



Two Outstanding Speakers to Address Los Angeles Convention

SUBMITTED BY ENID SPERBER LOS ANGELES CONVENTION 2012 CO-CHAIR

The Los Angeles convention committee is thrilled to announce that Rabbi Reuven Firestone has agreed to be the keynote speaker for our opening plenary in June of 2012. Rabbi Firestone is professor of medieval Judaism and Islam at Hebrew Union College and founder and co-director of the Center for Muslim-Jewish Engagement. Author of more than eighty scholarly articles and essays and seven books, Rabbi Firestone is known for his particular expertise in Jewish-Muslim relations. He is an entertaining speaker with rare insight into a sensitive and timely topic. We are pleased that he has accepted our invitation.

The National convention committee has decided to shake things up bit this year with a new schedule. On Wednesday morning, we will present a closing plenary. (Divisional and general meetings will be held in another time slot.) Thanks to AJL liaison to ALA Elliot Gertel, we have secured ALA president, Molly Raphael as our speaker. Since joining ALA as an affiliate several years ago we have had minimal interaction with them so we hope that this closing plenary will provide an opportunity for us to bond and give them a chance to get to know us on our turf.



AJL National Convention Committee Seeks New Members

Would you like to help plan and design future conventions? We are seeking AJL members to participate in the national convention committee. Areas of involvement could include schedule, registration, exhibits, site selection, promotion, audio-visual or volunteers. Toby Harris, chair of the convention committee, would love to hear your ideas and share expectations with you.

Her email is toj@earthlink.net. Many thanks!

AJL Online



Visit the AJL Web site at <http://www.jewishlibraries.org>.

To subscribe to Hasafran, AJL's electronic discussion list, send the message: "sub hasafran [your first and last name]" to: listproc@lists.acs.ohio-state.edu.

AJL is now on [Facebook](#). Become a fan.

Association of Jewish Libraries Research Libraries, Archives, and Special Collections Division Call for Papers, 2012 Annual Convention

BY RACHEL LEKET-MOR, RAS PRESIDENT

The Research Libraries, Archives, and Special Collections Division (RAS) of the Association of Jewish Libraries is soliciting paper proposals for AJL's 47th Annual Convention in Los Angeles, California June 17-20, 2012. Librarians, archivists, scholars, educators, authors and others will meet to share their interest in Judaica librarianship, Jewish literacy, and related topics.

We solicit paper proposals on all aspects of Judaica librarianship as it is practiced in research libraries, archives, museums, and special collections. Examples of suitable topics include, but are not limited to:

- Future of libraries in the context of Jewish Studies;
- Collection development practices and policies, patron-driven acquisitions, and the print book culture;
- Special and rare collections;
- Best practices for library operations such as licensing, copyright, cataloging and processing of print, electronic and non-text materials;
- Technological developments and tools used in higher education libraries, such as cloud computing, academic social networks, or e-book platforms;
- Best practices for user-oriented library services such as interlibrary loan, virtual reference, or teaching information literacy;
- Collaborative programs among AJL libraries or chapters;
- A special theme this year is Jewish life in Los Angeles: we welcome presentations about local institutions, libraries, archives and museums, as well as programs celebrating Jews in Hollywood, the history of the Jewish community in California or the Israeli community in Los Angeles.
- Round table discussions are welcome!

Submissions should include the following:

- Presenter's name, address, affiliation, telephone and email contacts.
- Brief biography
- Title of proposed presentation
- Summary of proposal
- Specific technology or equipment requirements, if any

All submissions must be received by November 30, 2011.

Please submit proposals by email to: ajl2012la@gmail.com or by mail to:

Sharon Benamou
UCLA Library Cataloging & Metadata Center
11020 Kinross Ave.
Box 957230
Los Angeles, CA 90095-7230

A Note from the SSC President

Dear Friends,

The SSC Division (Synagogues, Schools and Centers) is about to launch a major new effort to reach out to institutions who may not yet be members, and who would benefit from our services. To accomplish this goal, we will be exhibiting at the Biennial Convention of the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ), from Dec. 14-18. This convention, held in the Washington, DC area, will be host to thousands of people, including rabbis, lay leaders and synagogue officers as well as educators. We hope to gain many new members by publicizing the work of AJL to conference attendees.

If any of you might be able to attend even for one day, and help us staff the exhibit table, please contact Etta Gold, Publicity Chair, at egold3@earthlink.net, or Naomi Morse, Capital Area Chapter President at naomimorse@verizon.net. Free passes will be available to volunteers so you can attend sessions at the convention. Complete information about this conference can be found at <http://urjbiennial.zerista.com>.

I would also like to let you know about a wonderful new listserv tailored specifically for synagogue librarians. Lisa Silverman, Director of Sinai Temple Blumenthal Library in Los Angeles, who was the facilitator of the Synagogue Roundtable at our Montreal convention, graciously offered to start this listserv. The topics under discussion include: storytimes, budget, Elazar/Weine, cards/card catalog, volunteers, programs, friends of the library/fundraising, e-books, interns, weeding, book club titles, archives, book fair, websites/facebook/blogs, long term strategy, museums in the library, and library committees.

If you'd like to be included in the AJL-SSC Mini-Listserv, please write to Lisa at lsilverman@sinaitemple.org.

Best wishes,

Joyce Levine, SSC President

jlevine@nshahs.org

METRO digitization grant at the Center for Jewish History

BY SUSAN WOODLAND, SENIOR ARCHIVIST, THE AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Hadassah Archives and the Digital Lab at the Center for Jewish History (www.cjh.org) have completed a 2010 Collaborative Digitization Grant from METRO (www.metro.org), the Metropolitan New York Library Council, which administers grants through the New York state library system. The Hadassah Archives is currently on deposit with the American Jewish Historical Society at the Center for Jewish History,

The project included the digitization of 50 audio reels and 20 years of the Hadassah Newsletter (1914-1933). Hadassah's complete digital collection can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/64ukzxh>; click on "sound recordings" and "bulletins and newsletters" to access these files. Both collections should be excellent resources for student reports and projects at all levels of scholarship. Please browse the files and enjoy.

For additional information, please contact me at swoodland@ajhs.org.

Library Accreditation

Attention School, Synagogue and Center Libraries:

Has your library received accreditation from the AJL? The Association of Jewish Libraries Synagogue, School and Center Division (SSC) offers a certificate of accreditation, at basic as well as advanced levels, to libraries that qualify. This year's deadline for applying is January 20, 2012 and the Accreditation Committee invites you to apply! Accreditation is encouraged to help libraries achieve a high professional level in accordance with the SSC guidelines. It's an effective way to show your institution that your achievements deserve its support. Guidance and mentoring are available for libraries applying for accreditation. If the accreditation section on the AJL website (www.jewishlibraries.org) is not yet live, please contact Leah Moskovits, Accreditation Chair (accreditation@jewishlibraries.org) for accreditation information and application forms.



Chapter Chatter

TOBY ROSSNER. CHAPTER RELATIONS COMMITTEE

HOW TO BECOME AN AJL AMBASSADOR

Amalia Warshenbrot, Charlotte, North Carolina, Chapters@JewishLibraries.org

Information on Chapters can be found at:

<http://www.jewishlibraries.org/main/AboutAJL/OrganizationalStructure/Chapters.aspx>

As you will see below this Chapter Chatter is shorter than usual this time. This is not a surprise. Most chapters do not have activities in the Summer and early Fall. With the holidays so late this year I am pleased to see that six chapters had amazing programs or plans for future events. The South Florida chapter had a relative of Eli Wiesel as a guest speaker and the Long Island chapter had a tour to the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County. The Southern California chapter was treated to a presentation by AJL member Yaffa Weisman. The Capital chapter had a much needed discussion lead by Susan Freiband and a book talk. The Cleveland chapter is planning a celebration of Jewish Book Month with children's author Tami Lehman. Meanwhile Long Island and Chicago are planning trips to institutions of interest.

AJL has over twenty chapters. In some locations like Denver, the North Western region and Central New Jersey there is no chapter at the moment but AJL has a contact person. What is a contact person? He/she is acting as AJL ambassador. Sometimes a person accepts a position in a Jewish library. As this librarian (or sometimes library volunteer) visits the AJL website he/she will see the link to the chapter in clear nice green letters. After clicking on the link, a chapter map appears with the location and contact for each chapter president or contact person as well as the name of the chairperson of the chapter relations committee (me!!!). Someone new on the job and looking for contacts can find a friend. If you don't have a chapter but are willing to be this contact person, please contact me. You may be the one to introduce a new librarian or volunteer to AJL, HaSafran, the mentoring committee and accreditation, the Sydney Taylor Book Award, the fantastic Values Finder and, of course, the News & Reviews and the conventions. All you have to do is let us put your contact information on the website. Be an AJL ambassador! Librarians by nature love to help and share their knowledge. If you wish to become an AJL ambassador, please email me at Chapters@JewishLibraries.org or call me at 704-365-3313. Thank you to everyone who is willing to serve as a chapter president or AJL ambassador. Your willingness to add AJL to your list of "things to do" keeps AJL a strong and vital organization.

At this time I am in the process of updating the information on AJL website. If you are a chapter president and have not yet sent me the information that I requested, please contact me as soon as possible. AJL needs presidents for the chapters in San Diego and Philadelphia. I am thankful to the Florida West Coast chapter for keeping the memory of Sylvia Firschein z'l alive by continuing the chapter's activities. I know how much it meant to her.

SOUTH FLORIDA CHAPTER (SFAJL)

From minutes of the Sept. 6 Meeting

SFAJL met on September 6, 2011 at Temple Dor Dorim in Weston. Our host was Lorelei Ennis. After a welcome from Rabbi Norman Lipson, we heard a presentation by Jacques Weisel (a relative of Elie Weisel), who is an author, humanitarian, and life coach. He spoke about his childhood during the Holocaust and about the many remarkable circumstances that allowed him to survive.

After lunch we browsed a display of Sydney Taylor Book Award winners, honors, and notable books set up by Lorelei. Etta Gold and Heidi Estrin reported on the AJL Convention held in Montreal. Etta spoke feelingly about the value of the annual gathering. Heidi reminded members that chapter membership is separate from membership in the umbrella organization She explained that AJL dues have gone up for the first time in years, but are still well worth the price. The next convention will be held in Los Angeles on June 17-20, 2012.

Lorelei led a discussion on realism vs. escapism in young adult literature. She became interested in the topic when she read an article in the June 4 *Wall Street Journal*, "Darkness Too Visible" by Meghan Cox Gurdon, with a follow-up on June 28, 2011. The article created a furor in the children's literature community when Gurdon suggested that gritty realistic YA fiction was harmful to readers.

CAPITAL AREA CHAPTER (AJL-CAC)

Submitted by Naomi Morse, President

AJL-CAC met on October 6th at the Barnes & Noble in Rockville. The meeting began with a discussion of "Successful Strategies for Increasing Library Use". Susan Freiband facilitated, using a series of questions on this timely topic. This discussion was followed by a round robin book review that gave everyone an opportunity to briefly (2 to 3 minutes) review a book of Jewish interest that they would recommend. The meeting closed with a short report on this past summer's AJL Convention in Montreal.

LONG ISLAND CHAPTER (LI-AJL)

Submitted by Wendy A. Marx, Chapter President

Shalom from Long Island.

On top of our usual wonderful events and meetings we are looking into planning two day trips this year – one to the newly renovated National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia in the spring (looking into April 1st) and the second to the National Yiddish Book Center next fall. Proper planning and prior preparation make for a perfect program! Both trips will be open to members of local synagogues and other Jewish organizations. By doing so we get our name out with the hope that we will attract new members and retain our current ones.

From Sifria, the LIAJL Newsletter

LI-AJL met on October 23 at the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County. Following a docent-led tour of the Museum, we attended a program on Jews in Italy during the Holocaust and were privileged to receive a private tour of the Louis Posner Library.

The November 17 meeting will be held at the Old Westbury Hebrew Congregation, where librarian Tobi Innerfield will talk about the grant that she wrote for the Smart Board that is now used in both in her library and in the religious school.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER-AJLSC

Submitted Lisa Silverman with additions from the AJLSC Webpage (www.ajlsc.org)

The fall meeting of AJLSC was held on September 19 at Temple Sinai Blumenthal Library, hosted by Lisa Silverman. Dr. Yaffa Weisman presented a program on Indoctrination and Imagination in Early Israeli Children's Literature: The Case of HaSaMBaH. Dr. Weisman is Director of The Frances-Henry Library, Adjunct Associate Professor Modern Jewish Studies, Hebrew Union College-JIR, Los Angeles. One of the most popular and most influential children's adventure books in Israel in the 50s and 60s was HaSaMBaH (an acronym for Havurat Sod Muhlat Be-HeHlet = The Gang of the Ultimate Secret), authored by Igal Mosehnzon. A group of teenage boys and girls, led by a teenager named Yaron Zehavi and his aide Tamar, set out to secretly assist adults intent on ousting the British and setting up the modern State of Israel. While promoting values such as courage, camaraderie and freedom, the series also dealt with political ideologies, gender equality and ethnic diversity.

Dr. Weisman's presentation illuminated the creative modes of delivering societal norms and political ideologies in the early years of the State of Israel and the lasting impact of the series as evident in its recent revival in Israel. This was the same presentation that she did at the Montreal convention and those of us who were not present in Montreal were delighted to get to hear it.

Editor's Note: Once again I recommend that you visit the AJLSC website (www.ajlsc.org), chaired by Barbara Y. Leff. "Resources and Links" has a wide variety of online resources for teachers/librarians, parent and children that every AJL Member will want to access. "Education" has information on online courses and material on professional development in librarianship.

GREATER CLEVELAND CHAPTER

Submitted by Andrea Davidson

The Association of Jewish Libraries Greater Cleveland Chapter will celebrate Jewish Book Month with our Annual Tea. Our speaker will be Ellen Cassidy, author of *We are Here: Memories of the Lithuanian Holocaust*, which will be published by University of Nebraska Press in March 2012. The program will be co-sponsored with The Cleveland Jewish Genealogy Department, and the author will speak about her research and the process of publication in addition to the content of her book.

HOUSTON CHAPTER

Submitted by Lisa Klein

The Houston Chapter of the Association of Jewish Libraries is looking forward to a visit by children's author Tami Lehman/Wilzig in November. Tami will be in Houston to present programs to our day school and religious school students on her new book, *Green Bible Stories*, as part of the Jewish Community Center of Houston's annual Jewish Book and Arts Fair. Our librarians will visit with Tami at a network meeting.



Council Meeting Minutes

Association of Jewish Libraries, Inc.

Annual Council Meeting

Montreal Marriott Chateau Champlain, Montreal, Quebec

Sunday, June 19, 2011

Present: Sarah Barnard, Scholarship; Sharon Benamou, Los Angeles Convention co-chair; Shuli Berger, Scholarship; Barbara Bietz, Sydney Taylor Book Award; Michelle Chesner, RAS Secretary; Susan Dubin, Past President; Heidi Estrin, VP/President-elect; Yossi Galron, Hasafran; Elana Gensler, Recording Secretary; Elliot H. Gertel, ALA Liaison; Etta Gold, PR; Chaya Goldman, Montreal Convention; Judith Greenblatt, Chapter Relations; Stephanie Gross, Mentoring; Toby Harris, National Convention; Fred Isaac, Proceedings; Uri Kolodney, News and Reviews; Rachel Leket-Mor, RAS President; Joyce Levine, SSC President; Yelena Luckert, National Convention; Marsha Lustigman, Montreal Convention; Peggy Pearlstein, Stipends; Kathe Pinchuck, SSC Secretary; Sara Ravid, SSC VP; Ronda Rose, Convention Subsidies; Jim Rosenbloom, President; Rita Saccal, International Liaison; Nancy Sack, Webmaster; Daniel Scheide, RAS VP; Lisa Silverman, Bibliography Bank; Sheryl Stahl, Treasurer; Deborah Stern, VP Publications; Aaron Taub, Cataloging; Karen Ulric, Advertising; Amalia Warshenbrot, Accreditation/Chapter Relations; Tina Weiss, Technology; Laurel Wolfson, Convention Treasurer. **Guest:** Hy Kashenberg

1. Meeting Called to Order

President Jim Rosenbloom called the meeting to order at 12:25 p.m.

2. Dvar Torah

Fred Isaac spoke about the portion of Korach.

Farewell

Peggy Pearlstein is leaving Council after serving for many years. Lenore Bell will take her place on the Stipend committee. Peggy has enjoyed her time on Council. Her leaving is "bittersweet."

3. Minutes from Midwinter

Fred Isaac moved and Ronda Rose seconded the motion to **accept the minutes of the January 17, 2011 Council meeting. Passed unanimously.**

4. Treasurer's Report & 2011-2012 Budget

- a. The Convention budget is a work in progress.
- b. **Line-by-Line Income Budget Changes**
 - i. Library School Scholarship – increase to \$750.
 - ii. Professional Development (CEU classes) – zero it out
 - iii. Other Donations – zero it out
 - iv. Interest income – decrease to \$1,700.
 - v. Newsletter, JL ads – decrease to \$1,500.
 - vi. Royalties – decrease to \$175.
 - vii. Move STBA from Publications to Committees income - \$200.
- c. **Line-by-Line Expenses Budget Changes**
 - i. Bibliography Award – Move \$24.08 to general RAS line
 - ii. Essay award – zero it out
 - iii. ALA Liaison – increase to \$2,500
 - iv. Development – decrease to \$750
 - v. Mentoring – decrease to \$500
 - vi. Professional Development (CEU classes) – zero it out
 - vii. Sydney Taylor – increase to \$1,000
 - viii. National Mailing – zero it out
 - ix. Professional Dues – increase to \$1,000
 - x. Legal Services, Corporate filings – decrease to \$2,500
 - xi. Newsletter – increase to \$1,200
 - xii. Website – decrease to \$1,000

2011 Convention

All great! The hotel is fabulous. Marsha Lustigman thanked the entire Convention committee.

5. National Convention committee

- a. 2012: Los Angeles. Sharon Benamou and Enid Sperber are co-chairs.
- b. 2013: Houston. Judy Weidman is chair.
- c. 2014: possibly Las Vegas
- d. Be prepared for changes in the Convention format each year.
- e. Thank you to Nancy Sack for all her work on exhibits and the silent auction.
- f. We now have a donor for a morning coffee break on Monday.
- g. Toby Harris moved and Elliot H. Gertel seconded the following motion re: Exhibitor Policies:
 1. **Exhibitor registration deadline shall be set a minimum of six weeks prior to convention date. This includes full payment including a \$50 nonrefundable fee.**
 2. **Cancellation and refund requests will be honored with the following caveats:**
 - a. **Prior to registration deadline, exhibitor is entitled to refund less \$50 nonrefundable fee.**
 - b. **After the registration deadline until two weeks prior to the convention date, exhibitor is entitled to one half of the full registration after the \$50 nonrefundable fee is deducted. Example; if the fee is \$350, the exhibitor will receive \$150 back.**
 - c. **If an exhibitor requests a refund two weeks or less from the convention date, no refund can be given.**

Motion passed unanimously.

6. Education Initiatives

- a. Council members should introduce themselves to new members. See who would be good for committee positions.
- b. The Education Task Force now becomes a committee and will continue to look into all ideas.
- c. Leslie Monchar will be a member of the Education Initiative committee.
- d. The PDCE committee will be hibernating.
- e. Michelle Chesner and her committee have done a wonderful job!

6. Development

- f. Perry Davis Associates, Stage I, is preparing lists of organizations that may be able to be approached for money for AJL. Stage 2, the Book, is a document detailing these potential organizations. Then, we approach the ones we're interested in.
- g. We have cut costs and increased income (by raising membership dues). We've done most of what we can. Now, we must fundraise.
- h. Contact Kathe Pinchuck with comments on the case statement she handed out. We must present AJL in the best possible light.
- i. Everyone should take a stack of AJL business cards and give them out whenever possible. Thanks for the excellent cards, Etta and Heidi!
- j. Let Etta Gold know if you will be attending NewCAJE.
- k. Heidi Estrin created an AJL ad.
- l. Let Etta Gold know if you would like some AJL brochures which were passed around.
- m. We are looking for members to be liaisons for AJL, write for the blog, etc.

7. Mentoring

- a. More coordination between committees is needed.
- b. Attend the Mentor Mingle and Newcomer's meeting.
- c. Invite interested members to committee meetings to be held tonight.

8. Questions about any of the Written Reports

The AJL Listservs will be moving to new software. HebNACO has already been moved. The Board and Council lists will be next, followed by HaSafran.

9. Old Business

a. Handbook

Contact Laurel Wolfson with updated information. She will e-mail the latest version to the Council list.

b. Web re-design

- i. The new website is based on Board input. It has been a frustrating process dealing with the company hired to design our site.
- ii. Those who asked Nancy Sack for the ability to update their pages, now should have received passwords.
- iii. Les from MTG will train each person individually on how to update pages on the website.
- iv. Thank you to Nancy Sack for all her hard work on the website.
- v. Use Facebook, Twitter, and the blog to disseminate information quickly. Contact Nancy Sack or Heidi Estrin for assistance.
- vi. The 2012 Convention in Los Angeles is planning a session on how to use AJL's new website.
- vii. Sara Leah Gross is available during the Convention to assist people with social media.
- viii. The Wiki must be accessible on the website.

c. Contacts with Israeli Librarians

- i. Jim Rosenbloom did not attend the conference in Israel this year due to budget concerns. Next year, AJL will send someone.
- ii. Yaakov Aaronson has revived AJL in Israel.

11. New Business

k. Council Position Changes

- xi. Co-chairs are not necessary. One chair and committee members are what is needed.
- xii. PDCE is hibernating for now.
- xiii. Technology committee: Tina Weiss is stepping down as chair, since she will become president of the NYMA chapter. The Technology committee will be hibernating.
- xiv. Chapters: Amalia Warshenbrot will be chair.
- xv. Accreditation: Leah Moskovitz will be chair.
- xvi. Stipends: Lenore Bell will join the committee.
- xvii. National Convention committee: Yelena Luckert will step down as co-chair, but will remain on the committee.
- xviii. Advertising: A chair is needed.
- xix. *Judaica Librarianship*: Zachary Baker is stepping down as editor after the next issue is published. An editor and copy-editor are needed.
- xx. Daniel Scheide moved and Karen Ulric seconded the motion to **move Proceedings from a Council position to one who reports to the VP for Publications. Passed unanimously.**
- xxi. Daniel Scheide moved and Fred Isaac seconded the motion to **move Fanny Goldstein and Life Membership from a Council position to one who reports to the President. Passed unanimously.** A committee should decide who wins these awards.
- xxii. Elliot H. Gertel moved and Michelle Chesner seconded the motion to **move the ATLA Liaison from a Council position to one who reports to the RAS President. Passed unanimously.**
- xxiii. Toby Harris moved and Yelena Luckert seconded the motion to **move the NISO Liaison from a Council position to one who reports to the Cataloging committee. Passed unanimously.**
- xxiv. Elliot H. Gertel moved and Toby Harris seconded the motion to **move Bibliography Bank from a Council position to one who reports to the VP for Publications. Passed unanimously.**
- xxv. Both the Membership VP and Treasurer need someone to shadow them this year, since 2012 is an election year. If you are interested, let Jim Rosenbloom know.

12. Announcements/Good and Welfare

- a. There will be an AJL/ALA session in New Orleans. Please come and spread the word.
- b. AJL expresses sadness upon the death of Sylvia Firschein.
- c. Refuah Shlayma to Pearl Berger's husband who is ill with cancer, but has a good prognosis.
- d. Thank you to all retiring Council members.
- e. Thank you to ALL Council members.
- f. There will be a National Convention committee meeting at breakfast on Tuesday.

13. Adjournment

Kathe Pinchuck moved and Elliot H. Gertel seconded the motion to adjourn the Council meeting at 2:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Elana Gensler
AJL Recording Secretary

Credits and Contact

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The AJL Newsletter (Irene Levin-Wixman z"l, founding editor) was published in print from 1979 to 2010 by the Association of Jewish Libraries to inform members about association activities and issues related to Judaica libraries. As of January 2011 it is split into two separate electronic publications – the AJL News and the AJL Reviews. Receipt of these publications is one of the benefits of membership. Please see the AJL website at <http://www.jewishlibraries.org> for membership rates.

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All links to online resources were checked for accuracy on November 10, 2011. We cannot be responsible for broken links to those resources in the future.

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Dimensions are in inches

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