

## Fourth Year Online for Judaica Librarianship

Submitted by Rachel Leket-Mor, Editor-in-Chief, *Judaica Librarianship*

Three years ago, on August 7, 2013, we launched the new online platform of Judaica Librarianship on Digital Commons. Since then, we uploaded several back issues that go back to 1995 and published two new, born-digital volumes. With over 17,000 article downloads coming from 121 countries, the editorial board of Judaica Librarianship looks forward to the next volume (see Call for Papers below) and to your submissions. I am also pleased to announce that Rebecca Jefferson of University of Florida Libraries has joined the journal's editorial board this summer. Rebecca is replacing Pearl Berger, past AJL President and immediate past Dean of Yeshiva University Libraries who has been involved with the journal since its very inception in the fall of 1983. Thank you, Pearl, for many years of service and welcome, Rebecca!

### Judaica Librarianship Call for Papers Vol. 20

Situated in the field of Library and Information Science and international in scope, Judaica Librarianship (peer-reviewed) provides a forum for scholarship on the theory and practice of Jewish Studies and Information Studies. The journal seeks to publish research articles and essays related to the development, management, and/or digital curation of Judaica and Hebraica collections in all types of libraries and archives, the creation and dissemination of information resources in all formats, the promotion of Jewish information literacy, and Jewish bibliography and booklore in general. All research articles and essays go through double-blind peer review.

### Call for Reviews: Books, Electronic Resources, Exhibits, and Digital Humanities Projects

In addition to comprehensive review essays of reference works and electronic resources, we welcome thorough reviews of library and museum exhibits pertinent to the scope of Judaica Librarianship, and of Jewish Studies digital humanities projects.

Please contact the editor for all review types except for digital humanities projects. The latter refers to substantial undertakings that use digital platforms and technologies to advance research in the field of Jewish Studies, rather than just digitization projects of books or objects. This new journal section will cover reviews of digital humanities projects and interviews with practitioners, and serve as a forum for scholars, students, and librarians. For more details regarding reviews of DH projects, please contact section editor Michelle Chesner at [mc3395@columbia.edu](mailto:mc3395@columbia.edu).

Submission deadline for the journal's next issue (2017) is December 31, 2016. For author guidelines for all sections and online submission, see <http://ajlpublishing.org>.

### Editorial Board

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### AJL Online



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

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

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## In Memoriam - Judy R. Cohn - February 29, 1936 - May 31, 2015

Submitted by Ellen Cole

Judy R. Cohn was a dynamic member and leader of AJLSC for many years. When our cherished colleague died in 2015 she donated a large grant to AJL to help defray convention costs for members. Her funds created the Judy R. Cohn Conference Stipend Fund. We in AJLSC miss her and wish to share some facts about her life.

Judy was born in Omaha, Nebraska, to Bennett and Anne Cohn. Her brother is Doug Cohn. She attended The University of Oklahoma at Norman and The University of Nebraska at Omaha, graduating with a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Education. She continued her education at the University of Denver, University of Southern California and UCLA.

She worked for the School District of Los Angeles from 1963 until her 2005 retirement. Judy spent the last fifteen years of her career as the Librarian and Library Media Teacher at Granada Hills Charter High School. After retiring she worked as a California State University Long Beach lecturer and teacher and as a substitute librarian at the Los Angeles Public Library. Judy was married to Bernie Stickgold from 1989 until his death in 2004.

To say that Judy was active before and after retirement is a gross understatement. Judy was very, very active in both the Jewish world and in the library world. She was a member and leader of countless organizations including: President, Association of Jewish Libraries of Southern California; Vice President, Study Groups, Brandeis University Women's Committee; Curriculum Coordinator and President of the California School Library Association; and a Board Member of Friends of Encino-Tarzana Branch of the Los Angeles Public Library. Judy was President of the Santa Monica Friends of the Los Angeles Philharmonic and Communications Chair for the San Fernando Valley L. A. Philharmonic Friends group. She was a Board Member of Shirim Ha-Emek chapter of Hadassah.

We remember Judy's warm, enthusiastic personality, her terrific sense of humor, her calm even handedness and her willingness to get involved and stay involved in a broad array of organizations and projects. Her home was open to all. She liked nothing better than having 30-50 friends or committee members over for a holiday dinner or organizational planning meeting. Books and reading were her hobbies. Throughout her career she amassed a huge collection of books that she stored in every nook and cranny of her home. Children's books were her favorite as reflected by her 25-year membership in The Children's Book Club in Pasadena. She loved librarians as much as books and always enjoyed the annual AJL conferences.

Judy passed away at age 79 at her home in Northridge, California, on May 31, 2015. She suffered from a malignant brain tumor discovered in November 2012. We loved her. We miss her. We thank her for her incredible generosity to AJL.



## Sydney Taylor Manuscript Award News



The 2016 winner of the Sydney Taylor Award, Meira Drazin spoke from the heart when she accepted the award for her manuscript *Honey and Me*. The banquet guests were charmed by Meira's story and flooded her with congratulations.

AJL should be justly proud of serving as an incubator for new writers. A glance at the list of past winners shows a strong relationship between winning the award and publication. In addition, many of the award winners have had non-award books published. Many thanks go out to Jo Taylor Marshall, Sydney Taylor's daughter, who has supported the Manuscript Award year after year.

The Sydney Taylor Manuscript Award Competition Committee is looking forward to an exciting year. Manuscripts are already starting to come in for the 2017 competition. The submission deadline for the 2017 award is September 30. For submission rules and details about the award refer to the [AJL website](#).

The Committee is at full strength with the addition of new committee member Debbie Feder. There will be openings on the committee for the 2018 award. Anyone interested in serving on the Sydney Taylor Manuscript Award Committee should contact chair [Aileen Grossberg](#).

## CHAPTER CHATTER

### AJL SOUTH CALIFORNIA (AJLSC)

*Submitted by Ellen Cole*

Kudos to our AJLSC member who continues our tradition of helping to guide national AJL: Member Pat Fenton is AJL Treasurer for 2016-2018. She is at the Ostrow Library of the American Jewish University. Three AJLSC members received our chapter's travel scholarships to the June Charleston Conference. We note that the national conference book included mention of member Judy Cohn's generous gift to national for scholarships and a biography including her work for AJL during her lifetime.

In April we presented member Jackie Ben Efraim with our chapter's coveted Dorothy Schroeder Award for tireless, outstanding dedication to Judaica Librarianship and education of Judaica librarians. Jackie literally wears many hats. Her countless contributions to our chapter and national are well known and rightfully praised. She excels in her position of Special Collections Librarian at the Ostrow Library of AJU. We are proud of her and salute her. Jackie accepted the 2016 award at a gala tea attended by AJLSC members, family and friends. In closing, don't forget, AJLSC is on Facebook! Look for "AJLSC" and 'like' us. Visit our fabulous [AJLSC website](#) run by member Barbara Leff. She is so good, national has requested her help improving their site. Barbara and our member Sheryl Stahl will work together on this task. Connect to AJLSC. We are current and interesting!



*Jackie Ben Efraim (right) and Roberta Lloyd, Chair, AJLSC Dorothy Schroeder Fund (left).*

### JUDAICA LIBRARY NETWORK OF METROPOLITAN CHICAGO

*Submitted by Joy Kingsolver*

The Judaica Library Network of Metropolitan Chicago met Aug. 21, 2016 for the annual election of officers and to plan programs for the upcoming year. The officers for 2016-2017 will be: Stephanie Gelb, president; David Frankel, vice-president/president-elect; Rena Citrin, secretary; Kathy Bloch, treasurer. The chapter presents programs in the Fall, Winter and Spring of each year.

### NEW YORK METROPOLITAN AREA CHAPTER (NYMA)

*Submitted by Hallie Cantor and Rita Lifton.*

AJL-NYMA's 2016 Reference Workshop, "Reading Between the Lions: Navigating the Dorot Jewish Division in the New York Public Library," was held on May 16th at The Abraham Joshua Heschel High School in Manhattan and hosted by Shimon Vogel, Heschel High School Librarian. The Workshop highlighted one of the world's great Judaica collections - that of New York Public Library's Dorot Jewish Division. In her presentation, speaker Amanda (Miriam-Khaye) Siegel, Librarian, Dorot Jewish Division, NYPL, focused on tips and tools for research; diverse and unexpected resources; and how to better utilize the collection, its catalog, electronic resources and digital collections. Kudos to workshop coordinators Leslie Monchar and Bruchie Weinstein for putting together an excellent event, the final NYMA program for this academic year.

Exciting news-AJL-NYMA is pleased to announce that the 2017 AJL Conference will be held in New York City, June 19-21 (Monday-Wednesday). Board and Council meetings will be held the day before on June 18. Sessions and meals will be at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion located at 1 West 4th Street. Rooms have been reserved at the Hotel Edison, 1 West 47th Street, near Times Square. The National Conference Chair, Jim Rosenbloom, and his committee as well as AJL-NYMA members are hard at work planning what is sure to be a superb conference.

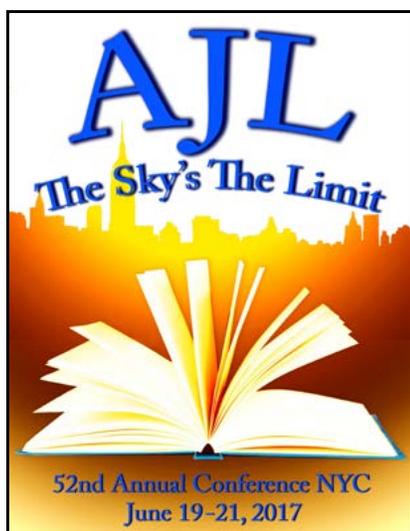
Finally, we take this opportunity to thank NYMA's outgoing presidium so ably led by Ina Cohen, and including Rina Krautwirth and Chaya Wiesman, for all their hard work over these past two years. Congratulations on a job well done!

## AJL ONTARIO CHAPTER

Submitted by Anne Dublin

AJL-Ontario members are looking forward to two exciting autumn events. The first program will be part of Holocaust Education Week activities in the Greater Toronto area. A panel discussion, "The Past in the Future: Re-envisioning Holocaust Literature," will feature presenters Dr. Frank Bialystock, Prof. Laura Wiseman, and award-winning author, Rona Arato (*The Last Train*). The program will take place on Monday, November 7, 7:30 p.m. at the [Museum of the Sarah and Chaim Neuberger Holocaust Education Centre](#), 4600 Bathurst Street, Toronto.

The second AJL-Ontario program will take place on Sunday, November 27, 2 p.m. at the [Jewish Russian Community Centre](#), Thornhill, ON, in association with JAM (Jewish and Modern). This panel discussion, "Jews Getting Graphic in a Novel Way," will discuss various aspects of Jewish graphic novels. The participants will be Matt Reingold, Eugene Zhilinsky, and our own Steve Bergson. Matt teaches full time at a Jewish high school in Toronto and has published articles about Jewish comics and their intersection with modern life. Eugene Zhilinsky is a self-published author of graphic novels in English, French, and Russian. His small-run editions include illustrated classic literature, independent graphic novels, and an anthology of memoirs. Steve Bergson, editor and compiler of *The Jewish Comix Anthology* (Volume 1), is well known in the Greater Toronto Area community for his passion and insight about Jewish graphic novels.



### AJL Board and Council

wish you a year of  
professional development,  
promotion of Jewish Literacy,  
and scholarship.

**Amalia Warshenbrot**  
*President*



## Library Management Resource Wiki

Submitted by Toby Harris, [tobygha@gmail.com](mailto:tobygha@gmail.com)

One of many benefits of [AJL Virtual](#) (our website) is our [Library Management Resource Wiki](#), found in the [Knowledgebases](#) section of the website. This wealth of information provides resources for librarians in a variety of settings and serves both divisions of the Association. You can find it under the Knowledgebases tab of our website.

General topics include library management, weeding and discarding, book care and preservation, and electronic books. For Schools, Synagogues, and Centers (SSC), you can look up programming ideas, lesson plans and more. For Research, Academic and Special Libraries (RAS), access Lib Guides and cataloging information. These are just a few examples of the topics you will encounter.

Some pages need updating and so, in true wiki spirit, I am recruiting you as wise and helpful professionals to take on a small piece and contribute. A wiki is a collaborative effort so please let me know if you'd like to assist on selected topics. In the meantime, I will be adding information from 2016 Hasafraan discussions. I want to acknowledge Joyce Levine for setting up this enormous virtual manual several years ago, and continuing to maintain, add and edit all these years. Yasher Koach and Todah Rabah to Joyce!

If you like this resource and are not yet a member of AJL, please join your professional colleagues and support this endeavor by enrolling in individual or institutional membership.

## AJL in Charleston, 2016...Why?

Submitted by Yakov Aronson

Editor's note: This article is an addition to Mr. Aronson's presentation at the 2016 conference. The original presentation could be [found online](#) as part of the [2016 AJL Conference Proceedings](#).

*What drew AJL to Charleston, South Carolina for its 2016 Conference? Charleston doesn't have an AJL Chapter nor is it a famous resort like Las Vegas where the 2014 Conference was held. But the one of the attractions of Charleston, and South Carolina, is a rich history of Jewish participation in American communal life beginning in the 1600's and further developing during the next two centuries.*

In the early 1800's, though Charleston's Jewish population numbered only a few hundred, it had the largest Jewish population of any city in the United States. Even before this period there is record of an important contribution made by a Jew in South Carolina, Francis Salvador, to the American Revolution. Salvador decided to move to South Carolina in 1773, purchasing 7000 acres from his uncle, an absentee land holder living in England, who had large tracts of land in the western part of the State. Salvador acquired slaves, hired an overseer who was knowledgeable in the cultivation of indigo, the major crop of the time, and became the active proprietor of a plantation. He soon became very popular with other plantation owners, among them many of the leaders of the revolutionary movement in South Carolina, and was elected to the First and Second South Carolina Provisional Congresses, the first Jew elected to office in the New World. Salvador served on important congressional committees, including, in the First Congress, the one to formulate the wording of a new state constitution. Though Jews couldn't legally hold office at that time he was so well accepted by his contemporaries that no one objected to his election. In the Second Congress he was an outspoken advocate of independence from England and voted to instruct South Carolina's delegates to the Continental Congress to vote for independence.

During the Revolution Indians on the South Carolina frontier were allies of the British and were incited to attack settlements in the western part of the state. Salvador was a member of the local militia and left the South Carolina Provisional Congress in Charleston to return home to join in defending the area. When one evening word of an impending Indian attack reached him he rode through area to alert members of the militia and its commander and has been referred to by one author as the Jewish Paul Revere. In the ensuing night battle Salvador was wounded and before his fellow militiamen could find him the Indians came upon the wounded Salvador and, as was their habit, scalped him. Still alive when finally found by the militiamen, the most pressing question on his mind was if the Indians had been defeated. When told yes he said he expressed how welcome this news was to him and died shortly thereafter. Salvador had left his wife and four children in England planning to bring them to South Carolina after the plantation was operating successfully but was killed before that could be done. In 1950 on the 200th anniversary of Charleston the city erected a memorial plaque honoring Francis Salvador, the first Jew to die in the American revolutionary cause. There is also a Francis Salvador memorial marker in western part of the state where he owned land.

Other examples of Jewish involvement in activities in American history by Jews who at one time lived in Charleston or other parts of South Carolina include:

1) Jonas Phillips, at one time President of Congregation Mikveh Israel in Philadelphia, came to America as an indentured servant and paid off his indenture by working for Moses Lindo, inspector of indigo in Charleston. Upon fulfilling the requirements of his indenture Phillips moved to New York and became active in Jewish affairs there. When the Revolution broke out and New York was on the verge of being overrun by the British army he was a vocal supporter of moving his congregation to Philadelphia rather than continuing its activities under British occupation. In 1778 from Philadelphia he joined the revolutionary army at age 43. Prior to this Phillips had sent a petition to the Continental Congress, then considering a constitution for the new country, asking that a provision be included that barred a Christian religious test for office holding. Phillips is buried in Congregation Shearith Israel's cemetery in New York, maybe the only Jewish cemetery in the US that has graves of Revolutionary War soldiers. One of his grandchildren was Mordechai Manuel Noah.

2) The person called the most influential Jew in the United States in the early 1800's was Mordechai Manuel Noah. He is noted in Jewish history for his attempt to set up Ararat in New York in 1825 as a place of refuge for Jews. But earlier in the century he had lived in Charleston. He came there in 1809, studied law and was active in politics. As editor of the "City Gazette", a local newspaper, Noah was a strong supporter of the War of 1812.

In one of his editorials he derided a local politician because of his opposition to the war and was challenged to a duel. Dueling had been made illegal in South Carolina in 1810 but "gentlemen" still challenged each other over offenses they suffered, real or imagined, and the law turned a blind eye. In this case the challenger was convinced by friends that the attack in the newspaper was based on issues and not personal so he withdrew the challenge. Noah must have been a very controversial figure because he was challenged to at least two more duels in Charleston. The second one didn't materialize when the challenger fell ill but the third duel did take place and Noah shot his opponent in the leg.

In 1813 Noah was appointed US Consul to Tunis, the first Jew appointed to a Federal position, and never returned to Charleston. He was removed from that position two years later by Secretary of State James Monroe because his religion represented "an obstacle to the exercise of his duties." There are sources that say Noah was removed because of misappropriation of funds. This so called "misappropriation of funds" is said by some to have resulted from the payment of outrageous ransom for the release of American seamen captured by the Barbary Pirates.

The wording of his dismissal caused an outrage among many Americans, Jews and non Jews alike. Noah received letters emphasizing that religion should play no part in politics from former Presidents Adams, Jefferson, and strangely enough from the sitting President James Madison whose Secretary of State James Monroe had dismissed him.

In 1818 speaking at the dedication of the new building of Congregation Shearith Israel in New York, the first synagogue established in the American colonies (1654), Noah praised the atmosphere in the United States in which Jews could "rest with the persecuted of every clime, secure in person and property, protected from tyranny and oppression, and participating [in] equal rights and immunities." Apparently he viewed his dismissal from the Consular post as an aberration from the norm. Noah sent copies of his "Discourse" to former US Presidents Adams, Jefferson and Madison. All replied and Jefferson in his letter said of intolerance to which the Jews had often been subjected "Our laws have applied the only antidote to this vice, protecting our religious, as they do our civil rights, by putting all on an equal footing." In honor of Yeshiva University's 100 anniversary Ludwig Jesselson purchased the Jefferson letter and presented it to the Yeshiva University library.

3) Another Jew who lived in Charleston for a short period and was later to gain notoriety in the country was Judah Benjamin. He would eventually be elected Senator from Louisiana but when the state seceded from the Union and joined the Confederacy he, as did Robert E. Lee, went with his state. During the War he served in President Jefferson Davis' Cabinet first as Secretary of State, next as Secretary of War and finally as Attorney General. He is referred to by some as the "Brains of the Confederacy."

Benjamin's family moved to Charleston when he was in his early teens. His Father was one of the members seceding from Kahal Kadosh Beit Elohim, the local Orthodox synagogue, to form the Reformed Society of Israelites, the first reform movement in Judaism in the US. For some not clearly defined reason Philip, Judah's Father, was expelled from the organization. It has been suggested that as his Father's membership in the Society took place when Judah was of confirmation age he might have been in the first confirmation class of the Society but this hasn't been documented. He never gave evidence of a special attachment to his Jewishness though he never denied it and defended Judaism when attacked by opponents because of his being a Jew. What we do know about the Benjamin family's stay in Charleston is that his Mother, the Father having abandoned the family, was ostracized by the Jewish community because she kept her store open on Shabbat. At the age of 14 Judah left Charleston to attend Yale, from which he withdrew before graduation. From New Haven he returned briefly to Charleston but soon moved to New Orleans where he made his name in politics.

Emphasis here has been on Charleston but there were Jews in a number of much smaller communities who played very active parts in communal life. During the nineteenth century the city of Columbia had had two Jewish mayors, Georgetown three and Camden one. In 1820 Jews made up 10% of Georgetown's population when the Jews in Charleston accounted for only 5% of the city's residents. But Georgetown at that time had population of 800 while Charleston had 23,000. Beaufort also had a small but active Jewish community with records showing that Meyer Jacobs was an officer in the Beaufort Volunteer Artillery. In addition to Jewish mayors Georgetown was the birth place of Abraham Myers, a West Point graduate, Class of 1833, who became the Quartermaster General of the Confederate States Army.

This is just a glimpse of the rich Jewish history that made Charleston such an interesting place for AJL in 2016.

## AJL at ALA

Submitted by Heidi Rabinowitz, Member Relations committee chair

AJL is an affiliate of the American Library Association, and as such we get to send two representatives to ALA conferences free of charge, plus we can participate at the Affiliates Booth in the exhibit hall to let the world know about our organization. Elliot Gertel is our ALA Liaison. He arranged for Jewish programming at ALA, "Chronicle of a People: Over 250 Years of Florida Jewish History" presented by Marcia Jo Zerivitz, Founding Executive Director of the Jewish Museum of Florida-Florida International University. The program was a joint presentation of the Jewish Information Committee of the ALA Ethnic and Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table (EMIERT-JIC) and the Association of Jewish Libraries. The 90-minute slideshow was fascinating, and the audience was extremely receptive.

Heidi Rabinowitz and Etta Gold took shifts at the Affiliates Booth along with Elliot, chatting up passersby about AJL and interacting with representatives from other affiliate organizations like the Chinese American Librarians Association and the Catholic Library Association. They also passed out AJL business cards to exhibitors and other attendees whenever possible.

AJL members Barbara Bibel and Emily Bergman were at ALA as well. Both are members of the Sophie Brody Award committee. This medal, established in 2006, is given to encourage, recognize, and commend outstanding achievement in Jewish literature. This year's winner was *The Book of Aron* by Jim Shepard; check out the list of honorable mentions at <http://www.ala.org/rusa/awards/brody>.

We also bumped into AJL members David Hirsch, Susan Kusel, Annette Goldsmith, and Nancy Sack at ALA. It's remarkable how you can find your friends among a crowd of thousands spread across several buildings! Next summer's ALA is in Chicago, IL; AJL members in the area should definitely consider attending.

## Connections: AJL READS

Submitted by Heidi Rabinowitz, Member Relations committee chair

A couple years ago I read the book *Relational Judaism* by Ron Wolfson. It's full of great advice for synagogues, about building real relationships with their members instead of just holding a lot of programs, and I took that advice to heart for AJL. The reason I've stuck with AJL for 18 years, the reason I volunteered for so many positions that they finally had to give me the Fanny Goldstein Merit Award, is the relationships. AJL is full of people who are smart and nice and happy to share ideas. This is especially noticeable when we meet in person for conferences, but it happens year-round on Hasafran too. I pushed the Board and Council to create a Member Relations committee so that we could ensure a conscious effort to build those relationships among members. One of our ideas for how to do that was to create our own book club.

Last year, under the leadership of Debbie Feder, Member Relations created a live and virtual book club called AJL READS. At the 2015 AJL Conference in Silver Spring, MD, we held a live book discussion, followed by three conference call book discussions during the rest of the year. At the 2016 AJL Conference in Charleston, SC we held a very well-attended and lively discussion of a librarianship book (as opposed to the discussions of novels we'd held in our other meetings). The book was *Biblio Tech: Why Libraries Matter More Than Ever in the Age of Google* by John Palfrey, and you can hear our excellent discussion on the AJL website at [http://jewishlibraries.org/content.php?page=AJL\\_Reads](http://jewishlibraries.org/content.php?page=AJL_Reads) (recordings of earlier discussions can be found there too).

Thanks to your feedback, we will be choosing more librarianship titles for upcoming discussions. We'll also experiment with some new virtual discussion formats, including Facebook and possibly Google Hangouts. If you have suggestions for titles, discussion formats, or other ideas for relationship-building within AJL, please drop me a line at [heidi@cbiboca.org](mailto:heidi@cbiboca.org).

## New AJL Publication for Synagogue, School and Center Libraries

Submitted by Amalia Warshenbrot (originally posted on ha-Safran by Joyce Levine)

I am pleased to announce the release of a new AJL publication: *The Jewish Library Handbook*, edited by Joyce Levine. The book is designed as a practical guide for synagogue, school and community center libraries. Among the topics covered are: starting a new library; the budget; the collection; cataloging; classification; automation; programming; promotion and advocacy; accreditation. Also included are sample mission statements and policies for circulation and collection development.

Copies can be purchased on Amazon at <http://tinyurl.com/glhh68m>

## A letter from an avid conference attendee and presenter

Submitted by Amalia Warshenbrot. AJL President

[I am pleased to share with you a moving letter which I received from Mr. Žilvinas Beliauskas, Head of the [Vilnius Jewish Public Library](#)]

Dear Amalia and friends,

For me the conference was a really big experience. Even recently I wouldn't have been able to imagine myself being part of it due to financial reasons and feeling too new and too small yet to take the floor in front of very experienced and professional colleagues. It was a dream for some day in future and now it came true as I dared to address the AJL for my participation. It is still hard to believe it did happen and I am very thankful to the organizers and donors of the conference.

I realize and appreciate very much the opportunity to introduce our Vilnius Jewish Public Library to the community of the representatives of the world Jewish libraries. We value that as an absolutely necessary means to ensure our professional growth and by cooperation to expand our book collection. I am taking advantage of the Hasafran list and I am going to encourage other staff members to join as well.

The lectures I managed to listen to during the conference demonstrated to me the scale of work which is being done in this area and I realize that it is still a small part of what's going on in the world. I've learned about interesting collections and innovative methods though some really professional issues remained a bit blurry to me since my background is not as a librarian but being a psychologist. In particular, I found very useful sessions about more general and related things like i.e. communication library activity in social media.

Some of the talks during lunch hours and award presentations gave very good insights for me to consider the scale of the Jewish themes, Judaism and its sometimes invisible trends for an outsider in the world literature and culture. Again, I felt like coming closer to something I had been barely able to feel in existence of and it is very involving.

After the conference our aspirations remain high and higher since undoubtedly my motivation was fueled by warm response and reception. "I have a dream" (you know who's quote it is) to grow into one of the largest (or the largest) Jewish libraries at least in Europe and hope to develop the new connections on our way to achieve goals of demonstrating to the Lithuanian (and not only) audience the Jewish contribution to the Lithuanian culture and the world culture in general. To the utmost possible extent, the deeply wounded Jewish heritage in Lithuania should be revived and restored and we hope that this attitude is shared by all the good will people. There's no nation or culture which would not benefit from that.

Sorry for probably too emotional feedback but it is the way I feel right now.

Sincerely,

Žilvinas Beliauskas

Head of the Vilnius Jewish Public Library

# Bibliography Bank -Taking Advantage of All The AJL Has to Offer

*Submitted by Enid Sperber, Bibliography Bank Chair*

As a school librarian, teachers were constantly asking me for classroom resources on a variety of Jewish topics. AJL always came to the rescue. I was able to direct them to our webpage and they could print out a PDF with books on the subjects they needed. The AJL Bibliography Bank was created specifically to share our vast collective knowledge with our members and patrons. Some of the finest, most respected AJL librarians have contributed bibliographies to the bank and they regularly update those lists with new titles. AJL has proven time and again to be a one-stop strategy. Do yourself a favor visit [www.jewishlibraries.org](http://www.jewishlibraries.org) click on Knowledgebases and go to the [Bibliography Bank](#) and see for yourself.

## Explore The Jewish Values Finder

*Submitted by Heather Lenson, Editor of the Jewish Values Finder, Librarian at the Joseph and Florence Mandel Jewish Day School*

The Jewish Values Finder ([http://jewishlibraries.org/Jewish\\_Values\\_Finder](http://jewishlibraries.org/Jewish_Values_Finder)) is a searchable database of books written for Jewish children and teens. The database identifies the Jewish values in the books. The database is not comprehensive of every Jewish children and teen book published. Books that have Jewish content and are high-quality are added to the database including Sydney Taylor Award winners, Sydney Taylor Honors winners and Sydney Taylor Notable books, as well as other remarkable books. Users can search for books by: title, author/illustrator, publication year, age level, Jewish value or subject.

## Development Report

*Submitted by Fred Isaac, VP for Development*

At the beginning of this year we began working with Elevate, a fund-raising advisor in Washington, DC. We spent several months working on documents that describe our position in the field, and our needs for the future. As of this report (August 1) we have sent about 10 letters of introduction to potential funders. In those letters we introduce ourselves, and explain our work. We have been reasonably successful in getting interested responses. We will continue to develop our contacts, and we're hopeful we will be successful over the coming months. We should also note that Elevate has been very committed. Three members of the team (they are based in Washington) attended the conference in Charleston. They registered for the conference, attended portions of the Board and Council meetings, sat with members and discussed their thoughts and concerns, and attended sessions on Monday morning.

## RAS Meeting Minutes

*Charleston, South Carolina, June 20, 2016*

*Submitted by Michele Chesner, RAS secretary*

1. Called to order at 4:35
2. Meeting minutes from last year are not available
3. RAS Past President's report (Sharon Benamou)
  - a. Looked at the affiliation document from strategic planning, felt that it didn't suit the needs of RAS. Still in conversation
    - i. Task force: Sharon, Rebecca, Yelena – to approach AJS about affiliations.
  - b. Talking to ALA Editions about how to work on webinars (Haim G.)
4. Incoming President's report (Rebecca Jefferson)
  - a. Incoming VP: Rachel Simon
  - b. Incoming secretary: Michelle Chesner
  - c. RAS relevant notes from Board meeting
    - i. Yaffa called to figure out affiliation by next year – we're working on it!
    - ii. Fred Isaac – Development – asking for proposals to give to Elevate (consultant form). Daniel added that there needs to be more RAS input on that. Michelle said that conversations had begun, but there can still be more.
5. Committee Reports:
  - a. Cataloging:
    - i. Romanization issues with loan words – still under discussion
    - ii. Discussed Racheli's article in JL about the future of cataloging (in a post-MARC age)
    - iii. Revision of PCC guidelines for non-Roman characters

- iv. Cataloging wiki is updated
- v. Heidi is stepping down; a new chair will be appointed.
- b. Judaica Librarianship
  - i. Published a new edition – mazal tov to all who worked on it. Not too many downloads made yet
  - ii. Almost 17K downloads since July 2013, since it became open
  - iii. Call for papers not released yet
  - iv. Edith noted how nice it is that you are notified when your articles are read.
  - v. Michelle said there will be a new section reviewing digital projects; please send projects to be reviewed or offers to review. These will be long-form reviews.
    - 1. Rebecca asked about reviewing exhibitions; Racheli responded that there will be another forum for reviewing exhibits, both physical and digital
- c. RAS Bibliography and Reference Awards (Rebecca)
  - i. Just a Reference Award this year, no bibliography:
    - 1. Edinburgh Companion to Jewish Fiction – one of the contributors will be here to accept the award on behalf of the editors, who couldn't make it.
- d. Old Business
- e. New Business:
  - i. Rachel Simon: Two openings on the awards committee – if anyone is interested, email Rachel ([rsimon@princeton.edu](mailto:rsimon@princeton.edu)). Current members can run for two terms (so let Rachel know if you want to continue).
  - ii. Can Bibliography awards be given to digital projects? Yes, they can and have been
  - iii. What about expanding the awards to Academic Jewish Publication of the year? This might be a good option for Elevate.
    - 1. Zachary mentioned that it's a huge field and AJS is really doing it.
    - 2. Are there areas that are not covered by AJS?
    - 3. Aaron T. proposed poetry and fiction
- f. How can the RAS division better serve its members?
  - i. Sheryl: Digital Humanities resources. Michelle said that she's working on one for Jewish Studies, will add it to the site somehow. Led to a discussion of Libguides and sharing them – send them to Nancy Poole, new Publications Chair
  - ii. Programming recommendations for next year
    - 1. Dina: Working with Wikipedia to emphasize collections. NYC Wikimedia Chapter is very active. CJH was involved in this. A workshop could be very beneficial to librarians
    - 2. Daniel: Format rather than content. Check survey results to see what people wanted
    - 3. Poster sessions for digital projects – maybe digital poster sessions; but why not just old fashioned poster.
    - 4. Bibliographic instruction – has that ever been done?
      - a. Racheli noted that JL also seeks articles about instruction
    - 5. Haim Gottschalk offered to be a moderator
- g. Elliott reminded all going on to ALA that the 10<sup>th</sup> joint ALA-AJL program “Chronicle of a people: celebrating over 200 years of Florida Jewish history” (more info in the program book on p. 20)
  - i. Edith gave special thanks to Elliott for his hard work doing this every year.
  - ii. Yaffa – we are making a conscious effort to make ourselves more visible in ALA. Be in touch with Elliott if you plan to go; you can get free registration (and there's swag to bring).
  - iii. Jasmin recommended possibly raffling off a registration for conference at the ALA table – ACTION ITEM
- h. Jim thanked Sharon for her service.
- i. Michelle moved to close, Racheli seconded, meeting ended at 5:19

In attendance:

Yaffa Weisman: AJL-JIR	Yelena Luckert: Maryland	Stanley Nachamy
Robert Christmann: KKBE/ Assistant Librarian at Yaschik Library	Daniel Scheide: Florida Atlantic	Elinor Grumet: Stern College
Vanessa Freedman: University College London	Yossi Galron: Ohio State	Shuli Berger: Yeshiva University
Anna Levya: Stanford University Libraries	Michelle Chesner: Columbia	Leah Adler: Yeshiva University
Arielle I. Sokol: University of Michigan	Jackie Benefraim: AJU	Jasmin Shinohara: University of Pennsylvania
Elliot H. Gertel: University of Michigan	Ya'akov Aronson: Bar Ilan	Alan LaPayover: Reconstructionist Rabbinical College
Galina Teverovsky: Library of Congress	Aaron Taub: Library of Congress	Amalia Levya: Barbados, Nidhe Israel
Elizabeth Vernon: Harvard	Nancy Sack: University of Hawaii	Gail Shirazi: Library of Congress
Zachary Baker: Stanford University	Sheryl Stahl: Hebrew Union College	Rachel Ariel: Duke
Avrum Shuchatowitz: Yeshiva University	Dina Herbert: NARA	Marlene Schiffman: Yeshiva University
Haim Gottschalk: Library of Congress	Edith Lubetski: Stern College	Sharon Benamou: UCLA
Elhanan Adler: National Library of Israel	Shoshanah Seidman: Northwestern	Rebecca Jefferson: University of Florida
Sharon Horowitz: Library of Congress	Rachel Simon: Princeton	
Gabriel Mordoch: Ohio State	David Hirsch: UCLA	
	Rita Sacca: Fundacion Judaica	

## A note from Rena Citrin, 2016 Groner-Wikler scholarship recipient

As the 2016 recipient, I am most grateful for the opportunity to attend the recent AJL convention in Charleston.

As the children's librarian in a large, urban independent Jewish day school in Chicago (540 students), I hold most of the Kar-Ben titles in our library where they are well-used. And as the recipient this year of the Groner-Wikler Scholarship for AJL Conference Attendance, I am grateful to Kar-Ben for making my participation in AJL in Charleston possible. Although I am very active in the Chicago chapter of AJL, I have not been able to attend an AJL conference out of town before. I learned first-hand how valuable this annual conference is to my practice in terms of new ideas and networking. Without Kar-Ben's assistance, I would not have been able to learn and share with extraordinary colleagues across the full range of the Jewish library world.

Thank you once again for Kar-Ben's dedication to Jewish libraries and librarianship. I look forward to being a more active participant of AJL on the national level in the years to come.

Best,

Rena

--

Rena Citrin, Library Media Specialist  
Bernard Zell Anshe Emet Day School

### Scholarship Committee Report

SUBMITTED BY SARAH BARNARD, SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBER

Donations to the AJL Scholarship Fund help deserving students in Library and Information Science programs by providing up to two annual scholarships. Our profession really needs some new and younger Librarians who can take the place of those of us who are soon to retire. Can you think of a better way to encourage them than to help support their studies?

If you know of anyone who might want to apply for a scholarship, (\$1000 to a student enrolled or accepted in a graduate school of library and information science) have that person contact Tina Weiss, TWeiss@huc.edu or look at the [AJL website](#) to get the application and other information.

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  
Email: [sarmarbar68@gmail.com](mailto:sarmarbar68@gmail.com)

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All links to online resources were checked for accuracy on October 10, 2016.

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

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