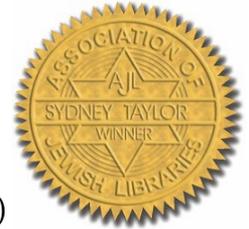


### THE 2014 SYDNEY TAYLOR BOOK AWARDS ANNOUNCED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH LIBRARIES



**The Sydney Taylor Book Award Winner for Younger Readers:**

*The Longest Night: A Passover Story*  
by Laurel Snyder with illustrations by Catia Chien  
(Schwartz & Wade, an imprint of Random House Children's Books)



**The Sydney Taylor Book Award Winner for Older Readers:**

*The Blessing Cup* by Patricia Polacco  
(A Paula Wiseman Book, Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster)

**The Sydney Taylor Book Award Winner for Teen Readers:**

*The Nazi Hunters: How a Team of Spies and Survivors  
Captured the World's Most Notorious Nazi* by Neal Bascomb  
(Arthur A. Levine Books, an imprint of Scholastic Inc.)

**Sydney Taylor Honor Books for Younger Readers:**

*Stones for Grandpa* by Renee Londner with illustrations by Martha Avilés  
(Kar-Ben Publishing, a division of Lerner Publishing Group, Inc.)  
*Rifka Takes a Bow* by Betty Rosenberg Perlov with illustrations by Cosei Kawa  
(Kar-Ben Publishing, a division of Lerner Publishing Group, Inc.)

**Sydney Taylor Honor Books for Older Readers:**

*The Boy on the Wooden Box: How the Impossible Became Possible...on Schindler's List*  
by Leon Leyson with Marilyn J. Harran and Elisabeth B. Leyson  
(Atheneum Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division)  
*Dear Canada: Pieces of the Past: The Holocaust Diary of Rose Rabinowitz, Winnipeg, Manitoba, 1948*  
by Carol Matas  
(Scholastic Canada)

**Sydney Taylor Honor Books for Teen Readers:**

*Dancing in the Dark* by Robyn Bavati  
(Flux, an imprint of Llewellyn Worldwide Ltd.)  
*The War Within These Walls* by Aline Sax with illustrations by Caryl Strzelecki  
Translated by Laura Watkinson  
(Eerdmans Books for Young Readers)

#### 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>

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

### **Notable Books for Younger Readers:**

*Benny's Mitzvah Notes* by Marc Lumer

(Hachai Publishing)

*Brave Girl: Clara and the Shirtwaist Makers' Strike of 1909* by Michelle Markel

With illustrations by Melissa Sweet

(Balzer & Bray, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers)

*The Cats on Ben Yehuda Street* by Ann Redisch Stampler

with illustrations by Francesca Carabelli

(Kar-Ben Publishing, a division of Lerner Publishing Group, Inc.)

*Hanukkah in Alaska* by Barbara Brown with illustrations by Stacey Schuett

(Henry Holt and Company, LLC)

*The Passover Lamb* by Linda Elovitz Marshall with illustrations by Tatjana Mai-Wyss

(Random House Children's Books, a division of Random House, Inc.)

*Our Special New Baby* by Chava Cohen with illustrations by Rivkie Braverman

(Feldheim Publishers)

### **Notable Books for Older Readers:**

*The Barefoot Book of Jewish Tales*

by Shoshana Boyd Gelfand with illustrations by Amanda Hall story CD narrated by Debra Messing

(Barefoot Books Inc)

*B.U.G. (Big Ugly Guy)* by Jane Yolen and Adam Stemple

(Dutton's Children Books, an imprint of Penguin Group (USA) Inc.)

*Odette's Secrets* by Maryann Macdonald

(Bloomsbury Children's Books)

*Touched by Fire* by Irene N. Watts

(Tundra Books)

*When Hurricane Katrina Hit Home* by Gail Langer Karwoski with illustrations by Julia Marshall

(The History Press)

### **Notable Books for Teens:**

*Helga's Diary: A Young Girl's Account of Life in a Concentration Camp* by Helga Weiss

Translated by Neil Bermel Introduction by Francine Prose

(W.W. Norton & Company)

*Lauren Yanofsky Hates the Holocaust* by Leanne Lieberman

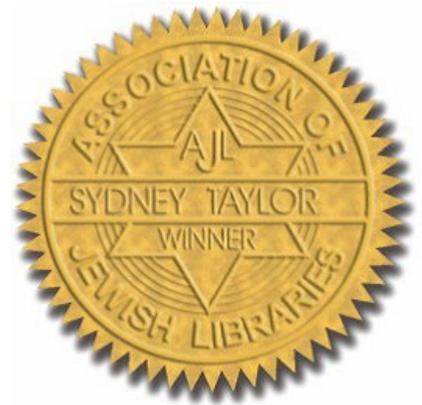
(Orca Book Publishers)

## **2014 Sydney Taylor Book Awards Announced by AJL**

AIMEE LURIE, CHAIR SYDNEY TAYLOR BOOK AWARD COMMITTEE

**Laurel Snyder** and **Catia Chien**, author and illustrator of *The Longest Night: A Passover Story*, **Patricia Polacco** author and illustrator of *The Blessing Cup*, and **Neal Bascomb**, author of *The Nazi Hunters: How a Team of Spies and Survivors Captured the World's Most Notorious Nazi*, are the 2014 winners of the Sydney Taylor Book Award.

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 Las Vegas, Nevada this June.



Snyder and Chien will receive the 2014 gold medal in the Sydney Taylor Book Award's Younger Readers category for *The Longest Night: A Passover Story*, published by **Schwartz & Wade, an imprint of Random House Children's Books**. Written in gentle verse, the tumultuous days leading up to the Jews flight from Egypt are described from the perspective of an unnamed slave girl in this beautifully illustrated story. It provides a unique introduction to the Passover holiday for young readers in an honest, but age-appropriate way. Committee member Charna Gross notes: "We all know about our history as slaves in Egypt, the ten plagues, the Exodus, and the splitting of the Red Sea. But in Snyder's retelling, accompanied by Chien's dream-like illustrations, we are somehow transported to the rusty red banks of the Nile, witnessing each plague. This book is a marvel."

The award in the Older Readers category will be presented to Patricia Polacco for *The Blessing Cup, a Paula Wiseman Book*, published by **Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster**. In this prequel to *The Keeping Quilt*, Polacco shares the story of another treasured family heirloom. The miraculous journey of the remaining teacup from a china tea set, deliberately left behind when her Jewish ancestors were forced to leave Czarist Russia, from the shtetl to America will strike an emotional chord with readers. "I was moved to tears reading this book. The gorgeous illustrations and heartfelt story remind readers of the importance of sharing from generation to generation our own family histories and the incredible sacrifices made by our ancestors to start new lives in America," said committee chair, Aimee Lurie. In 1988, *The Keeping Quilt* was the Sydney Taylor Book Award Winner for Younger Readers.

Neal Bascomb will receive the 2014 gold medal in the Sydney Taylor Book Award's Teen Readers category for *The Nazi Hunters: How a Team of Spies and Survivors Captured the World's Most Notorious Nazi* published by **Arthur A. Levine Books, an imprint of Scholastic**. A stunning account of the spy mission to capture Adolf Eichmann by an elite team of Israeli spies is dramatically brought to life by Neal Bascomb. According to committee member Barbara Krasner, "It is obvious that he spent decades conducting meticulous research on several continents to produce this winning and chilling narrative. Bascomb has set a new nonfiction gold standard for young readers."

Six Sydney Taylor Honor Books were named for 2014. For younger readers, two Honor Books were selected; both published by Kar-Ben a division of Lerner Publishing Group: *Stones for Grandpa* by Renee Londoner with illustrations by Martha Avillés and *Rifka Takes a Bow* by Betty Rosenberg Perlov with illustrations by Cosei Kawa. *The Boy on the Wooden Box: How the Impossible Became Possible...on Schindler's List* by Leon Leyson with Marilyn J. Harran and Elisabeth B. Leyson (Atheneum Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division) and *Dear Canada: Pieces of the Past: The Holocaust Diary of Rose Rabinowitz, Winnipeg, Manitoba, 1948* by Carol Matas (Scholastic Canada) garnered recognition as an Honor Books for Older Readers. For Teen Readers, the honor goes to *Dancing in the Dark* by Robyn Bavati (Flux, an imprint of Llewellyn Worldwide) and *The War Within These Walls* by Aline Sax with illustrations by Caryl Strzelecki and translation by Laura Watkinson (Eerdmans Books for Young Readers).

In addition to the medal-winners, the Award Committee designated thirteen Notable Books of Jewish Content for 2014. More information about the Sydney Taylor Book Award can be found at [www.SydneyTaylorBookAward.org](http://www.SydneyTaylorBookAward.org).

**DON'T FORGET TO READ THE FEBRUARY/MARCH 2014 ISSUE OF AJL REVIEWS!**  
**OVER 40 PAGES OF REVIEWS!**

# NEW MEMBERS APPOINTED TO THE SYDNEY TAYLOR BOOK AWARD COMMITTEE

KATHE PINCHUCK, FORMER CHAIR, SYDNEY TAYLOR BOOK AWARD COMMITTEE

I will soon take leave of the Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee after eight years of recognizing the best of Jewish Children's Literature, working with my amazing AJL colleagues, and experiencing exponential professional and personal growth. It is my pleasure, as one of my last "official" duties, to welcome the five new committee members appointed by the committee's incoming chair, Diane Rauchwerger. Their four-year terms began in January. The beauty of the committee, and one of the reasons for its high standards and strong reputation, is the diverse experience, both Jewish and secular, that each member brings to the committee:

Elissa Gershowitz is a Senior Editor and the Online Content Editor at *The Horn Book Magazine* and lives in Boston. She holds a BA from Oberlin College and an MA in Children's Literature from Simmons College. She is a frequent speaker and moderator at book conferences in the Boston area, and yet another committee member who grew to love Jewish Children's Literature through the *All-of-a-Kind Family* series.

Ellen Tilman is the Director of Library Service at Congregation Keneseth Israel and resides in Elkins Park, Pennsylvania. Ellen is looking forward to helping colleagues select books with accurate information and literary quality for their libraries.

Nina Goldboro is the Director of Tycher Library in Dallas, Texas and writes a column in the *Texas Jewish Post*. She is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh and earned her MLS at Drexel University. She's been involved with Jewish Camping and Jewish Preschool before assuming the directorship at Tycher.

Heather Lenson is very active in Jewish libraries. She is the media specialist at the Jewish Education Center of Cleveland's (JECC) Ratner Media & Technology Center (RMC); the Director of the JECC's Libraries. She oversees the Aaron Garber Library, formerly the Siegal College's Library, which still serves the adult Jewish community; and the children's librarian at the Park Synagogue Wolf Religious School. She is also the editor of the *Jewish Valuesfinder Database* and serves as the Treasurer and Membership Chair for the Greater Cleveland Chapter of the Association of Jewish Libraries (GCC-AJL).

Returning to the committee for an encore, Kathleen Bloomfield, now living in Washington, DC, has been busy for the past four years. Her website, ForWords Books, highlights "kids' books that matter," and she is a frequent blogger at InterfaithFamily.com and JewishBoston.com.

Diane Rauchwerger of Sunnyvale, California will assume the chairmanship. She is the author of the popular *Dinosaur* series (published by Kar-Ben), and the librarian at Congregation Beth Am in Los Altos Hills, California. She has also worked at the Sunnyvale, California public library.

The 2014-2015 Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee will also include **Barbara Krasner** (Somerset, New Jersey), **Aimee Lurie** (Cleveland, Ohio), past chair; and **Barbara Bietz** (Oak Park, California), compiler.

*Harkaras Hatov* (appreciation) to **Charna Gross** (Los Angeles, California), **Debbie Feder** (Chicago, Illinois) and **Nancy Silverrod** (San Francisco, California) for their service.



## AJL 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference a Sure Bet

The 49<sup>th</sup> Annual AJL Conference will be held June 22-25, 2014 at the Westin Hotel, a mere one block east of the famous Las Vegas Strip and directly behind the new Las Vegas “High Roller” wheel (patterned after the London Eye, but taller).

This year our conference will offer two special keynotes: Lisa Hansel, one of the originators of the Common Core Curriculum movement, will speak about how Common Core affects libraries of all kinds and Emile Schrijver, from Amsterdam University, will present information about Digital Humanities and how it is changing the nature of our collections and how people access the information in

them. In addition to these two outstanding speakers, the conference will feature sessions covering topics such as the Iraqi Jewish archive, the Koren Talmud, library advocacy, using our Valuesfinder, writing historical fiction, women resisters during the Holocaust, web etiquette, using the web resources for research, building an anthology of modern Jewish writers, modern Polish Jewish libraries, Shanghai Jews, managing a Judaic collection in a public library setting, using common core as a basis of a library curriculum, all school/synagogue read, managing volunteers, Library in Mainz, Jewish Law on Copyright, digital citizenship, cookbooks, a book repair clinic, adult fiction overview, and the ever-popular Sydney Taylor Committee presentations. Because the nature of literature is changing, there will be presentations on the current trends in children’s literature, new cataloging information, and updates from the National Library of Israel and Library of Congress. University of Nevada Las Vegas is inviting us to a breakfast reception, tour, and hosting of our keynote by Emile Schrijver. These are just a taste of the offerings this year. For a tentative program, see the AJL Conference web site.

As always, the conference will have award-winning authors, many opportunities for networking, and varied exhibitors. Different this year, we will have a few “TED” talks and more opportunities to share our own best practices through more roundtable discussions. In keeping with a decision to institute a new format for Board and Council, this year Board will meet Sunday afternoon and Council will meet all day Wednesday. Our Awards Banquet will be Monday night with Tuesday being a free evening to go and explore the city on your own. Wednesday we will partner with Barbara Krasner from the *Whole Megillah* in offering an optional writers’ workshop limited to 12 participants. There will also be a literary agent who has offered to read manuscripts and offer evaluations and suggestions. And, of course, we will once again hold a silent auction.

To register, go to the [AJL website](http://www.jewishlibraries.org) at <http://www.jewishlibraries.org> and follow the links to register using Eventbrite (I wish to thank Marsha Lustigman and Debbie Stern who are handling registration and finances). Exhibitors and donors can contact Jackie BenEfraim through the link on the website. Items for the Silent Auction can be sent to Susan Dubin at 2202 Flowering Cactus, Henderson, NV 89052. Please email or call Susan Dubin at [susandubin48@gmail.com](mailto:susandubin48@gmail.com) or 818-606-0793 with questions.

See you in Las Vegas!

# AJL Election, Spring 2014

AJL will hold the regular biennial election May 1 to May 30, 2014. Once again, we will be voting by electronic ballot. It's very important that we have up-to-date email addresses for all members. If your email address has changed, please contact our vice-president for membership, Sheryl Stahl at [sstahl@huc.edu](mailto:sstahl@huc.edu).

AJL will make special arrangements for members who require a paper ballot. Call Joy Kingsolver at 630-988-4726 to request one.

## **SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR AJL 2014-2016**

The nominating committee proposes the following slate for the 2014-2016 term. The deadline for proposing candidates for the ballot is two weeks after the slate is published. AJL welcomes all those interested in running for office to add their names to the ballot. Any current member is eligible to vote and run for office. In order to be added to the ballot, please send the name of the nominee with his/her written permission and the names of 5 members who endorse them to [Rosenbloom@Brandeis.edu](mailto:Rosenbloom@Brandeis.edu). An email message will be sent to each member, and voting will take place May 1-30. The results of the election will be published June 2.

**President: Yaffa Weisman.** (Yaffa was elected to the position of Vice President/President Elect in 2012, and so becomes President automatically).

Current position: Vice President/President Elect

Director, The Frances-Henry Library, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Los Angeles, CA.

**Vice President/President Elect: Amalia Warshenbrot**

Current Position: President of the SSC Division

Director Emeritus of the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library and Center, Charlotte, NC

**Vice President for Membership: Sheryl Stahl**

Current Position: Vice President for Membership

Senior Associate Librarian, Frances-Henry Library, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Los Angeles, CA

**Vice President for Development: James Rosenbloom**

Current Position: Past President

Judaica Librarian, Brandeis University

**Treasurer: Deborah Stern**

Current Position: Treasurer

Director, Mordecai M. Kaplan Library, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, Wyncote, PA

**Secretary: Marga Hirsch**

Director, Edmond de Rothschild Library & Publications Editor, Park East Synagogue, New York, NY

## **RAS OFFICERS**

**RAS President: Sharon Benamou**

Current Position: RAS Vice President

Hebraica/Judaica Catalog Librarian, University of California at Los Angeles

**RAS Vice President: Rebecca Jefferson**

Head of the Isser and Rae Price Library of Judaica, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

## **SSC OFFICERS**

**President: Aimee Lurie**

Current Position: Chair of the Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee

The Anne Frank Library, The Agnon School, Beachwood, OH

**Vice President: Chaya Wiesman**

Associate Librarian at Ramaz Upper School, New York, NY

# INFO 2013 Teldan Conference, May 6-8, 2013, Tel Aviv, Israel

REPORT SUBMITTED BY URI KOLODNEY, AJL NEWS & AJL REVIEWS EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

[Editor's note: this report was turned in to AJL Council on December 9, 2013 and did not make it to the Nov/Dec issue.]

## DISCUSSION

In February 2013 I was asked by AJL President Heidi Estrin to represent AJL at the annual Teldan conference in Israel. The objectives were to promote the AJL among attendees and to continue a previous discussion with Teldan officials regarding the role of AJL as a probable North American vendor of some of the products they represent and distribute in Israel.

Teldan Information Systems is a very well-known company in Israel, representing many local and international vendors of the information industry. It is privately owned and headed by Mr. Asher Sofrin. During the years it branded itself as the "leading supplier of business, scientific and technological information, offering a full range of information products and services to Libraries, Information Centers, Universities, Corporations, Hospitals and Medical Centers, Industrial Companies and Government and Defense Organizations." (<http://www.teldan.com/>).

INFO 2013 took place at the Hilton Hotel in Tel Aviv from May 6 through May 8, 2013. It featured 70 sessions with 196 presentations. Some of the topics covered were social media, eBooks, Drupal workshop, competitive business information and "strategic national information", "cyber and teleprocessing", scientific and engineering digital libraries, crowd knowledge and medicine, professional virtual communities, information brokerage, tablets workshop, information processing, online archives, gaming, visual informatics ("infographics").

The exhibition hall featured around 40 vendors, most of them local and European vendors dealing with e-publishing, e-Journals and e-books management systems, mobile platforms, Library Management Solutions and Search & Discovery Solutions. The National Library of Israel (NLI) was well presented with fully staffed 'double booth.' ASMI, Israeli Association of Libraries and Information Centers, had a small table outside of the main exhibition hall.

The annual Teldan conference is considered in Israel as the biggest and richest in content when it comes to the information industry professional events. Nor ASMI, neither the NLI have an annual conference of this size or interest. Teldan conferences are not tailored specifically for librarians or archivists, as they aim to encompass the full range of the local information industry community. The attendees include professionals from High Tech companies, Internet industry (social media, information brokers), public, academic and medical libraries, private and state archives (including the NLI) and private and national security companies or entities (IDF). All sessions are held solely in Hebrew, while some are 'by invitation only', as they deal with national security issues.

The AJL did not purchase a booth (the cost was \$3600 for the duration of the conference for a small booth with internet connection). We also asked for, and generously granted a reduced registration fee of \$270 (regularly \$540); this included lunch and coffee breaks throughout the day for the duration of the conference for one person.

During the conference I have met with Mr. Asher Sofrin, Teldan's director and owner, and Ms. Noa Michaeli-Levi, Head of customer service at Teldan's journal subscriptions department. We continued the discussion started back in 2012 by Rachel Leket-Mor regarding a possible cooperation between Teldan and the AJL in regard to various products of which Teldan is acting as an exclusive distributor. The ultimate goal of those discussions was to explore a possible interest by AJL institutional members in any of the online products listed below. The business model suggested would have made the AJL a sale representative of Teldan in the North-American market. One of the benefits for the AJL members would be a reduced price for said products. The products in question (all in Hebrew) are as follows:

1. Educational software for Hebrew literacy (tailored for ages 3-7) called "Maya's secret" ("ha-sod shel Mayah" at [www.sodmaya.co.il](http://www.sodmaya.co.il))
2. "The online library of Israel" Kotar Iyun at <http://www.kotar.co.il/> - includes "hundreds of academic books" in Hebrew.
3. Kotar for text books - an online library of Israeli text books used by the local education system at <http://www.school.kotar.co.il/> .
4. Ofek - an interactive website for teachers and students in Israeli primary schools (grades 1 through 6), at <http://www.ofek.cet.ac.il/>.

In our meeting in Tel Aviv both parties agreed to continue and solicit interest among AJL members. Upon my return to Austin, I have arranged for a trial period of 6 weeks for the products in question. Unfortunately, the interest level was very low, with only a few institutions expressing any kind of interest. "Maya's secret" is tailored for primary Israeli schools (it's all in Hebrew). It might be suitable for Hebrew schools in North-America, but there was a very little interest from school libraries among AJL members. "Kotar" and "Kotar Iyun" are tailored for higher education. Some academic libraries in North American universities are already subscribed to these products either through Kotar's developer (the Israeli Center for Educational Technology) or through Teldan itself.

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Promoting the AJL in a conference such as Teldan's without a booth is not effective. As I did not man a booth, the opportunities for meeting and discussing AJL with other attendees were limited to coffee breaks, lunch and occasional chatting before or after sessions. Although I met with and talked to many local librarians and professionals, it didn't seem to me that this kind of interaction would 'get the bang for the buck'; I believe that in order to seriously promote the AJL among the conference's crowd, staffing a booth would be the most effective way. The booth would have to be equipped with a laptop (to show the AJL website), and also present AJL publications, brochures and freebies.

Since the full cost for AJL attendance (including a staffed booth) is estimated in **\$6500** (*see estimate below*), its feasibility for the organization should be re-assessed. In view of the possible outcomes for AJL, I believe that this kind of expense cannot be justified. Staffing a booth could definitely help promoting the organization among the Israeli library community, but I find it hard to believe that it would encourage even a few of them to join the organization and become AJL members. Other objectives that are less measurable, such as enhancing overall awareness among Israeli librarians and other information industry professionals, are indeed desired, but it seems that the price tag is too high. The money could be spent in many other ways for AJL 'in-house' programming.

That said, I would encourage the AJL administration to explore other opportunities that are more suitable for international promotion and outreach - maybe staffing a booth in future conferences held by the NLI (assuming those would be arranged under NLI's new capacity), or staffing a booth at the World Congress for Jewish Studies held only once every 4 years in Jerusalem. ASMI does not hold an annual conference, but a few one day workshops every year.

### Cost estimate for future attendance at the Teldan conferences:

Airfare: \$1500  
 Taxi to/from airport: \$100  
 Hotel (3 nights): \$750  
 Registration: \$540  
 Booth for the duration of conference: \$3600  
 Total: \$6490

### Cost of attending INFO 2013:

Airfare: \$1540  
 Taxi to/from airport: \$50  
 Hotel (2 nights): \$540  
 Registration: \$270 (50% off)  
 Booth for the duration of conference: was not purchased  
 Total: \$2400

## Chapter Chatter

TOBY ROSSNER. CHAPTER RELATIONS COMMITTEE

### ATLANTA CHAPTER (AJL-ATLANTA)

Submitted by Stacy Brown (*The Alfred and Adele Davis Academy*), President

Both the Davis Academy and The Epstein School hosted Sylvia Rouss this past fall. Members at the Chapter's winter meeting shared new resources and discussed topics of mutual interest.

The Davis Academy will be hosting Cokie Roberts in February. Cokie will be sharing her new children's book, *Founding Mothers: Remembering the Ladies*, as well as *Our Hagaddah: Unite Tradition for Interfaith Families* that she co-wrote with her husband, Steven V. Roberts.



SYLVIA ROUSS

### JUDAICA LIBRARY NETWORK OF METROPOLITAN CHICAGO

Submitted by Daniel D. Stuhlman (*Secretary & Publicity*)

The October JLN meeting was hosted by North Suburban Beth El in Highland Park. Rachel Kamin shared her AJL Conference presentation, *Lights! Cameras! Libraries! Creating High Interest Film Programs with Your DVD Collection*.

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

On January 19 Karen Wadler, Librarian of Congregation Beth Shalom (Northbrook, IL) hosted Jacqueline Jules, creator of the four Ziz books, (*The Hardest Word*, *Noah and the Ziz*, *The Princess and the Ziz*, and *The Ziz and the Hanukkah Miracle*).

The Judaica Library Network welcomes new members from synagogues, schools, academic, public, and special libraries. Members do not have to be Judaica librarians. If you are in the Chicago area and want information about our chapter contact Shoshanah Seidman at [sseidman@northwestern.edu](mailto:sseidman@northwestern.edu). Also visit us on [Facebook](#).

### LONG ISLAND CHAPTER (LI-AJL)

Submitted by Wendy A. Marx, Chapter President

On October 24 Joyce Levine, our own LIAJL member and AJL's Vice President for Publications, showcased her fabulous North Shore Hebrew Academy High School Library and made an outstanding presentation on *Creative Ways to Capture the Attention of Your Patrons* (See Arlene Ratzabi's summary of Joyce's presentation below).

As a thoughtful way to remember *Kristalnacht*, our members met for services at the Bay Shore Jewish Center, where Rabbi Leslie Schotz, former librarian and President of LIAJL, officiates.

Our December guest was author Judy Petsonk, whose new historical fiction is *Queen of the Jews*. Queen Salome Alexandra ruled Judea in the first century BCE and was instrumental in the return of the Pharisees.\* LIAJL partnered with the Sisterhood of Midway Jewish Center, where the meeting was held. Judy Petsonk is available to speak to groups in person or by web cam. Part of her presentation is on You Tube. Her e-mail is [judypetsonk@optonline.net](mailto:judypetsonk@optonline.net).



JOYCE LEVINE

\*further background information is in Ms. Petsonk's article in the *Jewish Exponent* (January 12, 2014) at <http://www.jewishexponent.com/the-unknown-heroine-of-the-holiday>).

*Presentation by Joyce Levine*

*Bring Your Library to Center Stage: Creative Ways to Capture the Attention of Your Patrons by  
Creating a Library Website and Sharing Jewish Resources*

LIAJL members who came to the beautiful campus of the North Shore Hebrew Academy High School, where Joyce is the librarian, were treated to a wonderful and enlightening presentation. We are all constantly consulting websites for a variety of reasons and Joyce very skillfully communicated the importance of having a library website. Your library website is a place for teaching, learning, announcements, your catalogue, and support for curriculum and programs. Your library website can feature reading lists, best books lists, Sydney Taylor award lists, YALSA (Young Adult Library Services Association) lists, AJL links, etc.

Websites can be created in many ways; Joyce chose to use Google Sites, where you can build your own website. The link is [support.google.com/sites](http://support.google.com/sites). You consult the "beginners guide to creating a website." It does take some time and patience, but Joyce said she really had fun with it and learned a lot. Once you have created the site, you should link it to your main institution's website and in this way your library gets exposure and publicity.

In the second part of her PowerPoint presentation, Joyce brought us to her library website and went over some important features and information. There are many excellent databases that do not charge that we should definitely consider and take advantage of such as: [novelnewyork.org](http://novelnewyork.org), <http://www.bible.ort.org>, [chabad.org](http://chabad.org), [mechon-mamre.org](http://mechon-mamre.org), [torah.org](http://torah.org), [snunit.org](http://snunit.org), [e-daf.com](http://e-daf.com), [halakhah.com](http://halakhah.com) (free Soncino Talmud translation), [webshas.org](http://webshas.org), [jewishvirtuallibrary.org](http://jewishvirtuallibrary.org), [ushmm.org](http://ushmm.org) (U.S. Holocaust Museum), [mfa.gov.il](http://mfa.gov.il) (Israel information), <http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/jewish/jewishbook.asp> (Fordham University), <http://jewishhistory.huji.ac.il/> (Hebrew University, Jerusalem), [jewishgen.org](http://jewishgen.org) (genealogy). All you need to do is be creative and your library will reap the rewards.

Joyce distributed a list of websites that are very useful for keeping up to date with Jewish information and news for all ages: [www.shalomesesame.org](http://www.shalomesesame.org), [jrichman@jr.co.il](mailto:jrichman@jr.co.il) (sign up to learn Hebrew), [www.jewish-clipart.com](http://www.jewish-clipart.com), [www.my-hebrew-programs.com](http://www.my-hebrew-programs.com), [www.myjewishlearning.com](http://www.myjewishlearning.com), [www.tabletmag.com](http://www.tabletmag.com), [www.forward.com](http://www.forward.com), [www.mosaicmagazine.com](http://www.mosaicmagazine.com), [www.timesofisrael.com](http://www.timesofisrael.com). In addition, the Jewish Book Council website, [www.jewishbooks.org](http://www.jewishbooks.org), is an invaluable site for the latest in Jewish publications, book club lists and how to set up a book club, among many other subjects.

We look forward to seeing you at one of our future programs! LI-AJL is always interested in bringing programs of interest to our membership. If you know of a good program for our members, please contact Arlene ([aratzabi@gmail.com](mailto:aratzabi@gmail.com)) or Wendy ([xmarxts@aol.com](mailto:xmarxts@aol.com)).

## **NEW YORK METROPOLITAN AREA (AJL-NYMA)**

*Submitted by Rita Lifton*

Kudos to NYMA president Tina Weiss for organizing the December 10<sup>th</sup> in-depth tour of "Celebrating 359 Years: Historical Moments in the NYC Jewish Experience: An Exhibit from the Collections of the NYC Municipal Archives," which was on view at the Surrogate's Court Building in Lower Manhattan. Attendees were given an overview of the City Hall Library by Supervising Librarian, Christine Bruzzese. This was followed by a guided tour of the exhibit by Marcia Kirk, Director of the Municipal Archives, accompanied by a lively exchange of information between NYMA participants and Ms. Kirk. The exhibit highlighted historical moments in the New York City Jewish experience from 1654 to the present, including original documents, artifacts and evocative photographs. Finally, the group got an insider's view of the Conservation Unit. This was absolutely fascinating! Conservators spoke about and demonstrated the range of their activities, from the sublime to the grisly. One of the conservators

was working on a project for the NYC Parks Department, restoring beautiful original renderings of architectural details of Central Park, while the other conservator displayed cases she had constructed for evidence from a crime scene.

The next event on NYMA's calendar is the annual Reference Workshop, "Raiding the References: How and Where We Found the Facts," organized by Leslie Monchar and Bruchie Weinstein. The workshop will be held at Temple Emanu-El on February 18<sup>th</sup> and will feature Sharon Elswit (Librarian), author of *The Jewish Story Finder*, and Ann Kirschner (University Dean, Macaulay Honors College, CUNY), author of *Sala's Gift* and *Lady at the O.K. Corral: The True Story of Josephine Marcus Earp*.

Still in the planning stage, the annual school workshop, "The School Library: It's Not Just About Books on the Shelves", will focus on the expanding role of the library media center in the life of the school. Rachel Glasser and Robin Skolnik are the workshop coordinators.

## SOUTH FLORIDA CHAPTER (SFAJL)



*From the Meeting Minutes, SFAJL October 29, 2013*

The South Florida Chapter met at the B'nai Torah Congregation in Roca Raton. Sue Kirshner, B'nai Torah's Librarian welcomed the members. Many members brought books to give away, so we started the meeting with a sort of "swap meet."

Sue Kirshner led a discussion of book sale techniques. She recommended that book sales should not be held too often. To make it easier for shoppers, the books should be alphabetized or group them by genre.

Judy Petsonk, author of *Queen of the Jews* to South Florida, spoke at Temple Beth Am (Etta's library) and Congregation B'nai Israel (Heidi's library) in November. (See the LIAJL article above for additional information about *Queen of the Jews*.)

Our speaker at the October 29 meeting was Helene Yentis, an expert on Hebrew illuminated manuscripts. She gave a dynamic illustrated presentation. Helene, Etta Gold, and Jeff Rosenberg shared art history books and facsimiles from their libraries.



## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER (AJLSC)

*Submitted by Ellen Cole, President*

Last fall, members of AJLSC enjoyed a grand outing to the Gene Autry Museum, where they toured the exhibit *Jews in the Los Angeles Mosaic*. This exhibit examines the contribution of our Jewish community to the economics, politics, and culture of our dynamic, world-class city. It tells the story of neighborhoods: Boyle Heights and Fairfax; it relives careers: Billy Wilder, Max Factor, Frank Gehry; it reviews industries we nurtured: movies and suburban land development. Jews changed the Southern California region by recruiting the Brooklyn Dodgers, inventing the Barbie Doll and helping elect LA's first African-American mayor. Before touring the exhibit we had a private tour of the museum's library and archives. In December we visited the new Burton Sperber Jewish Community Library that has relocated to the campus of the American Jewish University. The Sperber Library succeeds the original Peter M. Kahn Jewish Community Library, once housed in town in the Jewish Federation Building. We visited the AJU Library's rare book collection which includes a complete Talmud published by — yes! — the United States Army right after World War II for the survivors in the displaced person camps. After the tour we celebrated Hanukkah together.

The guest speaker at our February 26 meeting will be bookseller and appraiser Eric Chaim Kline, who will speak on the current state of the book business and changes in library acquisitions. He will share some rare Judaic gems from his personal collection including the *Szyk Haggadah* (the "real" one, printed on vellum!), the *Walton Polyglott* (with Biblical text in eight languages) and the last Hebrew *chumash* printed in Germany before the war. Chapter members will bring rare books for a free appraisal.

# Groner-Wikler Scholarship Announcement

The Association of Jewish Libraries is pleased to announce the Groner-Wikler Scholarship of \$1,000 for attendance at the AJL Annual Conference. The annual scholarship is funded by Kar-Ben Publishing in honor of founding publishers Judye Groner and Madeline Wikler, who retired in December.

The Groner-Wikler Scholarship will be awarded annually to an AJL member who demonstrates dedication to Jewish children's literature and library services. Candidates should have an active involvement in the Judaic library profession or related fields; demonstrate strong advocacy for library and literary services to children and youth; be a positive role model to colleagues and the wider community; and should exhibit innovative approaches to Jewish children's literature or library services. Extra consideration is given to applicants who are seen as promising new movers and shakers in the field of Jewish children's literature and services.

Candidates may self-nominate, or be nominated by others. The nominator does not have to be a member of AJL, but the nominee must be a current AJL member. Nomination forms may be found at <https://www.dropbox.com/s/3q7gdhfyatjyq/Groner-Wikler%20Nomination%20Form.docx>.

The deadline for application is March 7, 2014. The winner will receive \$1,000 to assist with the expense of attending the 49th Annual Association of Jewish Libraries Conference in Las Vegas, NV, June 22-25, 2014.

For more information, please contact Amalia Warshenbrot, President of AJL's Synagogues, Schools and Centers Division at [AmaliaIma@att.net](mailto:AmaliaIma@att.net) or 704-365-3313.



## The Groner-Wikler Scholarship for AJL Conference Attendance Application/Nomination Form Submission Deadline: March 7, 2014

### Purpose

The Groner-Wikler Scholarship of \$1000 for conference attendance is given annually to a member of AJL who demonstrates dedication to Jewish children's literature or library services.

### Criteria

A member of AJL, this individual will have made a significant contribution in one or more of the areas listed below. Extra consideration is given to applicants who are seen as promising new movers and shakers in the field of Jewish children's literature and services.

- Active involvement in the Judaic library profession or related fields promoting Jewish children's literacy
- Strong advocacy for library/literacy services to children and youth
- Positive role model to colleagues and the wider community
- Innovative approaches to Jewish children's literature or library services

### Selection Protocol

Candidates may self-nominate, or be nominated by others. The nominator does not have to be a member of AJL, but the nominee must be a current AJL member. The winner will be selected by a committee made up of the AJL SSC President and Vice-President, the children's book editor(s) of AJL Reviews, and the previous year's winner of this award.

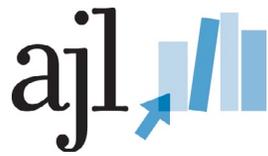
### Award Presentation

The recipient will be notified well before the registration deadline for the Association of Jewish Libraries annual conference. The presentation of the award will take place during the AJL conference.

Note: If a suitable candidate is not found, the scholarship will not be awarded in that year.

### How to Apply

Nominator or applicant (may self-nominate) should fill out the attached form and email it with any supporting materials to AJL SSC President Amalia Warshenbrot at [amaliaima@att.net](mailto:amaliaima@att.net) by March 7, 2014.



**The Groner-Wikler Scholarship for AJL Conference Attendance  
Application/Nomination Form  
Submission Deadline: March 7, 2014**

Today's Date:

Name of applicant:

Email address:

Phone number:

AJL member since (year):

Served as Judaic librarian or in related field since (year):

Name of nominator (if different from applicant):

Relationship to applicant:

Email address:

Phone number:

Please describe the applicant's involvement in the Judaic library profession or related fields promoting Jewish children's literature and literacy. Include examples of projects, services, programs, etc. Resume format is acceptable but not required. Feel free to include photos, articles, promotional materials, or other materials that document such activities (email attachments or URLs of online materials are both acceptable). Letters of recommendation from other colleagues of the applicant are also welcome.

You will find this application as a MS Word document at <https://www.dropbox.com/s/3q7gdhfhyatjiyq/Groner-Wikler%20Nomination%20Form.docx>, where it can be downloaded, filled out, saved, and emailed to AJL at [amaliaima@att.net](mailto:amaliaima@att.net) as an attachment. Alternatively, you may copy and paste the questions into the body of an email message, add your answers, and email the information to AJL.

Nominator or applicant (may self-nominate) should fill out this form and email it with any supporting materials to AJL SSC President Amalia Warshenbrot at [amaliaima@att.net](mailto:amaliaima@att.net) by March 7, 2014.

### **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)

You will receive a confirmation message.

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

## AJL SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

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.

Applications are due by **April 11, 2014**.

The application is available on the AJL website at <http://www.jewishlibraries.org/main/AboutAJL/AwardsGrants/StudentScholarship.aspx>

### Scholarship Fund Needs Your Help

The AJL Scholarship Fund requires some donations from the AJL membership in order to be able to continue to offer scholarships to deserving Library and Information Studies students. Our profession is getting older and we are beginning to see retirement notices in greater numbers, so it is especially important to encourage the next generation so that they will be able to take our places in Judaica library leadership. You can honor a simcha or someone's memory by making a donation and having us send a card, or you can just make a tax-free donation.

Please send donations to  
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Hebrew Union College Klau Library  
3101 Clifton Ave.  
Cincinnati, OH 24220.

Don't forget to supply the name and address of the person you would like to honor as well as your own name and address for an acknowledgement.

Recent donations received by the AJL  
Scholarship Fund:

From Sarah Barnard in memory of Marilyn Krider's grandson, Tammy Feinman, sister of Lynn Feinman, Dan Rettberg and refuah shelemah to Noni Rudavsky.

From Merry Firschein in memory of her mother Sylvia Firschein.

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|          | Association of Jewish Libraries. <b><i>Judaica Librarianship</i></b> . New York: AJL, 1983 – 2000. Limited number of back issues available. Contact <a href="mailto:publications@jewishlibraries.org">publications@jewishlibraries.org</a><br>Also may be available on microfilm from the American Jewish Periodical Center, 3101 Clifton Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45220. <a href="http://huc.edu/libraries/collections/ajpc/">http://huc.edu/libraries/collections/ajpc/</a><br>ISSN 073905086 | Inquire for price and availability           |            |
|          | Association of Jewish Libraries. <b><i>Proceedings of the Annual Convention of the Association of Jewish Libraries</i></b> . New York: AJL, 1998, 1999, 2000. Also available on microfilm from the American Jewish Periodical Center, 3101 Clifton Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45220.<br>ISSN 1525-4496  | \$15 each – specify year(s)                  |            |
|          | Freiband, Susan, with Barbara Leff. <b><i>Collection Development in Smaller Judaica Libraries</i></b> . (2 vol. set). Includes Introduction and Guide and Resource Guide. May be purchased as a set or separately (see below)   | \$20/set AJL members<br>\$25/set non-members |            |
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|          | Galron-Goldschlager, Joseph. <b><i>Library of Congress Subject Headings in Jewish Studies</i></b> , 7 <sup>th</sup> revised edition. New York: AJL, 2000 (2 vols.). Based on Library of Congress Subject Headings and updates on the LC website. ( <a href="http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpsa">http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpsa</a> ). The headings are current through December 25, 1999. Further updates are provided in <i>Judaica Librarianship</i> . ISBN 0-929262-53-0                     | \$32.50 members<br>\$37.50 non-members       |            |
|          | Hart, Merrily F. <b><i>Creating a Collection: A Resource Booklist for a Beginning Judaic Library</i></b> , 5th revised edition. New York: AJL, 2008 (30 pages).<br>ISBN 978-0929262000  | <b>For sale online only at Amazon.com</b>    |            |

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|  | <p>Muraskin, Bennett. <i>The Association of Jewish Libraries Guide to Yiddish Short Stories</i>. Teaneck, NJ: AJL &amp; 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.<br/>ISBN 978-1-934730-31-7</p>  | <p><b>For sale online at Ben Yehuda Press and other online retailers</b></p> |  |
|  | <p><i>Notable Children's Books of Jewish Content</i>. New York: AJL, 2001 (60 pages). Annotated lists of recommended books for 1985-2000, prepared by the Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee.<br/>ISBN 0-929262-38-7</p>   | <p>\$10</p>  |  |
|  | <p>Silver, Linda. <i>Jewish Classics for Kids</i>. New York: AJL, 2006 (32 pages). Annotated bibliography of a classic canon of Jewish books for children. Indexed by author and title.<br/>ISBN 0-929262-61-1<br/>ISBN 978-0-929262-61-1</p>  | <p>\$20 members<br/>\$25 non-members<br/>Also available at Amazon.com</p>    |  |
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|  | <p><i>Weine Classification System</i> (3 vol set). Specialized method of classification for the small Judaic library. Includes Classification Scheme, Subject Headings, and Index, which may be purchased separately (see below). <b>Note: these documents are available in digital format free of charge to AJL members – please contact Joyce Levine at <a href="mailto:jlevine@nshahs.org">jlevine@nshahs.org</a></b></p> | <p>\$12 set members<br/>\$16.50 set non-members</p>                          |  |
|  | <p>-----<i>Weine Classification Scheme for Judaica Libraries</i>, 8<sup>th</sup> edition. Revised by Judith S. Greenblatt, Rachel Glasser, Edythe Wolf &amp; Mae Weine. New York: AJL, 1995 (16 pages) ISBN 0-929262-37-9</p>  | <p>\$5</p>   |  |
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