

Title of presentation as announced in Program Book: “*AJL President's Report, 2009*” by Susan Dubin.

An educator for over 30 years, Susan Dubin has taught all ages from preschool through adult. She has been the library administrator and instructor at Valley Beth Shalom Day School since 1982 and is currently heading *Off-the-Shelf Library Services*, a library consulting firm. Susan was awarded Association of Jewish Libraries' Fanny Goldstein Award in 2001 and the AJLSC Dorothy Schroeder Award in 1995. She is the only librarian to receive the Milken Family Foundation Distinguished Jewish Educator Award. She is currently Publicity Chair and on the Board of Directors for the Children's Literature Council. Susan served as the AJL National Convention Chair and Parliamentarian and is a past president of Synagogue, School, and Center Division as well as a past president of AJLSC. She serves as the President for the 2008-2010 term of the international organization of the Association of Jewish Libraries.

AJL President's Report

July 5, 2009

Submitted by Susan Dubin, President 2008-2010

As with most organizations, the main work of the organization is run by various committees. According to our organizational structure, each of the various committees report to different members of the Executive Board. Below are highlights of committee reports from those committees answering directly to the President according to the organizational chart:

Committee Reports:

1. Parliamentarian: No questions came up since Midwinter.
2. Constitution and by-laws: Constitutional amendments were passed at Council meeting at Midwinter. They need to be put to a vote at the general meeting.
3. National Convention: Worked on establishing parameters for working on a National level. These new national responsibilities will be discussed at Council. Looked at possible hotels in Montreal for 2011. Will visit Montreal to make final decisions this summer.
 - a. Chicago: Answered email queries from very competent Chicago Chairs.
 - b. Seattle: Answered email queries about Seattle pre-planning. Spoke with hotel about renegotiating contract terms in light of the recession. We will renegotiate after Chicago when we have more information about attendance numbers.
 - c. Avi Chai: Answered email queries about Avi Chai procedures. We have been asked to write a letter proposing some level of support for future collaboration since this is the last year of full Avi Chai support for Bookshelf librarians.
4. Chapter Relations: Chapter Relations Chairs have initiated 2 new chapters in Georgia-Atlanta and Northwest Region. There is additional interest in forming chapters in San Antonio and Sacramento and Israel.

- a. Chapter representatives : Three representatives are currently on Council. Are all three continuing?
5. Mentoring: A Mentor Mingle is scheduled for Convention. The Mentor Committee will reorganize to try to take advantage of local leadership, asking for regional or Chapter level mentors. The Chair is working with other Committee Chairs to provide more support for mentors and those needing mentoring.
6. Task force: The Task Force filed an extensive report with Council. They made specific recommendations that will be voted upon by Board and Council. These include affiliating with ALA and other library or educational organizations, working with a consultant or consultants to revamp our website and provide more social networking opportunities, establishing a technology committee, hire an administrative consultant to do some of the tasks that we, as volunteers do not have time to keep up-to-date, and make minor changes in our mission statement and goals to reflect some of these ideas. Their recommendations will be discussed item by item in detail at Board and Council.

President's Activities from January to June:

This has been an especially stressful year for many of our library colleagues due to the economic downturn. To support those members of our organization that faced downsizing or elimination of their positions, I wrote letters as requested and posted a generic letter that members could use to encourage their administrations to place a higher value on libraries.

When visiting new members in Sacramento to meet with their administrators to encourage library support, I spoke to several new members about forming a chapter in the area to further support them through local networking.

After a visit to Israel with the hope of re-establishing a chapter there and encouraging more of a connection between AJL and Israeli members, Ya'akov Aronson followed up by contacting people in the field about having a one-day seminar on Judaic librarianship sponsored by AJL. There has been tremendous interest in this idea. I also met with several Israeli authors who suggested that AJL could support more of an interest in Israeli literature by having a column in the Newsletter devoted to highlighting Israeli authors. They offered to contribute to this column by contacting their colleagues and writing about them.

A committee to organize an award recognizing significant support of Judaic librarianship by an administrator or board will meet at Convention and work out guidelines for the award and suggest possible organizations that AJL could partner with to recognize library supporters.

With the help of Webmaster Nancy Sack and PR guru Heidi Estrin, we developed an AJL President's Blog and posted news and personal commentary as well as information from Council members about AJL activities. I also posted information about our convention and regional events on an AJL Facebook page, Linked –in page, and Good Reads page.

In an attempt to provide discounts to AJL members, I solicited Pitspopany, Kar-Ben, Demco, and Mackin who have agreed to AJL discounts. Mackin has also agreed to offer Judaic cataloging in the Elazar classification system. I am still trying to work out programs with Baker and Taylor, Proquest, and H.W. Wilson.

A new feature on our website is a video feed from JTN. They are providing free programming that may be of interest to our members.

New Initiatives:

Task force recommendations:

1. Affiliation with ALA. Council voted to proceed with an application to affiliate.
2. Establishment of an AJL liaison with the following organizations:
 - a. ATLA - American Theological Library Association
 - b. URJ/NATE – National Association of Temple Educators
 - c. PEJE – Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education
 - d. JEA - The Jewish Educators Assembly
 - e. JESNA -- The Jewish Education Service of North America
 - f. The Avi Chai Foundation
 - g. Harold Grinspoon Foundation
3. Professional web design. Council voted to approve hiring a company to complete this work.
4. Appoint a technology committee. A committee has been established with Diane Romm and Joyce Levine as co-chairs.
5. Hire administrative assistant. Council approved the engaging of a consultant to help with administrative tasks as needed.
6. Changes in mission and goals. No changes were recommended at this time.

The following business was transacted:

Acceptance of design for Accreditation logo

Allow libraries to extend accreditation period to conform to new 5 year renewal

Change accreditation gift certificate to allow for using it other than through AJL publications

Volunteers for a National Convention work force with positions held for two years were solicited.

RAS Catalog and Digitization Committee Chairs will be members of Council

Provide additional funds for attendance at Midwinter

Increase funding of Doris Orenstein Award. This award will now be part of the convention stipends and first time attendees will receive recognition and assistance.

Increase amount of scholarship offered. Scholarships will be for \$1000 each.

Establish a research grant for Judaic librarians who are AJL members. This was not approved at this time.

Possibility of offering online courses or webinars for professional development. The Professional development and Continuing education committee will prepare some suggested course offerings.

Paid assistant to help with digitization project. Council approved engaging a consultant for this project.

Jewish Children's Book Month proposal from Art Scroll. We will continue to support Jewish Book Month.

Updated Board and Council information.

Reminder that 2010 is an election year. Nominating committees were established for National Board, SSC and RAS Boards. Laurel Wolfson is the chair of the National Board nominating committee.

Budget:

Of the \$2500 budgeted for the President's line, I spent \$1175.20. In addition, we filed corporate reports, consulted with our attorney and accountant, and paid our AJL liability insurance as reported by our treasurer. At this time, I feel that the budgeted amounts for this office are adequate.

As evident from the long list of initiatives, we have a tremendous task ahead of us. I am looking forward to working with everyone to keep our organization strong and responsive to the needs of our members and the changing nature of librarianship.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Dubin