

President's Corner: Rocking the Boat

One of my all-time favorite musicals is *Guys & Dolls*, and one of the songs there is titled: “[Sit down you're rocking the boat](#)”

So sit down, I am about to rock it...

As I often say to my colleagues, I wasn't elected to office to maintain a status quo that no longer serves us, and I didn't do it for the “perks” ... This is “the state of the union” and a call to action.

If you believe in the future of our organization, if you know that you can contribute to its growth, if you know how much work it takes to do it – please step forward. We are ALL VOLUNTEERS, and there aren't enough of us to carry the burden. We cannot afford to hire professional staff that would take care of mundane tasks while allowing us to ensure the future of AJL. All I know at this point is that AJL did make a difference in the world in these 50 years, and we should be able to pull it together and lay new foundations that are financially secure, ideologically just, and professionally fulfilling..

A little over two years ago we articulated a Strategic Plan to ensure that AJL is able and capable of moving forward in a sustainable and meaningful way, guided by our Vision and Mission statements. While recognizing the value and importance of all the programs that are at our core: conferences, publications, training and accreditation, to name but a few, we also recognized that if we continue in the “business as usual” mode we will surely be out of business in a few years. *We never questioned the content of what we are doing, or the efforts and dedication of our members and volunteer leaders, but we clearly identified four systemic areas that required action.*

The consensus was that unless we increase our relevance to key constituents and broadcast our capabilities to them; strengthen our membership and build an engaging and a professional community; streamline our management/leadership and ensure that it is efficient, consistent, effective and transparent; and last, but certainly not least: establish a robust development function to ensure a vibrant and sustainable organization – unless we begin to design and implement changes in these areas – our future existence is questionable .

We were fully aware of the enormity of the tasks, so we set in place an implementation mechanism that provided defined objectives, assigned specific volunteers to carry them out, and charged a committee of three with supervising the progress of the plan. As some of you may recall, we even changed the Constitution and elected a Vice President for Development, recognizing the old rabbinic adage: *אם אין קמה אין תורה* or: without sustenance, learning cannot be sustained.

AJL Online



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

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

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

And then organizational culture took over. While hard working members continued to create the programs that make us who we are, most attempts to introduce much needed change in HOW we do business were met with frowning, resistance, and suspicion. No streamlining of how we communicate; resisting a mandatory review of our budgetary procedures and practices, and most detrimental – delaying the creation of a development mechanism that would make us fiscally sustainable.

I am told that all volunteer organizations go through this phase, and this is not a blame game. These are examples of what is preventing us from changing with the new environments and the new demands on our time and expertise. I would have preferred to address the attrition on School, Synagogue and Centers' libraries and positions. I would have preferred that we finally address continuing education under the auspices of AJL. I would have preferred to be kept busy writing thank you notes to scores of donors who care about the existence of AJL. Instead, I find myself worrying about our bank balances, good ideas ground down by endless discussions, dedicated members discouraged and fatigued, and a very narrow "bench" of volunteers to succeed those who've been serving AJL for years.

WE NEED CHANGE - WE NEED TO CHANGE!

So with much gratitude to the veteran volunteers, and much hope for those who came aboard in the last year, I hereby challenge you who have the stamina, the ideas, the time needed, and the funds, to step forward and help me bring about positive change.

Happy Jubilee!
Yaffa

Anne Dublin, AJL Reviews co-editor since 2006, is stepping down

Anne Dublin will be stepping down from her position as a co-editor for children and teen literature on June 30th, 2015. She will be replaced by Kathe Pinchuck.

Anne is a long-standing contributor to the field of Jewish children's literature. She serves as a co-editor of the children and teen literature section of AJL Reviews since 2006. During the years we have worked together, I found her to be a pleasure to work with. She is always ready to give her advice, share her vast knowledge, or discuss 'controversial' reviews.

Being an author of Jewish children and teen literature herself, Anne is a strong advocate for library and literacy services to Jewish children and youth. In addition to her work as a co-editor, she also contributes reviews. These are always very thoughtful, and one realizes that the reviewer 'knows what she's talking about.'

I am lucky to have such a an experienced co-editor in my team, who is dedicated to the promotion of high-quality Jewish children and teen literature, and am very sorry to see her leave. Thank you Anne for over 9 years of service! Welcome aboard, Kathe Pinchuck!

Uri Kolodney

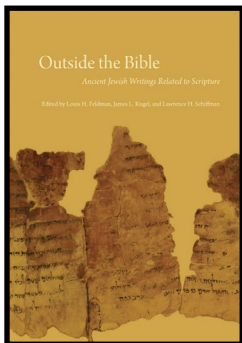
To our dear friend and colleague Daniel Scheide,

Please accept our condolences on the passing of your beloved wife. Hearing about your loss has deeply saddened us. You and your son, Zev, are in our thoughts and prayers. May Beth's memory be a blessing.

Your friends at the AJL News & Reviews team, Uri, Rachel, Anne, Rebecca, Karen and Jackie

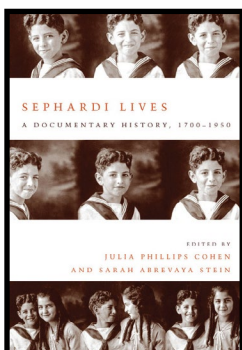
The Association of Jewish Libraries Announces the 2014 Judaica Reference and Bibliography Award Winners

The Association of Jewish Libraries encourages the publication of outstanding works of Judaica reference and bibliography through its annual awards. We are pleased to announce the award winners for titles published in 2014.

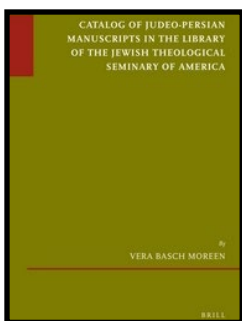


Outside the Bible: Ancient Jewish Writings Related to Scripture, edited by Louis H. Feldman, James L. Kugel and Lawrence H. Schiffman, and published by the Jewish Publication Society, was chosen for the AJL Judaica Reference Award. This monumental three-volume work, comprising over 3,000 pages, includes new and revised translations of almost every surviving Jewish text produced in the period after the Bible and before the Talmud. Each text is accompanied by detailed introductions, commentaries and notes. The work as a whole is supplied with a general introduction and opening essays; the volumes conclude with appendixes, a timeline and subject index.

Outside the Bible is remarkable achievement. The clarity of the translations and the contextualizing of the texts provide broad access to an otherwise complex field of study. With significant contributions from leading experts in the field of Jewish and Christian studies and edited by distinguished scholars, *Outside the Bible* represents a landmark in its field and will become essential reference for students, scholars and researchers.



An Honorable Mention in the Judaica Reference category has been awarded to *Sephardi Lives: A Documentary History, 1700-1950*, edited by Julia Cohen and Sarah Stein, and published by Stanford University Press. *Sephardi Lives* comprises over 150 primary sources derived from a wide variety of sources, from historical accounts to personal memoirs and including well-known personalities alongside glimpses of everyday lives. The book provides a tremendously comprehensive view of the Sephardi world (which, in its various forms, encompasses much of the world). The Honorable Mention award thus recognizes the editors of this work for their role in showcasing new and under-represented material and for opening paths to new research, scholarship and education in the field of Sephardic studies.



The AJL Bibliography Award has been given to Vera Basch Moreen's *Catalog of the Judeo-Persian Manuscripts in the Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America*, published by Brill. The *Catalog of Judeo-Persian Manuscripts* provides an important bibliographical tool for scholars researching in the field of Jewish Iranian studies across a range of diverse subject areas. The collection of Judeo-Persian manuscripts at the Jewish Theological Seminary Library is the third largest such collection in the world. The study of its contents are crucial to understanding the deep impact that the ancient Iranian Jewish community made on Jewish intellectual life and thought. Moreen's meticulous bibliographical research has resulted in an outstanding catalog, with a range of indexes providing multiple access points into the collection. The product of many years of research, the *Catalog of Judeo-Persian Manuscripts* will significantly ease the path for future researchers of the Judeo-Persian experience.

Rebecca Jefferson, Chair
Judaica Reference and Bibliography Awards Committee
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Chapter Chatter

LONG ISLAND CHAPTER (LIAJL)

Submitted by Wendy A. Marx, President

We look forward to our annual Public Librarian's meeting to inform public librarians what is out there in Jewish books. This year's meeting features Maggie Anton, author of *The Enchantress, a novel of Rav Hisda's daughter*. Maggie has been one of our program speakers in the past.

We also look forward to being present at the Long Island Library Conference. It allows our LIAJL a good opportunity for publicity, getting new members and re enrolling present members.

One of our terrific programs this year was entitled "*Privacy and the Library: Protection vs. Service*" given by Dr. Arthur Friedman, chair of the New York Library Association Intellectual Freedom Committee.

NEW YORK METROPOLITAN AREA CHAPTER (NYMA)

Submitted by Rita Lifton

AJL-NYMA began 2015 by holding a cataloging workshop on February 24th entitled "*Using RDA in Cataloging Manuscripts and Rare Books with an Emphasis on Judaica Cataloging*." The workshop took place at The Library of The Jewish Theological Seminary and was organized by Sara Spiegel and Rita Lifton.

Presentations included "*Using RDA for Rare Book and Manuscript Cataloging: Building for the Future*" (Virginia Bartow, New York Public Library); "*Constructing Name Authorities in RDA*" (Marlene Schiffman, Yeshiva University Libraries); and "*Challenges and Questions in Cataloging Manuscripts Using RDA*" (Dr. Jay Rovner, JTS Library). A podcast of and PowerPoint presentations from this workshop can be accessed at the [AJL-NYMA website](#).

On March 18th, NYMA's winter conference, organized by Ina Rubin Cohen, Rina Krautwirth and Chaya Wiesman, was held at The Morgan Library & Museum. The event opened with a presentation entitled "*From Qumran to U'Belechtecha Ba-derech: A Brief History of Jewish Collections Over 2,000 Years*" (Naomi Steinberger, JTS Library) and was followed by "*Making History Relevant and Personal*" (Dr. Janette Silverman, William Davidson Graduate School of Jewish Education, JTS). Attendees were then led on a tour of the exhibit, "*Hebrew Illumination for Our Time: The Art of Barbara Wolff*," by its curator, Dr. Roger Wieck. The exhibit displayed Ms. Wolff's illuminations of Psalm 104 and the Rose Haggadah, commissioned by the Rose family from the artist. The exhibit also included a fascinating film on the art of illumination. To view the exhibit, go to <http://www.themorgan.org/collection/rose-haggadah>. A podcast of the conference will eventually be available on the AJL-NYMA website.

NYMA's annual reference workshop, organized by Leslie Monchar and Bruchie Weinstein, took place on May 11th. The program was held at Park Avenue Synagogue and included a guided tour of this historic building and its beautiful stained glass windows by abstract expressionist, Adolph Gottlieb.

Finally, we officially welcome our newly installed co-presidents, Ina Rubin Cohen, Rina Krautwirth and Chaya Wiesman. Clearly, their co-presidency is off to a splendid start.

SOUTH CALIFORNIA CHAPTER (AJLSC)

Submitted by Ellen Cole

At AJLSC's March meeting, guest speaker, KarBen Publisher Joni Sussman threw down the gauntlet to the shocking results of the recent Pew Research Center's Religion and Public Life Project which found a significant rise in Jews who are not religious, marry outside our faith and are not raising their

children as Jews. KarBen stresses the need to write and produce children's books that cope with these changes. Books are as important as religious education. They help young readers succeed in raising their own Jewish consciousness and hopefully, their own Jewish kids in the future. In addition to the basic stock of popular and necessary holiday and holocaust themes, Sussman noted a growing body of books that tap into Jewish culture through humor and exploration of community values. The publisher is looking for books that speak to cultural as well as religious Jews through picture books of high quality whose plots and illustrations speak to today's diversity and reality. The Jewish content in KarBen's fiction and non-fiction for preschool through 6th grade, (sometimes older), rests on the publisher's careful assessment of today's Jewish community in the US and Israel. KarBen is the largest Jewish children's publisher in the world; blossoming from its start with two wonderful women in Rockville, Maryland, growing exponentially following its purchase by Lerner Publishers, a Jewish family firm in Minneapolis. The Kar Ben division receives over 850 manuscripts a year, from which it publishes 20. The bottom line is where does Jewish identity come from? Who are our grandchildren going to be? Sussman clearly exclaimed: All-of-a-Kind-Family! Not Any More!

AJLSC will award travel grants to our members going to AJL convention in Silver Spring. Application are on our [AJLSC website](#). Winners will be announced at the May meeting. Don't forget, our chapter is on [Facebook](#). Look for "AJLSC" and "like" us. Visit our fabulous [AJLSC website](#) run by member Barbara Leff. We are current and interesting!

AJL Member News

Anne Dublin's latest historical novel for young adults will be published by Second Story Press in September 2015. *44 Hours of Strike!* tells the story of two teenage sisters, Sophie and Rose, who are caught up in the 1931 Toronto dressmakers' strike. Drawn against the background of the Depression, these young Jewish women fight for workers' rights and union recognition. Anne is the outgoing co-editor of AJL Reviews for young people.

Sydney Taylor Manuscript Award Committee positions available

The Sydney Taylor Manuscript Award Committee has two openings beginning in June 2015. The term is for five years. Duties include reading unpublished manuscripts for ages 8 to 13, writing evaluations based on specific criteria, and conference via email with the other judges to choose the recipient of the Award.

Important qualifications for committee members include experience with children's literature, ability to adhere to deadlines, cogent writing, and a desire to discover the next best book. All committee work is done via email or occasionally telephone. There are no expenses involved. It is hoped, but not required, that members of the committee attend the annual AJL conference.

Interested members of AJL should forward a resume, background statement, and sample reviews to committee chair, Aileen Grossberg, STMACAjl@aol.com by May 15.

Every effort will be made to create a committee that is balanced geographically and philosophically and includes members from a variety of professional and Judaic backgrounds.

More information about the award is available on the [AJL website](#).

Preliminary AJL Conference Program Grid

Sunday, 21 June 2015

| | | |
|--------------------|---|-------------------|
| 9 am – 12 pm | Board Meeting | |
| 10 am – 6 pm | REGISTRATION & INFORMATION | |
| 12 pm – 6 pm | Hospitality Suite Open | |
| 12 pm – 6 pm | EXHIBITS OPEN | |
| 12 pm - 3 pm | Council Meeting | |
| 1 pm - 5 pm | Special Family Program Open to All AJL Conference Attendees and the Community | |
| 3:30 pm - 5 pm | OCLC Update | Newcomers Welcome |
| 5 pm – 6 pm | Judaica Librarianship Editorial Board Meeting and Accreditations Committee, RAS Cataloging Committee, Strategic Planning Committee , and Sydney Taylor Book Awards Committee Meetings | |
| 6:30 pm - | WELCOME DINNER, including Keynote Conversation and Yiddish Music Concert | |
| 9:00 pm | | |
| 9 pm - 10:30 pm | Collection Development Committee Meeting | |
| 9 pm - 11 pm | Hospitality Suite Open | |

Monday, 22 June 2015

| | | | | |
|---------------------|---|---|--------------------------------|--|
| 6 am | Morning Walk | | | |
| 6:30 am | Orthodox Minyan | | Egalitarian Minyan | |
| 7:15 am - 8:30 am | BREAKFAST | | | |
| | Mentor Mingle table | | | |
| 8 am - 5 pm | REGISTRATION & INFORMATION | | | |
| 8 am - 5:15 pm | EXHIBITS OPEN | | | |
| Rooms | 1A | 1B | 1C | 1D |
| 8:30 am - 10 am | Farewell, Kibbutzim and Pioneers: Bringing Israel to Today's Kids and Families Through Children's Books | Digitization and Libraries | The Case of the S.S. St. Louis | Jewish Music |
| Rooms | 2A | 2B | 2C | 2D |
| 10:15 am - 11:15 am | National Library of Israel Update | Small Libraries | Jewish Book Reviewing | Negotiating Skills for Librarians Workshop |
| Rooms | 3A | 3B | 3C | 3D |
| 11:25 am - 12:25 pm | Legal Aspects of Jewish Identity | Jewish Poetry Reading By D.C. area Poets | Library Vendors' Roundtable | Microsoft Workshop |
| 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm | Washington, D.C. Authors' Luncheon (Including Book Signing): Guest Speakers: Merrill Leffler of Dryad Press, Winner of AJL/Capital Area Chapter Award and Sari Feldman, ALA President Elect Sponsored by Pro-Quest | | | |
| 2:15 pm - 3:00 pm | RAS Meeting | | SSC Meeting | |
| 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm | General Membership Meeting | | | |

Monday, 22 June 2015

| | | | | |
|--------------------|--|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 4:00 pm - 4:30 pm | Exhibits Only and Coffee | | | |
| Rooms | 4A | 4B | 4C | 4D |
| 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm | Putting History to Work | What Motivates Jewish Children's Literature Authors? | Perspectives on Modern Israel | Jewish Communities Around the World |
| 6:00 pm - 8:15 pm | Hospitality Suite Open Dinner (On Your Own) See Program Book for Kosher Options | | Orthodox Minyan | |
| 8:15 pm - 10:30 pm | Evening event: Documentary Film Screening and Q & A with Filmmaker | | | |

Tuesday, 23 June 2015

| | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| 6 am | Morning Walk | | | |
| 6:30 am | Orthodox Minyan | | Egalitarian Minyan | |
| 7:15 am - 8:30 am | BREAKFAST | | | |
| 8:00 am - 5 pm | REGISTRATION & INFORMATION | | | |
| 8 am - 1:30 pm | EXHIBITS OPEN | | | |
| Rooms | 5A | 5B | 5C | 5D |
| 8:30 am - 10:00 am | Libraries in Vienna and Vilnius | Telling Stories from Your Center | Graphic Representations of the Holocaust and Jewish Life | Reading and Translating Jewish Texts |

Tuesday, 23 June 2015

| Rooms | 6A | 6B | 6C | 6D |
|---------------------|---|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| 10:15 am – 11:30 am | Profiles of Judaica Collectors and Librarians | What Are We Reading? | On Presenting and Reading: How to Give a Presentation Let's Focus Reading Clubs Secular Stories from a Jewish Perspective | Fundraising Workshop |
| 11:30 am - 12:00 pm | Exhibits Only and Coffee Break | | | |
| 12:00 - 1:45 pm | Awards Lunch: Honoring Past AJL Presidents, Accreditation and Fanny Goldstein Merit Award Winner Joy Kingsolver | | | |
| Rooms | 7A | 7B | 7C | 7D |
| 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm | Anti-Semitism and Cultural Heritage Organizations: Collecting, Curating, and Monitoring | Panel of Sydney Taylor Award Winners | In the Jewish Archives and Rare Books Stacks | Museums Roundtable |
| Rooms | 8A | 8B | 8C | 8D |
| 3:45 pm - 5:00 pm | Jews in the Military | Panel of Sydney Taylor Award Winners | Reading Jewish Social History Through Cookbooks | The Future of Librarianship: a Roundtable |
| 5:30 pm | Orthodox Minyan | | | |
| 6 pm - 7 pm | RECEPTION (Sponsored by Media Flex – OPALS and ??) | | | |
| 7pm - 10 pm | Awards Banquet | | | |
| 10 pm - midnight | Hospitality Suite Open | | | |

Wednesday, 24 June 2015

| | | |
|---------------------|---|--------------------|
| 6 am | Morning Walk | |
| 6:30 am - 7:30 am | Orthodox Minyan | Egalitarian Minyan |
| 7:15 am - 8:20 am | Breakfast (On Your Own or Pre-Ordered Kosher Boxed Breakfast) | |
| 8:30 am | Departure from Sheraton Hotel Lobby for Tours and Travel to Library of Congress (LC) via Metro | |
| 10:00 am – 12:30 pm | Programs with LC Curators and Staff: Select three of the following: Preservation Division; Hebraic Section, AMED; Music Division; Children's Literature Center; Prints and Photographs Division; and American Folklife Center | |
| 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm | Travel to United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) via the Metro and Lunch on Your Own or Pre-Ordered Kosher Boxed Lunch | |
| 2:00 pm – 4:30 pm | Programs with Curators and Staff of the USHMM and Tours of the Museum | |
| Bon Voyage! | Next Year in Charleston, S.C.! לשנה הבאה בטשארלסטאן, ד"ק! | |

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](#).

Scholarship Committee Report

SUBMITTED BY SARAH BARNARD, SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBER

The AJL Scholarship Fund provides scholarships to promising students in Library and Information Science programs who wish to pursue careers in Judaica Librarianship. Many of our previous winners have gone on to become active and contributing members of AJL and of the profession. We have had a flurry of donations this year, unfortunately due to the deaths of some of our Librarians or their family members. It is a bittersweet task to send tribute cards and thank people for their donations. You can also make a tax-deductible donation for lots of happy occasions: graduations, births, new jobs, retirements and endless other simchas. You can donate on the [website](#) or by check. If it is on the website, be sure to fill in the information about the occasion and the donor. It will get to me and I will send the tribute card. If you send a check, be sure to add your name and address or email and the name, address and reason for the donation for the tribute card. I look forward to hearing from you. Send check donations to:

Sarah M. Barnard
5646 Hunters Lake
Cincinnati, OH 45249

Recent Donors:

- Ellen Share - in memory of Peggy Freiband
- Sarah Barnard - in memory of David Gilner's father
- Shoshana Seidman - in memory of David Gilner's father
- Alba Toscano - giving back for a scholarship she received
- Amanda Seigel
- Gloria & Frank Steiner - in memory of Marina Korenberg
- Norma Mordfin - in memory of Marina Korenberg
- Lenore Bell - in memory of Marina Korenberg
- Galina Teverovsky - in memory of Marina Korenberg
- Bela Saxonov-Moore - in memory of Marina Korenberg
- Saint Elizabeth Adult Church Choir - in memory of Marina Korenberg
- Ellen Share - in memory of Laurie Lee England
- Shulamith Berger - in memory of Beth Wong, wife of Daniel Scheide

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:

Credits and Contact

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The AJL Newsletter (Irene Levin-Wixman z"l, founding editor) was published in print from 1979 to 2010 by the Association of Jewish Libraries to inform members about 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 May 3, 2015.

We cannot be responsible for broken links to those resources in the future.

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