

WELCOME TO THE 51ST ANNUAL AJL CONVENTION!

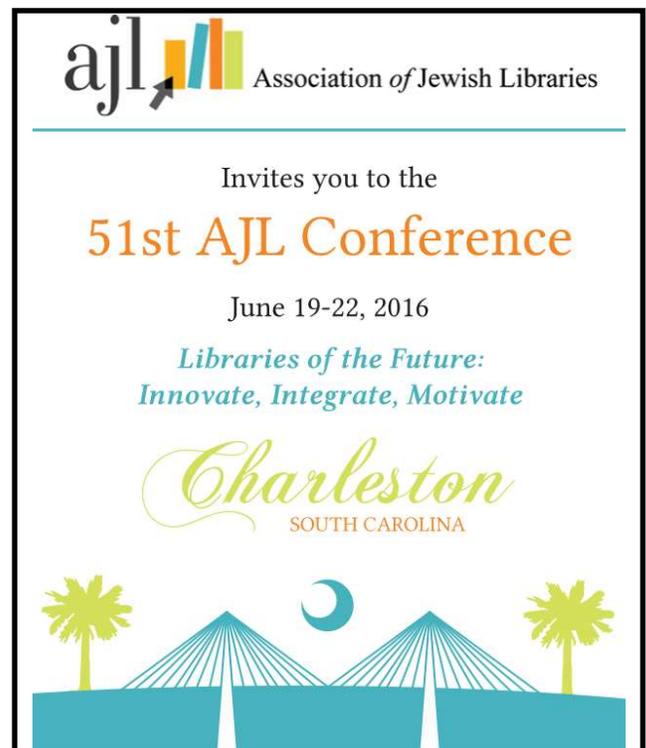


We are excited to invite you to beautiful Charleston, South Carolina for our Association of Jewish Libraries convention, to be held June 19-22, 2016. The city is rich both in general and Jewish history and culture. The modern, comfortable [Marriott hotel](#) is located in downtown Charleston, with easy access to many restaurants, shops, museums, and other venues. It will be the setting of a variety of interesting workshops, stimulating

conversation, networking and camaraderie.

Our special focus this year is reflected in our conference title: *Libraries of the Future: Innovate, Integrate, Motivate*. Specifically, how can we learn for the future by promoting our libraries? After all, Jews are known as "The People of the Book" (in whatever format!). So whether you are from the RAS or the SSC group, each of your libraries offers extra value for your institution. Our professional learning and sharing will help you enlighten and promote your unique contributions and usefulness to your community, whether clergy, congregants, administrators, staff, or students. Led by experts in their field, the Charleston conference's workshops and networking will inspire you with visionary conversations, as well as practical ideas to take home with you.

And to get you in the mood for this vibrant and evocative city, we've included a list of some of the best fiction from Charleston and the South. See you there!



ajl Association of Jewish Libraries

Invites you to the

51st AJL Conference

June 19-22, 2016

*Libraries of the Future:
Innovate, Integrate, Motivate*

Charleston
SOUTH CAROLINA

The graphic features a stylized illustration of two suspension bridges, palm trees, and a crescent moon at the bottom.

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.

Association of Jewish Libraries Charleston 2016 - Call for Papers

The Association of Jewish Libraries (AJL) will hold its annual conference entitled “Libraries of the Future: Innovate, Integrate, Motivate” at the [Charleston Marriott](#) in Charleston, South Carolina from Sunday, June 19 to Wednesday, June 22, 2016. Librarians, archivists, scholars, educators, authors, and others will meet to share their interest in Judaica librarianship, Jewish history and culture, and related topics.

AJL is soliciting proposals for papers and presentations on all aspects of Judaica librarianship as it pertains to libraries, archives, museums, schools, synagogues, and related institutions. Past topics have included: collection management, programming, reader advisory services, special and rare collections, cataloging and classification, digital and electronic resources and emerging technologies. Current research topics related to Judaica studies and local Jewish history would also be of interest. The 2016 conference will introduce a professional development track devoted to practical aspects of librarianship. Submissions dealing with topics in organizational development, institutional administration, vendor relations, job retention, etc. are especially welcome.

Submissions should include the following:

Presenter’s name, address, affiliation, telephone and email contacts.

- Brief biography
- Title of proposed presentation
- Summary of proposal
- Specific technology or equipment requirements, if any

All submissions must be received by November 30, 2015. Please submit proposals by e-mail (PREFERRED) to: sseidman@northwestern.edu

or by mail to: Shoshanah Seidman, Northwestern University Library, 1970 Campus Dr.
Evanston, IL 60208

Proposals will be reviewed by the Program Planning Committee, which is composed of national and AJL members. Notification will be made in January 2016.

Note: An individual may give only one paper or presentation. If an individual submits more than one proposal, the committee will choose between them based on what topics best fit the conference program. Someone who presents a paper may participate in a second session as a moderator.

Keep Up to Date with Hasafran

Hasafran is the electronic discussion list of the Association of Jewish Libraries. It was created in 1991 to provide a forum for the discussion of Judaica librarianship. The list is moderated by Joseph (Yossi) Galron, Jewish studies librarian at The Ohio State University. The views expressed in the list are the opinions of the participants and not necessarily the views of the moderator or of AJL.

To subscribe to Hasafran, please see instructions at

<https://lists.service.ohio-state.edu/mailman/listinfo/hasafran>

To post a message to Hasafran, send your message to: hasafran@lists.osu.edu

You will receive a confirmation message.

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

FANTASTIC FICTION SET IN CHARLESTON AND THE SOUTH

Compiled and submitted by Shelley Riskin



CHARLESTON

Brown, Sandra--*The Alibi*

Charleston District Attorney Hammond Cross meets a mysterious and completely irresistible woman, only to find out that she is the main suspect in a murder. She insists she's innocent---and he is her airtight alibi for the night of the murder! What's the truth? This is a fun and quick read.

Conroy, Pat--*South of Broad*

It's 1969, and 18-year-old Leo has just discovered that his mother had once been a nun. That is only the first of a long line of upsets in this coming-of-age story that includes his group of friends, who by the 1980s have found success in a variety of careers, but are still haunted by their evocative and troubling Charleston past. *South of Broad* is just one of many Conroy titles and book-based movies set in the South.

Frank, Dorothea Benton--*Sullivan's Island: a Lowcountry Tale*

Devastated by her husband's affair, Susan tries to rebuild her damaged life on Sullivan's Island, only to find that she must confront the racially-charged problems from her troubled family's past. Can Susan's wit and determination, and the undeniable charm of the island carry her through to a new, fulfilling life? Sequel is *Return to Sullivan's Island*.

Kidd, Sue Monk--*Invention of Wings*

Starred by Booklist magazine, this story is inspired by the true story of early-19th-century abolitionist and suffragette Sarah Grimké. Independent, rebellious Sarah is wealthy and cosseted, but thwarted from her dream of becoming a lawyer. She finds a kindred spirit in her smart and brave slave. Their unlikely friendship, told in first person from alternate perspectives, chart their respectful but also resentful friendship from childhood to middle age.

Monroe, Mary Alice--*Lowcountry Summer trilogy*

From the Publisher: Three granddaughters. Three months. One summer house. In this enchanting trilogy set on Sullivan's Island, South Carolina, New York Times bestselling author Mary Alice Monroe captures the complex relationships among Dora, Carson, and Harper, three halvesisters scattered across the country – and a grandmother determined to help them rediscover their family bonds.

Sadler, Sarah--*Southern Solstice*

Broken-hearted 24-year-old Larken moves back from the West Coast to Charleston to try to rebuild her life as part of a charmed, aristocratic family. In addition to her suitors, the other character in this love story is Charleston itself. If Sadler's descriptions don't make you want to pack up and move to Charleston, I don't know what will. The book will draw you in from page one and won't let go.

Waldfoegel, Sabra--*Slave and Sister*

Adelaide, the daughter of Jewish slaveholders, and Rachel, her slave, share a shameful secret - they have the same father. This not only shadows their childhood, but continues into Adelaide's marriage, when her husband falls in love with Rachel. As the Civil War breaks out and chaos erupts, how will they both cope, as well as survive?

White, Karen--*House on Tradd Street*

Melanie, a real estate agent who loves everything modern and orderly, finds herself burdened by the inheritance of an old house in Charleston. The will says that she must live in it for a year and restore it to its former glory before selling it. That year brings back her tragic past, ulterior motives of colorful locals, and perhaps love. Publisher's Weekly says: "White skillfully balances her tale at the meeting point of romance, mystery and ghost story. The supernatural elements are not played for scares, but instead refine and reveal Melanie's true character. A fun and satisfying read."

THE SOUTH

Butler, Octavia--*Kindred*

Dana, a contemporary young black woman, is transported back in time to the antebellum South, where she has been summoned to save Rufus, the white son of a plantation owner. Dana finds herself repeatedly and involuntarily drawn back in time to the slave quarters for longer and increasingly dangerous adventures. Will she die before she can get back to her own time - permanently? Butler was an African-American author who wrote many science fiction novels.

Godwin, Gail--*A Mother and Two Daughters*

Reader Review: "A truly wonderful book, with real and rich characters. A Southern widow who is a good, decent woman faces the daily ritual of Southern genteel life, but is challenged by the rivalry of her two daughters Cate and Lydia. Full of the flavor of Southern life and customs, and lush detail. You will be drawn into the story and will wish the story kept on going when it ends." Godwin is a National Book award winner who has written many evocative, absorbing novels set in the South, including her latest, *Flora*.

Mee, Susie--*Downhome: An Anthology of Southern Women Writers*

Publisher's Description: A powerful collection of short stories by Southern female writers, from Eudora Welty and Zora Neale Hurston to Ellen Gilchrist and Dorothy Allison. Written in a time period spanning several decades, the selections reflect the sights, sounds, tastes, and smells of Southern life. They also tap into the darker side of Southern life.

Classic Southern Writers

William Faulkner, Flannery O'Connor, and Eudora Welty.

Chapter Chatter

LONG ISLAND CHAPTER (LIAJL)

Submitted by Wendy A. Marx, President

We are looking forward to a new year of activity. We will have fewer but better programs. We recently held a farewell luncheon for one of our board members who has been most instrumental for our group. Members came out of the woodwork for her. And we members enjoyed a wonderful gab fest... That is an exchange of ideas, books and Jewish education. We learned that we are colleagues as well as friends.

Our group also recognized the work of our distinguished board member, editor of our monthly bulletin, SIFRIA, and national board member Elana Gensler with a gift. Her work is invaluable to our Long Island AJL.

I remain president for life of Long Island AJL until someone else takes the reigns. I refuse to let our group of educated, devoted members go the wayside like other groups have.

NEW YORK METROPOLITAN AREA CHAPTER (NYMA)

Submitted by Rita Lifton

On May 11th, NYMA's annual reference workshop was held at the Park Avenue Synagogue. Coordinated by Leslie Monchar and Bruchie Weinstein, the theme of the workshop was "Where's Reference? Changes in the Library, A Changed Librarian : 3 Perspectives."

The three perspectives were offered by Beth Bidlack, Director, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University Libraries, who spoke about "The Ever-changing Nature of Reference: From People, Spaces and Collections to Actions"; Shaindy (Susan) Kurzmann, College Archivist, Reference & Instruction Librarian, Ramapo College of New Jersey, whose topic was "Reference at Ramapo: Evolution and Revolution"; and David B. Levy, Librarian, Lander College for Women, Touro College Libraries, who presented on "19th and 20th Century Great Jewish Librarians in the Context of Historical Change: Scholar Librarians at Risk in Postmodern Technocracy."

Each of the speakers addressed the changing nature of reference work in a high-tech age and each, in their own way, came to the conclusion that, the role of the reference librarian has not been overshadowed by Google et al. Rather, library reference work has evolved so that the librarian's role is more multi-faceted and has, if anything, grown larger. Levy mentioned a few extraordinary 20th century scholar librarians in his presentation, among them Moritz Steinschneider, Abraham Berliner, Abraham Freidus, Solomon Schechter, Adolf Neubauer, Umberto Cassutto, Rabbi Efraim Oshry, Dr. Chaim Vilsker, Jacob Dienstag, Gershom Scholem, Dina Abromowitz, Stefen Reif, and Menachem Schmelzer.

The conference also included a tour of the historic Park Avenue Synagogue - its Moorish-style sanctuary dedicated in 1927, the stained glass chapel by abstract expressionist Adolph Gottlieb, and the Edmond de Rothschild Library. A digital recording of this presentation will be available in several months at www.ajlnyma.org.

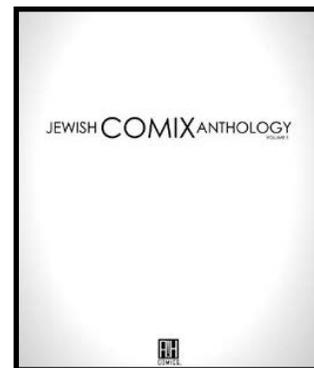
AJL-NYMA awarded stipends to five members so that they could attend 2015 AJL Convention in Silver Spring, Maryland. In addition, we are happy to announce that we now have a Facebook page! The AJL-NYMA Facebook Group, established and maintained by Rina Krautwirth, keeps members updated about programming, news and information as well as issues relevant to librarianship in New York City and Judaica librarianship in general.

The presidium of NYMA, Ina Cohen, Rina Krautwirth and Chaya Wiesman, is hard at work planning programming for the coming academic year. On behalf of the membership, they extend wishes for a happy and healthy New Year, 5776, to one and all.

ONTARIO CHAPTER (CANADA)

Submitted by Anne Dublin

The Ontario chapter of AJL is gearing up for an exciting roster of programs this year. Firstly, we were proud to be represented by Steve Bergson, who participated in the panel, "Graphic Representations of the Holocaust and Jewish Life", at the AJL Conference on June 23, 2015. He spoke about "The Secret Origins of the Jewish Comix Anthology". On Sunday November 8, 2015, at 7 p.m., AJL Ontario will sponsor a program at the Terraces of Baycrest, 55 Ameer Avenue, Toronto. Paula Draper and Max Eisen will be guest speakers on the topic, "Coming Back to Life: The Journey from Displaced Person to Canadian". On Wednesday November 11, 2015, at 7:30 p.m., award-winning author and former librarian at Holy Blossom Temple, Anne Dublin, will speak on the topic, "Uncertain Haven: Canada and Jewish Displaced Persons". Anne's talk will take place at the Frank & Anita Ekstein Holocaust Resource Library, Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst Street (4th floor), Toronto. The two programs about displaced persons are part of the GTA (Greater Toronto Area)-wide Holocaust Education Week 2015 activities on the theme of "Liberation: Aftermath and Rebirth."



SOUTH CALIFORNIA CHAPTER (AJLSC)

Submitted by Ellen Cole

AJLSC members continue to guide national AJL as officers. Three members of AJLSC are national officers for AJL for 2014-2016: Yaffa Weisman is President, Sheryl Stahl is Vice President/Membership, and Sharon Benamou is the RAS Division President. Three AJLSC members received our chapter's coveted travel scholarships to the June Silver Spring Conference.

At our spring General Meeting at the Oviatt Library of California State University Northridge we enjoyed a delicious catered dinner as guests of the University Library. Then we toured their Library, their special collections/archives and heard two talks by fine curators of fascinating collections in the Oviatt's special collection and archives room.

The first guest speaker, head of this section, Ellen Jarosz, talked about "In Our Own Backyard: Resisting Nazi Propaganda in Southern California 1933-1945." She shared archives and vignettes of little known events in Los Angeles during and after World War II in response to German Bund inspired anti-Semitism. Our spies reported to an agency which would become the Federation. The second guest speaker was Dr. Robert Gohstand, Curator of the Old China Hands Collection. Many of these old hands were refugees from Nazi Germany or Soviet Russia. The archive, established in 1996, preserves the heritage of people from other countries who lived in China for centuries and especially during the Holocaust. He had grand tales, clever cartoons, lovely art, hand printed books, modern memoirs and current reunion yearbooks for all to see. Everyone was interested in the new, rare information and the dynamic presentations.

President Ellen Cole announced that LAPL, the Los Angeles Public Library system, is one of the 10 winners of the 2015 National Medal for Museum and Library Services. The award was presented the very morning of our spring meeting at the White House by Michelle Obama.

A sad note in closing: in May Judy Cohn, our dear friend, colleague and longtime chapter president from 2006 to 2012, died of her brain cancer. We miss her! May her memory be for a blessing.

Kar-Ben Celebrates 40 Years

The following press release is taken from [Publishers Weekly](#) online edition, May 27, 2015. Written by Shannon Maughan.

In 1975, longtime friends Judyth Groner and Madeline Welker launched a small Jewish-themed publishing company in Washington, D.C. They called their venture Kar-Ben Publishing, combining the names of their youngest children, Karen and Ben. Their inaugural title, Sally Springer's *My Very Own Haggadah*, made its debut that same year and is still in print, having sold more than two million copies.

Today, Kar-Ben is an imprint of Lerner Publishing Group, headquartered in Minneapolis, and is the largest publisher of exclusively Jewish children's books in the world. With nearly 400 titles in print, Kar-Ben publishes up to 20 new titles annually on a range of subjects including Jewish holidays, Bible tales, folktales, Jewish history, and the Holocaust. Among its popular offerings are *The Mouse in the Matzah Factory*, by Francine Medoff and Nicole in den Bosch, and *The Patchwork Torah*, by Allison Ofanansky, which won the 2015 National Jewish Book Award.

In this anniversary year, Kar-Ben's Sammy Spider series – lighthearted stories of Jewish life featuring young Josh Shapiro and his family, and the curious spider who observes them – reached a combined sales total of 500,000 copies. Another highlight of 2015 is the publication of *The Wren and the Sparrow*, a Holocaust fable by former U.S. Children's poet laureate J. Patrick Lewis.

Publisher Joni Sussman is looking forward to the imprint's future. "I don't think the love of a good story is going away, no matter whether the format is print or e-book," she says. "The Jewish people are historically 'The People of the Book,' and interest in and commitment to books in our community is stronger than ever. Even the Torah, while it continues to be read in its ancient scroll form, is also widely available today in book format, e-book, and even audio."

2015 Groner-Wikler Scholarship winner Jill Ratzan

interviewed by Aimee Lurie, August 2015

Jill Ratzan, from New Jersey, is the 2015 recipient of the Groner-Wikler Scholarship for conference attendance. Funded by Kar-Ben publishing, the award is given to an AJL member who demonstrates dedication to Jewish children's literature or library services. Although Jill has worked as a professional librarian for more than a decade, she is new to the world of Jewish libraries. I recently asked Jill about her experiences attending her first AJL conference.



AL: How did you first learn about AJL?

JR: My answer to this question is related to another question that came up a lot at the conference: how long and in what capacities I've been involved in Jewish librarianship. I've worked in the secular library world since 2002, and have been actively involved in the Jewish education community since 2011, but it wasn't until late in 2014 that a series of newly opened pathways gave me the chance to combine the two in a meaningful way.

Being a librarian, I immediately started looking for information about my new field, and very quickly discovered the Association of Jewish Libraries. So everything sort of happened at once: I discovered AJL, joined, applied for a conference scholarship, and attended a conference!

AL: What was your favorite part of the AJL conference?

JR. My favorite part of the conference was the fact that all meals had to be kosher. This is an especially bizarre answer because I don't actually keep kosher! But needing kosher meals meant that - unlike any other library conference I've ever been to - *the entire group ate together for every meal*. It was like

summer camp. Collective meals meant a chance to talk about the programs you'd just been to (or hear about the ones you'd just missed), find people you needed to exchange information or papers with, or just approach someone you hadn't met yet and say, "Hi, can I sit here?" Meals always began with blessings, included announcements (so you always knew about upcoming logistics), and ended with singing. So the typical conference shuffling of awkwardly arranging meal dates was replaced by ritual, community, and ongoing opportunities to learn and discuss.

AL: Were there any especially memorable sessions?

JR: Oh, almost too many to count! The "Farewell, Kibbutzim and Pioneers" session included a rousing discussion what topics and perspectives have - and haven't - been covered in Jewish books for young readers, and why. I left the "What Motivates Jewish Children's Authors?" and Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee sessions with long reading lists in hand. And - hi Aimee! - just this past week I had a chance to cite Aimee Lurie's advice's about open posture from the "On Presenting and Reading" session.

I think my favorite session, though, wasn't an SCC one, or even one run by a librarian. Avi West's talk "Practicing the Art of 'Tzimtzum' in Preserving Jewish Communal Ready Reference Collections," one of the three talks in the "Small Libraries" session, spoke to me in a particularly powerful way. Lots of sessions at the conference talked about library things, or Jewish things, but West's focused on *how to do library things Jewishly*: how to infuse a sense of holiness into library tasks, particularly unpleasant ones like severely reducing the size of a collection. The humor that he brought to this serious topic was a great addition too.

AL: Did the conference inspire you to become more involved in AJL?

JR: Yes! I'd found out shortly before the conference that I'd been appointed to the Sydney Taylor Manuscript Committee. So the conference was a great chance to start out my appointment by meeting the committee chair, Aileen Grossberg, my fellow committee member Toby Harris, and even Susan Krawitz, the author of this past year's winning manuscript.

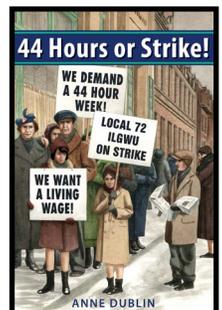
I left the conference already trying to work out how I can attend again next year. In between conferences, though, I'm looking forward to ongoing learning and networking opportunities. Participating in the virtual book club that Debbie Feder's organizing sounds great, and Haim Gottschalk and I were talking about potential distance learning classes to train Judaica librarians in particularly in-demand skills.

And this brings me to what was, to me, one of the most valuable parts of the conference: having the chance to connect with so many colleagues from around the world. Whether it was sharing a table at breakfast, or having a casual conversation in the hallway while waiting for a session to start, or helping each other navigate the Washington DC Metro, I had the chance to share ideas and experiences - and develop what I hope will be lasting professional relationships and even friendships - with many of my fellow Jewish librarians. I'm very grateful to have had this opportunity.

AL: Congratulations, Jill! I am glad the conference was such a meaningful experience.

AJL Member News

Anne Dublin's YA historical novel, *44 Hours or Strike!* will be launched on Sunday October 25, at 2:30p.m., at the Steelworkers' Union Hall, Toronto. Two teenage sisters, Sophie and Rose, 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. Kirkus Reviews describes *44 Hours or Strike!* as: "... a persuasive narrative with its candid message about the realities of a labor action" and "A realistic look at a hard-fought fight."



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

AJL Scholarship Donation Form

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Donation made in honor/memory of:

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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 September 10, 2015.

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

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