

## Proposed Changes to the AJL Constitution and Bylaws, 2013

SUBMITTED BY HEIDI ESTRIN, PRESIDENT

AJL's Constitution and Bylaws are documents that guide the operations of our organization. They were first adopted in 1973 and have been revised several times over the years. The general membership of AJL must approve changes to the Constitution and Bylaws, requiring a vote. In an upcoming vote, you will be asked to vote on three changes currently being proposed by the AJL Council.

The three issues in question are: 1) the make-up of AJL's Board and Council, 2) the terminology we use for our annual meetings, and 3) our standards for fiscal transparency.

### 1) THE MAKE-UP OF AJL'S BOARD AND COUNCIL

AJL's Board and Council are large and unwieldy. We propose streamlining our Board and Council to maximize efficiency. The proposed changes to the text of the constitution can be found in Article V: Administration, and Article VI: Officers, as well as the Bylaws (found at the end of the Constitution). For details on the proposed changes, please see the sidebar.

### 2) TERMINOLOGY FOR ANNUAL MEETINGS

In order to reflect the professionalism of which AJL is so proud, the Board and Council would like to change the word "convention" to "conference" wherever it appears in the Constitution and Bylaws. There are seven instances of the word "convention" in the Constitution and Bylaws.

### 3) STANDARDS FOR FISCAL TRANSPARENCY

Article V of the Bylaws (Fiscal Policy) requires AJL to have an annual audit by a professional auditor. An audit is a major undertaking, costing thousands of dollars, and it is not an appropriate requirement for an organization of AJL's size and budget. After consulting with a professional accountant, the Council suggests that we instead require of ourselves a periodic "review," a higher level financial analysis in which AJL's financial statements and activities are examined by a professional accountant. Changing "audit" to "review" imposes a reasonable standard, while maintaining fiscal accountability.

The text of the AJL Constitution and Bylaws follows. All of the proposed changes have been highlighted in red text, with the old text struck through and the new text following.

- Voting will be conducted online and will take place between November 4 and December 1, 2013.
- Please address any questions to Parliamentarian Joy Kingsolver at [joy.kingsolver@gmail.com](mailto:joy.kingsolver@gmail.com).
- Members will receive an email message with a link to a ballot. If your email address has changed, you may not receive this message. To update your email in AJL's records, please log onto the AJL website at [www.jewishlibraries.org](http://www.jewishlibraries.org) to update your information (once logged on, click on Edit Profile, upper right corner). Your Hasafran subscription does NOT ensure that your email address is in our Membership records.
- If you have difficulty logging on to the AJL website, please email Membership Chair Sheryl Stahl at [membership@jewishlibraries.org](mailto:membership@jewishlibraries.org).

Thank you in advance for participating -- your vote matters!

### AJL Online



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

To subscribe to Hasafran, please see instructions at <https://lists.service.ohio-state.edu/mailman/listinfo/hasafran>

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## AJL's Board and Council

According to our Constitution, the Board is currently made up of our elected officers (president, vice-president/president-elect, vice-president for membership, vice-president for publications, corresponding secretary, recording secretary, and treasurer), plus the immediate past president of the Association and the president, vice-president and secretary of each division. The Parliamentarian is a non-voting ex officio member. This gives us a total of 15 people. The task of the Board is to approve and oversee the budget, and make recommendations to Council.

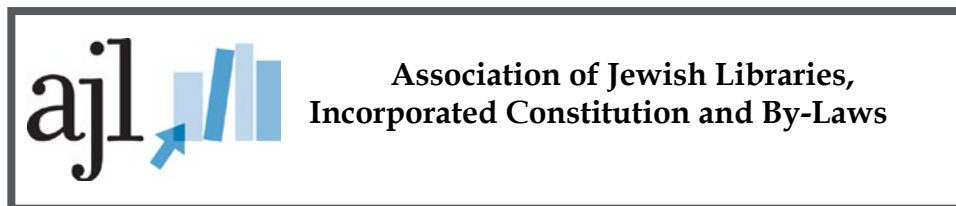
The AJL Council is made up of all Board members, plus the chairpersons of all committees, the webmaster, the editors of Judaica Librarianship and AJL News & Reviews, the coordinator of Hasafran, and three chapter representatives. Currently the Council membership totals 40. The Council is responsible for determining all matters of policy for the organization.

Our governing bodies are very large for an organization such as ours. Policy-making can be very unwieldy in such large groups. In an effort to streamline the governance of AJL, the Board and Council are proposing to reduce the number of members of each group.

On the Board, the corresponding and recording secretaries would be combined into one office. The vice-president for publications would become a committee chair serving on the Council but would no longer be a Board member. A new position on the Board would be a vice-president for development, to enable AJL to focus on fundraising, one of our major challenges today. The president and vice-president of SSC and RAS would sit on the Board, but the positions of division secretaries would be eliminated. Under the new rules, the Board would have 12 members including the non-voting Parliamentarian.

The Council would also be streamlined. Some current Council positions would be transformed into non-voting committee chairs reporting to Council. These are: Hasafran coordinator, conference stipends chair, ALA and ATLA liaisons, advertising chair, scholarships chair, cataloging chair, accreditation chair, and the Sydney Taylor Book and Manuscript Award chairs. The new make-up would give us 24 people on the Council, including two at-large members appointed by the president.

The Board and Council feel very strongly that this reorganization is necessary to enable AJL to operate efficiently and meet the challenges of the future. The proposed changes to the text of the constitution can be found in Article V: Administration, and Article VI: Officers, as well as the Bylaws (found at the end of the Constitution).



Revision history:

Adopted: June, 1973

Revised: June, 1998; June, 2006; June 2009, June 2011

Proposed changes are indicated by **red text**

### ARTICLE I - NAME

This organization shall be known as the Association of Jewish Libraries, Incorporated, herein referred to as the Association.

### ARTICLE II - MISSION AND GOALS

The mission and goals of the Association are stated in the Corporate Charter.

### ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Any person, library or other organization interested in promoting the goals of the Association may become a member upon payment of specified dues.

Section 2. Honorary life membership may be conferred upon an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to Judaic library service. This person shall be a non-dues paying member with voting privileges.

## ARTICLE IV - STRUCTURE

Section 1. The Association shall be structured to include divisions representing major types of library service. The local chapters represent different geographic locations.

Section 2. Applications for establishment of divisions or chapters shall be made to the Executive Board in accordance with the BY-LAWS.

## ARTICLE V - ADMINISTRATION

Section 1. The governing body of the Association shall be the Council which shall consist of the Executive Board, ~~the chairpersons of all committees~~, the webmaster, the editors of Judaica Librarianship and the AJL Newsletter, the coordinator of Hasafran, ~~the parliamentarian, the public relations chair, the professional development/ continuing education chair, the national conference chair, and the local conference chairs for the current year and the following year.~~ In addition, the mentoring/ member support chair and two members-at-large, appointed by the president, will serve on the Council. ~~Three Chapter Presidents or other chapter representatives, designated by the Chapter Relations Committee Chair, will represent all chapter presidents as members of Council.~~

a. The Council shall determine policy for the Association and its decisions shall be binding upon the Association.  
b. Any action of the Council may be set aside by a three-fourths vote at any meeting of the Association or by a majority vote by mail, email, or other electronic means in which one-fourth of the members of the Association have voted. Such vote shall be held upon petition of twenty members of the Association.

c. The Association by a vote at a meeting held during the annual **convention conference** may refer any matter to the Council with recommendations and may require the Council to report on such matters at any specified meeting of the Association.

d. Any questions of policy may, by a majority of the Council, be submitted to the Association to be voted on either at an annual conference or by mail, email or other electronic means as the Council may determine.

e. The Council shall hold at least one meeting each year at the time and place of the annual **convention conference** of the Association. Other meetings may be called by the president or upon the request of seven members of the council.

f. Officers of the Association shall serve as officers of the Council. The presiding officer may vote only in the case of a tie.

g. A member of Council may serve simultaneously in more than one capacity but only has one vote.

h. All elected or appointed Councilors shall serve for terms of two years or until their successors take office.

Section 2. The administrative body of the Association shall be the Executive Board, which shall consist of the elected officers and immediate past president of the Association and the president and vice-president ~~and secretary~~ of each division.

a. The Executive Board shall act for the Council in the administration of established policies and programs. It shall serve as the central management board for the Association subject to review by Council, and shall make recommendations with respect to matters of policy and operations. The Parliamentarian shall be an ex-officio member of the Executive Board.

b. The Executive Board shall report not later than the next meeting of the Council.

c. The Executive Board shall hold at least one meeting each year at the time and place of the annual **convention conference** of the Association. Other meetings may be called by the president upon request of the majority of the Board.

## ARTICLE VI - OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of the Association shall be a president, a vice-president/ president-elect, a vice-president of membership, ~~a vice-president of publications, a vice-president of development, a corresponding secretary, a recording secretary, a secretary~~, and a treasurer.

Section 2. All officers and elected members of the Executive Board shall take office at the adjournment of the annual **convention conference** and serve for a two year term or until their successors take office.

a. The ~~corresponding secretary, recording secretary~~ secretary, treasurer, vice-president of membership and ~~vice-president of publications vice-president of development~~ may stand for reelection and serve up to three consecutive terms.

b. All other officers shall not serve consecutive full terms in office.

Section 3. Officers shall perform the duties of their respective office and such other duties as may be approved by the Executive Board.

Section 4. Vacancy in an office may be filled for the period of the unexpired terms by appointment by the

Executive Board with the exception that should the vacancy occur in the office of the president, the vice-president (president-elect) will succeed to the office of the president, to complete that term. He or she will automatically succeed himself or herself to serve his or her regular term as president.

## **ARTICLE VII - MEETINGS**

Section 1. There shall be an annual **convention conference** of the Association at such time and place as may be determined by the Executive Board.

Section 2. Special meetings of the Association may be called by the Executive Board, the president or upon request of no less than twenty members. At least two weeks notice shall be given.

## **ARTICLE VIII - VOTING**

Section 1. Each individual and life members shall be entitled to one vote.

Section 2. Votes by mail, email or other electronic means as decided by Council, both of the Association and of the Council, may be authorized by the Executive Board between meetings for exceptional matters that should not be postponed until the next annual meeting. Such mail, email or electronic votes shall be conducted under the same requirements as votes at meetings, except that for votes by Council, a fifty per cent of the voting membership shall constitute a quorum and a three-fourths majority of those voting shall be required to carry.

Section 3. The Executive Board shall have authority to set the time limit during which votes will be recorded; but if no such time limit is set, no vote shall be counted unless received within thirty days from the day the text of the ballot or question voted upon was mailed properly addressed to those entitled to vote on the matter involved. In the case of a vote by mail, email or electronic means by the Association, the Executive Board may designate publication of the ballot or question submitted in the official newsletter of the Association as the appropriate method of submitting the matter to the membership.

## **ARTICLE IX - PROVISION FOR BYLAWS**

Bylaws may be adopted, amended or rescinded by a majority vote of the members present and voting at any regular meeting of the Association, or by mail, email, or other electronic means, providing the entire membership has received ten days prior written notification.

## **ARTICLE X - AMENDMENTS**

Section 1. Proposals for amending the Constitution may originate in the Council or from any member who presents a petition signed by not fewer than seven members.

Section 2. A proposed amendment shall become effective when it shall have been approved by a majority of the members of the Council present and voting, followed by ratification of the membership either by a mail, email, or other electronic vote of the majority of the members voting, or by a majority vote of the membership present and voting at a special meeting of the Association.

Section 3. The Council, on approving a proposed amendment shall specify whether a vote on ratification shall be taken at a meeting of the Association or by mail, email, or other electronic means. If a mail or electronic vote is ordered, the Council shall fix the time for the beginning and closing of the balloting. If a vote at a meeting is ordered, at least thirty days written notice shall be given to the membership of the text of the proposed amendment.

## **BYLAWS**

### **ARTICLE I - NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

Section 1. a. Prior to the annual **convention conference**, held in odd years, the president shall appoint a Nominating Committee of at least three members, representative of the general membership, including at least one member of each division.

b. Such committee shall nominate candidates from among the general membership for the positions of president-elect, vice-president for membership, **vice-president for publications**, **vice-president for development**, **recording secretary**, **corresponding secretary**, and treasurer.

Section 2. a. The nominating committee shall report its nominations in the official newsletter of the Association not less than three months before the annual **convention conference**.

b. In any national election, additional names may be placed in nomination for any office by any member in good standing. These nominations must be submitted to the chair of the nominating committee no later than two

weeks after the proposed slate of officers is officially transmitted to the membership. Nominations must have the support of five members in good standing, and the consent of the nominee.

Section 3. The elections shall be held by mail, email, or other electronic means and the candidate receiving a majority of the votes for each office shall be elected to that office.

## **ARTICLE II - COMMITTEES**

Section 1. a. The standing committees of the Association shall be: Constitution and Bylaws, Finance, and Membership.

b. Chairpersons of the above mentioned committees shall be appointed by the president.

Section 2. Special Committees may be authorized by the Council or the Executive Board. Chairpersons of such committees shall be appointed by the president with approval of the Board.

Section 3. No committee shall incur expense on behalf of the Association except as authorized, nor shall any committee commit the Association by any declaration of policy.

Section 4. The Treasurer shall be a permanent member of the Finance Committee.

Section 5. The president and/or vice-president/president-elect shall be ex-officio members of all committees.

## **ARTICLE III - QUORUM**

Section 1. Twenty members shall constitute a quorum at any regular or special meeting of the Association.

Section 2. A majority shall constitute a quorum for meetings of the Executive Board and eleven members shall constitute a quorum for Council.

## **ARTICLE IV - DUES**

Section 1. The Council of the Association shall have the power to determine various classes of membership and to set the annual dues.

Section 2. Members whose dues are unpaid on February 1 of each year and who shall continue such delinquency for one month after notice of the same has been sent, shall be dropped from membership. Lapsed members may be reinstated upon payment of dues for the current year.

Section 3. Membership year of the Association shall be October 1 - September 30.

Section 4. Dues remitted after July 1 shall be applicable to the following year.

## **ARTICLE V - FISCAL POLICY**

Section 1. The fiscal year of the Association shall be October 1 - September 30.

Section 2. ~~An audit~~ A review of all accounts shall be made ~~annually~~ biannually by a professional ~~auditor~~ accountant.

Section 3. A report shall be made annually to the membership, by a duly authorized member of the Executive Board, detailing receipts and expenditures, explaining the Association's fiscal status and, ~~when appropriate,~~ reporting on the ~~audit review~~.

Section 4. A budget must be approved by Executive Board no later than the annual meeting preceding the new fiscal year.

Section 5. Any expenditure not allocated in the budget exceeding \$100.00 must be approved by a majority vote of the Executive Board.

Section 6. In the event that the Association is dissolved, all funds and property belonging to the Association, shall be transferred in accordance with the wishes of the Council to institutions or organizations which qualify for tax exemption under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Section 7. In no event shall any of the funds of the Association inure to the benefit of any individual.

## **ARTICLE VI - DIVISIONS**

Section 1. The purpose of a division is to promote library service and librarianship of a particular type or interest. Each division shall represent a field of activity clearly and distinctly different from that of other divisions.

Section 2. a. Any group of not fewer than fifteen members of the Association may petition the Council for division status. Applications must be in writing accompanied by signatures of prospective members and a statement of goals and objectives.

b. The Council by a vote taken at two consecutive meetings may discontinue division status when in the opinion of the Council the usefulness of that division has ceased.

Section 3. Each division may establish its own bylaws, structure and program, providing that these in no way

conflict with the constitution and bylaws of the Association.

Section 4. The officers of each division shall serve on the Executive Board.

## **ARTICLE VII - CHAPTERS**

Section 1. The purpose of a chapter is to promote Jewish library service and librarianship within a specific geographic area.

Section 2. Any group of not fewer than five members of the Association may petition the Executive Board for Chapter status. Applications must be in writing accompanied by signatures of prospective members and a statement of goals and objectives. All chapter officers must be members of National AJL.

Section 3. Each chapter may establish its own bylaws, structure and program, providing these areas in no way conflict with the constitution and bylaws of the Association.

Section 4. Each Chapter President shall serve on the Chapter Presidents Council.

Section 5. Any chapter may withdraw from chapter status provided the withdrawal has been submitted to a vote of the chapter membership and is favored by a majority of the members voting.

Section 6. Chapter status may be withdrawn by the Executive Board if the chapter becomes inactive or fails to comply with the provisions of this article.

## **ARTICLE VIII - PAST PRESIDENTS COUNCIL**

All past Association presidents automatically become members of the Past Presidents Council.

## **ARTICLE IX - PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

Business shall be conducted in accordance with the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order unless otherwise specified in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association.

## **ARTICLE X - DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

These duties shall be defined in a procedure manual to be adopted by the Council.

### **DO WE HAVE YOUR CORRECT EMAIL ADDRESS?**

The vote on the changes to the AJL Constitution will take place from November 4 to December 1, 2013. An email message with a link to the ballot will be sent to every member. If your email address has changed, please log onto the AJL website at [www.jewishlibraries.org](http://www.jewishlibraries.org) to update your information: once logged on, click on Edit Profile in the upper right corner. If you have difficulty logging on, please contact Sheryl Stahl, our Vice-President for Membership, at [membership@jewishlibraries.org](mailto:membership@jewishlibraries.org).

If you are subscribed to Hasafran, please note that this is NOT enough to ensure that our records are updated. You must notify AJL of your correct address.

Further updates about this vote will be posted on Hasafran and on the website. We want to make sure every member has an opportunity to take part in this important event. Your vote matters!

### **FREE MONEY for AJL! Please Use Goodsearch!**

HEIDI ESTRIN, PRESIDENT, AJL

Generate a donation to AJL every time you do a web search: use GoodSearch! No money comes out of your pocket - donations are provided by advertisers. GoodSearch is a search engine powered by Yahoo, and results are similar to Google's. Simply bookmark <http://tinyurl.com/AJLgoodsearch> in your web browser and use this site whenever you search the Internet!



## Sydney Taylor Manuscript Award - Submission deadline nears

With the 2014 award, the submission deadline for the Sydney Taylor Manuscript Award has been moved to September 30. The decision to change the submission date was made to align the Manuscript Award announcement with the Sydney Taylor Book Award announcement which takes place in January of the award year. The winner will be notified by January 31.

In addition, manuscripts now will only be accepted in electronic form, either as attachments or on CDs in PDF format. Hard copies will no longer be accepted.

The Sydney Taylor Manuscript Award is presented to the author of an unpublished work of literary fiction with Jewish content. The manuscript should have universal appeal and be appropriate for readers ages 8-13 years. The story should serve to deepen the understanding of Judaism for all children, Jewish and non-Jewish, and should reveal positive aspects of Jewish life. Short stories, plays, poetry, or collections of short stories are not eligible.

If no submitted manuscript meets the Award criteria, no Award is given.

The Manuscript Award committee looks forward to reading this year's crop of manuscripts. Further information is available on the Manuscript Award website or from the chairperson at [aidonna@aol.com](mailto:aidonna@aol.com).



## ATLA, AJL, CLA Social Gathering

The following item is reprinted by permission of ATLA - American Theological Library Association. ATLA Newsletter, American Theological Library Association  
Volume 60, Issue 9, August 2013.

ATLA partnered with the Association of Jewish Libraries (AJL) and the Catholic Library Association (CLA) to host a social gathering on Sunday, June 30, at the St. James Commons in downtown Chicago.

This wonderful ground level venue features floor to ceiling windows, which provided a view of a newly designed and landscaped courtyard bustling with area students, couples hanging out and parents with children running about, as well as our guests approaching the building to join our reception.



*Guests enjoy conversation and kosher food at the ATLA, AJL, CLA Social Gathering*

Scheduled to coincide with the ALA Conference, many of the thirty guests ventured out directly from the McCormick Place conference center to enjoy the short trip to the north Loop. A few took the time to walk up the lakeshore, taking in sights of the beach, waves and sun on a glorious summer day. Light fare from the Hungarian Kosher Foods supermarket in Skokie was served and absolutely delicious. Conversation buzzed among old friends, former colleagues and new acquaintances, while some impromptu business was conducted as well. We are grateful to our partners of AJL and CLA, our hosts of the Episcopal Diocese, and all who attended.

## BEFORE and AFTER: Life in AJL

SUBMITTED BY HEIDI ESTRIN

When I got home from the 2013 AJL conference in Houston, I looked through the snapshots I had taken. I was helping to Facebook the conference, so I'd been quite the shutterbug and had many photos to reminisce over. Two pictures really caught my eye for the way they represented life BEFORE involvement in AJL, and life AFTER.



Take a look at this picture of the Newcomer's Orientation meeting, led by Amalia Warshenbrot (she's waving from the back of the room). People are smiling and waving, they look glad to be there. But they are each sitting alone, and their body language looks a little hesitant. They are interested, but not quite sure what they're getting into!

Now take a look at this picture from the conclusion of the AJL Council meeting, a business meeting lasting about four hours. Despite (or because of?) the hard work they've just accomplished, these folks are thrilled to be together again after a year apart. They are comfortable with each other, even squeezed in close. They are not only smiling and waving, they are laughing and ready to be silly, posing in their fun hats (thanks, Houston convention committee!) and doing the "librarian shush."



This is life before and after getting involved in AJL: true friendships, professional growth, and satisfaction in a job well done. I am happily looking forward to seeing the newbies in the first picture transformed into hard-working fun-loving old timers as they get involved in the work of AJL!

## Conference Myths and Realities

BY SUSAN DUBIN, PAST NATIONAL CONFERENCE CHAIR AND LOCAL CHAIR OF 2014 CONFERENCE

Did you ever think, "Why do AJL Conferences have to be so expensive? Why don't they (insert your suggestion here)?" You are not alone. It seems that every year the AJL Council and Conference chairs wrestle with the same problems. Someone will suggest having conferences at college campuses or campgrounds. Someone will suggest eliminating Kosher food. Someone else will want to look into having it in the same city every year. Suggestions to move it to winter or summer or spring or to shorten the conference or start on a different day of the week have all been made and discussed and evaluated at one time or another.

Here is the real scoop on why we plan our conferences the way we do:

**MYTH:** It would be cheaper to hold our conferences in less expensive hotels, or to choose locations outside of major city centers.

**REALITY:** Less expensive hotels rarely offer the kind of meeting space or catering services required for an AJL conference, nor do they offer the kinds of package deals we are able to negotiate at finer hotels. We always



choose the hotels that give us the best price that meets our needs, and we generally get our meeting space FREE by guaranteeing the hotel a minimum number of sleeping rooms booked and food and beverage consumed. We sometimes do choose locations outside of major cities (Pasadena instead of LA, Scottsdale instead of Phoenix, Brooklyn instead of Manhattan, Cambridge instead of Boston), but we also need to keep ease and expense of transportation in mind for our attendees, so we stick fairly close to major hubs.

**MYTH: It would be cheaper to hold our conference at a college campus or campground instead of a fancy hotel.**

**REALITY:** Hotels offer free meeting space in exchange for our bringing them room rentals and catering, as mentioned above. At a college or campground, the price of accommodations does not include meeting space, which would be an additional expense. Dorm rooms or cabins would need to be rented by the organization as a whole rather than by attendees, thus necessitating someone in AJL collecting the money for housing upfront and assigning roommates. At a hotel, all meeting and dining spaces are close together; a college campus or campground's layout might mean difficulty for people with mobility issues and the need for AJL to arrange transportation. Holding our conference at a college or campground could well end up being more expensive than a hotel, and would definitely involve a lot more work for our all-volunteer conference planning committee.

**MYTH: It would be cheaper and/or easier if we used the same hotel chain every year, or returned to the same city every year.**

**REALITY:** Many hotel chains are franchised, and using a national brand does not necessarily ensure better pricing. In addition, hotels vary from location to location and may not all be able to provide the needed meeting space or kashrut. Our conferences are planned completely by volunteers, including a local chair and many members from each conference location. It is not possible for any local group to take on this time-consuming responsibility year after year.

**MYTH: Eating Kosher meals at AJL conferences doesn't matter; we should eliminate expensive Kosher food.**

**REALITY:** The AJL Council has discussed this issue many times over the years, the the general membership has been surveyed about it. The consensus has always been that since we are a Jewish organization, we should provide Kosher meals for all so as not to segregate those who keep Kosher. Meal-time programming is an important part of AJL conferences, so we need to be able to eat together. The simple reality is that Kosher catering is more expensive than non-kosher, however, providing Kosher meals has proven to be an important part of the welcoming culture of our conferences.

**MYTH: We would save money if our conference menus offered simpler meals or eliminated meat.**

**REALITY:** For an individual at the supermarket, buying simpler foods and less meat saves money. Although it is counter-intuitive, this is simply not true for an organization arranging a catered event. Caterers require "food and beverage minimums." No matter what kind of food is served, the package deal requires that we spend a certain amount. We always negotiate for the best possible meals at the best possible prices.

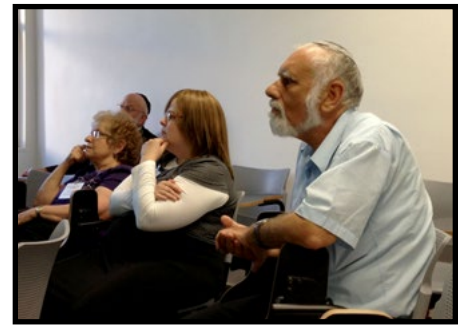
**MYTH OR REALITY? "A shorter conference would be cheaper" but "Employers might question the value of a shorter conference."**

**LET'S FIND OUT:** In 2014, AJL conference programming will take place Sunday through Tuesday, with Wednesday reserved for business meetings and optional trips. If this saves you money, let us know! If your boss questions the value of sending you to a shorter conference, let us know that too!

I hope that this information has helped to answer some of your questions about conferences. We welcome anyone who wants to help plan the conferences to join us. We are always looking for ways to make them better and more relevant. Please come to Las Vegas and see for yourself why many of our attendees come year after year. I "bet" you will become a regular, too!

**DON'T FORGET TO READ THE SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2013 ISSUE OF AJL REVIEWS!  
OVER 50 PAGES OF REVIEWS!**

## AJL members presented at the 16<sup>th</sup> World Congress for Jewish Studies



Several AJL members presented at the 16<sup>th</sup> World Congress for Jewish Studies, which took place July 28 through August 1 at the Mount Scopus campus of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Sessions were chosen by RAS division, and AJL provided support for conference registration.

Presenters (and topics) were Edith Lubetski (Online Resources for Jewish Women's Studies), Veronica Belling (Past and Future of the Jewish Studies Library and its Archives at the University of Cape Town), Sonia Smith (Student Difficulties in Looking for Transliterated Access Points in the Library Catalogue), Kathe Pinchuck ("Off the Derekh and Onto the Page"), Nahum Zitter (Library Classification Schemes as Sources for Library Data), Rachel Misrati (Avraham Schwadron's Autograph Collection), Yoram Bitton (Survey of Jewish Liturgical Music Materials in Libraries), and Tina Weiss (Passover Kashrut Manuals). Ya'akov Aronson and Chaim Seymour served as moderators.



## Publishers' News

Open Road Media's digital publishing has partnered with Kar-Ben Publishing, a division of Lerner Publishing Group that publishes high-quality children's titles focused on Jewish themes, values, and content. Open Road will launch this partnership with eleven read-aloud ebooks, including *It's A Mitzvah, Grover!* and three books from the bestselling *Sammy Spider* series, written by Sylvia A. Rouss and illustrated by Katherine Janus Kahn, in celebration of its twentieth anniversary. (Press release received from Open Road Integrated Media).

**"WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS....."**

**IS THE 2014 AJL ANNUAL CONFERENCE, JUNE 22-25 AT THE WESTIN HOTEL."**

**FIND OUT MORE ONLINE AT [HTTP://WWW.JEWISHLIBRARIES.ORG/MAIN/EVENTS.ASPX](http://www.jewishlibraries.org/main/events.aspx)**

## Judaica Librarianship is Online!

On behalf of Judaica Librarianship's Editorial Board, I am pleased to announce that AJL's peer-reviewed journal is now available online at <http://ajlpublishing.org/jl>.

The site currently features the most recent issue of Judaica Librarianship (vol. 16/17). Additional back issues will be soon available on the site as well. According to our new policy, back issues will be freely available 12 months after the publication date.

Judaica Librarianship provides a forum for scholarship on the theory and practice of Jewish Studies librarianship and Information Studies. The journal seeks to publish research articles and essays related to the development and management of Judaica collections in all types of libraries and archives, the initiation and coordination of digital curation projects, the creation and dissemination of information resources in all formats, and the promotion of Jewish information literacy for diverse audiences through various outreach activities. The Editorial Board also welcomes thoroughly revised and updated versions of papers presented at AJL Annual Conferences or chapter meetings. Additional information about the topics covered in the journal is available online on the Focus and Scope page. **Submission deadline for the next issue is September 30, 2013.**

Students currently enrolled in any accredited Library and Information Science program are encouraged to submit essays to AJL's Student Essay Contest. Essays must be relevant to the field of Jewish Studies librarianship. The winning essay will be considered for publication, and the winner will receive a cash award.

I would like to thank the members of the Editorial Board and AJL's webmaster Nancy Sack for their support and assistance during the process of transferring the journal online. Mazal tov to all AJL members!

### *Editor-in-Chief, Judaica Librarianship*

Rachel Leket-Mor, Arizona State University Libraries

### *Judaica Librarianship Editorial Board*

Zachary M. Baker, Stanford University Libraries

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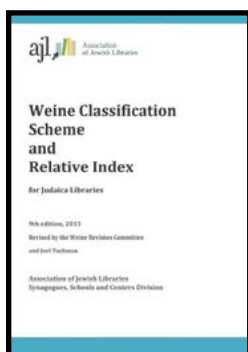
James Rosenbloom, Brandeis University Library

Barry Dov Walfish, University of Toronto Libraries



## New Edition of Weine Classification Scheme and Relative Index Released

JOYCE LEVINE, VP FOR PUBLICATIONS



The ninth edition of the well-known classification guide is now available for sale on [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com), as well as for free download on the members-only section of the [AJL website](http://AJL website). It includes the fourth revised edition of the relative index, which is an alphabetical list of subject headings that can be used as an aid to classification. The previous edition was published in 1995.

The Weine Revision Committee, chaired by Joel Tuchman of the Sinai Temple Blumenthal Library in Los Angeles, was composed of numerous members who devoted many hours of work to this project, and we are deeply grateful for their input. The current revision incorporates their ideas and suggestions.

The Weine Classification Scheme, originally developed by Judaica librarian Mae Weine in the 1960s, is based on the Dewey system and is intended to assist primarily small Judaica libraries organize their collections. It can be modified or extended by individual libraries to suit their needs. Many members of the Synagogue, School, and Center Division (SSC) of AJL use the Weine system.

## Free Online Jewish Resources

SUBMITTED BY MARVA TOMER, PUBLIC SERVICES AND REFERENCE ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN AT WHEELOCK COLLEGE, BOSTON, M,  
AND A GRADUATE STUDENT OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE AT SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY(ONLINE).

### Reference Resources

**The Digital Public Library of America** <http://dp.la/>

“The DPLA offers a single point of access to millions of items—photographs, manuscripts, books, sounds, moving images, and more—from libraries, archives, and museums around the United States.” To find Jewish-related resources, type “Jewish” or “Judaism” in the search box.

**My Hebrew Dictionary** <http://www.dictionary.co.il/>

This site provides online resources for learning Hebrew words and pronunciation. It also offers suggestions for purchasing Hebrew/Yiddish/Aramic dictionaries and software.

**Ehud’s Assisting You to Learn** <http://www.ualberta.ca/~ebenzvi/Assist/Judaism/index.html>

This site is a repository of sources on numerous Jewish subjects such as the Talmud & Halacha, Jewish art, holidays, music, and Jewish studies.

**World Religions** <http://homepages.abdn.ac.uk/colin.calder/pages/philosophyofreligion/>

This World Religions website explores various aspects of different religions, including texts, art, and architecture.

**The Jewish Virtual Library** <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/index.html>

The Jewish Virtual Library includes numerous articles about various Jewish and Israeli topics such as history, travel, politics, and religion.

**Judaica electronic texts** <http://www.library.upenn.edu/cajs/etexts.html>

Judaica electronic texts (including the Bible, Talmud, Genizah, and Midrash) from the Library of the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies of UPenn.

**The Jewish Theological Seminary Library** <http://www.jtsa.edu/x12412.xml#history>

The Jewish Theological Seminary Library provides many resources on various Jewish subjects such as language, education, and genealogy.

**Stanford U Judaica and Hebraica Collections**

<http://www-sul.stanford.edu/depts/hasrg/jewish/links.html#basic>

Judaica and Hebraica Collections from Standford University, including ebooks, ejournals, and reference sources.

**Hebrew Books** <http://www.hebrewbooks.org/>

Classical (“Kodesh”) Hebrew Books for free download.

**Yiddish journals**

<http://www.mail-archive.com/hasafran@lists.acs.ohio-state.edu/msg12491.html>

Sources for free online Yiddish journals.

**Omniglot** <http://www.omniglot.com/writing/yiddish.htm>

The Yiddish alphabet and pronunciation from Omniglot, the online encyclopedia of writing systems and languages.

**The YIVO Encyclopedia of Jews in Eastern Europe** <http://www.yivoencyclopedia.org/>

The YIVO Encyclopedia of Jews in Eastern Europe, providing scholarly information about the history and culture of Eastern European Jews.

**The North American Jewish Data Bank** <http://www.jewishdatabank.org/>

“The North American Jewish Data Bank at the University of Connecticut is a central repository of social scientific studies of North American Jewry.”

**The JTA Jewish News Archive** <http://archive.jta.org/>

The JTA Jewish News Archive is a powerful reference tool that offers a perspective on current events and modern Jewish history, with free access to resources covering nearly a century of reporting about global events affecting world Jewry.

**On-Line Dead Sea Scrolls Bibliography** <http://orion.mscc.huji.ac.il/resources/bib/current.shtml>

"The Orion Center's On-Line Dead Sea Scrolls Bibliography posts books, articles and reviews related to the Dead Sea Scrolls from 1995 to the present."

**Jewish Encyclopedia** <http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/>

"This website contains the complete contents of the 12-volume Jewish Encyclopedia, which was originally published between 1901-1906."

**The Holocaust Encyclopedia** <http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/>

The Holocaust encyclopedia from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

**The Historical Jewish Press** <http://www.jpess.org.il/view-english.asp>

The Historical Jewish Press "contains a collection of Jewish newspapers published in various countries, languages, and time periods".

**Treasury of Talmudic Manuscripts** [http://jnul.huji.ac.il/dl/talmud/intro\\_eng.htm](http://jnul.huji.ac.il/dl/talmud/intro_eng.htm)

An Online Treasury of Talmudic Manuscripts in Hebrew and Aramaic

**Yiddish-Language Playscripts** <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/vshtml/vsyid.html>

The Library of Congress' collection of Yiddish-Language Playscripts.

**Yizkor Books Online** <http://legacy.www.nysl.org/research/chss/jws/yizkorbookonline.cfm>

The New York Public Library's Digital Yizkor Book Viewer to digital images of complete Holocaust memorial books, exactly as issued.

**Israel's foreign relations Documents** [http://www.archives.gov.il/ArchiveGov\\_Eng/Publications](http://www.archives.gov.il/ArchiveGov_Eng/Publications)

"This series of volumes (17 to date) published by the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs contains documents, many in English translation, relating to Israel's foreign relations from 1947 until the present."

**The Avalon Project** [http://avalon.law.yale.edu/subject\\_menus/mideast.asp](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/subject_menus/mideast.asp)

Yale Law School's Avalon project: Documents in Law, History, and Diplomacy includes a documentary record of The Middle East 1916-2001.

## **Instructional Material**

**The Orange Grove** <http://florida.theorange grove.org/og/access/searching.do>

The Orange Grove is Florida's digital repository. This repository includes k-12 material, higher education material, as well free textbooks and courseware. To find Jewish-related resources, type "Jewish" or "Judaism" in the search box.

**Learning Sacred Texts** <http://www.bl.uk/learning/cult/sacredbooks/sacredintro.html>

This site by the British Library provides an interactive experience in learning about sacred texts of various religions.

**Walking with God** <http://ziegler.ajula.edu/default.aspx?id=5188>

This adult education course-- called 'Walking with God' --from the Walking With series by the American Jewish University discusses God in various contexts and historical periods.

## **Foundations of Theology**

<http://ocw.nd.edu/theology/foundations-of-theology-biblical-and-historical>

THEO 10001 - Foundations of Theology: Biblical and Historical: open introductory course from the University of Notre Dame to the Bible and historical Christianity.

**The Jewish Studies Digital Library** <http://www.academicinfo.net/Judaismlibrary.html>

The Jewish Studies Digital Library by Academicinfo, an online education resource center. Includes articles, journals, and academic discussion lists.

## Archives

**VHA Online** <http://vhaonline.usc.edu/login.aspx>

The Visual History Archive Online is “an online portal from USC Shoah Foundation that allows users to search through nearly 52,000 audiovisual testimonies of survivors and witnesses of the Holocaust and other genocides. These testimonies were conducted in 57 countries and in 33 languages.”

**The YIVO Archives** [http://www.yivo.org/archive/archlib/archlib\\_fr.htm](http://www.yivo.org/archive/archlib/archlib_fr.htm)

The YIVO Archives holds over 22,000,000 documents, photographs, recordings, posters, films, videotapes, and other artifacts related to the history and culture of East European and American Jewry.

**The Center for Jewish History** <http://www.cjh.org/>

The Center for Jewish History is a Jewish research and cultural institution, partnering with the American Jewish Historical Society, American Sephardi Federation, Leo Baeck Institute, Yeshiva University Museum and YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, to compile a comprehensive collection of Jewish history.

**The Library of Jewish Theological Seminary**

<http://www.jtslibrarytreasures.org/index.html> ([http://www.jtsa.edu/The\\_Library.xml](http://www.jtsa.edu/The_Library.xml))

This is the site of the Library of Jewish Theological Seminary which includes thousands of rare books and manuscripts.

**The Pittsburgh Jewish Newspaper Project** <http://digitalcollections.library.cmu.edu/pjn/index.jsp>

“The Pittsburgh Jewish Newspaper Project makes available more than one hundred years of Jewish newspapers published in Pittsburgh. Digitized page images capture daily life in Pittsburgh from the 1890s to the present, with particular focus on Jewish communities. Life-cycle events, synagogue and organizational activities, arts, entertainment, and sports events are presented in detail.”

**The World Digital Library** <http://www.wdl.org/en/item/3030/>

Information and images about Jewish Antiquities; by the World Digital Library.

**The Yiddish Book Center** <http://www.yiddishbookcenter.org/read-translate>

“The Yiddish Book Center is a comprehensive source of out-of-print Yiddish books – and a major force in translating Yiddish literature into English”.

**Compact Memory** <http://compactmemory.de/>

Compact Memory is a portal for Jewish studies, including over 100 Jewish periodicals from 1806-1938. In German.

**Judaica Europeana** <http://judaica-europeana.eu/>

“Judaica Europeana... provides access online to content which documents the Jewish presence and heritage in the cities of Europe. Since its launch in 2010, Judaica Europeana partners have digitized and uploaded **3.7 million** items from their collections. They include 3,611,000 pages from books, newspapers and archives; 62,000 photographs, postcards and museum objects; 23,000 sound files of music and oral history; 2,000 moving image files”

**The Holocaust Collection** <http://go.fold3.com/holocaust/>

The Holocaust Collection includes material such as documents, maps, photos, and stories on the Holocaust.

**The Aufbau** <http://archive.org/details/aufbau>

Digitized copies of The Aufbau, a journal for German-speaking Jews around the globe founded in 1934 by the German-Jewish Club

**The Dartmouth Jewish Sound Archive** <http://djsa.dartmouth.edu/index.php>

The Dartmouth Jewish Sound Archive includes Web-based access to Jewish recordings that are not commercially available, as well related, searchable information that can aid in the study of Jewish music and culture, Jewish society, and the history of Jewish recordings.

**The Dead Sea Scrolls Digital Library** <http://www.deadseascrolls.org.il/>

The Leon Levi Dead Sea Scrolls Digital Library contains digital copies of thousands of scroll fragments.

**Words Like Sapphires** <http://myloc.gov/exhibitions/words-like-sapphires/Pages/default.aspx>

“Words Like Sapphires: 100 Years of Hebraica at the Library of Congress, 1912–2012” is a LOC exhibition featuring articles and images about Judaism.

**The Berman Jewish Policy Archive** <http://www.bjpa.org/>

The Berman Jewish Policy Archive “is the central electronic address for Jewish communal policy. BJPA offers a vast collection of policy-relevant research and analysis on Jewish life to the public, free of charge, with holdings spanning from 1900 until today.”

**The Jewish Women’s Archive** <http://jwa.org/>

“The mission of the Jewish Women’s Archive (JWA) is to uncover, chronicle, and transmit to a broad public the rich history of American Jewish women”

**The Steven Spielberg Jewish Film Archive** <http://www.spielbergfilmarchive.org.il/main.htm>

The Steven Spielberg Jewish Film Archive “holds over 10,000 titles on film and video, constituting one of the largest collections of Jewish documentary film footage in the world. The vaults contain material shot in Israel before and after the establishment of the State in 1948, motion picture records of many Jewish communities in the Diaspora and two special collections relating to the Holocaust.”

**The Judaica Sound Archives** <http://faujsa.fau.edu/jsa/home.php>

The Judaica Sound Archives of the Florida Atlantic University Libraries includes music by various Jewish performers and different genres.

**The Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies** <http://www.library.yale.edu/testimonies/>

“The Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies is a collection of over 4,400 videotaped interviews with witnesses and survivors of the Holocaust”. It is a part of Yale University’s department of Manuscripts and Archives.

**The Virtual Shtetl** <http://www.sztetl.org.pl/en/>

The Virtual Shtetl contains information and resources on the history of Polish Jews.

**Digital Gallery of Yiddish Theater Placards**

[http://digitalgallery.nypl.org/nypldigital/dgtitle\\_tree.cfm?level=1&title\\_id=579992](http://digitalgallery.nypl.org/nypldigital/dgtitle_tree.cfm?level=1&title_id=579992)

The NYPL Digital Gallery of Yiddish Theater Placards

**The Yiddish Radio Project** <http://www.yiddishradioproject.org/>

The Yiddish Radio Project “is dedicated to rescuing every surviving recording from the golden age of Yiddish radio and to disseminating knowledge and interest in the forgotten radio renaissance these recordings bring to life.” This project covers Yiddish radio from the 1930’s to the 50’s in the US.

**The Internet Sacred Text Archive** <http://www.sacred-texts.com/jud/index.htm>

The Internet Sacred Text Archive includes many Jewish texts from the Talmud, Kabbalah, Midrash, and other texts.

**The Southwest Jewish Archive** <http://swja.arizona.edu/>

The Southwest Jewish Archive offers several educational exhibits, such as The Pioneers exhibit which presents the pioneer Jewish experience in West Texas, New Mexico and Arizona through images of photos held in regional archives and museums, electronic texts, articles, newspaper accounts, and biographical information; The Synagogues exhibit which reinforces that pioneer Jews placed a priority on maintaining their beliefs, values, and traditions amid the hazards of the nation’s frontier; and the Crypto-Jews exhibit which focuses on the Crypto-Jewish experience in the U. S. Southwest and is one of the most highly visited areas of the website.

## AJL Accreditation News!

Congratulations from the AJL Accreditation Committee to the following libraries for receiving or renewing AJL accreditation:



### BASIC Level:

Buns Family Library, Congregation B'nai Israel, St. Petersburg, Florida  
Ruth Lebovitz, Librarian

Leah & Jacob Modansky Library, East Meadow Jewish Center, East Meadow, New York  
Ellen Cohn, Librarian

Nathan & Doris Liebman Memorial Library, Hebrew Academy of Nassau County, Uniondale, New York  
Laura Schutzman, Librarian

Rosen Library, Temple Emanu-El, Providence, Rhode Island  
Tovah Reis, Librarian

Sperling Kronberg Mack Holocaust Resource Center, Henderson, Nevada  
Myra Berkowitz, Education Specialist

### BASIC Level - Renewal:

Dr. Saul and Emma Fleegler Library, Adat Shalom Synagogue, Cheswick, Pa.  
Margy Mitnick, Librarian

Eugene B. Levine Memorial Library, Temple Isaiah, Los Angeles, California  
Ellen Cole, Librarian

Irving Shakin Library, Congregation Beth Shalom, Teaneck, New Jersey  
Barbara Frank, Librarian

Rabbi Joshua Trachtenberg Memorial Library, Temple Emeth, Teaneck, New Jersey  
Teri Binder, Librarian

### ADVANCED Level:

Bendiner Library, Temple Beth-El, San Antonio, Texas  
Marlene Reynolds, Librarian

### ADVANCED Level - Renewal:

Arthur J. Lelyveld Center for Jewish Learning, Anshe Chesed Fairmount Temple, Beachwood, Ohio  
Julie Moss, Librarian

Congregation Beth Am Library, Los Altos Hills, California  
Diane Rauchwerger, Librarian

Jay Allan Myers Library, Temple Israel, Tulsa, Oklahoma  
Susan Woitte, Librarian

Rabbi Philip N. Kranz Learning Center, Temple Sinai, Sandy Springs, Georgia  
Adelle Salmenson, Librarian

Temple Beth Am Library, Miami, Florida  
Etta Gold, Librarian

Tycher Library, Center for Jewish Education, Jewish Federation of Greater Dallas, Dallas, Texas  
Nina Golboro, Librarian

Mazal tov is also extended to the library volunteers, committees and their institutions.

Leah Moskovits  
Chair, Accreditation Committee

Jolie Baron, Rachail Kurtz, Arlene Ratzabi & Jane Zande  
Committee Members



# Chapter Chatter for AJL Newsletter

*Prepared by Toby Rossner, Chapter Relations Committee, August 2013*

## TIPS FOR MAINTAINING A SUCCESSFUL AJL CHAPTER

*Submitted by Etta Gold, Chairman, AJL Chapter Relations*

Organize Periodic Chapter Meetings with a meeting structure and a written agenda that includes:

- Informal time to schmooze and network
- Food
- Time for people to talk about themselves
- Updates from National, other chapters, and other Judaica librarianship issues
- Feature presentation: How to; What's new; Education and enlightenment
- Chapter business – interactive
- Swap and share – a topic for discussion assigned ahead of time

Prepare and Maintain a Membership Directory that includes:

- Names
- Library name, address, telephone
- Home address, telephone
- Email
- Library website

Distribute a Chapter Newsletter that includes:

- News of upcoming meetings et. al.
- Personal news
- Report from National

Maintain E-mail Communications that include:

- News
- Personal news
- Special projects in the area
- Jewish related programs in multi-county area
- Specific information (questions, offers, notifications, etc.)

## CAPITAL AREA CHAPTER (AJL-CAC)

*Submitted by Galina Teverovsky*

### Part I

On May 5th the renowned local poet Merrill Leffler gave an inspirational presentation, *Is There an American Jewish Poetry?*, at Barnes and Noble. He read from his beautiful works and shared his story of how he became a poet. He argued that even though the subject of some Jewish authors' writings is not "Jewish" per say, their writings still bear Jewish ethics, Jewish ethnicity, and a Jewish approach to a matter. This is what makes Jewish writings distinct from the works of non-Jewish authors. Mr. Leffler also read some of his translations from Hebrew poetry. To our delight, there were three additional local poets in attendance. We had an interesting discussion about poetry as a whole and Jewish poetry in particular and their role in our everyday life, education, social events, etc.

Merrill Leffler has published two collections of poetry, *Partly Pandemonium, Partly Love* (Dryad Press, 1982) and *Take Hold* (Dryad Press, 1997). Originally a physicist-engineer at NASA, he did graduate studies in literature at the University of Maryland and Oxford University, taught literature at the U.S. Naval Academy, and went on to become senior science writer at the University of Maryland Sea Grant Program.

The publisher of Dryad Press, Leffler has guest-edited issues of various magazines, among them, *Poet Lore on Israeli Poetry: The Changing Orders* and *Shirim: The Poetry of Eytan Eytan*, which he and Moshe Dor translated from the Hebrew. A founder of The Writers' Center (Bethesda, Maryland), he is currently the Poet Laureate of Takoma Park, Maryland.

I'd like to mention that Barnes and Noble staff was very supportive and organized a neat setting for our program. Also, having a program in a book store is very beneficial since it attracts more people to the event. Whenever we have a program at Barnes and Noble some shoppers join us; some even enter the discussion.

## Part II

After the beautiful Conference in Houston, the Capital Area Chapter Board met to discuss the Chapter's preparation for 2015 Conference, currently scheduled to take place in Washington DC. Prior to the Houston Conference we surveyed the members of Capital Chapter, asking them to contribute ideas, suggestions, and prospective presenters/programs for the Conference. We also scheduled a special meeting solely to begin discussion of all matters related to the Conference. Jim Rosenbloom, Past-President of AJL, recently notified our Chapter that Toby Harris, a member of National Conference Committee, luckily is going to be in our area after Yom Kippur and has generously offered to join us for this important meeting. We appreciate this opportunity and look forward to Toby's input. We will do our best to prepare for the 2015 Conference.

## HOUSTON CHAPTER

*Submitted by Judy Weidman*

The Houston Chapter and many local volunteers were delighted to host the 48th Annual AJL Conference. Judy Weidman thanks the National chairs, especially Toby Harris, Conference Chair and the multitude of hard-working members of the committees for all their untiring work. It was a fun and stimulating conference, with great swag and lots of munchies in the hospitality room. And who can forget the great Western night with swing dance instruction?

## JUDAICA LIBRARY NETWORK OF METROPOLITAN CHICAGO

*Submitted by Daniel D. Stuhlman*

The Chicago Chapter meeting on July 14 reviewed the Houston Conference, held our annual election, and planned our programming for the coming school year. Our members were well represented at both the Houston Conference and the ALA Convention in Chicago. Much learning and networking took place at these meetings. The presentations at the AJL Conference by our members Joy Kingsolver and Rachel Kamin were very well received.

JLNMC is planning for four meetings in 2013-2014. Generally we meet on Sunday afternoons at member library locations. The October meeting will be hosted by North Suburban Beth El in Highland Park. Rachel Kamin will share her AJL Conference presentation: Lights! Cameras! Libraries! Creating High Interest Film Programs with Your DVD Collection. We hope to discuss using e-books and to tour an archive at the other meetings

We are always searching for more ideas. If you have ideas for programs, please send them to Joy Kingsolver at [joykingsolver@gmail.com](mailto:joykingsolver@gmail.com).

The Judaica Library Network welcomes new members. Some members of our group are retired from active library work and many are getting close to retirement. We would like to add new younger members. We include members from school, synagogue, public, and academic libraries. If you are in the Chicago area and want more information about our group contact Shoshana Seidman at [sseidman@northwestern.edu](mailto:sseidman@northwestern.edu) or Cheryl Banks at [cheryl.banks@gmail.com](mailto:cheryl.banks@gmail.com). Also visit us on Facebook. See also Daniel Stuhlman's blog and podcasts at:

Blog: <http://kol-safran.blogspot.com/>

Podcast: <http://ddstuhlman.podomatic.com>

## LONG ISLAND CHAPTER, AJL (LI-AJL)

*Submitted by Wendy A. Marx, Chapter President*

We look forward to a great year of programming and education.

Three of our chapter board members, who also happen to be national board members — Elana Gensler, Joyce Levine and Arlene Ratzabi — participated in the AJL Annual Conference in Houston this past summer. They will present the highlights of the Convention at one of our meetings.

This past summer our group enjoyed our connection with the Sid Jacobson JCC and its Israeli Film Festival. To enhance our chapter's treasury, so that we can support community outreach programming and

member educational opportunities, we plan to sell ads to appear in SIFRIA, our monthly newsletter. And, as President of our chapter, I plan to ask a few potential donors for their support. They understand the importance of Jewish education and how, as people of the book, doubly blessed, we always need to support books and libraries. If anyone has other fund-raising suggestions kindly let me know.

We of LIAJL hesitate to raise our \$15 yearly membership dues.

Happy and Sweet New Year to all from LIAJL.

## NEW ENGLAND AJL

*Submitted by Ann Abrams, Coordinator*

The New England Chapter of AJL met on Friday, May 10, 2013, at Temple Israel, Boston. Our featured speakers were: Marva Tomer, a student in San Jose State University Library School's online program, and intern @ Temple Israel Library, Boston, who gave a presentation on "Open/Free Sources, Creative Commons and Digital Collections." The pathfinders that Marva Tomer created that list the resources she spoke about in her presentation is printed on [pages 14-17](#) of this issue of *AJL News*.

In addition, journalist/author, Susan Kushner Resnick, spoke about her book, *You Saved Me, Too: What a Holocaust Survivor Taught Me about Living, Dying, Fighting, Loving, and Swearing in Yiddish*.

NEAJL members also had a chance to meet and network.

For more information about NEAJL, please contact Ann Abrams, President, [aabrams@tisrael.org](mailto:aabrams@tisrael.org).

## NEW YORK METROPOLITAN AREA (NYMA) CHAPTER

*Submitted by Rita Lifton*

Adapted from articles by Elizabeth F. Stabler (Reference Workshop) and by Rabbi Jeremy Meyerowitz and Hallie Cantor (Spring Conference).

"What Do Real Librarians Do in a Virtual World? Striking a Balance between Print and Digital to Best Serve Your Patrons" was the topic addressed at NYMA's annual Reference Workshop. The workshop, coordinated by Leslie Monchar and Bruchie Weinstein, was held on April 11th at The Ramaz Middle School, New York. More than thirty attendees heard three speakers on the topic from different perspectives.

Donna Sanzone, Vice-President and Director of New Product Development, M.E. Sharpe, began the workshop with "Print and Digital Reference," describing her 25 years' experience in reference publishing, during which she witnessed the transition from print to databases to CD-ROM, and, most recently, to digital formats.

The challenge is meeting consumers' needs because, as Ms Sanzone pointed out, "everyone wants everything and they want it free." There is a great deal of pressure to provide open access, but consumers forget that content costs money to produce, especially quality content.

Ms. Sanzone also listed the advantages and disadvantages of digital formats noting that digital products are easier to search, are usually more current, and allow for multiple users. However, there are drawbacks; e.g. the costs, which can run very high.

Ms. Sanzone concluded by describing the next frontier: federated searching which allows for navigation between and among sources, even on different platforms.

Next, Chaya Wiesman, Librarian, The Ramaz Upper School, New York addressed the challenge of "Making the Most of What You Have: In an Era of Diminishing Resources, How Can a Library Continue to Serve its Patrons?"

Ms. Wiesman augments her library's acquisitions budget by taking advantage of free funding opportunities. While some of these sources have dried up over the last ten years, Ramaz, through its participation in Collective Collection Development (CCD), a program for high schools from the New York State Department of Education, has developed an excellent collection in modern European history as well as a "Pathfinder" for other libraries to participate in CCD - basically an interlibrary loan program.

Another annual challenge, familiar to school librarians, is providing research help on topics that are new as of the current school year. Ramaz has access to JSTOR, a digital library of academic journals, books and primary sources. Access is through the Hudson Valley Library Association, a consortium of

private schools. In addition, the New York State Library, through its ILL program provides the Novel (New York Online Virtual Electronic Library) service to schools who register; New Jersey has a similar program. Ramaz also accesses ProQuest, a New York State software program, through New York City's Department of Education.

Other resources: Hasafran, AJL's listserv, continues to be an invaluable way to get answers to obscure questions; NYPL – all 9th graders must have an NYPL library card so that they can access its online databases; and METRO provides continuing education opportunities for librarians. Finally, the American Library Association and the Follett Company provide lists of grant giving funders.

The final presenter, Amanda Siegel, Librarian, Dorot Jewish Division, New York Public Library, spoke about "Information Oy-verload! Practical Strategies for Digital Judaica Research." Her three main topics were: planning your research, quick tips, and a list of recommended resources.

Ms. Siegel stressed the importance of planning in order to save both time and money. As an example, NYPL stores some of its collection off-site so that items in this category may not be available for two or more days after being requested. Therefore, researchers should write, e-mail, or phone the "Ask NYPL" telephone reference service in advance of their visit. ILL costs may be able to be kept to a minimum by having articles or chapters of books sent via e-mail.

Ms. Siegel suggested that librarians and researchers make themselves "cheat sheets" or find downloadable versions online. She herself has made several: a Gematria Hebrew letter table; Hebrew calendar dates and their secular equivalents; contents of the Hebrew Bible, etc. A link to Ms. Siegel's full list of resources will soon be available on NYMA's website, [www.ajlnyma.org](http://www.ajlnyma.org).

Thanks to The Ramaz Middle School and Noreen Wachs, Middle School Librarian, for hosting this excellent workshop.

NYMA's Spring 2013 Conference was held in the Abraham Joshua Heschel School's beautiful new Middle School and Lower School Library on June 5th. The conference, "Behind the Scenes: Acquisitions, Library Design and Programming – A Look at What Makes a Great Library" was organized by NYMA's outgoing president, Tina Weiss.

Stephen D. Corssin, Curator, Dorot Jewish Division, New York Public Library, opened the conference with "Acquisitions: Art or Science." In discussing the methodology of selecting and ordering materials, Dr. Corssin began at the beginning, with the budget. How to determine what to purchase? In large research libraries, librarians rarely consult book reviews. Instead, they define the needs of the library and use these needs to create profiles with book vendors. These profiles, based on non-subject parameters (NSP) i.e. cost, tell book vendors which items to automatically ship. Dr. Corssin also discussed patron-driven acquisitions (PDA), a newly emerging factor in the choice of library material. Large libraries rely on approval plans, partly because publishers don't know how to market. These plans are acquired through the "middleman," jobbers such as Yankee Book Peddler, who supply titles relevant to the library's needs. Serials acquisition is broken down by frequency. Electronic resources often operate like serials, with continuous publication or updates. Consortia – alliances where libraries and institutions work together and, if necessary, borrow from each other – have proven especially advantageous for research libraries.

In the second half of his lecture Dr. Corssin described the history and holdings of NYPL's Dorot Jewish Division. The Dorot Division's future plans include digitization of the American Jewish Committee's oral history collection and a software update of Dorot's own highly popular online Yizkor book program. Dr. Corssin is the author of "Jews in America: From New Amsterdam to the Yiddish Stage," which was based on NYPL's extensive collections.

Next up were Robin Skolnik and Stephanie Entin-Wald, Librarians, respectively, of the Heschel School's Middle School and Lower School, and hosts for the Conference. Ms. Skolnik and Ms. Entin-Wald jointly presented "Building from the Ground Up: An Exciting Journey," in which they detailed the process by which they planned and executed the move of the Middle and Lower Schools into a new building.

Using PowerPoint, this dynamic duo described the stages of their "journey." The initial steps had to do with conception and planning – discussions with architects, administrators, and interior designers; visiting many other school libraries; and identifying their students' needs. Then came the grittier aspects of the move, i.e., measuring and mapping locations for furniture and unpacking books and other items just days before school began. Ms. Skolnik and Ms. Entin-Wald were also candid about the advantages

and disadvantages of the new physical layout.

Overall, however, they are relishing the new library with its light, its views, and, best of all, room for growth.

In the final presentation, "A Peek into Programming: Beyond Books and Reading in the Library," Elizabeth F. Stabler, Librarian, Ivan M. Stettenheim Library, Temple Emanu-El, New York, discussed the role of the library as a community center. She touched on all aspects – identifying possible presenters and topics; choosing a program format and time, reimbursing speakers, and arranging for appropriate audio-visual support.

Finding a speaker involves looking anywhere and everywhere – Publishers Weekly, Jewish Review of Books, and Jewish Book World, the latter published by the Jewish Book Council; the Council also has a website ([www.jewishbookcouncil.org](http://www.jewishbookcouncil.org)). Due diligence is necessary as not everyone is good in front of an audience; Hasafran, the AJL listserv, can be very helpful in this regard. Initial contact with authors can be made through authors' web pages, since they tend to do their own publicity. Once contact is made, certain issues must be discussed upfront. Reimbursement is one obvious issue but also the speaker must be made aware of the character and intellectual level of the audience.

What kind of program to create? This ultimately depends on the type of people you plan to invite or attract. Programs can be arranged in a variety of formats (e.g. panel, lecture) and can revolve around important dates or times of the year (e.g. Jewish holidays).

Time of day is a consideration – Ms. Stabler schedules her events at 6:30 pm, which allows most of her audience to come after work. In addition, she is able to keep the events free of charge.

Ms. Stabler, a past President of NYMA and currently its Recording Secretary, noted that much of her experience was acquired through her work coordinating NYMA's programs, many of which she has hosted at Temple Emanu-El.

A digital recording of the presentations will be available in several months at [www.ajlnyma.org](http://www.ajlnyma.org).

The Spring Conference is the final event coordinated by Tina Weiss in her capacity as NYMA President. Over the past two years, Tina has organized a remarkable series of programs and contributed immeasurably to the chapter's growth. We take this opportunity to express our appreciation. Tina has gone from strength to strength – this summer she was among several NYMA members to present at the 16th World Congress of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem. Other NYMA presenters included Yoram Bitton and Edith Lubetski.

## **SOUTH FLORIDA CHAPTER (SFAJL)**

*Submitted by Heidi Estrin*

The South Florida Chapter met on May 21 at St. Vincent de Paul Seminary Library in Boynton Beach, FL. Our host was Art Quinn. A photo of the attending members accompanies this article.



## **SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER (AJLSC)**

*Submitted by Ellen Cole*

Many members of AJLSC enjoyed the Houston Conference. Now AJLSC is ready to start its new year. The August annual planning council meeting was a festive dinner affair where we munched and caught-up on summer trips and convention experiences. Then we moved onto the future of AJLSC and brain-stormed for new programs and meeting ideas. One future plan is to tour the Autry Museum exhibit of "Jews in Los Angeles," a hit show that is a sequel to our block buster "Jews in the West" exhibition about ten years ago.

## 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: <http://www.jewishlibraries.org/main/AboutAJL/AwardsGrants/StudentScholarship.aspx>

### 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:

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### 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](mailto:hasafran@lists.osu.edu)

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A keyword-searchable [archive](#) of Hasafran messages posted since June 12, 2003 is now available.

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	Muraskin, Bennett. <b>The Association of Jewish Libraries Guide to Yiddish Short Stories.</b> Teaneck, NJ: AJL & Ben Yehuda Press, 2011. (81 pages). Summaries of over 130 Yiddish stories available in English translation, with bibliographical sources for the English and original Yiddish. ISBN 978-1-934730-31-7	For sale online at Ben Yehuda Press and other online retailers	
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