **Keynote Address**

"Who Wants to Be a Jewish Reader? A Discussion on Reviewing Jewish Books" with **Jonathan Kirsch** and **Adam Kirsch**, moderated by **Erika Dreifus**.

**12:30pmEDT**      **Schools, Synagogues, Centers, and Public Libraries (SSCPL) Division Meeting**  
**Research Libraries, Archives, and Special Collections (RAS) Division Meeting**

**2:00pmEDT**      **AJL General Membership Meeting**

Presenting the Lifetime Achievement Award to **Robert Singerman**, the Sydney Taylor Body of Work Award to **Lesléa Newman** and the Fanny Goldstein Merit Award to **Zachary Baker** as well as the installation of the new AJL Board and information about the "Put-My-Library-on-the-Map Hackathon" with **Neil Frau-Cortes** (University of Maryland Libraries).

**6:00pmEDT**      **Book Club Facilitators Roundtable**

Do you lead a Jewish book club? Join **Lisa Silverman** (Burton Sperber Jewish Community Library of the American Jewish University) to discuss best practices, share your tried & true book club favorites, and learn about new resources to enhance your discussions.

**7:00pmEDT**      **Book Discussion: *On Division* by Goldie Goldbloom**

Join **Rachel Kamin** and the members of the AJL Fiction Award Committee for a discussion of the 2020 Award Winner, *On Division* by Goldie Goldbloom.



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## Tuesday, June 30, 2020

11:00amEDT

### **Sydney Taylor Book Award Winners, Part I**

Meet the Sydney Taylor Honor Award Winners, including **Amy June Bates** (*Gittel's Journey*), **Debbie Levy** (*The Key from Spain*), **Andrew Maraniss** (*Games of Deception*), **Sofiya Pasternack** (*Anya and the Dragon*), and **Victoria Ortiz** (*Dissenter on the Bench*), and hear from the committee members (**Rebecca Levitan**, **Rena Citrin**, **Shoshana Flax**, **Marjorie Ingall**, **Sylvie Shaffer & Rivka Yerushalmi**) about their favorite books of the year.

### **RAS Awards: The AJL Judaica Reference Award and the Judaica Bibliography Award**

**William Gross** will receive the Bibliography Award for *Catalog of Catalogs: A Bibliography of Temporary Exhibition Catalogs Since 1876 that Contain Items of Judaica* and **Noam Sienna** will receive the Reference Award for *A Rainbow Thread: An Anthology of Queer Jewish Texts from the First Century to 1969*. **Marcin Wodzinski**, whose *Historical Atlas of Hasidism* won the 2018 AJL Reference Award, will also discuss his work.

12:30pmEDT

### **Sydney Taylor Book Award Winners, Part II**

Meet the Sydney Taylor Book Award Winners **Sue Macy & Stacy Innerst** (*The Book Rescuer*), **R.J. Palacio** (*White Bird*), and **Rachel DeWoskin** (*Someday We Will Fly*).

### **Cataloging Updates**

"RDA 'Oy Vey' Copy and Complex Cataloging in the Languages of Judaism" with **Elizabeth Fedden** (Leo Baeck Institute) and the Library of Congress Israel and Judaica Section Cataloging Update with **Yisrael Meyerowitz**, **Gail Shirazi**, **Jeremiah Aaron Taub**, and **Galina Teverovsky**.

2:00pmEDT

### **Fresh Lit: Recent & Forthcoming Adult Jewish Fiction**

How can you keep up with all the Jewish fiction published in a year? Hear from the members of the AJL Fiction Award committee (**Rosalind Reisner**, **Merrily Hart**, **Rachel Kamin**, **Laura Schutzman & Sheryl Stahl**) and meet the 2020 AJL Fiction Award Winner **Goldie Goldbloom**, author of *On Division*, and the Honor Winner **Julie Orringer**, author of *The Flight Portfolio*.

### **Collecting & Collections**

"Cataloging and Collecting of Unconventional Materials" with **Daniel Stuhlman**, "Discoveries in the Fragments Collection in the 2019 Moldovan Gift" with **Louis (Chaim) Meiselman** (University of Pennsylvania Libraries), and "Zekhor yemot olam, binu shenot dor va-dor" with **David B. Levy** (Touro College)



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### Tuesday, June 30, 2020 (continued)

**7:00pmEDT** **Maidels and Dreidels and Ladles, Oh My! The Journey of a Jewish Children's Book Writer with Lesléa Newman**, Sydney Taylor Body of Work Award Winner and author of *Gittel's Journey*, a Sydney Taylor Honor Award Winner.

### Wednesday, July 1, 2020

**8:00amEDT** **International Librarians' Roundtable**

**11:00amEDT** **Building Bridges in the Day School Library**  
"Librarians and Teachers: Integrating Modern Jewish Literature into Jewish Education" with **Sarah Feldman** (Gann Academy) and "Infusing Jewish Values into a Digital Citizenship Curriculum" with **Julie Koven Levine** (The Rashi School).

#### **International Judaica Collections Spanning the Globe, Part I**

The National Library of Israel (**Michal Gruenwald**), Jewish Art and Life Wing at The Israel Museum, Jerusalem (**Anna Nizza-Caplan**); Russian State Library (**Ekaterina Oleshkevich**), Hungarian Jewish Museum and Archives (**Zsuzsanna Toronyi**), and Library of the Rabbinical Seminary, Budapest (**Balazs Tamasi**).

**12:30pmEDT** **Jewish Librarians in Secular Libraries**  
Learn from four librarians in the field – **Robbin Friedman** (Chappaqua Library), **Susan Kusel** (Temple Rodef Shalom), **Rebecca Levitan** (Baltimore County Public Library) and **Sylvie Shaffer** (Capitol Hill Day School) – about the special challenges of being a Jewish librarian at a secular institution.

#### **International Judaica Collections Spanning the Globe, Part II**

Alliance Israelite Universelle, Paris (**Jean-Claude Kuperminc**), Ets Hayim Library, Amsterdam (**Heide Warncke**), Braginsky Collection, Zurich (**Emile Schrijver**), Goethe University, Frankfurt (**Kerstin von der Krone**), and the British Library (**Ilana Tahan**).

**2:00pmEDT** **Why Social Media Matters to Readers & Writers and What Librarians Need to Know**  
An informative program with "The Good Book Fairy" **Lauren Margolin** and educator & author **Liza Wiemer** about what it takes to become a trusted reviewer readers can rely upon, what it means to be an influencer, the unique environment for interactions between reviewers, readers, and authors and how social media can have positive impact on the books authors write.

#### **Archives, Old & New**

"Partnership on the Prairie" with **Kate Dietrick** (University of Minnesota, Upper Midwest Jewish Archives) and "Collecting Kentucky Jewish History: Covenant and Collaboration" with **Sarah Dorpinghaus** (University of Kentucky Libraries), **Heather Fox** (University of Louisville), and **Abby Glogower** (Jewish Community Archives at the Filson Historical Society).



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### Wednesday, July 1, 2020 (continued)

7:00pmEDT

#### **Library Advocacy Conversation**

“Do They Know Your Worth? Showcasing Your Value in the Library and How AJL Can Help” with **Sean Boyle**, Librarian at the Jewish Day School of the Lehigh Valley and Chair of the Advocacy Committee for AJL.

### Thursday, July 2, 2020

11:00amEDT

#### **Listening & Learning about Diversity in Jewish Literature for Children & Teens**

Join **Aviva Brown** (author), **Esme Raji Codell** (librarian/author/blogger), **Angelica Ruiz** (synagogue librarian) and **Joni Sussman** (Kar-Ben Publishing) to discuss issues of diversity within modern children's literature: why it's important, how it is being achieved, who can/should write it, and how Jewish kidlit fits in.

#### **Collecting & Cataloging in 2020**

“Collecting on Covid-19 in the Jewish Community” with **Yoel Finkelman** (National Library of Israel) and **Shuli Berger** (Yeshiva University) and OCLC Updates with **Nathan Putnam**.

12:30pmEDT

#### **Reviewing and Evaluating Picture Books**

What makes an excellent picture book for young readers? What are some great picture books of 2019 and 2020? **Betsy Bird & Brian Wilson** (Evanston Public Library) will discuss what they look for when choosing books for programs or one-on-one sharing, for best of the year presentations, and for their blog reviews.

#### **Digital Projects in Jewish Studies**

Stern College Natural Language Processing Lab (**Josh Waxman**), Penn Judaica DH Overview (**Emily Esten**), and Linked Open Data for Jewish Studies from the DiJeSt project (**Kepa Rodriguez, Yael Netzer & Sinai Rusenik**).

2:00pmEDT

#### **Funny, They Don't Look Jewish! A Live Comic Book Podcast**

Explore the Jewish content in comic books with podcast hosts **Brandon Bernstein & Henry Bernstein** who make the case that superhero comics are an excellent avenue to get young people to read, as well as an untapped tool to explore Jewish identity in a positive, thought-provoking and inclusive way.

#### **Documenting Global Jewish Communities**

“Beyond the Holocaust: Studying Global Jewish History Through the USC Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive” with **Deborah Margolis** (Michigan State University), “Reconsidering Library Standards to Capture the World of Ladino Publishing” with **Makena Mezistrano** (University of Washington), and “Displaced Archives in the Study of the Western Sephardic Diaspora” with **Amalia S. Levi** (The HeritEdge Connection, Barbados).

7:00pmEDT

#### **Cocktail Hour with Brain Bash Trivia!**