THE 2015 SYDNEY TAYLOR BOOK AWARDS
ANNOUNCED BY
THE ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH LIBRARIES

The Sydney Taylor Book Award Winner for Younger Readers:
My Grandfather’s Coat by Jim Aylesworth
with illustrations by Barbara McClintock
(Scholastic Press)

The Sydney Taylor Book Award Winner for Older Readers:
Hidden: A Child’s Story of the Holocaust by Loic Dauvillier & Greg Salsedo
with illustrations by Marc Lizano
(First Second, an imprint of Roaring Brook Press)

The Sydney Taylor Book Award Winner for Teen Readers:
Storm by Donna Jo Napoli
(a Paula Wiseman Book, published by Simon and Schuster Books for Young Readers)

Sydney Taylor Honor Books for Younger Readers:
Goldie Takes a Stand by Barbara Krasner with illustrations by Kelsey Garrity-Riley
(Kar-Ben Publishing, a division of Lerner Publishing Group, Inc.)
Never Say a Mean Word Again by Jacqueline Jules with illustrations by Durga Yael Bernhard
(Wisdom Tales)

Sydney Taylor Honor Books for Older Readers:
Death by Toilet Paper by Donna Gephart
(Delacorte Press)
The Whispering Town by Jennifer Elvgren, illustrated by Fabio Santomauro
(Kar-Ben Publishing, a division of Lerner Publishing Group, Inc.)

Sydney Taylor Honor Books for Teen Readers:
Isabel’s War by Lila Perl
(Lizzie Skurnick Books, an imprint of IG Publishing)
Like No Other by Una LaMarche
(Razor Bill, an imprint of Penguin Group)

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Notable Books for Younger Readers:
Anna & Solomon by Elaine Snyder illustrated by Harry Bliss
(Macmillan)
Here is the World by Lesléa Newman illustrated by Susan Gal
(Abrams Books for Young Readers)
The Mitten String by Jennifer Rosner illustrated by Kristina Swarner
(Random House Books for Young Readers)
Rabbi Benjamin’s Buttons by Alice B. McGinty illustrated by Jennifer Black Reinhardt
(Charlesbridge)
Simon and the Bear by Eric Kimmel illustrated by Matthew Trueman
(Disney-Hyperion)
The Story of Passover by David A. Adler illustrated by Jill Weber
(Holiday House)

Notable Books for Older Readers:
Fleabrain Loves Franny by Joanne Rocklin
(Harry N. Abrams)
From Foe to Friend & Other Stories: A Graphic Novel by S.Y. Agnon and illustrated by Shay Charka
(The Toby Press)
I Lived on Butterfly Hill by Marjorie Agosin illustrated by Lee White
(Atheneum Books for Young Readers)
Schools of Hope: How Julius Rosenwald Helped Change African American Education
by Norman Finkelstein
(Calkins Creek)

Notable Books for Teens:
Freedom Summer: The 1964 Struggle for Civil Rights in Mississippi by Susan Goldman Rubin
(Holiday House)
Gottika by Helaine Becker illustrated by Alexander Griggs-Burr
(Dancing Cat Books)
Playing for the Commandant by Suzy Zail
(Candlewick)
Prisoner of Night & Fog by Anne Blankman
(Balzer + Bray)
Rachel’s Hope by Shelly Sanders
(Second Story Press)

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.
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To post a message to Hasafran, send your message to: hasafran@lists.osu.edu
You will receive a confirmation message.
A keyword-searchable archive of Hasafran messages posted since June 12, 2003 is now available.
"You must count off seven weeks of years, seven times seven years, and the days of the seven weeks of years will amount to forty-nine years...So you must consecrate the fiftieth year... That year will be your jubilee."

(Leviticus 25: 8-10)

Those of you who have known me for a while also know that although I am not exactly “The Halakhic Woman”, I find the Tanach to be a source of wisdom and inspiration. And you may also have surmised by now that Leviticus would probably not be on the top of my reading list...Yet there are some commandments, even in Leviticus, that reflect a deep understanding of human nature as well as that of the needs of the earth. “Seven times seven years” is the count leading to jubilation. Seven cycles that culminate each, if you will, in a cosmic sigh of שֶׁבַּע שַׁבְּתֹת שָׁנִים – release; exhaling hard work, greed, slavery, toil, and letting the earth regain its many blessings, its power to give – before resuming it all the following year. Seven times seven of endurance, creativity, ingenuity and faith! And the fiftieth year then must be consecrated; it is the year of Jubilee!

This year is OUR Jubilee Year! The Association of Jewish Libraries, our network of dedicated people who are the guardians, aggregators, preservers and providers of all things Jewish, whether in the world of synagogues, day schools or academia – AJL is celebrating 50 years of achievements and vision. This year we will celebrate the hard work and continuing contributions of our members in a conference that promises to be jubilant and uplifting in Washington D.C.

This is the year in which I challenge you all to be part of our continued endeavors by opening your heart and your hand and helping me launch The Jubilee Campaign of AJL – Fifty for Fifty. I invite you to be partners in making sure that AJL continues its sacred work on behalf of Jewish learning and culture by donating multiples of 50!

We are at the point of our history where funds are scarce and the coffers are emptying fast as we attempt to continue our programs, our publications, and our conferences into the future. Dedicated and visionary members are working hard to create an endowment that will enable us to do just that. We will be reaching out to longtime friends, partners in the worlds of librarianship, publishing and preserving Jewish culture, to first match our members’ generosity, and then surpass it – we won’t be embarrassed if they do. Please reach out to your families and friends who can be generous and support us!

So here is our challenge, once again, and in words that echo within us:
"...be sure to open your hand to give to ...those in need, and generously [grant them whatever they] need...Be sure to give... without any hesitation. When you do this, God will bless you in everything you work for and set out to do." (Deut. 15: 7-11)

Please use the Donate link on our website for credit card donations, or send us a check, and remember the magic number Fifty and its multiples – for our Year of Jubilee!

On behalf of the AJL Board
Yaffa (a.k.a President, AJL) and,
The First Pledge of 18 X $50 to the Jubilee Fund
2015 Sydney Taylor Book Awards Announced by AJL

JANUARY 20, 2015

Jim Aylesworth and Barbara McClintock, author and illustrator of *My Grandfather’s Coat*, Loïc Dauvillier, Marc Lizano and Greg Salsedo, author and illustrators of *Hidden* and Donna Jo Napoli, author of *Storm* are the 2015 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 Washington, D.C. this June.

Aylesworth and McClintock will receive the 2015 gold medal in the Sydney Taylor Book Award’s Younger Reader category for *My Grandfather’s Coat*, published by Scholastic Press. This retelling of the classic tale, celebrates the clever recycling of a beloved coat that lasts through four generations, until it becomes its own story. The illustrations are heartwarming and add much charm to the story. Dauvillier, Lizano and Salsedo will receive the 2015 gold medal in the Sydney Taylor Book Award’s Older Reader’s category for *Hidden*, published by First Second, an imprint of Roaring Brook Press. In this sensitive, graphic novel, a French grandmother tells her granddaughter the story of how she and her mother survived the Holocaust with the help of several righteous gentiles. Donna Jo Napoli will receive the 2015 gold medal in the Sydney Taylor Book Award’s Teen category for *Storm*, a Paula Wiseman Book, published by Simon and Schuster Books for Young Readers. This clever retelling of the Noah story, features a sixteen year old girl who stows away on the ark and witnesses the dynamics of Noah and his family as they struggle to care for the animals under the stress of living together in close quarters.

Six Sydney Taylor Honor Books were named for 2015. For Younger Readers, *Goldie Takes a Stand*, written by Barbara Krasner and illustrated by Kelsey Garrity-Riley, published by Kar-Ben, a division of Lerner Publishing Group, and *Never Say a Mean Word Again: A Tale from Medieval Spain*, written by Jacqueline Jules and illustrated by Durga Yael Bernhard, published by Wisdom Tales, were selected. *Death by Toilet Paper*, by Donna Gephart, published by Delacorte Press, and *Whispering Town*, by Jennifer Elvgren, illustrated by Fabio Santomauro, published by Kar-Ben, are Honor books in the Older Reader category. For Teen Readers, the Honor books are *Isabel’s War*, by Lila Perl, publisheds by Lizzie Skurnick Books, an imprint of Ig Publishing and *Like No Other*, by Una LaMarche, published by Razor Bill, an imprint of Penguin Group.

Winners and Honor recipients will be participating in a blog tour beginning in February, 2015. For more information about the blog please visit www.jewishlibraries.org/blog.

In addition to the medal winners, the Award Committee designated sixteen Notable Books of Jewish content for 2015. More information about the Sydney Taylor Book Award can be found at www.SydneyTaylorBookAwards.org.

For more information contact:
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Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee
Association of Jewish Libraries
(408)245-7641
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Susan Krawitz Wins 2015 Sydney Taylor Manuscript Award

January 15, 2015

Susan Krawitz of Stone Ridge, NY is the winner of the 2015 Sydney Taylor Manuscript Award for her middle-grade novel *Viva, Rose*.

The Sydney Taylor Manuscript Award honors an unpublished manuscript for readers aged 8-13 that presents Jewish life in a positive light. The award memorializes Sydney Taylor, author of the classic *All-of-a-Kind Family* series. Krawitz will receive the award at the 50th annual conference of the Association of Jewish Libraries in Washington, D.C. this June.

Set in El Paso, Texas in 1915, *Viva, Rose* tells the story of Rose Solomon’s older brother Abraham who runs off to join Pancho Villa's revolutionary group. When Rose tries to find Abraham and convince him to come home, she is kidnapped and taken to Villa’s hideout. There she meets a cast of characters based on real people who traveled with Villa and the fictional, spoiled Dorotea, Villa's young charge. The feisty Rose learns to ride a horse, to stand up for herself and, along the way, discovers her brother's secret.

The story is based on the history of Villa's gang, as well as Krawitz’s family truth and tales. *Viva, Rose* was inspired by a family story of Abraham Solomon of San Antonio, Texas, a soldier of fortune who fought with Pancho Villa, sailed the South Seas on a pearl fishing fleet, and was a plantation owner in a nameless tropical country. Rose, the story’s heroine, became a singer and reportedly popularized “La Cucaracha,” a song that plays a role in the novel.

The manuscript is infused with Jewish feeling as new Americans struggle with the freedoms of their adopted country, the younger generation struggles to find its place and the characters strive to keep their Jewish values and customs.

Krawitz, a freelance writer, editor and ghostwriter, is the author of many feature articles, essays and book reviews for a variety of local and regional newspapers, websites, and magazines. *Viva, Rose* is her first novel for young readers. Her previous awards include recognition from Scholastic, Highlights Magazine, National League of American Pen Women Literary Competition, and the BlueCat screenplay contest.

In an unusually strong competition year, the competition’s judges felt that *Viva, Rose*, with its unique plot and setting, eloquent writing, balanced mix of action and mystery, believable characters and strong thread of positive Jewish values best fit the award’s criteria. More information about the Sydney Taylor Manuscript Award maybe found at www.jewishlibraries.org.

For more information contact:
Aileen Grossberg, Chair
Sydney Taylor Manuscript Award Committee
Association of Jewish Libraries
stmacajl@aol.com
Yovel/Jubilee: Celebrating 50 Years of AJL!

The Organizing Committee of this year’s Association of Jewish Libraries conference entitled “Yovel/Jubilee: Celebrating 50 Years of AJL!” is delighted to announce that the conference will be held at the Sheraton in Silver Spring, Maryland from Sunday, June 21, 2015 through Wednesday, June 24, 2015. The conference will have a broad appeal to librarians in any setting: community centers and day schools, research and special libraries, synagogues, and universities. In celebration of AJL’s anniversary, the Committee has prepared a full, four-day conference, and we ask that you make your travel plans accordingly.

The Sunday programming will feature a special Family Program that will be open to all attendees as well as members of the local community. The program will include storytelling by Rabbi Paul Schneider, a reading by author Jacqueline Jules, a musical performance and sing-a-long by Audrey Katz and Lisa Baydush, and a special program by PJ Libraries. The performers will be available for signings and conversation. In addition to the book vendors in the Exhibits Hall, there will be special artists and crafts vendors selling their work. The Sunday dinner will feature a keynote conversation between renowned literary critic, scholar, and former literary editor of The New Republic Leon Wieseltier and Brookings Institution Senior Fellow Marvin Kalb. In addition, there will be a concert of Yiddish music by Jane Peppler.

Monday’s Authors’ Luncheon will feature authors from the Washington, D.C. metropolitan region. On Monday evening, a film by and a Q & A with documentary filmmaker Aviva Kempner will be presented.

Tuesday lunch will include a special program honoring past AJL presidents and the awarding of this year’s Fannie Goldstein Merit Award. The Tuesday banquet will feature the RAS Awards, such as the Bibliography and Reference Awards and the SSC Awards, including the Sydney Taylor Award winners.

On Wednesday we will offer a full day of programs with curators at leading cultural heritage institutions. The morning session will take place at the Library of Congress (LC). Attendees will have the option of selecting three out of six possible LC sites to visit: American Folklife Center; Children’s Literature Center; Hebraic Section, AMED; Music Division; Preservation Division; Prints and Photographs Division. The afternoon session will take place at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) and will include sessions with curators and tours. Both programs are free but do require prior reservation. There will not be sit-down meals at the hotel on Wednesday. However, optional kosher breakfast and lunch options can be purchased in advance of the conference.

The decision making regarding conference sessions is still in process. However, throughout the conference, there will be numerous sessions on librarianship, reading, Jewish culture and history, and the Holocaust. Presenters will include information science professionals, librarians, scholars, and writers from the Washington, D.C. area as well as from around the country and the world.

To register, go to the AJL website at www.jewishlibraries.org and follow the links to register using Eventbrite. Exhibitors and vendors should contact Jackie Ben-Efraim at ajladmanager@gmail.com. Information regarding conference stipends and scholarships, including application forms, may be found at jewishlibraries.org/content.php?page=Conference_Stipends___Scholarships___.

Marcie Eskin (mjeskin@comcast.net) is the Conference Registrar.

For general questions, please contact any of the Jubilee Conference co-chairpersons, Dina Herbert (dina.herbert@gmail.com), Ellen Share (eshare@whctemple.org), and Aaron Taub (yermiyahuahrontaub@gmail.com).

Organizing this conference has been a truly collaborative endeavor, drawing upon the creativity, expertise, passion, and organizational skills of a very devoted group of professionals. We thank them all, and their names will be noted in the Conference Book.

More details can be found on the AJL website and the Eventbrite registration site.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area for this milestone event!
Remembering Marina Korenberg (1956-2015)
BY YERMIYAHU AHRON TAUB

We gather here to mourn the passing and to honor the life of Marina Korenberg, beloved daughter of Jacob and Lucy Korenberg and wife of Don Dillin and dear friend and colleague. Marina was born in Odessa, Ukraine in 1956. Her family moved to Moscow in 1956, and Marina lived there until 1973. She received a high school diploma from the Moscow County School in 1973. She lived in Haifa, Israel from 1973-1975 and studied at Haifa University. In 1975, she immigrated to Canada, and she earned a Bachelor’s of Fine Arts from York University in Toronto, Ontario in 1981.

After working at the Ohio State University Libraries (1990-1996), the Johns Hopkins University (1996-2001), and with Sanad Support Technologies (2001-2003), Marina joined the Library of Congress in 2003 and worked in the African/Middle Eastern Acquisition Section, then the Hebraica Section, and most recently in the Israel and Judaica (IJ) Section. As a library technician, Marina performed numerous acquisitions and bibliographic access duties, including initial bibliographic control (IBC) record creation and copy cataloging for a wide range of materials in numerous languages such as Hebrew and Russian. Marina was the IJ Section’s expert in the processing of audio-visual materials and gifts and exchange materials. She carefully maintained statistics of exchange partners and authored letters of acknowledgments to donors to the Library. Marina nurtured warm relationships with colleagues in many areas of the Library and was always willing to help whenever she could. Marina was a lively and active participant in IJ Section meetings, always offering her insights into our work flows and suggestions on how they could be improved.

Marina was extremely active in the profession of Hebraica and Judaica librarianship. She regularly attended the Association of Jewish Libraries (AJL) annual conferences and participated in the Israel and Judaica Section’s presentations at the conference. Marina made numerous connections and friendships through her attendance of AJL conferences. At the time of her passing, Marina was Co-President of the Capital Area Chapter of the Association of Jewish Libraries (AJL/CAC) and organized a number of programs for the chapter. Marina cared deeply about professional standards and about the profession as a whole.

Marina was blessed with great senses of humor and style and all-around joie-de-vivre. She had a wonderfully infectious laugh and enjoyed a witty and well-told anecdote. She was enthusiastic about the arts in general, particularly music and the visual arts. One of her favorite artists was Amedeo Modigliani, and reproductions of his paintings graced the walls of her home. She also attended numerous concerts. In fact, Marina and Don were sitting behind a friend and me at the historic February 24, 2014 Kennedy Center concert of piano virtuoso Evgeny Kissin, at which Mr. Kissin performed compositions of neglected Jewish composers and recited a selection of Yiddish poems in a startlingly original manner. More recently, Marina, Don, and my colleagues Gail, Galina Teverovsky, and I enjoyed a tapas dinner and attended a performance of the Koresh Dance Company, in which Galina’s daughter, Asya Zlatina, a member of the company, performed. Marina’s cubicle at work was beautifully decorated with paintings and cards, including ones by Vermeer and, of course, Modigliani. After the Section’s relocation from our temporary work space to our permanent location, our Hebraic Section colleague, Ann Brener remarked to me (and I am paraphrasing) that Marina had very quickly set up her cubicle with her customary elegance. Marina never dressed down when she came to work. In the nearly twelve years that I knew Marina, I don’t believe I ever saw her in an ensemble that was not artfully assembled. She brought her love of art and beauty to the every day.

I was fortunate to have visited Marina in her home with Galina this past Christmas day. For the visit, Galina prepared her famous blintshikes (blini in Russian), a special crepe of flour, water, honey, and cinnamon, which Marina enjoyed. Although Marina’s health challenges were then apparent, her mind was as sharp as ever. Marina inquired about the Section and about our preparations for the upcoming
50th anniversary conference of the Association of Jewish Libraries. And Marina spoke about how much happiness she shared with Don and how grateful she was to him for all that he done on her behalf. We had a lovely visit that day, and I am grateful for that time. And I know many of you have joyful memories of your own of Marina. Marina’s warmth, collegiality, and professionalism touched many people wherever she went. We will miss her greatly, and we offer our deepest condolences to Marina’s family, friends, and colleagues.

Marina is survived by her parents, Jacob and Lucy Korenberg, her husband Don Dillin, and numerous close friends and colleagues, including Inna Saakova.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations in memory of Marina Korenberg to the Association of Jewish Libraries Scholarship Fund, c/o AJL National Treasurer Debbie Stern, 502 Arbutus Street, Philadelphia, PA 19119.

Condolence cards may be sent to Marina’s husband, Don Dillin at 10401 Grosvenor Place, Apartment # 1625, Rockville, MD 20852 or via e-mail at dondillin@gmail.com and to Marina’s parents, Jacob and Lucy Korenberg at 129 South Findlay Street, York, PA 17402.

Chapter Chatter

Long Island Chapter (LI-AJL)
Submitted by Wendy A. Marx, Chapter President

Our Long Island AJL has been busy with programming. This spring we look forward to having our Public Librarians meeting, where we invite public librarians to learn about Jewish books that they may not have read up on in their librarians' journals. Maggie Anton, author of *Enchantress, A Novel of Rav Hisda's daughter*, will be our guest speaker. We also look forward to hearing Dr. Art Friedman, Membership Chair of the Nassau County Library Association speak.

Southern California Chapter (AJLSC)
Submitted by Ellen Cole

We celebrated Hanukkah as a group in the newly redesigned Levine Library of Temple Isaiah where Ellen Cole is Librarian. Members lit the menorah together, then mixed and noshed on yummy hot latkes and sufganiyot before the program. Rabbi Erez Sherman of Sinai Temple in Los Angeles spoke about his New York Rabbi father, Charles Sherman’s new book: *The Broken and the Whole: Joy After Heartbreak* which recounts the moving family history as the Sherman family of five children grew up with a paraplegic brother. Severely disabled by a stroke at age five, Eyal Sherman attended public schools, then college. He paints with a brush in his mouth. How the parents and siblings turned this tragedy into a warm, inclusive family life by choosing joy is a modern miracle.

We received the *Jewish Book Month brochures for 2015*, one each for adults and children, written by Ellen, published and distributed by Lisa Silverman. These brochures suggest current books for Hanukkah gifts and general Jewish reading throughout the year. Lisa distributed them to all branches of the Los Angeles City Public Library and County Library systems. AJLSC members received copies for their Libraries, Temples and Schools. The pamphlet is on line via our AJLSC website and HaSafran. Don’t forget, AJLSC is on Facebook! Look for “AJLSC” and “like” us. Visit our fabulous AJLSC website run by member Barbara Leff! We are current and interesting!

New Annotated Bibliography!

Anne Dublin and Steven Bergson recently created an annotated bibliography of Canadian-Jewish literature for children for AJL’s *Bibliography Bank*. The categories include: picture books, fiction, and non-fiction. All books cited were published 2000–2014, and have both Jewish and Canadian content. Many are award winners and all demonstrate literary and artistic merit.
Scholarship Committee Report
Submitted by Sarah Barnard, Scholarship Committee member

The AJL Scholarship Committee awards up to two scholarships annually to deserving Library and Information School students who have demonstrated interest in following careers in Judaica Librarianship. I am on the committee and I am partially retired. From where I sit, it seems necessary for us to do whatever we can to encourage younger librarians to enter this profession if we want it to continue. It is exciting to see fresh young faces at conferences with their energy and dedication. We would like to see a few more of them. That is the purpose of the Scholarship Fund—to encourage future Judaica Librarians. The fund is supported by donations. So far this year we have received a couple of very good ones, but we need more. You can send a donation in memory of someone or in honor of someone and we will send a tribute card, or you can just send a donation. It’s tax deductible.

Please include with your donation the name and address of the person to whom you would like the tribute card sent, as well as your check and your own name and address. You can also donate through the website. Send donations to:
Sarah M. Barnard
5646 Hunters Lake
Cincinnati, OH 45249

Recent Donors:
• Aimee Lurie and Diane Rauchwerger in memory of Barbara Beitz’s father.
• Bruce and Bonnie Walkes in memory of their uncle Leo Waxman.
• Ellen Share in memory of Peggy Frieband
• Sarah Barnard in memory of David Gilner’s father Dr. Abraham Gilner
• Shoshanah Seidmen in memory of David Gilner’s father
• Alba Toscano, giving back for a scholarship she received.
• Amanda Seigel – online donation.

AJL Scholarship Donation Form

Name of Donor:

Address of Donor:

Donation made in honor/memory of:

Name of person(s) to receive card:

Address of person(s):

Notes:

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

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All links to online resources were checked for accuracy on February 15, 2015. We cannot be responsible for broken links to those resources in the future.

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