THE 2013 SYDNEY TAYLOR BOOK AWARDS ANNOUNCED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH LIBRARIES

The Sydney Taylor Book Award Winner for Younger Readers:
Hannah’s Way by Linda Glaser with illustrations by Adam Gustavson
(Kar-Ben, an imprint of Lerner Publishing Group)

The Sydney Taylor Book Award Winner for Older Readers:
His Name Was Raoul Wallenberg by Louise Borden
(Houghton Mifflin Books for Children)

The Sydney Taylor Book Award Winner for Teen Readers:
Intentions by Deborah Heiligman
(Knopf Books for Young Readers, a division of Random House)

Sydney Taylor Honor Books for Younger Readers:
Zayde Comes to Live by Sheri Sinykin with illustrations by Kristina Swarner
(Peachtree Publishers)
The Elijah Door: A Passover Tale by Linda Leopold Strauss with illustrations by Alexi Natchev
(Holiday House)

Sydney Taylor Honor Book for Older Readers:
The Wooden Sword: A Jewish Folktale from Afghanistan
by Ann Redisch Stampler with illustrations by Carol Liddiment
(Albert Whitman & Company)

Sydney Taylor Honor Book for Teen Readers:
Beyond Courage: The Untold Story of Jewish Resistance During the Holocaust
by Doreen Rappaport
(Candlewick Press)

Notable Books for Younger Readers:
Sadie and the Big Mountain by Jamie Korngold with illustrations by Julie Fortenberry
(Kar-Ben, an imprint of Lerner Publishing Group)
The Schmutzy Family by Madelyn Rosenberg with illustrations by Paul Meisel
(Holiday House)
A Song for My Sister by Lesley Simpson with illustrations by Tatjana Mai-Wyss
(Random House Books for Young Readers)
Speak Up, Tommy! By Jacqueline Dembar Greene with illustrations by Deborah Melmon
(Kar-Ben, an imprint of Lerner Publishing Group)
A Sweet Passover by Lesléa Newman with illustrations by David Slonim
(Abrams Books for Young Readers)

AJL Online
To subscribe to Hasafran, please see instructions at https://lists.service.ohio-state.edu/mailman/listinfo/hasafran
AJL is now on Facebook. Become a fan.
Notable Books for Older Readers:
Hereville: How Mirka Met a Meteorite by Barry Deutsch
(Amulet Books, an imprint of Abrams)
Looking for Me by Betsy R. Rosenthal
(Houghton Mifflin Books for Children)
Sami’s Sleepaway Summer by Jenny Myerhoff
(Scholastic Paperbacks)
Small Medium at Large by Joanne Levy
(Bloomsbury USA Children)
Whole Story of Half a Girl by Veera Hiranandani
(Delacorte Books for Young Readers, a division of Random House)

Notable Books for Teens:
The Last Song by Eva Wiseman
(Tundra Books)
Now by Morris Gleitzman
(Henry Holt and Company)
Rachel’s Secret by Shelly Sanders
(Second Story Press)

2013 Sydney Taylor Book Awards Announced by AJL
AIMEE LURIE, CHAIR SYDNEY TAYLOR BOOK AWARD COMMITTEE

Linda Glaser and Adam Gustavson, author and illustrator of Hannah’s Way, Louise Borden author of His Name Was Raoul Wallenberg, and Deborah Heiligman, author of Intentions, are the 2013 winners of the prestigious Sydney Taylor Book Award. The awards were announced at the Mid-Winter Meeting of the School, Synagogue and Community Center Division of the Association of Jewish Libraries.

The Sydney Taylor Book Award honors new books for children and teens that exemplify the highest literary standards while authentically portraying the Jewish experience. The award memorializes Sydney Taylor, author of the classic All-of-a-Kind Family series. The winners will receive their awards at the Association of Jewish Libraries Conference in Houston, Texas this June.

Glaser and Gustavson will receive the 2013 gold medal in the Sydney Taylor Book Award’s Younger Readers category for Hannah’s Way, published by Kar-Ben, an imprint of Lerner Publishing. When Hannah’s family relocates to rural Minnesota after her father loses his job, she is the only Jewish student in her class. Hannah worries she will not be able to attend a Saturday class picnic when her teacher arranges a carpool. Her observant family does not ride in cars on the Sabbath. In a delightful display of acceptance and friendship, the entire class chooses to walk with Hannah so she can attend the picnic. Barbara Krasner, a member of the Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee, said: “The Minnesota setting, the Depression timeframe, and a Jewish girl’s dilemma all add up to a winning story. Linda Glaser’s story and Adam Gustavson’s illustrations, both meticulously researched, make Hannah’s Way a new classic for young readers.” In 2011, Glaser received a Sydney Taylor Honor for her book, Emma’s Poem: The Voice of the Statue of Liberty.

The award in the Older Readers category will be presented to Louise Borden for His Name Was Raoul Wallenberg, published by Houghton Mifflin Books for Children. Written in verse, this biography of the Swedish humanitarian highlights his commitment to rescuing Jewish people in Budapest during World War II for readers aged eight to twelve. Teeming with photographs, Wallenberg’s passion for
helping others is dramatically portrayed. Committee Chair, Aimee Lurie commented: “His Name Was Raoul Wallenberg shows how the courageous actions of one person, despite tremendous obstacles, can make a difference. Louise Borden’s well-researched biography will, without out a doubt, inspire children to perform acts of kindness and speak out against oppression.” In 2006, Borden’s The Journey that Saved Curious George: The True Wartime Escape of Margaret and H.A. Rey was a Sydney Taylor Honor Book for Younger Readers.

Deborah Heiligman will receive the 2013 gold medal in the Sydney Taylor Book Award’s Teen Readers category for Intentions, published by Knopf Books for Young Readers an imprint of Random House, Inc. The loss of innocence Rachel Greenberg, 16, experiences when the adults in her life betray her trust and the relationship with her best friend crumbles is explored in this contemporary novel. Rachel’s home life, once calm, has now become strained; her parents are constantly bickering and her beloved grandmother’s health has deteriorated. Her uncertain home life, pales in comparison to her shattering discovery that her respected rabbi is an adulterer. Although she makes mistakes, Rachel eventually learns to cope with the revelation that no one -- including her parents, friends, and rabbi -- is perfect by relying on lessons learned from her Jewish education. Diane Rauchwerger, member of the Award Committee noted: “Rachel grows in her understanding and strength of character, while struggling with moral issues teens confront every day. Most importantly, she learns to forgive and to act with intention.”

Four Sydney Taylor Honor Books were named for 2013: The Elijah Door: A Passover Tale by Linda Leopold Strauss with illustrations by Alexi Natchev (Holiday House) and Zayde Comes To Live written by Sheri Sinykin and illustrated by Kristina Swarner (Peachtree Publishers) are recognized in the Younger Readers category. The Wooden Sword by Ann Redisch Stampler with illustrations by Carol Liddiment (Albert Whitman & Company) garnered recognition as an Honor Book for Older Readers. For Teen Readers, the honor goes to Beyond Courage: The Untold Story of Jewish Resistance During the Holocaust by Doreen Rappaport (Candlewick).

In addition to the medal-winners, the Award Committee designated thirteen Notable Books of Jewish Content for 2013. More information about the Sydney Taylor Book Award can be found at www.SydneyTaylorBookAward.org.

A Change Is Coming For The Sydney Taylor Manuscript Award!

Aileen Grossberg, Chair, Sydney Taylor Manuscript Award Competition

The Sydney Taylor Manuscript Award Competition will be adopting a new schedule as of the 2014 award. In order to be in line with the Sydney Taylor Book Award and take advantage of the publicity opportunities to piggyback with that award and the ALA Midwinter award announcements, the award year will run from January to December.

Authors wishing to submit manuscripts must now submit by September 30 of the award year. The announcement of the winner will be made in mid-January.

This change does not affect the 2013 award which will be announced at the end of March 2013.

In addition, the upper age limit for manuscripts is being extended to age 13 to more realistically reflect contemporary writing and readers’ interests. Manuscripts will now be accepted if they meet reading interests of both upper elementary and middle school readers.

Details will be posted on the website shortly.
Dear AJL Members,

I bring you greetings from the members of the AJL Board and Council, who recently met in New York City for two days of Association business meetings. Imagine a long, narrow hotel meeting room, forty people crowded around the table listening, debating, scribbling, brainstorming, and sometimes even laughing. And eating, of course: this is a Jewish group, after all.

On Sunday we had a five-hour Board meeting, two separate two-hour dinner meetings for SSC (Schools, Synagogues, and Centers division) and RAS (Research, Archives, and Special Libraries division), and finally a two-hour conference planning meeting to pin down details of the 2013 conference in Houston, Texas. Even after all that, we couldn’t bear to stop talking about our libraries and our lives – many of us met in the hotel bar to continue the schmoozing and bonding. The next morning we were up bright and early for our marathon Council meeting, lasting seven and a half hours. Sometime down the road we’ll make the minutes of that meeting available, but in the meantime I’d like to share a few highlights with you.

CONFERENCE

This year’s AJL conference will take place in Houston, Texas, June 16-19, 2013. I am pleased to announce that we have successfully held our rates steady, with no increase in the registration price since last year, and that the hotel rates are less expensive than they were at the 2012 conference in Pasadena. We will be offering the convenience of online registration with credit or debit cards this year, but you will still have the option of mailing in a check if you prefer. Sponsorship, exhibiting, and advertising opportunities are available now through our website at http://www.jewishlibraries.org/main/Events.aspx, a nice way to get the word out about your own products or services, or to honor a fellow member. Details on the exciting program will be coming soon!

STRATEGIC PLANNING

AJL is embarking on a strategic planning process. To this end, we’ve formed a crack team of members, led by AJL VP/President-Elect Yaffa Weisman, and hired a consulting firm that specializes in helping nonprofits with strategic planning. Expect to hear from the Strategic Planning team in the future, as they gather data from AJL stakeholders (this means you!). I’m sure you won’t be shy in sharing your opinions with them about what the organization does right and what it could do better!

AWARDS ANNOUNCEMENT

The winners of the 2013 Sydney Taylor Book Award for Jewish children’s and teen literature were revealed with much fanfare by committee chair Aimee Lurie at the Midwinter Meeting, and you can get the scoop on the front page of AJL’s website, www.jewishlibraries.org, as well as on our blog, Facebook, and Twitter. A blog tour featuring the gold and silver medalists took place February 11-15, 2013, and can be read on the AJL website as well.

MEMBER BENEFITS

- **Judaica Librarianship**, the scholarly journal of AJL, will be going digital with the next issue. This will enhance its visibility and accessibility to members and to the academic world in general.
- AJL will be affiliating with SCELC, Statewide California Electronic Library Consortium. This will offer AJL institutional members throughout North America significant discounts on subscriptions to electronic resources.
YOUR ROLE IN AJL

• The PR Committee will be expanding its role to include outreach to and affiliations with other like-minded organizations. If you’re interested in joining this effort, please talk to PR Chair Danielle Winter at springlibrarian@gmail.com.

• Joyce Levine, VP for Publications, is seeking people to help her revise AJL’s classic booklet, How to Organize a Jewish Library. It was a gem in 1982 but now it’s terribly out of date! If you’d like to share your expertise via this project, or by helping to add more library know-how to AJL’s wiki, please contact Joyce at jlevine@nshahs.org.

I hope this partial summary gives you a taste of the excitement and variety of our discussions at Midwinter! If you have questions or suggestions about any AJL issue, don’t hesitate to contact me at president@jewishlibraries.org, or any member of the Board or Council (you can find a “who’s who” on our website via the links at http://www.jewishlibraries.org/main/AboutAJL/OrganizationalStructure.aspx).

Thanks, as always, for being a member of the Association of Jewish Libraries!


Toby Harris

One benefit of getting to know my AJL colleagues is visiting them in the places they work. On more than one occasion, I’ve been hosted on incredible tours and gotten insights from seeing libraries in various settings and cities. The latest example was in January when I attended the AJL midwinter meeting in New York City (January 22, 2013). After all the meetings, a group of us traveled by subway and cab uptown to the Butler Library of Columbia University where we were greeted by Michelle Chesner, AJL member and Jewish Studies librarian. Chesner curated a marvelous exhibit, The People in the Books: Hebraica and Judaica Manuscripts from Columbia University Libraries, to showcase the collection of handwritten pages and books that tell a story about its authors, owners and users. Manuscripts were arranged according to kinds of people or their roles in society, which provided a fresh perspective for the viewer. One highlight for me was a small codex of illuminated circumcision prayers, Ot ha-bert, from 1824, along with its small case, found in the Life Cycles section. It was received as a gift to a mohel in the Czech Republic and was beautiful throughout. I also enjoyed the case of Timekeeper items, with charts and wheels, as well as Doctors’ books, including a Ladino reference guide from the 15th century. The oldest piece was an epigraph from the 4th century.

It was very special to hear from Chesner as she pointed out her favorites and the stories behind them. Kol ha-kavod to her on this achievement and for taking the time out to give us a tour! You can view the exhibit online at https://exhibitions.cul.columbia.edu/exhibits/show/hebrew_mss

Use our online membership directory to look up colleagues when you’re traveling and allow them to show off their libraries! I highly recommend it for a memorable and tangible learning experience of benefit for all.
Come on Down to Houston for the AJL 2013 Conference!

The New York Times recently listed Houston as #7 on their list of “Where to Go in 2013”, noting its cultural and culinary diversity, so don’t miss the opportunity to attend the 48th Annual AJL Conference. It will be held June 16 – 19, 2013 at the Hilton Houston Post Oak Hotel in the heart of the Galleria area. Bring your whole family - visit NASA and the myriad of excellent museums. And Galveston’s beaches are just an hour away.

As always, a taste of the host community is offered, starting with a mouth-watering Texas barbeque welcome dinner, and a program which includes several sessions about Texas Jewry. The preliminary schedule will be posted on the website shortly. You will find stimulating and educational sessions such as the Sydney Taylor Book Awards with authors and illustrators, updates on technology, social media, book clubs, cataloging and readers’ advisory, along with many other offerings of appeal to Schools, Synagogues and Centers (SSC) and Research, Archives, and Special Collections (RAS) interests.

Airport Information: Houston is served by two major airports: IAH- Bush Intercontinental Airport, about 35 minutes from the hotel, and HOU- Hobby Airport, about 30 minutes. As a major hub for United into IAH and Southwest into HOU, the convenient central location of Houston makes it very possible to find non-stop flights into the city from most major cities in the US and Canada. More on Houston airports.

Tours:

1. Jewish Houston: A guided tour showing the neighborhoods, synagogues and institutions our Jewish community’s past and present.

2. Holocaust Museum Houston & Clayton Center Library for Genealogical Research: Private tours of these two local institutions, plus a visit to the new Asia Society Building designed by Yoshio Taniguchi. (time permitting).

3. The Menil Collection and Neighboring Museum Campus which includes the Rothko Chapel. The Menil building was designed by architect Renzo Piano and showcases the permanent collection of John & Dominque de Menil. This tour also includes The Museum of Printing History, a unique museum of interest to those who appreciate the printed word.

Registration: Follow the links on the AJL website for online registration or to print out a mail-in form. The registration form can also be found on page 15 of this issue of AJL News. Hotel reservations can also be made from our website links. Special room rate is $149 per room, single or double, plus tax.

Stipend: Funds are available for members of AJL to support attendance at the annual conference. Current membership in AJL and full attendance at the conference are required. For further information contact Lenore Bell at bell1614@msn.com or 703.615.0559. All applications must be received by March 18. Complete the request for financial support and send it by e-mail to Lenore Bell bell1614@msn.com. The form can also be found on page 19 of this issue of AJL News.

A warm Texas welcome is waiting for you, so make plans to come on down! For more information, feel free to contact Judy Weidman, Houston Chair, at judybw@gmail.com. For registration information, contact Marsha Lustigman, Registrar, at bialikmtl@gmail.com.
Chapter Chatter
Toby Rossner, Chapter Relations Committee

ATLANTA CHAPTER (AJL-ATLANTA)
Submitted by Stacy Brown (The Alfred and Adele Davis Academy), President

The Atlanta Chapter met on December 5 at Torah Day School, hosted by Davida Levin. We discussed technology, such as BYOD (Bring your own device to the workplace), Mac vs. PC, and ebooks. We also discussed library systems and new Jewish resources. We had attendees from Torah Day School, The Davis Academy, and The Epstein School. Our next meeting is on March 6 at The Epstein School. We really enjoy sharing insights with one another and discussing the evolution of the role of school libraries, especially with regard to technology.

JUDAICA LIBRARY NETWORK OF METROPOLITAN CHICAGO
Submitted by Daniel D. Stuhlman (Secretary & Publicity)

JLNMC had its Fall meeting at Northwestern University Library on November 13, where we had a demonstration of the Visual History Archive, an online resource published by the USC Shoah Foundation, Institute for Visual History and Education presented by two Northwestern University librarians. This archive contains more than 52,000 video testimonies of survivors. Because of cost and bandwidth limitations, Northwestern has a subset of the collection.*

Our Winter meeting on February 3 featured guest speaker Susan Meyer, author of Black Radishes (a Sydney Taylor Honor Book) followed by a discussion on children’s books. Ms. Meyer also spoke at North Suburban Beth El, Bernard Zell Anshe Emet Day School, and two public schools in Northfield and Highland Park. Rachel Kamin and Rena Citrin arranged for these events.

JLN member, Rose Novil, librarian at Oakton Community College, Skokie has arranged the college’s Let’s Talk About It: Literature Series to talk about five Jewish books during the winter semester. Sessions were led by English Professor Benjamin Goluboff.

Karen Wadler reports that Richard Michelson visited the Aleph, Bet, Gimel, Daled, and Hay classes at Congregation Beth Shalom in Northbrook on Sunday, January 13. The students participated in discussions about his books which included: A is for Abraham; A Jewish Family Alphabet; Across the Alley; and As Good As Anybody: Martin Luther King and Abraham Joshua Heschel’s Amazing March Toward Freedom. In preparation for Mr. Michelson’s visit, Beth Shalom students learned about Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel and Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.

*Editor’s note: This is a correction of Chicago’s entry in the November, 2012 Chapter Chatter, which stated that Northwestern had a complete collection.

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

Our LIAJL completed a full fall program schedule. We look forward to our annual public librarians meeting in April, where our program will be Lessons from History: Feminism and Judaism. Our guest speaker will be Maggie Anton, author of Rav Hisda’s Daughter, Book 1:Apprentice and Rashi’s Daughters Trilogy.

THE MONTREAL CHAPTER OF AJL
Submitted by Chaya Goldman, Co-President

"Words and pictures are bullets whose flight never ends. Their trajectory knows no down curve. They endure long after the guns are silenced.” Arthur Szyk

The Montreal chapter of AJL met on January 18 at McGill University to view the exhibition Ink and Blood: Works of Arthur Szyk in the Collection of McGill University Libraries, Rare Books Department.

Arthur Szyk (1894-1951) was a Polish-born graphic artist, book illustrator, caricaturist,
and stage designer who settled permanently in the United States in 1940. Wherever he lived and worked, he always regarded himself both as a Pole and a Jew. Syzk revived the medieval tradition of the art of illumination and was a master of miniature painting and calligraphy as well as anti-Nazi political art.

The tour and presentation will be given by Dr. Richard Virr, Head of Rare Books, who will tell how and when the collection arrived at McGill University.

NEW YORK METROPOLITAN AREA (AJL-NYMA)
Submitted by Hallie Cantor, Acquisitions, Yeshiva University

Digital Legacy

Storage & Preservation @ Fall Conference

“This is rather timely.” NYMA president Tina Weiss opened the Fall Conference with possibly the understatement of the year. Held Thursday, December 6, at Temple Emanu-El — just over a month after Hurricane Sandy — “Synagogue Archives from Various Viewpoints” covered the role and methods of archival development and preservation, chiefly through digitization. The focus was old but still vital local synagogues, many with literally scads of documentation reflecting the change and development of their membership.

Piles & Files

In 155 Years in the Making: Establishing an Archive for Congregation Talmud Adereth El, Katie Ehrlich — project archivist for the American Sephardi Federation; M.A. in Archives and Public History, NYU — began with the caveat that “this project is still in the proposal stage and requires outside funding to be fully realized.” Nevertheless her PowerPoint presentation showed just how much she had already accomplished.

Founded by Prussian immigrants in 1857, Congregation Aderet El, located in the same building on East 29th Street since 1864, is the oldest shul in existence at one continuous location in New York City. Currently run by Rabbi Gideon Shloush, it services young Orthodox professionals in Manhattan’s Murray Hill.

When initially asked to compile an archive, Ms. Ehrlich had to roll up her sleeves, sift through a mountain of material, and determine what among over a century of history would be worth archiving. She presented the steps and components for undertaking such a project:

- Background research
- Records survey
- Arrangement
- Congregant survey
- Oral history
- Outside Archival Research
- Costs
- Other recommendations
- Presentation to the Board of Trustees.

Each component had its own sub-components. During her background research, Ms. Ehrlich had to decide the following:

- What records should a synagogue archive contain?
- Which local congregations maintain their own archives?
- What supplies are required to properly maintain a synagogue archive?
- What other recommendations can be made?

In addition to foraging, like Indiana Jones, through the women’s section filled with boxes and cabinets of stashed away documents, Ms. Ehrlich devised a survey that she mailed to congregants in order to supply additional information and fill in the gaps. This involved locating congregants old -- and able -- enough to remember the details.
Congregant surveys included dates of membership and the types of involvement in the synagogue. Materials included virtually everything in print – bound volumes, event fliers, financial or mortgage statements, letters, memos, minutes, newsletters (prior to 1996), and photographs. Materials were dated, quantity and quality determined. She solicited donations among congregants willing to part with cherished mementos.

Floppy discs and back-ups – nowadays themselves relics – showed some of the frustrations of retrieval off of old technology. Hard copy also had to be created, along with the digital.

Decisions on what to keep depended not only on the value but the condition of the items. At times Ms. Ehrlich struck gold: memo books and registers in their original German. The changing language of synagogue service -- later Yiddish, finally English -- revealed a cultural paradigm shift.

Documentation was scattered, but eventually arranged according to content: governance, properties, membership, fundraising, personnel, sermons, educational events and programming, publications, oral histories, electronic records, and press clippings. Piecing everything together required outside archival research as well: Ms. Ehrlich contacted The Jewish Messenger, the Board of Delegates of American Israelites; NYPL/MCNY photos; American Jewish Yearbook; Jewish Communal Register of New York City, 1917-1918; and Philip Cowen’s Memoirs of an American Jew.

The best source came straight from the mouth: Sidney Kleiman, Adereth El’s first American-born rabbi and currently Rabbi Emeritus. Rabbi Kleiman, who recently turned 100 (till 120!) had in 1957 compiled shul history and thus provided ample material. Other than the use of a hearing aid, the rabbi seemed little hampered by age: he spoke vividly of his achievements, both in the rabbinate and his beloved synagogue, where in 1939 he was installed. (Ms. Ehrlich herself had a special connection to the synagogue: her great-grandfather was a member.)

Costs went beyond shelving and digital tools: there was also translation of old documents into English and simple retention of records. Publicizing – making the materials known and available – depended on what kind of readership might be interested, such as a younger congregant or a researcher wanting to know what was served at a sisterhood tea 70 years ago.

At last, the presentation. Once the documentation was done, Ms. Ehrlich had to appear before the board with a convincing argument as to why such documentation is necessary or useful for posterity. This she achieved by cutting the jargon and getting straight to the point – presenting the urgency of preservation, addressing the needs of a diverse group, showing the long-term benefit of digitization and money well spent. It remains to be seen whether this project fully comes to fruition.

2 Make 1

The next topic, Early New York Synagogue Archives: A Digitization Project involved not one but two speakers, both two halves of a whole. Both Susan Malbin – Director of Library and Archives, American Jewish Historical Society – and Naomi Steinberger – Director of Library Services, The Jewish Theological Seminary of America – spoke of their collaborative efforts in preserving an important part of American-Jewish history.

Research of early New York synagogues involved the digitization of some 8,000 archival documents for both The Jewish Theological Seminary and the American Jewish Historical Society. By making these documents available, both institutions strove to bring awareness of historical resources.

Pooling of resources involved the creation of a joint portal, whereby the patron would have a unified source among all the New York synagogues. Collaborative work meant a shared workflow, and the same metadata and finding aids. Like Ms. Ehrlich (and Indiana Jones), Ms. Malbin and Ms. Steinberger archaeologically dug through what seemed like tombs of documents and artifacts, judging each one for quality and historical value. The same standards applied: for example, crumbling items were turned down by both institutions. Tombs, interestingly, took on literal meaning here, as cemetery documents and facsimiles of old gravestones were studied. Indeed, the 19th century synagogues told their own history.

A photographic “tour” of prominent synagogues revealed not only the types of items digitally preserved, but a whole past. Examples included cash books from Kane Street Synagogue or minutes
and membership receipts. Another synagogue, Ansche Chesed, kept lists of its board of directors. Congregation B’nai Jeshurin provided a virtual treasure chest: charter, cemetery documents, death reports, legal documents, ketuboth (marriage contracts) – the whole gamut of not only the inner lives of synagogue members but of the Jewish life cycle.

Young Israel, a network of Orthodox synagogues, provided ample material of the 1920s, and Mill Street retained the original building plans. Eldridge Street Synagogue, in the Lower East Side, had account books as well as aliya books, lists of those lucky few who emigrated to Palestine and, after 1948, Israel.

The end results, thanks to Ms. Malbin and Ms. Steinberger, displayed the fruits of joint labor. In the future wide access to materials may involve such collaborations.

Queen of Spade

Ledgers. Journals. Dinners. Events say much and even a menu reveals much between the lines. All this requires a special kind of work. In the final segment, Place of Gathering: Synagogue Archives, Shulamith Z. Berger – Curator of Special Collections, Mendel Gottesman Library, Yeshiva University – spoke not only of the nature of this work, but of the different hats an archivist might wear.

While some archivists play Indiana Jones, Ms. Berger might be more of a Sam Spade. Archiving, she said, is “detective work.” Considering herself “a gumshoe,” she has had to track down items and determine forensic evidence. To be sure, there is the usual development of finding aids and databases in all of YU archives, but identification of materials is not enough: the compiler must make sense of everything.

In her work Ms. Berger rounds up the usual suspects: financial records, for example, to determine how much was spent among congregations. The “Holy Grail” (forgive the metaphor, she said) is the synagogue minutes, which reveal much about the internal workings of the synagogue, giving the flavor of synagogue life. Samples of YU archives include the Koenisberg collection, which contains personal papers and bulletins.

How does YU get such materials? Some, ironically, through synagogue closings. Dead men may tell no tales, but non-vital synagogues do: they may leave behind crucial information. Yet the living get defensive about giving away these materials, and worry: is too much revealed? Do possibly deep, dark secrets lurk within faded jubilee journals or invitations to Israeli folk dancing night? In Jewish fashion Ms. Berger will answer a question with a question – and a deeper, darker secret: Why would anyone really care?

Ms. Berger handed out a bibliography of sources for synagogue history – e.g. directories, books, registers – to facilitate the search for history. Before undertaking the creation of a synagogue archive, historical need must be analyzed. Does the synagogue even have a rich enough history? Does the synagogue offer a cultural institution unto itself, a representation of American-Jewish life, besides a place to pray?

Digitization involved the same fishing expeditions through basements and cellars. As the recent storm has shown quite tragically, flooding can wipe out an entire collection. Like Ms. Ehrlich, Ms. Berger faced technological challenges, such as outdated machinery. Like Ms. Malbin and Ms. Steinberger, she considered websites that allowed multiple access and connection to other institutions for joint projects and the sharing of resources.

As a university archivist, Ms. Berger had to consider the placement of synagogue archival within the context of a university archive. How useful might a Chinese auction be to a researcher? Or might someone – say, Ms. Ehrlich – wonder, at some point, what committee her great-grandfather led?

“It ain’t just nostalgia,” Ms. Berger said. Preservation takes on a role long after the synagogue or congregation is gone. In a sense these items leave behind a message: we were here. We were once part of New York life. This alone is vital for historians.

Like scrapbooks, documents are preserved for many reasons – sentimental, academic, even legal. Value is inherently subjective, as it depends on the needs of the patron or the viewer. Therefore it is
up to the librarian to step aside, create objective distance, and simply be there to provide services to individuals and institutions – helping them, in a sense, to “live on” in cyberspace, long after the actual buildings, and their builders, have vanished.

In these recent times, when synagogue collections, if not synagogues themselves, have been literally swept away, the need for archival storage – at the very least as a form of insurance – has become ever more crucial. A big round of applause goes to the conference contributors – Tina Weiss, organizer; hostess, Liza Stabler; and to four amazing speakers, who brought to light the librarian’s active role.

The annual Day School Workshop of AJL’s New York Metropolitan Area Chapter (AJL-NYMA) will take place on Wednesday, March 6th, 2013 at the Moriah School in Englewood, New Jersey.

**South Florida Chapter (SFAJL)**
*Submitted by Lorelei Ennis, Temple Dor Dorim*

The SFAJL chapter met at Temple Dor Dorim in Weston on November 13. The afternoon began with lunch and a presentation by author Ellen Brazer., who spoke about her new book, *And So It Was Written*. The story travels to a time when a Third Temple was built and the Ark of the Covenant holding the Ten Commandments was found.

The year is 132 CE, and the proclaimed Jewish Messiah, Shimon Bar Kokhba, has defeated the Roman army and rules Judea. As the Romans prepare to reclaim Israel, the book follows the friendships and hatreds of two intertwining sets of brothers – one set Roman and one set Jewish. For more information, you can visit Ellen’s website at www.ellenbrazer.com

Following the presentation our host led a discussion about Jewish Folktales: Stories in the Yiddish/Hassidic tradition. We particularly noted life as depicted in East European shtetls. One of our members gave an enjoyable analysis of the book, *Joseph Had a Little Overcoat* by Simms Taback, pointing out the many fun and often, unnoticed details on each page of the book.

We discussed the coming AJL Convention in Houston in June 2013 and continued the discussion, begun in September, about how we could increase our numbers at meetings and on our mailing list. Two members volunteered to seek out new members in Palm Beach County and Miami-Dade County.

**Southern California Chapter (AJLSC)**
*Submitted by Lisa Silverman*

A festive Hanukkah and retirement dinner party was held in honor of our dear colleague Adaire Klein. Adaire retired in December from her position as Director of Library and Archival Services at the Simon Wiesenthal Center - Museum of Tolerance. In May she will be moving to Israel. AJLSC celebrated Adaire’s long-time commitment to the Center, to AJL and to Judaica librarianship locally, nationally, and internationally.

Editor’s Note: In Question 1 of the article “10 Questions: Adaire Klein” in Information Outlook: The Magazine of the Special Libraries Association (v14, No. 5) Adaire answers a question about her decision to work at the Center:

The Wiesenthal Center was founded in 1977 by Rabbi Marvin Hier. The library and archives opened in 1978, when I was offered a part-time job to develop what was then just the library. I did what I have never done in my life: I gave up another job in mid-stream to accept this one. I had a librarian position in a private elementary school, and under normal circumstances I would have waited until the school year ended. I’m not sure why I took the position, but I’m happy I made the change. I accepted the challenge to develop something from nothing.

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

A Retirement in South Africa

Veronica Belling, a longtime AJL member, recently retired after 31 years as the librarian of the Isaac & Jessie Kaplan Centre Library at the University of Cape Town. You can read more about her experiences, challenges and achievements of an extraordinary career in an interview published December 2012 in the Cape Jewish Chronicle.

Author! Author!

Anne Dublin, co-editor of AJL Reviews (children and teens), has signed her latest book, The Baby Experiment (Dundurn, 2012) at two events in Toronto: Jan. 31/13, 11.30 a.m. at the Ontario Library Association (OLA) conference and Fri. Feb. 22, 11.30 a.m. at the Reading for the Love of It conference.

Greenhorn, by AJL member Anna Olswanger, is a recently-published illustrated children’s novel inspired by a true event. Greenhorn tells the story of Daniel, a young Holocaust survivor who comes to a Brooklyn yeshiva in the 1940s, where his obsessive attachment to a mysterious box excites the curiosity and unkind attention of the other boys. The withdrawn boy is befriended by the narrator, a stutterer who also endures the taunts of the other boys. A free Discussion Guide and Classroom Guide for Greenhorn are available at the publisher’s website: www.newsouthbooks.com/greenhorn. Anna Olswanger is a literary agent with Liza Dawson Associates and the author of the Sydney Taylor Honor Book, Shlemiel Crooks.

Accolades

AJL member Ilka Gordon has been named “Audio Reviewer of the Year”, by Library Journal, the trade publication for libraries, which reports news about the library world. Its audiobook review section does prepublication reviews. Click here to read more. We may be quiet, but we’re mighty!

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.
AJL Scholarship

The Association of Jewish Libraries is pleased to announce a scholarship of $1000 to a student enrolled or accepted in a graduate school of library and information science.

Prospective candidates should have knowledge of and interest in Jewish Studies, and demonstrate the potential, ability and intention of pursuing a career in Judaica Librarianship.

"In order to encourage students to train for, and enter, the field of Judaica librarianship, the Association of Jewish Libraries awards a scholarship to a student attending or planning to attend a graduate school of library and information science. Prospective candidates should have an interest in, and demonstrate a potential for, pursuing a career in Judaica librarianship."

Information about the scholarships and the application form are available at: www.jewishlibraries.org

Students who wish to apply for this scholarship should submit applications by  April 5, 2013.

Scholarship Fund Needs Your Help

Previous winners of the AJL Scholarships for aspiring Judaica librarians have been and are still active in AJL and in the profession as a whole. We all know about the greying of our profession and the need for younger and able professionals to step up to the plate as we older ones retire or take on new challenges. The Scholarship Fund helps significantly in this regard. We offer up to two scholarships annually of $1000 each to students in Library and Information Science programs who demonstrate an interest in entering the profession as Judaica librarians. In order to insure that we will be able to continue to offer the scholarships, we need to raise some money for the Scholarship Fund. The main way we have of raising money is through our tribute cards and through straight donations. For a donation in the amount of your choice, we can send a tribute card to the person or people you designate. It is a thoughtful way of remembering or honoring someone you care about. Just remember to include all the relevant names and addresses with your donation and card request. You can also donate for no reason at all. Please send donations and card requests to:

Sarah M. Barnard
Hebrew Union College-Klau Library,
3101 Clifton Avenue,
Cincinnati, OH 45220.
Minutes of the SSC Board Meeting at AJL Mid-Winter Meeting
Affinia Hotel Manhattan
January 20, 2013
Submitted by Cherille Berman, SSC Recording Secretary


1. Meeting called to order by Lisa Silverman, SSC President, at 5:30 pm.
2. Introductions
3. How to Start a Jewish Library booklet updates and revisions
   - Booklet is still in demand in this format; will also be available in PDF. Lower cost to members for booklet.
   - Joyce Levine agreed to serve as Editor and will incorporate information already available on the Wiki.
   - Committee members to contribute various chapters. Amalia - Library Committee; Amy - fundraising, day schools, protocols; Lisa - collection; Joyce - cataloging; Danielle - publicity and library promotion; Suzi - Jewish book month; Heidi - AJL.
   - SSC members with expertise will be approached for other areas.
4. Bibliography Bank
   - Committee identified names of members who could potentially update the bibliography ban if Fran Menken will not be able to continue the position.
   - There was discussion on the value of older bibliographies and it was recommended to remove some earlier lists after asking the compliers of older lists (Joyce will contact Fran)
5. Weine Cataloguing System
   - Joel Tuchman will provide the update requested by 29 libraries. It will be posted on the members only website and will be completed by June 2013. Participating libraries will send updates and this booklet will be updated annually. It will be available as a "print on demand". Recommendation for a Weine users group at the annual conference.
6. Sydney Taylor Manuscript Award
   - Committee voted with no objection to Aileen Grossberg’s suggestion to expand the scope to Middle School literature.
   - Change the Award to reflect year in which the award is presented.
   - Verify that these changes are consistent with donor’s intent.
7. Chapter Relations
   - By-Laws call for 3 chapter representatives to attend the mid-year meeting but this did not occur this year due to financial constraints. Change in the bylaws is postponed till the completion of the strategic planning
   - Nationally involvement has shrunk to 6 active chapters
   - Suggestions to make AJL membership more inclusive: Heidi to email membership with mid-year meeting report; Aimee suggested a one minute "getting to know you" video on the blog; Nancy suggested a videographer capturing "Why the Association is helpful to me"; Hasafran is widely used and there should be a weekly advert that this is sponsored by AJL
8. Public Relations
   - Danielle’s video used about 33 libraries for her snapshot event.
   - Suzi suggested regional conferences with parent organization handling the details including speakers drawn from our membership.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.
The Association of Jewish Libraries promotes Jewish literacy through enhancement of libraries and library resources and through leadership for the profession and practitioners of Judaica librarianship. The Association fosters access to information, learning, teaching and research relating to Jews, Judaism, the Jewish experience and Israel.

REGISTRATION FORM

- To register online go to the AJL website [www.jewishlibraries.org](http://www.jewishlibraries.org)
- To register by mail, please print this registration form and send it with a check for the full amount to: Rabbi Patricia Fenton, Ostrow Library, American Jewish University, 15600 Mulholland, Bel-Air, CA 90077.

Please print clearly. Select work or home address for AJL mailings.

Name ___________________________ Date ____________
Institution ___________________________
Address (Street) ___________________________
(City) ___________________________
(State/Province/Country) ___________________________
(Zip/Postal code) ___________________________
E-mail ___________________________
Phone ___________________________

May we include the above information on the secure, members-only portion of the website? ___

Please indicate exactly what you want printed your conference badge:

Name ___________________________
Institution ___________________________
City ___________________________ State/Province/Country ___________________________
AJL Position ___________________________ Chapter ___________________________

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Please respond to the following questions.

- Are you an AJL Member? Yes ___ No
- Is this your first AJL Conference? Yes ___ No
- Division: RAS (Research, Archives & Special) SSC (Synagogue, School & Center)
- Are you a member of a Chapter? Yes ___ No
- Are you a registered student in a School of Library/Information Science? Yes ___ No
- Are you a presenter? Yes ___ No
- Are you an exhibitor? Yes ___ No
- Would you like to moderate a session at the conference? Yes ___ No
- Do you wish to receive State of Texas CEU credit? Yes ___ No
- Do you wish to receive CPE credit? Yes ___ No
- Will you be applying for a stipend? Yes ___ No
- Do you need Shabbat hospitality? Yes ___ No
- Do you require vegetarian meals? Yes ___ No
- Western Barbecue Night (Sunday June 16) Do you prefer Smoked Brisket, Chicken, or Vegetarian?

Please inform us of any serious dietary restrictions or allergies ____________________________

Please fill out the following sections that apply:

I. FULL REGISTRATION
Fees include all sessions and HKA-approved kosher meals from Sunday dinner through Wednesday breakfast with the exception of Monday night dinner.

Forms postmarked: Before April 16 After April 16 Amount Due

| AJLMember/Spouse/Partner | $485.00   | $525.00   | $ |
| Non-member              | $560.00   | $575.00   | $ |

II. PER DIEM REGISTRATION
Fees include sessions and lunch on the day for which you are registered.
Circle: Monday or Tuesday at $180.00 for each day. Per Diem Total $_____________

III. MEALS ONLY: For those who are not Full Registrants or Per Diem registrants but wish to join us for certain meals. Please indicate the meals you will be attending.

Sunday Dinner…………………………………………………………meal(s) @ $100 …………

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Monday Breakfast .................................. meal(s) @ $35 _______
Monday Lunch .................................. meal(s) @ $65 _______
*Monday Kosher Box Dinner ..................... meal(s) @ $20 _______
Tuesday Breakfast ................................ meal(s) @ $35 _______
Tuesday Lunch .................................. meal(s) @ $65 _______
Tuesday Banquet ................................ meal(s) @ $100 _______
Wednesday Breakfast ......................... meal(s) @ $35 _______
*Wednesday Kosher Box Lunch .............. meal(s) @ $15 _______

Total for a la carte meals  $________________

*Catering

All cooked and served food at the conference will be catered by the HKA-approved kitchen of the Hilton Houston Post Oak. Special dietary needs must be requested on your registration form as we will not be able to make changes or substitutions at the convention.

IV. OPTIONAL TOURS  Wednesday June 19

Please circle your tour selections

• Space on tours is limited, so advance registration is a requirement.
• For a Kosher Box Lunch, please order under the Meals Only section

A. Jewish Houston Tour
   1:30 - 5:30 pm
   $45
Visit the earliest neighborhoods, synagogues and cemeteries of the Jewish population in Houston, led by a knowledgeable local guide who will talk about the history of the Jews in Houston as you drive through town.

B. Holocaust Museum Houston and Clayton Library for Genealogical Research
   1:30 - 5:30 pm
   $40
Our group has been invited to personalized tours of both institutions. If time permits, a stop can be made at the Asia Society Texas Center, the first free-standing building in the U.S. designed by famed Japanese architect Yoshio Taniguchi, who designed the renovation of MOMA.

   1:30 - 5:30 pm
   $40
The Menil Collection is part of a charming neighborhood of residences, parks, non-profit organizations, museum buildings, related art spaces, and the University of St. Thomas. The personal collections of John and Dominique de Menil are housed in this incredible building designed by architect Renzo Piano. The tour includes the nearby Rothko Chapel. A drive to the Museum of Printing History follows.

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V. REGISTRATION SUMMARY

Please summarize and total your convention choices:

1. Full Convention Registration $ _____________________
2. Per Diem Registration $ _____________________
3. Meals Only $ _____________________
4. Optional Tours $ _____________________
5. Donation to AJL $ _____________________

TOTAL DUE $ _____________________

Please print this registration form and send it with a check for the full amount to: Rabbi Patricia Fenton, Ostrow Library, American Jewish University, 15600 Mulholland, Bel-Air, CA 90077.

Make all checks payable to Association of Jewish Libraries Conference 2013.

Keep a copy of this registration for your records. Your cancelled check will be your receipt.

Refund requests must be submitted to Marsha Lustigman at bialikmtl@gmail.com prior to May 24 and are subject to a $36 cancellation fee. Refund requests after May 24 are subject to a $100 cancellation fee. Refunds will be processed and mailed after July 16.

To become a member of the Association of Jewish Libraries

Please go to our website: www.jewishlibraries.org
or contact
Sheryl Stahl, AJL Membership
Frances-Henry Library, HUC-JIR
3077 University Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90007
sstahl@huc.edu

For registration information contact Marsha Lustigman: bialikmtl@gmail.com
For conference information contact Judy Weidman: judybw@gmail.com

HOTEL REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Hotel reservations are not part of this registration form.
For hotel information and to make reservations please call:
(713) 961-9300
or book online through the AJL website at:
www.jewishlibraries.org

Reservations must be received by Hilton Houston Post Oak before May 31, 2013 to ensure the AJL Conference rate of $149.00 + tax. Reservations must be accompanied by a first night room deposit or guaranteed with a major credit card.

Please note: we will be collecting tzedakah for Mazon at the Awards Banquet.

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APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT
AJL 2013 CONFERENCE - HOUSTON, TEXAS
Please email application to Lenore Bell at bell1614@msn.com
Application must be received by March 18, 2013

You must be a current member of AJL at the time of application.
Applicants will be notified about stipend amounts by April 8.
Acceptance and full conference registration are required by April 16.

NAME: ________________________________________________________________

ADDRESS: _______________________________________________________________________

PHONE (1): ______________________ PHONE (2): ______________________

EMAIL (1): ______________________ EMAIL (2): ______________________

INSTITUTION: ___________________________________________________________________

POSITION: ________________________________________________________________

AJL MEMBERSHIP: current: __________ no. of years __________

AJL ACTIVITIES: ____________________________________________________________

CONVENTION PARTICIPATION (e.g., presenter, planning committee):
CURRENT: ______________________________________________________________________
PAST: __________________________________________________________________________

IS THIS YOUR FIRST AJL CONFERENCE? _________________________

ARE YOU A STUDENT? IF SO, PLEASE INDICATE YOUR UNIVERSITY & DEGREE PROGRAM:

ANTICIPATED CONVENTION EXPENSES
REGISTRATION: $485
HOTEL*: __________________
TRAVEL: __________________
OTHER: __________________ PLEASE SPECIFY: __________________
TOTAL** __________________

* Room reimbursement is based on 2 or more members per room.
** You will need to supply proof of your travel and other expenses for reimbursement.

OTHER FUNDING SOURCES, CONFIRMED OR ANTICIPATED
INSTITUTIONAL: ______________
LOCAL CHAPTER: ______________
OTHER ORGANIZATIONS: __________
PERSONAL FUNDS (amount you are able to cover): ______________
TOTAL: ______________

Please indicate if you are eligible and would like to be considered for a Littauer grant:

The Littauer Foundation supports AJL attendees from outside of the continental U.S. who are presenting
and/or playing an active role in the planning and execution of the convention.

Please indicate if you are eligible and would like to be considered for a Goldstaub grant:

The Goldstaub Community Special Needs Fund of the Houston Jewish Community Foundation supports
AJL attendees who are residents of Texas.

Please feel free to include any additional pertinent information.
# Publications Order Form

**Date:**

TO

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Please note: Prepayment required for all orders. Orders outside U.S. add $20 per order. Please make all checks payable to Association of Jewish Libraries and mail to: Association of Jewish Libraries c/o Joyce Levine, Vice President for Publications 711 Park Lane Valley Stream, NY 11581 jlevine@nshahs.org
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 AJL 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 ads must be prepaid. Please submit all inquiries, finished copy, and checks to:

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