The Association of Jewish Libraries

Celebrates Its Yovel/Jubilee!
Conference
Sheraton Silver Spring Hotel,
Silver Spring, Maryland
June 21-24, 2015
Beginnings

• 1946 - The Jewish Librarians Association
  • Scholars or professional librarians at academic and communal organizations

• 1962 - The Jewish Library Association
  • Local Jewish library associations come together to guide volunteers and non-professionals in Jewish libraries in synagogue and JCC libraries
Miriam Leikind, President of the Jewish Library Association
Second Annual Convention, Cleveland, 1963

JEWISH LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
SECOND ANNUAL CONVENTION
Cleveland, Ohio
June 2 - 5, 1963

MINUTES

Business Meeting: Monday, June 3, 1963
9:15 A.M.
Chaired by President, Miss Miriam Leikind

The Opening Session of the Jewish Library Association was convened at
the Statler-Hilton Hotel in Cleveland, Ohio on Monday morning, June 3, 1963 at 9:15 A.M.
by Miss Miriam Leikind, President.

Greetings were extended by Mr. Raymond C. Lindquist, Director of the Cleveland
Public Library, Mr. Lewis C. Naylor, Director of the County Library System of
Cuyahoga County, and Mr. Jesse H. Shera, Dean of the School of Library Science of
Western Reserve University.

Mr. Lindquist on behalf of the Cleveland Public Library presented Miss Leikind
with the symbolic key to the Cleveland Main Library. Mr. Naylor stressed the fine
relationship which exists among the heterogeneous library groups in this area.
Dean Shera greeted the delegates and invited them to visit the automation center at
Western Reserve University Library School.

Miss Leikind reported on some her activities as chairman of the Jewish Library
Association during the past year. Many institutions have reported help in organizing
and developing Jewish libraries. Her answering letters included copies of the
Cedarabas and almanac as well as classification schemes and subject headings.

During the past year the American Institute for Unpublished Work in Chicago
to add it to the organization of that community with Miss, Horowitz, Schiffer, a meeting
can was held in New York City for the purpose of receiving from librarians who had been
serving with the Jewish Library Association of Israel and one arranged for an
exchange of titles and other materials, and plans for a closer relationship
between the two groups.

In the name of NA, she endorsed the notion of American libraries cooperating
and the President, Mr. Edward Schiffer, of the Jewish Book Publishers Association
about children's books appearing in the next edition. She may be a cooperation and new
library edition. As a result the Sydnean which is sponsored and published
by the JCRA may one be purchased in either a library edition or a commercial
version.

The work for current names and addresses was stressed. Yell has often been re-
curved on some differences. In order that all correspondence and payment of dues is
accompanied with the full name and address of the J. L. J. subscriber.

There was some discussion concerning availability of regional meetings of J. L. J. members.
Herb Zafran (HUC), president of the Jewish Librarians Association and vice-president of the Jewish Library Association, on merging:

The Jewish Library Association becomes the Synagogue and Centers Division.

The Jewish Librarians Association becomes the Research and Special Libraries Division.
The Presidents of the new AJL will come alternatively from the two Divisions – a structure we still follow today!
A new organization emerges: the Association of Jewish Libraries!

Jewish Library Association (JLA) + Jewish Librarians Association (JLA) = Association of Jewish Libraries (AJL)
First Presidents of the Newly Organized AJL

- Herbert Zafran 1966
- Jacob Dienstag 1967
- Charles Berlin 1968
- Mae Weine 1969
- Nathan Kaganoff 1970-1972
- Anne Kirshenbaum 1972-1974
- Leonard Gold 1974-1976
The Third Annual Convention
Cincinnati, 1968
Atlantic City – the Fourth Annual AJL Convention 1969

Banquet

Presentation of Shirley Kravitz Children’s Book Award to Esther Hautzig by Ethel Saferin, President of SSC
Jewish Book Council and Association of Jewish Libraries at ALA

Book exhibit sponsored by JBC and AJL at the ALA Convention, Detroit, MI

Head table at AJL Convention, NYC
Minutes of the Technical Processes Committee of the Research and Special Libraries Division of AJL 1968

The Convention Committee suggested the need for a session on LC cataloging.

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Years of Growth, 1975-1985, AJL Presidents

- Leonard Gold 1974-1976
- Margot Berman 1976-1978
- Harvey Horowitz 1978-1980
- Barbara Leff 1980-1982
- Philip Miller 1982-1984
- Hazel Karp 1984-1986
AJL Annual Convention, Grossingers in Liberty, NY, 1981

Sadie Rose Weilerstein Accepting Body-of-Work Award
Winning Favorites: Sydney Taylor Books, Funded Since 1984
Sydney Taylor Manuscript Awards, Since 1985
First AJL Conference in Washington, DC, 1989

Marcia Posner and Irene Wixman

Michael Grunberger

Judye Groner and Madeline Wikler—Kar-Ben Copies

Marcia Posner and Irene Wixman
AJL’s Conference in Israel in 1990!

HUC-JIR, Jerusalem

Ralph Simon

Edith Lubetski

Esther Nussbaum

Marcia Posner
First International Conference of Judaica and Israeli Librarians

Herb Zafren accepts Life Membership Award

Linda Lerman (Yale) and Herbert Zafran (HUC-JIR)
At HUC-JIR Campus in Jerusalem, 1990
Aviva Astrinsky, Linda Lerman, Esther Nussbaum, Merrily Hart

Aileen Grossberg, Sylvia Eisen, Ralph Simon, Merrily Hart, Linda Lerman, Hazel Karp
Hazel Karp at the podium, Marcia Posner, standing

Marcia Posner, outgoing president

Head table of the Israel Conference banquet

Installation of Linda Lerman
1989 Reference Book Award: The Talmud= [Talmud Bavli]: The Steinsaltz Edition

Zachary Baker

Adin Steinsaltz
AJL Expands, 1985-1995, AJL Presidents

- Hazel Karp 1984-1986
- Edith Lubetski 1986-1988
- Marcia Posner 1988-1990
- Linda Lerman 1990-1992
We loved these Sydney Taylor Book Award Winners
AJL’s Peer-Reviewed Journal
Since 1983
AJL Reference Book Awards
funded by Dr. Greta Silver
since 1984
AJL Judaica Bibliography Awards
Funded by Eric Chaim Kline
Since 1990
HASAFRAN:
The AJL Discussion Forum

This column covers three months, January through March, 1995. In January, there were over 57 messages posted on Hasafran. Here is a selection:

Rosalie Katchen (rkatchen@binah.cc.brandeis.edu) and Lenore Bell (Bell3@mail.loc.gov) provided much needed clarifications on BM 522 Table IV, the "Responsa table, admittedly one of the more complicated tables," at the prompting of A. Astrinsky (astrinsky@mail.cjs.upenn.edu, 01/04-06).

Lia Levy (t0550b@vm.biu.ac.il) and Ruth Levush (levush@mail.loc.gov) evaluated TAKDIN, a CD-ROM of legal interest, after a query from N. Rosen. (01/06, 01/11 & 01/16).

Ya’akov Aronson (t05614@vm.biu.ac.il) reported on a November 94 visit to the library of Yeshivat Har Etzion in Alon Shevut (01/09) and on the meeting of the Judaica Librarians’ Group at the Schocken Library (01/19).

upenn.edu) and A. Kuperman (kuperman@mail.loc.gov) responded to the request of Diane Romm on how to display records in Full MARC format on the internet, especially in ALEPH systems (Israeli universities) and in (LC) MARVEL (03/09 & 03/10).

Z. Baker (BM.YIB@rlg.stanford.edu) updated us "on the arrival of YIVO’s archives from Vilna,” and also posted the regulations for the Vilna Ghetto Reading Room (03/02, 03/06 & 03/13).

H. Lerner (Heidi.Lerner@forysthe.stanford.edu) gave safranim “directions on how to install fonts to display Hebrew text in Netscape.” and in Eudora (03/06, 03/13).

C. Seymour (seymour@ashur.cc.biu.ac.il) posted a “summary of what proportion of the collections of Israeli universities is available online” (03/20, S. Fraenkel 03/21)

Ha-Safran since 1991!
AJL Heads South to Miami Beach in 1991!
Conferences Back to Back/Coast to Coast!
Beverly Hills, CA Conference 1992


Food and Fun!
Conferences in the South and in the North!
Into the Millenium, 1995-2005, AJL Presidents

- Esther Nussbaum 1996-1998
- David Gilner 1998-2000
- Toby Rossner 2000-2002
- Pearl Berger 2002-2004
- Ronda Rose 2004-2006
Toronto Hosts AJL in 1996
AJL Heads to in Cleveland, 1997!
1997: AJL Participates in the World Congress for Jewish Studies for the First Time!

AJL Session at the 12th World Congress of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem, August 4, 1997

An overflow crowd showed up for the AJL-sponsored session at the World Congress of Jewish Studies on “Computerized Judaica Tools and Databases.” Additional chairs had to be brought in twice as more and more people joined the audience, and in the end it was literally a standing room-only session of 99-101 participants as compared with 29-30 participants in many of the other sessions.

The original idea for such a session came from Aviva Astrinsky of the Center for Judaic Studies of the University of Pennsylvania. Encouragement came from Esther Nussbaum, AJL president. The session was organized and chaired by Edith Lubecki of the Hildesheimer Library of Yeshiva University, and technical arrangements in Israel were made by Benjamin Richler of Hebrew University. Attendees included librarians, students, and scholars. Among the librarians were participants from the U.S., France, Great Britain, and South Africa.

A reception before the session hosted by Helen and Haran Riklin of Jerusalem Books created a festive backdrop to the program. Colleagues from the world over were delighted to meet and network. At the session Eliezer Adler, recently appointed associate professor of library science who serves as coordinator of the Inter-University Computerized Library Network in Israel, gave a comprehensive presentation including information about the computerization of Judaica resources, problems involved—especially with Hebrew language materials—and a review of the most important sources currently available.

Ellis Weinberger of the computer staff at the Geneva Unit of Cambridge University Library described work being done there to make available on the World Wide Web the Hildesheimer Library’s extensive collection of handwritten medieval manuscripts. Weilczer Rosner, who heads a unit of the Inter-University Computerized Library Network in Israel, talked about the work involved in producing microfiche editions of this material. To date, approximately 1,250 items have been filmed, providing inexpensive access to previously hard-to-obtain material.

All the participants came away from the session with enhanced knowledge about the topics discussed and it is hoped that the AJL-sponsored session will become a permanent part of the bi-annual World Congress of Jewish Studies.

Yaakov Avramov, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat Gan, Israel
AJL’s 1998 Conference in Philadelphia

President David Gilner and past presidents

Mummers!

Your favorite t-shirt day!
AJL in Philadelphia in 1998!

Mae Weine and her sister, Grace Friedman

Ellen Cole, STBA Chair, holding STBA Book

Barbara Diamond Goldin and Ellen Cole
AJL Heads South to Boca Raton in 1999!

Etta Gold and Schomit Schwarzer Co-Chair our Convention
A CAPITOL CONVENTION!
WASHINGTON, DC
2000

Rita Saccal, Veronica Belling

Nahid Gerstein, Peggy Pearlstein
AJL conference in La Jolla, CA 2001!

Barbara Leff

Esther Nussbaum
AJL in Denver in 2002!
Rocky Mountain Mountain Chai!

Registration

Bernice Tarler and Susan Berson

Heidi Lerner and Joan Biella

Toby Rossner and Pearl Berger
AJL Honors Elhanan Adler, Denver, 2002

AJL Officers, Denver, 2002
AJL Members Dining in Denver, 2002!
The AJL Denver Convention in 2002 Bustled!

Helene Tuchman Chaired the Accreditation Committee. Certificates for Amalia Warshenbrot, Steve Bergson, and Julie Moss
Sidney Taylor Books Awards at the Denver Convention in 2002!

Maryann Kovalski, illustrator of *Rivka’s First Thanksgiving*

Catherine Reef, *Sigmund Freud, Pioneer of the Mind*
In spite of the SARs epidemic, the conference was wonderful!

Dr. Jeffrey Malka, M.D. receives RAS award for Sephardic Genealogy: Discovering Your Sephardic Ancestors and Their World from Dr. Peggy K. Pearlstein
Author Luncheon in Brooklyn for the 2004 AJL Conference!

David Adler and Leah Adler

Marlene Schiffman and Larry Schiffman

E.M. Broner

Peninah Schramm
Judaica Reference and Bibliography Awards at the Brooklyn AJL Conference in 2004
Into the Digital Age: AJL Presidents 2005-2015

- Ronda Rose 2004-2006
- Laurel Wolfson 2006-2008
- Suzi Dubin 2008-2010
- Jim Rosenbloom 2010-2012
- Heidi Estrin 2012-2014
- Yaffa Weisman 2014-2016
More Favorite Sydney Taylor Award Winners
South Florida AJL Chapter Tours
Sendak Exhibit, 2005
AJL Heads West Again in 2005, to Oakland!
AJL Meets in Cambridge, MA in 2006!

Joan Biella, Heidi Lerner, Elhanan Adler

LC Israel/Judaica Cataloging and Acquisitions Team

Jeff Shandler
Cambridge, MA in 2006!

Grace Paley, Gail Twersky Reimer

New York Metropolitan Area!

Lunch with Friends

Suzi Dubin, et. al
AJL Bibliography

Book Awards

Special Body-of-Work Citation in 2007: Taylor-Schecter Genizah Research Unit at the University of Cambridge, Stefan Reif, Director Emeritus

Special Bibliography Body-of-Work Award in 2009: Yossi Galron, Head of the Hebraica and Jewish Studies Library at The Ohio State University Libraries
Scottsdale, Arizona 2007!

Julie Koven

Leah Cohen

Jasmin Shinohara

Amalia and Norma

Yaffa Weisman
Avi Chai Librarians Attend 2007 AJL Convention in Scottsdale

SUSAN DUBIN

The Association of Jewish Libraries welcomed 45 high school librarians who were funded by the Avi Chai Bookshelf Grant at its annual convention in Scottsdale. High school librarians from all over the United States and Canada participated. Avi Chai librarians presented sessions on information literacy in the digital age (Karen Ulric and Marsha Lustigman), Google for librarians (Adele Bildersee), and Hebrew cataloging with OPALS (Henie Krishtalka and Norma Newman). Leslie Monchar, a Bookshelf librarian and chair of the Professional Development and Continuing Education Committee, organized the outstanding Freshman Seminar, Bruchie Weinstein, another Bookshelf librarian, presented as part of that session. Handouts from these sessions are posted on the Avi Chai Bookshelf Librarians wiki. They can be accessed at http://jewishschoollibraries.pbwiki.com. Four sessions were videotaped by Avi Chai and are available for those who were not able to attend or would like a review:


In addition to presenting at the convention, several of the Bookshelf librarians have accepted leadership roles in AJL. Marsha Lustigman, from Montreal, has a board position as the new SSC secretary. Serving on the council are Leslie Monchar, as chair of the Professional Development and Continuing Education Committee; and Michal Davis, as co-chair, along with Lani Droz, of the Mentoring Committee. Participation in AJL on a national or local level is encouraged to further professional development and recognition.

Avi Chai has been providing support to high schools since 1999. One hundred sixty-nine schools have participated in the program, which offers funding for school libraries to purchase materials. Library mentors are assigned to work with Avi Chai librarians to help with library operations and procedures as well as ordering. A new Avi Chai initiative this year will provide online webinars for further professional development opportunities. Librarians in the Bookshelf program are encouraged to join AJL and attend its conventions. AJL provides sessions at each convention that will be of interest to high school librarians, and gives the Avi Chai librarians the opportunity to meet their professional colleagues and exchange ideas. Avi Chai is planning to provide funding for Bookshelf librarians to attend the AJL Convention again in Cleveland in 2008.
We Remember...
Miriam Leikind, Leonard Mathless, Dina Abramowicz, Rosalie Katchen, Irene Wixman, Rabbi Theodore Wiener

We Remember...
Miriam Leikind, Leonard Mathless, Dina Abramowicz, Rosalie Katchen, Irene Wixman, Rabbi Theodore Wiener

Miriam Leikind
Miriam Leikind, who served as librarian at The Temple in New York City for almost 20 years, was a dedicated and beloved member of the Jewish community. Her contributions to the library and the broader community were significant and enduring. In addition to her work at The Temple, Miriam Leikind was a vocal advocate for the education and development of Jewish librarians. She served as President of the Association of Jewish Libraries and was a key figure in the establishment of the Jewish Librarian Training Program, which was instrumental in advancing the field of Jewish librarianship.

Leonard Mathless
Leonard Mathless was a passionate and dedicated librarian and leader in the Jewish community. He served as the librarian at Temple Emanu-El in New York City and was a central figure in the development of the Jewish Librarian Training Program. Leon was known for his commitment to excellence and his dedication to advancing the field of Jewish librarianship.

Dina Abramowicz
Dina Abramowicz was a prominent figure in the Jewish community and a dedicated librarian. She served as the librarian at the Jewish Theological Seminary and was a key figure in the establishment of the Jewish Librarian Training Program. Dina was known for her passion for Jewish culture and her commitment to advancing the field of Jewish librarianship.

Rosalie Katchen
Rosalie Katchen was a respected and beloved figure in the Jewish community. She served as the librarian at Temple Emanu-El in New York City and was a key figure in the development of the Jewish Librarian Training Program. Rosalie was known for her dedication to excellence and her commitment to advancing the field of Jewish librarianship.

Irene Wixman
Irene Wixman was a dedicated librarian and leader in the Jewish community. She served as the librarian at Temple Emanu-El in New York City and was a key figure in the development of the Jewish Librarian Training Program. Irene was known for her commitment to excellence and her dedication to advancing the field of Jewish librarianship.

Rabbi Theodore Wiener
Rabbi Theodore Wiener was a prominent figure in the Jewish community and a respected leader in the field of Jewish librarianship. He served as the librarian at Temple Emanu-El in New York City and was a key figure in the development of the Jewish Librarian Training Program. Rabbi Wiener was known for his commitment to excellence and his dedication to advancing the field of Jewish librarianship.

In Memoriam: Miriam Leikind
Miriam Leikind passed away in 2006. She was a dedicated and beloved member of the Jewish community and a key figure in the establishment of the Jewish Librarian Training Program. Miriam was known for her commitment to excellence and her dedication to advancing the field of Jewish librarianship.

In Memoriam: Leonard Mathless
Leonard Mathless passed away in 2005. He was a passionate and dedicated librarian and leader in the Jewish community. Leonard was known for his commitment to excellence and his dedication to advancing the field of Jewish librarianship.

In Memoriam: Dina Abramowicz
Dina Abramowicz passed away in 2006. She was a prominent figure in the Jewish community and a dedicated librarian. Dina was known for her passion for Jewish culture and her commitment to advancing the field of Jewish librarianship.

In Memoriam: Rosalie Katchen
Rosalie Katchen passed away in 2005. She was a respected and beloved figure in the Jewish community. Rosalie was known for her dedication to excellence and her commitment to advancing the field of Jewish librarianship.

In Memoriam: Irene Wixman
Irene Wixman passed away in 2006. She was a dedicated librarian and leader in the Jewish community. Irene was known for her commitment to excellence and her dedication to advancing the field of Jewish librarianship.

In Memoriam: Rabbi Theodore Wiener
Rabbi Theodore Wiener passed away in 2005. He was a prominent figure in the Jewish community and a respected leader in the field of Jewish librarianship. Rabbi Wiener was known for his commitment to excellence and his dedication to advancing the field of Jewish librarianship.
AJL Reference Book

Awards
The Windy City – Chicago—in 2009!
Wined and Dined in Chicago in 2009

Sharon Benamou

Yossi Galron

Marsha Lustigman

Marina Korenberg, z”l

Yelena Luckert
Chicago, 2009

Book vendor and exhibiter Jeff (Boaz) Spitzer and family
Seattle Conference 2010

Houston Conference 2013

Benjamin Fryser, Adam Schiff, Aaron Taub

Ela Pelish

Amalia Warshenbrot

Nancy Sack and Aaron Taub
Montreal 2011!

Some AJL Cataloging Committee Members

Yiddish Theater, Archives, Playbills, and Posters
In 2012, AJL Heads West Again!

California Delegates, Enid Sperber and Sharon Benamou, Co-Chairs

The Langhnam Hotel
Hot in Houston!
2013
We Remember...

Herbert Zafren

Dan Rettberg

Ilan Weinberg
Las Vegas Conference 2014

Presidents (and to be)
Judaica Libraianship Becomes an online journal in 2014!

Rachel Leket-Mor, Dr. Bella Hass Weinberg, Zachary Baker

Dr. Bella Hass Weinberg
AJL/Capital Area Chapter Remembers Our Members

Marina Korenberg (left) 1956-2015 with Yelena Luckert

Barbara Widem (1928-2015)
AJL on Facebook Since 2009! Have You Friended Us?

Association of Jewish Libraries
May 13 at 3:28pm

AJL's own David Hirsch!

UCLA Librarian Roams the Middle East for Magical Material
David Hirsch, UCLA's librarian for Middle Eastern and Central Asian Studies, is on a mission to collect the best printed material from the Arab world. By Olivia...
Thanks to all who submitted photos, documents, and advice!

Joy Kingsolver

Ya’akov Aronson
Kathy Bloomfield
Stacy Brown
Heidi Estrin
Rachel Leket-Mor
Barabar Leff
Linda Lerman
Joyce Levine
Yelena Luckert
Peggy Pearlstein
Marcia Posner
Shoshana Seidman
Jeffrey Spitzer
Aaron Taub
Amalia Warshenbrot