

THE SKY'S THE LIMIT!
Association of Jewish Libraries
52nd Annual Conference, NYC 2017

52nd Annual Conference "The Sky's the Limit"

Monday June 19, 2017 to Wednesday June 21, 2017

Hebrew Union College, Brookdale Center

1 West 4th St

New York, NY 10012-1186

[Location and Directions](#)

Click [HERE TO REGISTER!](#)

We look forward to welcoming you at our 52nd conference at Hebrew Union College, NYC, June 19 to 21, 2017.

We have reserved rooms in the Hotel Edison on W. 47th St., right by Times Square. There are four Broadway theaters on the same block as the hotel. This year we will hold our meals and sessions in a separate location - Hebrew Union College on W. 4th St.

The focus and theme of this year's conference is "The Sky's the Limit: The Next Generation of Judaica Librarianship." We have a very rich program planned:

- Keynote speaker James Neal, the incoming president of the American Library Association, and former Vice Provost and University Librarian at Columbia
- International speakers, from such countries as Germany, Austria, Argentina, Israel, Lithuania, Barbados and the United Kingdom
- Session topics include Holocaust education and literature, literary criticism, history of the book and book collecting, the future of libraries, educational technology, reference sources, and Yiddish literature
- Illustrious panelists include Marjorie Ingall and Arthur A. Levine
- Fannie Goldstein Award Luncheon honoring AJL members David Gilner and Aviva Astrinsky (Tuesday)
- Sydney Taylor and RAS Awards Luncheon (Wednesday)
- Three tours after the conference

AJL Online



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

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

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

Our conference is a wonderful opportunity to experience the Jewish history and culture of the city of Sydney Taylor, as well as to enjoy its many general cultural sites and events. The full preliminary program is available on the AJL website. To register for the conference, go to the [Upcoming Conference](#) page of the AJL website, click on “[Read More](#)” and then on “[Register Now](#).” Register by April 27 to get the Early Bird Full Registration AJL Member rate of \$385.

Logistics and Travel Information

- [Conference program schedule](#)
- Registration [fees](#) and [FAQs](#)
- Conference [stipend and scholarship](#) information
- Book your room at the conference hotel, the [Edison Hotel](#)
- We will post information on Kosher food near the hotel and near HUC as the conference gets closer.
- **You can travel between the hotel and HUC via cab, taxi or other transportation services**

Donate / Exhibit / Advertise / Sponsor Information

- [Make a donation](#) to support the conference
- [Information and instructions for buying exhibit space, ads, or sponsorships](#)

Special Conference Events

- Wednesday afternoon: a tour of the Tenement Museum (cost: \$20; \$18 for 65 and over)
- Wednesday afternoon: a free tour of the Center for Jewish History
- Thursday morning: a free tour of The Synagogues of the Upper East Side

We look forward to an excellent conference and invite you to join your colleagues and friends for a wonderful experience.

Jim Rosenbloom (chair) and members of the NYC Conference Committee

AJL Conference Frequently Asked Questions

How do I register?

Conference registration is being handled through the AJL website. **Members planning to attend the full conference must enter their member account login information in order to receive the member conference rates.** The Early Bird full registration rate for members and their spouses/partners (\$385 - a \$40 discount) will be available through **April 27**. After that, the full registration rate for members (\$425) will apply. Because members must log in in order to receive the member rate, it is important that member information is up-to-date. **Please review your member profile and update contact information as necessary before registering.** If you have any questions regarding your membership status or your ID and password, please contact [Shulamis Hes](#), VP for Membership. Non-members register by continuing as a guest at the Account Login page. The Early Bird full registration rate for non-members (\$455 - a \$40 discount) will be available through **April 27**. After that, the full registration rate for non-members (\$495) will apply. Please note that it is more economical for nonmembers to join AJL and pay the member rate than to register for the conference as a non-member.

What does Full Registration include?

Full registration includes all sessions as well as Kosher meals: Monday lunch & dinner; Tuesday breakfast & Keynote lunch; Wednesday breakfast & Awards Luncheon; *Monday breakfast and Tuesday dinner are **not** included.*

Are there other registration options besides Full Member Registration?

See AJL Conference 2017 Registration Ticket Types and Rates in the Documents section on the Registration page for all registration options and fees.

Am I responsible for any additional fees when paying for the conference?

There are no additional registration fees.

How do I make my payment?

You may pay for the conference with a credit card or by check. Follow the payment instructions when registering. If you would like to pay by check, mail your check made out to 'AJL Conference 2017' to Kathy Bloch, AJL Treasurer, The Spertus Institute for Jewish Learning and Leadership, 610 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60605. For payment questions, including how to pay with an international credit card, please contact [Kathy](#).

What is the refund policy?

Refund requests must be submitted prior to May 19 to Marcie Eskin, AJL Conference Registrar. Refund requests before May 19 are subject to a \$36 cancellation fee. After May 19, refund requests are subject to a \$100 cancellation fee. Refunds will be processed and mailed after July 16.

Are subsidies available to help with the cost of attending the conference?

Information on stipends and scholarships to help with the costs of conference attendance can be found on the [Conference Stipends & Scholarships](#) page of the AJL website. Current membership and full conference registration are required to be eligible for the stipends and scholarships. For questions regarding stipends and scholarships, contact Lenore Bell, Conference Stipends Chair. Members receiving stipends are not subject to the April 27 Early Bird Discount deadline. They should select the Full Registration AJL Stipend/Scholarship Recipient Only ticket option.

Whom should I contact if I have questions?

- For conference and hotel information, please contact the Conference Chair Jim Rosenbloom at rosenbloom@brandeis.edu or at 781-736-4688.
- For registration information, please contact Marcie Eskin, AJL Conference Registrar, at mjeskin@comcast.net or at 847-926-7903.
- For payment questions, please contact Kathy Bloch, AJL Treasurer at kbloch@spertus.edu
- For questions regarding membership status or member login information, please contact Shulamis Hes, VP for Membership at membership@jewishlibraries.org
- For Stipends and scholarships questions, contact Lenore Bell, Conference Stipends Chair bell614@msn.com

Conference Stipends & Scholarships

For any questions, please contact Lenore Bell at bell614@msn.com or Rachel Glasser at rkglasser@gmail.com.

Judy R. Cohn Conference Stipends

Named for long-time AJL member and Southern California Chapter President (2006-2012), the Judy R. Cohn Conference Stipend Fund assists AJL members with the expense of attending AJL's annual conferences. Stipends are based on financial need, weighted toward applicants with involvement in AJL. Fill out this [application form](#).

- Applicant must be a current member of AJL at the time of application
- Application must be received by March 31, 2017 (February 28, 2017 for Littauer Grant applicants)
- Applicants will be notified about stipend amounts by April 23, 2017
- Acceptance and full conference registration are required by April 27, 2017

EBSCO Scholarship for AJL Conference Attendance.

EBSCO provides funding annually to subsidize conference expenses for first time attendees and current students or recent (within two years) graduates of programs related to the work of AJL (library and information science, Judaic or Hebrew studies, etc). Scholarship is based on financial need. Current membership and full conference registration are required. Please apply by submitting the [Conference Stipends form](#).

Littauer Grant

AJL members residing outside the continental United States who are presenting, playing an active role in the planning and execution of the conference, and/or who serve in leadership roles in the organization are eligible for the Littauer Grant. Current membership and full conference registration are required. Please apply by submitting the [Conference Stipends form](#).

Groner-Wikler Scholarship for AJL Conference Attendance

The Groner-Wikler Scholarship, funded by Kar-Ben Publishing in honor of founders Judy Groner and Madeline Wikler, awards a scholarship for AJL conference attendance to an AJL member who demonstrates dedication to Jewish children’s literature and library services. Current membership and full conference registration are required. Application instructions can be found [here](#).

Student Scholarship

The Association of Jewish Libraries awards an annual scholarship to a promising student with a history of participating in Judaic studies or libraries, accepted into or attending or an accredited graduate school of library and information science. This scholarship is merit-based rather than needs-based. Free full conference registration is included. AJL membership is not required for eligibility. Application instructions can be found [here](#).

AJL Conference 2017 Registration Tickets and Rates

Ticket Type	Price	Early Bird Discount
Full Registration AJL Member/Spouse/Partner (includes all sessions and meals: Monday lunch & dinner; Tuesday breakfast & Keynote lunch; Wednesday breakfast & Awards Luncheon; Monday breakfast and Tuesday dinner are not included)	\$425.00	\$385.00 by 04-27-17
Full Registration Non-AJL Member (includes all sessions and meals: Monday lunch & dinner; Tuesday breakfast & Keynote lunch; Wednesday breakfast & Awards Luncheon; Monday breakfast and Tuesday dinner are not included)	\$495.00	\$455.00 by 04-27-17
Full Registration AJL Stipend/Scholarship Recipient Only (includes all sessions and meals: Monday lunch & dinner; Tuesday breakfast & Keynote lunch; Wednesday breakfast & Awards Luncheon; Monday breakfast and Tuesday dinner are not included)	\$385.00	N/A
Full Registration Library School/Jewish Studies Student (includes all sessions; does not include meals)	\$120.00	N/A
Monday Per Diem Registration (includes all Monday sessions and lunch & dinner)	\$115.00	N/A
Monday Registration for Library School/Jewish Studies Student without meals	\$50.00	N/A
Tuesday Per Diem Registration (includes all Tuesday sessions and breakfast & Keynote lunch)	\$185.00	N/A
Tuesday Registration for Library School/Jewish Studies Student without meals	\$50.00	N/A
Wednesday Per Diem Registration (includes all Wednesday sessions and breakfast & Awards Luncheon)	\$195.00	N/A
Wednesday Registration for Library School/Jewish Studies/Judaic Studies Students without meals	\$50.00	N/A
Monday Buffet Lunch only	\$29.00	N/A
Monday Dinner only	\$35.00	N/A

Ticket Type	Price	Early Bird Discount
Tuesday Breakfast only	\$19.00	N/A
Tuesday Keynote lunch only	\$55.00	N/A
Wednesday Breakfast only	\$19.00	N/A
Wednesday Awards Luncheon only (Registration begins April 28)	\$55.00	N/A
Tour of Lower East Side Tenement Museum: Wednesday 4:30-5:30 pm (under 65)	\$20.00	N/A
Tour of Lower East Side Tenement Museum: Wednesday 4:30-5:30 pm (Senior 65 and older)	\$18.00	N/A
Tour of Center for Jewish History: Wednesday 4:30-6:00 pm	No charge	N/A
Tour of Synagogues of the Upper East Side: Thursday 10:00 am (approximately 2 hours)	No charge	N/A

AJL Conference 2017 Schedule



AJL 2017

Conference Schedule

		Sunday, June 18	Pre-conference business meetings	Hotel
TIME		BOARD MEETING		
2:30-5:30 PM				
6:30-8:30 PM		COUNCIL MEETING		
Monday, June 19, 2017		Hebrew Union College		
TIME				
9:00	REGISTRATION begins			
9:30-11:00	OCLC Update Room 1	Accreditations Committee Room 2	Bibliographer's Meeting Room 3	
11:00-11:15	BREAK			
11:15-12:45	Judaica Librarianship Editorial Board Meeting Room 1	Newcomers welcome Room 2	RAS Cataloging Committee Room 3	Sydney Taylor Book Awards Committee Meetings Room 4
12:45-1:45	Lunch			
1:00-6:45	<i>Exhibits Open</i>			
1:45-3:15	Session 1-A Room 1	Session 1-B Room 2	Session 1-C Room 3	Session 1-D Room 4
	National Library of Israel Updates	Genealogy	More Than Just One Person's Opinion: What Makes Good Book Criticism?	Authors: From concept to book
3:15-3:30	BREAK			
3:30-5:00	Session 2-A	Session 2-B	Session 2-C	Session 2-D
	History of and through the Jewish Book	Yiddish Literature in Translation	Accreditation and Advocacy	Children's Literature
5:00-5:15	Break			
5:00	Registration closes			
5:15-6:45	Session 3-A	Session 3-B	Session 3-C	Session 3-D
	Judaica Libraries in Latin and South America	Bridging Public and Private Collections	Trends in Jewish Children's Literature	Collaborating to Support Library Collections
6:45-8:30	LIGHT DINNER			

Tuesday, June 20, 2017		Hebrew Union College		
TIME				
9:00-5:00	Registration/Exhibits			
9:00-9:30 BREAKFAST				
9:30-11:00	Session 4-A	Session 4-B	Session 4-C	Session 4-D
	Room 1	Room 2	Room 3	Room 4
	The Sound of Music	Exposing Collections	Holocaust Education	Recommended Reads
11:00-11:15 BREAK				
11:15-12:00	RAS Meeting	SSC Meeting		
	Room 1	Room 2		
12:00-12:45	General Membership Meeting (Chapel)			
12:45-01:00 BREAK				
01:00-3:00 LUNCH WITH KEYNOTE SPEAKER				
3:00-3:15 BREAK				
3:15-4:45	Session 5-A	Session 5-B	Session 5-C	Session 5-D
	Library of Congress Judaica Division Updates	Selling Jewish Books (vendor session)	The Path to Publishing	Keeping our libraries relevant
	Room 1	Room 2	Room 3	
4:45-5:00 BREAK				
5:00-6:00	Session 6-A	Session 6-B	Session 6-C	Session 6-D
	Room 1	Room 2	Room 3	
	Lightning Talks on NYC Collections	Sephardic Collections	SSC Roundtable: Synagogues/JCCs	SSC Roundtable: Schools

Wednesday, June 21, 2017		Hebrew Union College		
TIME				
9:00-1:00	Registration/Exhibits			
9:00-9:30 BREAKFAST				
9:30-11:00	Session 7-A	Session 7-B	Session 7-C	Session 7-D
	Room 1	Room 2	Room 3	Room 4
	Practical Case Studies	Reference Sources in Jewish Studies	Sydney Taylor Award Winners	Bringing Folktales to Life (Workshop)
11:00-11:15 BREAK				
11:15-12:45	Session 8-A	Session 8-B	Session 8-C	Session 8-D
	Room 1	Room 2	Room 3	Room 4
	Collections of the Past, the Present, and the Future	Focus on: Collection Highlights	Sydney Taylor Members	SSC in the Digital World
12:45-01:00 BREAK				
01:00-3:30 AWARDS LUNCH/BANQUET				
3:30-6:30	Tenament Tour			
3:30-5:00	Conference Recap			

Thursday, June 22, 2017

Paul Glassman on NYC Synagogues



THE 2017 SYDNEY TAYLOR BOOK AWARDS
ANNOUNCED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH LIBRARIES



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

I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes Her Mark
by Debbie Levy
with illustrations by Elizabeth Baddeley
(Simon and Schuster Books for Young Readers)

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

The Inquisitor's Tale
by Adam Gidwitz with illustrations by Hatem Aly
(Dutton Children's Books/Penguin Random House)

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

Anna and the Swallow Man
by Gavriel Savit
(Alfred A. Knopf/Penguin Random House)

**Sydney Taylor Honor Books
for Younger Readers**

Fascinating: The Life of Leonard Nimoy
by Richard Michelson
with illustrations by Edel Rodriguez
(Alfred A. Knopf/Penguin Random House)

*A Hat For Mrs. Goldman:
A Story About Knitting and Love*
by Michelle Edwards
with illustrations by G. Brian Karas
(Schwartz and Wade Books/ Penguin Random House)

Sydney Taylor Honor Books for Older Readers

Dreidels on the Brain
by Joel Ben Izzy
(Dial Books for Young Readers/Penguin Random House)
*A Poem for Peter: The Story of Ezra Jack Keats
and the Creation of the Snowy Day*
by Andrea Davis Pinckney
with illustrations by Steve Johnson and Lou Fancher
(Viking Children's Books/Penguin Random House)

Notable Books for Younger Readers

Chicken Soup, Chicken Soup
by Pamela Mayer
with illustrations by Deborah Melmon
(Kar Ben Publishing)
Gabriel's Horn
by Eric Kimmel with illustrations by Maria Surducan
(Kar Ben Publishing)
Not This Turkey
by Jessica Steinberg with illustrations by Amanda Pike
(Albert Whitman & Company)
On One Foot
by Linda Glaser with illustrations by Nuria Balaguer
(Kar Ben Publishing)
The Sundown Kid: A Southwestern Shabbat
by Barbara Bietz with illustrations by John Kanzler
(August House)
*The Tree in the Courtyard: Looking Through
Anne Frank's Window*
by Jeff Gottesfeld with illustrations by Peter McCarty
(Alfred A. Knopf/Penguin Random House)

Notable Books for Older Readers

The Bicycle Spy
by Yona Zeldis McDonough
(Scholastic Books)
*Irena's Children: Young Readers Edition:
A True Story of Courage*
by Tilar J. Mazzeo and adapted by Mary Cronk Farrell
(Margaret McElderry Books/Simon and Schuster)
The Ship to Nowhere
by Rona Arato
(Second Story Press)
Skating With the Statue of Liberty
by Susan Lynn Meyer
(Delacorte Press/Penguin Random House)

**No Honor or Notable Books were designated
for Teen Readers in 2017.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
ELLEN TILMAN, CHAIR
SYDNEY TAYLOR BOOK AWARD COMMITTEE
ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH LIBRARIES
CHAIR@SYDNEYTAYLORBOOKAWARD.ORG
WWW.SYDNEYTAYLORBOOKAWARD.ORG

News from the Sydney Taylor Manuscript Competition

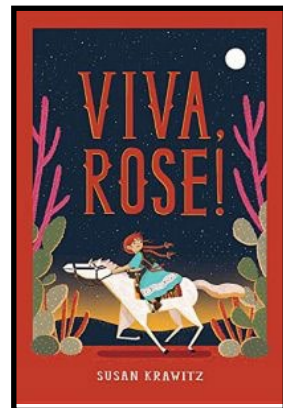
The Sydney Taylor Manuscript Award Committee is eagerly anticipating the publication of two of its most recent winners.

The winning manuscript from 2015, *Viva, Rose!* by Susan Krawitz, will be published in the spring by Holiday House. Set in Texas around 1915, the story follows intrepid Rose through a series of adventures after she is kidnapped by Pancho Villa's gang. Ms Krawitz and her book have been featured in several publications including [this linked article](#).

Honey and Me by Meira Drazin, the winner of the 2016 Manuscript Award, will be published by Scholastic in 2018. Set in a North American Orthodox Jewish community, the novel follows a girl as she navigates sixth grade in the shadow of her fearless best friend.

These two latest books will join a dozen previously published children's books that began as winning manuscripts submitted to the Sydney Taylor Manuscript Award Competition. In addition to the manuscripts that have been commercially published, many other of the competition's authors have had additional books successfully published in a variety of genres ranging from picture books to young adult novels.

Unfortunately, because of extenuating circumstances, the Manuscript Committee is unable to make an award this year. However, while there will be no Manuscript Award presentation at the New York Conference, attendees will be able to obtain a limited number of Manuscript Award seals to put on the most recently published Manuscript Competition winners.



Report from AJL Mid-Winter, January 16, 2017

Summary of actions taken by the AJL Council at its midwinter meeting held Monday, Jan. 16, 2017 in New York, NY.

- Racheli Leket-Mor will head a task force to explore AJL's response to the Shoah Foundation agreement with ProQuest and to report to the council by the end of February. Background: Steven Spielberg used the proceeds from Schindler's List to create the Shoah Foundation of testimonies at the University of Southern California. USC charges \$15K per year for access to the recordings. USC hired ProQuest to transcribe and index the testimonies. Access to the ProQuest files costs \$50K per year.
- Daniel Scheide and Laura Schutzman will recommend policies and guidelines for AJL's electronic publications.
- AJL will now offer two student awards: a \$1000 scholarship for library school students specializing in Jewish studies, and a full subsidy to attend the upcoming AJL conference.
- The Strategic Planning Committee will focus its efforts on Goal 4 of the strategic plan: development and sustainability.
- AJL has signed a contract with ALA to produce several webinars over the next 12 months. The first webinar, on rare book reference sources, will be presented in April by Michelle Chesner.
- RAS officers will draft proposals for the council to consider on revising or expanding the award for bibliographies.

Fanny Goldstein Merit Award

Aviva Astrinsky and David Gilner Named Co-Recipients of AJL's 2017 Fanny Goldstein Merit Award

Aviva Astrinsky and David Gilner have been named co-Winners of the Association of Jewish Libraries (AJL) 2017 Fanny Goldstein Merit Award. The Fanny Goldstein Merit Award, named for the librarian, social activist and founder of National Jewish Book Month, is bestowed in recognition of a lifetime of loyal and ongoing contributions to the Association and to the profession of Jewish librarianship.

The texts of the letter of nomination received on behalf of each of them are as follows:

For Aviva Astrinsky:

We are delighted to name Aviva Astrinsky as a co-recipient of the Fanny Goldstein Merit Award. Her many decades of achievements in, and contributions, to the field of Judaica librarianship make her a truly worthy and exemplary candidate.

Aviva has been active in the field of Judaica Librarianship for more than 40 years, working as a librarian and Library Director at several major Jewish institutions. In her positions she pioneered the introduction of digital technologies, and modernized Judaica libraries; she has served as an officer in various professional associations and committees including our own AJL; she played a leadership role in organizing the 1998 AJL Annual Meeting Philadelphia; she is an author and editor of books and articles in the area of Judaica librarianship and bibliography.

Aviva received her BA degree from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and her MLS from the University of Cape Town, South Africa. Before coming to the United States she worked as a Librarian at the Cape Provincial Library Services, Cape Town, and as a corporate librarian at American-Israel Electronic Industries.

She came to The United State in 1978, where her first position was as a catalog Librarian at the Library of the Union Theological Seminary, followed by assuming the position of Head of Technical Services at the Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary.

In 1988 she was named Library Director at the Annenberg Research Institute in Philadelphia (formerly Dropsie College), which later merged with University of Pennsylvania to become the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. In the summer of 1999 Aviva became the Head Librarian of the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research where she served for 12 years.

In all these three Jewish Aviva set herself a goal to improve and increasing access to the collections first by computerized cataloging and later by digitizing several Yiddish & Hebrew books and periodicals, including very rare Yiddish children's books published in the USSR in the 1930's.

Since 1984 Aviva became very active within AJL, holding several local and national positions. In 1984, she co-founded the New York chapter of AJL (NYMA) and served as its Secretary, President, and Past President from 1984-1987. In Philadelphia she helped rejuvenate the Philadelphia chapter of AJL and was its first president. Concurrently she served for four years as the AJL Vice-President for Membership and later as President and Vice-President of the Research, Archives, and Special, Libraries (RAS) Division. She chaired the RAS Bibliography and Reference Book Award Committee and several other nominating committees. Until her retirement, Aviva was an active member of the Association of Jewish Libraries.

Among Aviva's publications include "A bibliography of South African English novels 1930-1960" (Cape Town, 1965), "Nazi propaganda literature in the Library of the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research: source materials on modern Jewish anti-Semitism, National Socialism and the Holocaust" (Leiden, 1998), *Mattityahu Strashun, 1817-1885, Scholar, Leader and Book Collector* (New York, 2001), for which she was also exhibit curator, and *Library of the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research : history and highlights*, with text and captions provided by Lyudmila Sholokhova and Aviva Astrinsky (New York, 2012).

We could expand much more on how crucial and important Aviva's role has been in making Judaic resources available and accessible to the much wider world of scholarship, teaching and research. We believe that celebrating her many achievements and contributions on the East Coast and especially her tenures at JTSA and YIVO at this year's AJL conference in New York City has special meaning and relevance. We hope that Aviva's family and her New York Judaica library colleagues and friends will have the opportunity to join us in honoring Aviva at the conference.

Nomination Statement submitted by Arthur Kiron, Schottenstein-Jesselson Curator of Judaica Collections, University of Pennsylvania Libraries and Heidi G. Lerner, Metadata Librarian for Hebraica and Judaica, Stanford University Libraries to the members of the Fanny Goldstein Merit Award Committee (Etta Gold, Heidi Lerner, Joyce Levine, and Aaron Taub, Chairperson) and approved by the Committee.

For David J. Gilner:

We are delighted to name Dr. David J. Gilner, Director of Libraries for the four campus library system of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR) and Librarian of its Klau Library, Cincinnati, as a co-recipient of the Fanny Goldstein Merit Award. He truly deserves “recognition of loyal and ongoing contributions to the Association and to the profession of Jewish librarianship,” to quote the Award’s description on the AJL website.

Dr. Gilner has devoted a considerable amount of his time, energy, and vision to AJL and the profession as a whole. He was the President from 1998-2000, Vice-President-Elect, 1996-1998; President, Research and Special Libraries Division, 1994-1996; Chair of Book Awards Committee from 1992-1996; Vice-President for Publications, 1990-1992; Vice-President for Membership, 1986-1990; among numerous other positions. He was President of the Council on Archives and Research Libraries in Jewish Studies from 2002-2007 and was the chair of the Feinstein Lecture Committee from 2003-2007. Dr. Gilner’s articles and reviews have appeared in numerous publications such as *Small Computers in Libraries*, *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, as well as *AJL Conference Proceedings*.

Dr. Gilner earned a B.A. in Religion and an M.A. in Old Testament from Emory University; an M.S. in Library and Information Science from the University of Illinois; and an M.Phil. in Hebrew and Cognate Studies and a Ph.D. in Biblical and Ancient Near Eastern Studies from HUC-JIR. His dissertation explores the status and role of women in Biblical Israel. Dr. Gilner has taught biblical and Judaic studies at Wilmington College, the University of Cincinnati, and HUC-JIR. He has preached, lectured, conducted services, and led Bible study groups at numerous synagogues, churches and private homes in the Cincinnati area, and was awarded the Donald P. Black prize by Hebrew Union College for enhancing interfaith dialogue and understanding in the community. Dr. Gilner chaired the editorial boards of the journal *Studies in Bibliography and Booklore* and the monographic series *Bibliographica Judaica* and serves on the HUC-JIR Publications Committee.

Regarding support of AJL, aside from his personal service for many years, Dr. Gilner has allowed numerous HUC-JIR librarians to spend many hours on Association business, serving as officers (current count is a total of six presidents from HUC-JIR), committee chairpersons and members, and several times as convention chairpersons. He has been a mentor throughout the process, fully recognizing the importance of training new leaders for the profession. He has always been supportive of the staff members of the Klau Library, encouraging them to expand from their comfort zone and take advantage of learning opportunities. Some of these opportunities have been through AJL, some through other professional organizations, and some have been specialized seminars or workshops available locally and in other locations. All training was recognized as valuable even if not directly related to one’s current position. Dr. Gilner is graciously willing to share his knowledge and expertise. In my case, from learning how to read a catalog card (my first learning session with David) to navigating the political challenges of an academic institution and the Library’s role in relation to the institution’s mission/goals, all of the other departments and personalities, and everything in between. Following in Herbert Zafren’s footsteps, he has encouraged numerous staff members to attain a graduate level degree in Library Science, followed by an offer of employment at one of the four campus libraries.

We believe that it is especially appropriate for Dr. David J. Gilner to receive this honor from AJL, recognizing over forty-five years of service to the profession of Judaica librarianship, as he will be retiring on June 30, 2017 from his full-time positions as Director of Libraries and Librarian of the Klau Library, Cincinnati, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.

Nomination Statement submitted by Laurel S. Wolfson, Administrative Librarian, Klau Library, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Cincinnati, Ohio, to the members of the Fanny Goldstein Merit Award Committee (Etta Gold, Heidi Lerner, Joyce Levine, and Aaron Taub, Chairperson) and approved by the Committee.

Member News: New Publication from Yermiyahu Ahron Taub

Taub, Yermiyahu Ahron. *The Education of a Daffodil: Prose Poems/Di bildung fun a geln nartsis: prozelider*. Saarbrücken, Germany: Hadassa Word Press, 2017. ISBN: 9783639794977. 114 pages.

AJL member Yermiyahu Ahron Taub has recently announced the publication of his fifth book of poems, *The Education of a Daffodil: Prose Poems/Di bildung fun a geln nartsis: prozelider* (Saarbrücken, Germany: Hadassa Word Press, 2017). Six poems in the book also have a Yiddish version. Links to some of the poems in the collection previously published in literary journals can be found on the “Books” page of Taub’s website (www.yataub.net). Advance praise is below. The book is available via [Amazon](#) and the [publisher’s website](#).

- Although he is a prose poet, Yermiyahu Ahron Taub’s poems in *The Education of a Daffodil* demonstrate that he is also part storyteller and part playwright from another time. Somehow, Taub weaves these genres together to create striking narrative tales of trauma, loss, displacement, sexuality, and xenophobia. Imagine a Yiddish bard from centuries past who creates scenes that mark his place in this post-modern world: that is Yermiyahu Ahron Taub. This courageous collection, which offers flickers of Lucille Clifton and flashes of Marge Piercy, will not let us forget that the past flourishes in the present, and that the unexamined life is a terrible waste.

– Carmen Calatayud, author of *In the Company of Spirits*

- A gifted storyteller, Yermiyahu Ahron Taub inhabits many worlds: the world of the outsider, seeking connection, the immigrant, the yeshiva student, the fragile daffodil, the one who is bullied for being different, for being gay, the lover. This powerful book is his “extended sojourn into a labyrinth of pain and recovery.” Through this foray into ballads, fairy tales, and parables, Taub gives us access to the journey of his own healing. This brave and brilliant book is a gateway to transformation, in which the reader feels like a confidante, a treasured and trusted friend.

– Deborah Leipziger, author of *Flower Map* and co-founder of *Soul-Lit*, a journal of spiritual poetry

- In *The Education of a Daffodil*, Yermiyahu Ahron Taub offers his readers a sober, beautiful, and wild human choir. These delicate and powerful poems sing of women waiting for bombs to fall, aunts in kitchens, black veils. We hear of revolutionary lovers, alley kisses, an elderly woman who used to ride buses. We see a hero dance on a football field at night. We listen as he muses over the names the world has called him, the colors of his clothes. In this lush human chorus, we not only see the cruelties that land on some of us, we also see survival. It can be no surprise that this survival beautifully comes to us in poems. This collection of poems sings of survival. It’s a song we all need.

– Joseph Ross, author of *Ache*, *Gospel of Dust*, and *Meeting Bone Man*

- In *The Education of a Daffodil*, Taub carefully studies the singular experience of the schlimazel (a person who suffers through no fault of their own), a both fragile and resilient character who faces an estrangement from himself and others, and the essential foreignness of being human. Driven by a natural gift for storytelling, Taub’s creative and meticulous prose poems find similarities between orphaned girls, an aging dowager never brilliantly beautiful, and the Orthodox Jewish boy dancing to the beat of a band in the shadow of a football stadium. With precision and an understanding for the layers and shades of human suffering, Taub captures what happens to the person who inherits “eyes ringed red from years of not looking away.” For me, *The Education of a Daffodil* reads like a personal Midrash on a single person’s life. In an elegant and highly-tuned style, Taub retells the story of the underdog, bestowing upon this suffering figure the laurels of compassion, thus re-imagining him as a hero in his own tale, one in which he can say, ultimately, I lived, I survived.

– Leslie Contreras Schwartz, author of *Fuego*

- In *The Education of a Daffodil*, Yermiyahu Ahron Taub charts a young man’s journey from innocence to experience across a treacherous, sometimes painful landscape. These are meditative poems that look outward to characters both historical and contemporary, as well as inward to the dark corners of the heart. In poems that are by turns fearsome and ominous, tender and humorous, Taub takes between his fingers the “texture of experience,” showing how we hurt and, ultimately, how we heal. There is danger here, violence and its aftershocks, but also a celebration of survival. This poet has “stardust scattered / throughout his song.”

– Matthew Thorburn, author of *Dear Almost*

AJL Jewish Fiction Award Submission Guidelines

Submissions for the 2018 Association of Jewish Libraries Fiction Award are now being accepted.

The criteria used to evaluate books for the Award are:

- The book is a work of fiction with literary merit written for adult readers.
- The book has significant Jewish thematic content related to Jews, Judaism, the Jewish experience, and Israel. Works with little Jewish content (e.g. a peripheral character or two) will not be considered. The author of the work does not need to be of Jewish heritage.
- Books submitted for the 2018 award must have a publication date of 2017. Reprints or reissues will not be considered. Additionally, books published only as e-books will not be considered. The book must be available for purchase in the United States.
- Novels, short story and flash fiction collections by a single author are eligible. Anthologies and collections by multiple authors will not be considered.

There is no submission fee for this award. Authors or publishers may submit books for consideration. However, the committee requests that multiple shipments of the same book be avoided. In order to be considered, a review copy must be sent to each of the following Committee Members by **December 1, 2017**:

Rachel Kamin
1054 Holly Circle
Lake Zurich, IL 60047
rachelkamin@gmail.com

Rosalind Reisner
c/o Monmouth Reform Temple Library
332 Hance Avenue
Tinton Falls, NJ 07724
roz@thereisners.net

Advanced readers copies, digital copies, or finished books are all acceptable. Additional copies may be requested at the Committee's discretion.

Winning authors or their designated representatives are expected to attend the Association of Jewish Libraries Conference in June to receive the award. Support will be extended to defray the winner's travel and hotel costs. Only the winner of the award will be notified. Please do not contact the Committee to query the status of your submission.

CHAPTER CHATTER

AJL SOUTH CALIFORNIA (AJLSC)

Submitted by Lisa Silverman

In December, the new Sperber Jewish Community Library enjoyed playing host AJLSC members for a Hanukkah get-together lunch and a book share. Members each brought two new books to share. On display was the fabulous LEGO Chanukiah and some dreidels that were made at a special family program at the library led by Adam Ward, a LEGO master builder, who makes furniture and a variety of items from the plastic bricks. Two of our newest members, Martha McMahan and Alex Quay, recipients of some conference funding from the AJLSC Dorothy Schroeder Fund, also gave short reports about what they saw and experienced in Charleston last summer. Many of us hope to attend the upcoming New York conference.

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

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.

Scholarship Committee Report

SUBMITTED BY SARAH BARNARD, SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBER

The AJL Scholarship is in a state of flux at the moment. It used to consist of up to two scholarships of \$1000 awarded to students of Library and Information Science who were interested in pursuing careers in Judaica Librarianship. The applicants filled out a form and supplied a personal statement as well as documentation of student status in an accredited school of Library and/or Information Science.

The AJL board is currently considering awarding the scholarships for AJL conference attendance only. Applications, deadlines and conditions will be posted on the AJL website and sent to Library Schools as soon as they become available.

In the meantime, the AJL Scholarship Fund is still accepting donations, and tribute cards will be sent to the recipients of your choice. Please include the following information with your donation: your name and address, the name(s) and addresses of the recipient(s) of the tribute card, the reason for the tribute and your email address in case there are questions. Send check donations to:

Sarah M. Barnard

5646 Hunters Lake

Cincinnati, OH 45249

Email: sarmarbar68@gmail.com

AJL Scholarship Donation Form

Name of Donor:

Address and email 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 February 19, 2017.

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

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